WHY THE FUTURE IS OURS TO MOULD

FROM THE EDITOR
NAVJOT MCCORMACK



Let's be honest: Raising or teaching a human being in 2026 is a bit like trying to navigate a rollercoaster while assembling IKEA furniture in the dark.

WE are told our youth operate entirely on a diet of eight-second video loops, algorithm-driven social feeds, and digital notifications. The mainstream media doesn't help either, routinely painting our teenagers as a "troubled generation" locked in a permanent battle with screen addiction and social chaos.

But out here in real New Zealand classrooms, we see something completely different. As a long-time EAL educator and senior journalist right here in Christchurch, I see a generation of immense grit, staggering creativity, and profound cultural pride. We think it's time to change the narrative.

Welcome to *SPELLBOUND* — our quiet digital resistance against the highly superficial world of tech snacking. We are an independent passion project built to meet the high demand for localised learning resources under New Zealand's recent curriculum shifts. We are here to nurture a genuine love for the written word and provide high-interest reading that treats young minds with the dignity they deserve. No mindless scrolling required.

So, what is in this for you? For our teachers, we are handing you back your weekends; each issue delivers comprehensive, zero-prep curriculum compliance tiered across Stage 1–2 (Foundation) and Stage 3–5 (Step-up) levels to make classroom differentiation effortless. For our learners, we provide authentic, multi-level media texts that challenge your mind without bruising your confidence. And for our whānau, we are bringing a premium resource right home to your kitchen tables — allowing parents and children to read, debate, and analyse the exact same powerful stories together.

We are here to celebrate the absolute good in our youth, one real story at a time. Thanks for joining the movement.

Navjot is an accomplished international educator and a seasoned journalist. She also currently serves as the Chair of CANTESOL.

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