Invercargill
CITY COUNCIL

2 April 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS
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EDUCATION REPORTERS

Renowned author to visit Invercargill

Invercargill Public Library and Southland Boys' High School are excited to announce a new, collaborative initiative which is bringing renowned New Zealand author David Hill to Invercargill in April.

Mr Hill will be in the city on 14-15 April, with a free public session for all ages on Monday 14 April, at 7pm in the Invercargill Public Library meeting room, where he will talk about his writing and answer questions. His topic is 'Why I write and why I shouldn't; what I write and what I shouldn't'.

He will spend Monday at Southland Boys' High School working with the Year 7 and 8 classes, supporting their recent enquiry unit on ANZACS.

Every teacher has read to their class "My Brother's War", one of Mr Hill's 2013 New Zealand Post Book Award winning novels, which recounts the very different experiences of two brothers fighting in World War I. One brother is a volunteer and the other is a conscientious objector. They both ultimately end up in the battlefields of France.

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response from students, Mr Hill has accepted an invitation to visit the South and will talk to the boys, not only about his inspiration for writing this novel, but also the research he undertook around World War I.

He will run writing workshops for Southland Boys' High School on the Monday and for students from a range of other schools at various times on the Tuesday. He will also make a guest appearance at the Library's Tuesday Afternoon Book Club, to which other students have also been invited.

In a first for Invercargill, the public and school library sectors are exploring new ways of working together to benefit students, teachers and members of

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the public, which has been made possible by the generous support of the Invercargill Licensing Trust.

Customer Experience Manager, Cynthia Smith and Southland Boys' High School Research and Learning Coordinator Senga White are confident this will signal the beginning of many more collaborative ventures promoting a range of literacies and highlighting the complementary benefits for students and teachers of using both school and public libraries.

ENDS.

For more information please contact Senga White at Southland Boys' High School (027) 3815113 or Cynthia Smith at the Invercargill Public Library (03) 2111764.