

Kia ora koutou katoa

Nō Whakatū me  
Tenemāka ahau

Ko Astrid Banke  
Sayer tōku ingoa



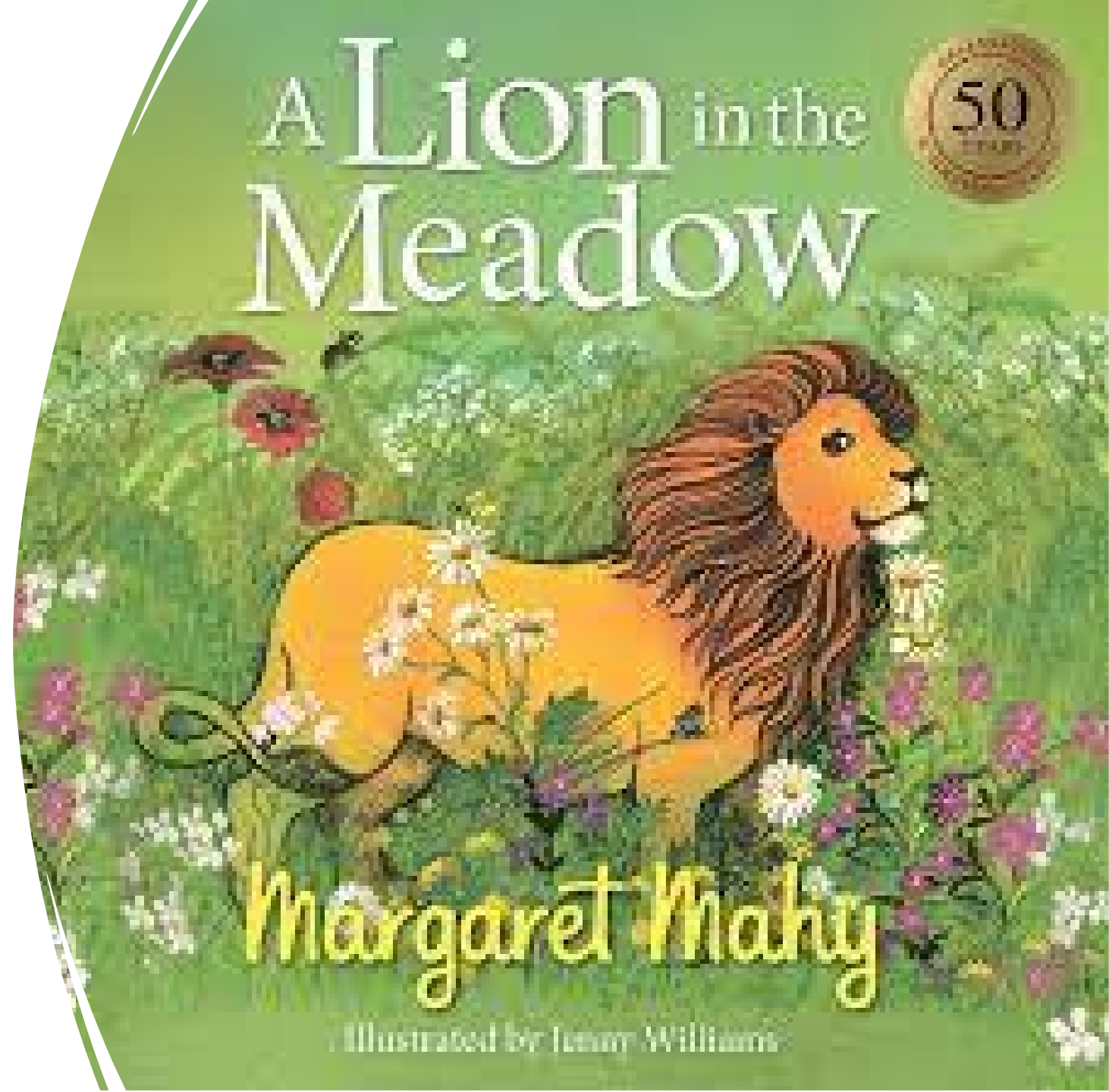






# The Maitai Valley version

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“There is a big yellow lion in the meadow up the Maitai”, says Astrid.

“Nonsense” says mother. “There are only cows and sheep and lots of free space for you to run around and have fun”.



Astrid says, “Mother there is a large roaring lion in the meadow up the Maitai”.

Mother says, “nonsense Astrid, why do you keep saying that? Do you want a large roaring scary lion to live up the Maitai?”

Astrid says,  
“Mother, I  
didn’t say the  
lion was scary”







The big roaring lion is the children's friend and guardian. He protects our wonder and our adventures in the Maitai valley. He treasures our place to play and discover, and he keeps us safe. He just has to look fierce to protect our special place, and to keep our adventures alive as there are rumours about the Maitai turning into an urban zone so that houses and roads can be build.





The big yellow roaring lion knows what the children of Whakatū need. They need rural places that are free to explore, where we can ride our bikes and go swimming. Where we can go for runs with our friends, build huts and go for adventures. The Maitai is perfect as it is. It is our haven, protected by the big yellow roaring lion. Please don't change it and risk spoiling it.

Next time you go walking up the Maitai, listen very carefully and you can hear it roar. Listen to the lion.





Keep the Maitai  
as it is

- A place where children can explore and develop their love for the natural environment
- Calm and natural spaces are vital for our wellbeing, especially for young people
- The Maitai is very close to town
- You can bike or walk there safely along the cycle way on Nile Street and use the valley's walking tracks

# To finish...

“In 1975, when I told a friend who'd grown up in Nelson that my wife and I were shifting there, his face lit up and he sighed deeply "Ahhhh...the Maitai."

We soon understood what he meant. The river and the valley became part of our lives. We picnicked there, we taught our daughters to swim in the clear green pools, we walked in the bush and in the hills. Where else could we have done this - enjoyed an unspoiled river valley so close to a busy little city?

**The Maitai was, and is, Nelson's treasure. Allowing a subdivision to go in would destroy much of its unique character. An important part of Nelson would be gone forever.”**

- Maurice Gee