



2009  
FINALISTS



# YOUNG ADULT FICTION



## Juno of Taris

Fleur Beale

Random House New Zealand

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Target Age 14+

The Taris Project was the brainchild of a desperate twenty-first-century world, a community designed to survive even if the rest of humanity perished. An isolates, storm-buffed island in the Southern Ocean was given a protective dome and its own balmy climate. And now Juno is one of 500 people who live there.

Juno yearns to know about life Outside. She has no authority, no power, and to question the ways of the Taris is discouraged. But can their rules be broken? Danger awaits any who suggest it.



Fleur Beale was born in Inglewood, Taranaki and lived for thirty years in the Waikato. She hugely enjoys being an author for children and young adults because it means she gets to do school visits which she loves. When not writing, she does manuscript assessments, tries to learn Tai Chi and plants odd mixtures of vegetables and flowers in her small garden.

### Great Activity and Event Ideas...

1. Why do they shave their heads on Taris? Name some others cultures that shave their heads (even for short periods of time) and explain why?
2. Who is Juno's genetic mother? What do scientists say about nature versus nurture. What are your thoughts?
3. Why did Hilto hate Juno so much? Is it important to pass on your personal DNA for future generations? Organise a class debate on the topic.
4. Who is Juno named after? Research her family tree and show it as a diagram?
5. China has attempted to control its population with a one child policy and because of a cultural preference for boys, it now has a gender imbalance with more boys and men than women and girls. Write a letter to the editor giving your views on population control.



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## Activity

Describe your own Utopian Society in a visual way  
eg. collage, painting, model.