

Hayden Walles, Ph.D.

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Freelance Writer

Print

Web

Technical and Academic

An accomplished, versatile writer with particular expertise in science and technology. Hundreds of feature articles, weekly columns, op-eds, and technical and specialist works published over the past fourteen years. Combines ability and passion for writing to produce stimulating, persuasive and informative copy for any situation.

Skills and Abilities

- Communicates technical ideas clearly and succinctly while appealing to a variety of audiences.
- Fluidly adapts to produce outstanding results in a variety of formats, lengths, styles and tones.
- Leverages a keen attention to detail to produce accurate and grammatical copy every time.
- Creates vibrant work informed by a broad knowledge of science and technology and deep expertise in the areas of computing, artificial intelligence, physics and mathematics.
- Researches independently using online and offline resources, including technical databases (e.g. Ovid, Web of Science and others).
- Works efficiently in conjunction with editors, sources, and others both remotely and in person, with a demonstrated ability to consistently meet deadlines.
- Writes proficiently in American and International English with strong working knowledge of common styles (e.g., AP, Chicago, MLA, APA).
- Exploits exceptional expertise in computing and mastery of existing technologies (e.g., Microsoft Word, LibreOffice, WordPress, Blogger, LaTeX, EndNote, BibTeX, HTML, CSS and JavaScript) to rapidly learn and apply new software and techniques.

Professional Experience

Freelance writer

2003 – present

Alternative Text Writer and Editor

Works with educational publishers to write and edit text descriptions of images that aid visually impaired students.

Feature Writer and Columnist

Over three hundred feature articles, op-ed pieces and weekly columns published in periodicals throughout New Zealand and Australia including

- *The Sydney Morning Herald* – syndicated columnist
- *The New Zealand Herald* – contributor
- *The Press* – contributor and weekly columnist
- *The Box* – contributor and weekly columnist
- *Your Weekend* – weekly columnist
- the *Dominion Post* – syndicated columnist
- the *Otago Daily Times* – contributor
- the *Waikato Times* – syndicated columnist
- *The Age* – syndicated columnist

Assistant Research Fellow, Department of Computer Science, University of Otago. 2010

A fixed-term position to work on a technical publication derived from my PhD thesis, in conjunction with co-authors.

Independent Projects

Website – True/False 2009 – Present

A website to showcase some of my own popular writing, based on columns originally written for *Your Weekend* in 2008-10. Published online at <http://www.truefalse.co.nz>.

Blog – Hexes and Cursors 2017 – Present

A blog aimed at a technically minded audience that explores computing topics that are off the beaten track. Published online at <https://hexesandcursors.com/>.

Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Computer Science 2004 – 2010

University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

Thesis: [*A Perceptual Basis for Noun Phrase Syntax*](#)

**Thesis added to the University of Otago Division of Sciences' list of exceptional theses.*

Bachelor of Science with Honours (First Class), Computer Science; concentration in Physics and Mathematics 1999 – 2002

University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

Dissertation: *Language and Space*

Academic Publications

Wallis, H. (2006). [Psychobabble: Grounding language in the brain](#). *Junctures*, (6): 45-61.

Wallis, H., Knott, A., and Robins, A. (2008). [A model of cardinality blindness in inferotemporal cortex](#). *Biological Cybernetics*, 98(5):427-437.

Wallis, H., Robins, A and Knott, A. (2013). [A Neural Network Model of Visual Attention and Group Classification, and Its Performance in a Visual Search Task](#). In S. Cranefield and A. Nayak (Eds.). *AI 2013: Advances in Artificial Intelligence*. Paper presented at 26th Australasian Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Dunedin, New Zealand, 1-6 December (pp. 98-103). Springer.

Wallis, H., Knott, A., and Robins, A. (2014). [A perceptually grounded model of the singular-plural distinction](#). *Language and Cognition*, 6(3):327-369.

See <http://haydenwallis.com> for samples of my work