



# PRINCIPAL MATTERS

NGĀ TUMUAKI O AOTEAROA

THE MOST RESPECTED AND INFLUENTIAL ADVOCATE FOR NEW ZEALAND'S PRINCIPALS

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## Issue 11, 10 May 2019

### President's Message



Kotahi - As one

Kotahi te hoe, ka ū te waka ki uta

Paddling in unison the waka will reach land

Kia ora e te whānau

This week I want to share three important issues with you. These were discussed at our national executive meeting last weekend.

#### Curriculum, Progress and Achievement (CPA)

I have addressed this issue in my column for the Term two *NZ Principal* magazine. In that column, I talked more about assessment. Rather than repeat that here, I will focus more on Curriculum.

What we want to see in our Curriculum are all the things that we consider essential for our students' learning as well as layering that with our own local flavour. That's where our local community and iwi come in. We want to ensure that the key competencies are paramount and that we include Inquiry in all

that we do. That creates some assessment challenges but we believe they are not insurmountable.

What will help is the establishment of the curriculum, pedagogy and assessment Unit that is proposed in the *Tomorrow's Schools* Report. Having academic and professional experts to call on to assist schools develop their local curriculum, will create an important resource. A further resource to help us is the development of progress assessment tools. What we don't want is to be measuring outputs! We want consistent ways of measuring progress so that we can identify next learning steps. That means that our curriculum must have sharp clarity, especially if we are providing progress updates to our parents across the whole curriculum.

We discussed the concept of 'a system that learns'. We see this as committing to an inclusive, bi-cultural education system where students are at the centre and the NZC underpins learning. Everyone with an interest in student learning would contribute to each other's knowledge and insights. There would be well-designed feedback loops to achieve this, so everyone learns from each other. Collaboration would be a key to the success of such a system. The other key consideration for the success of 'a system that learns' is PLD. See my section below on PLD priorities.

The other key to success is supporting Māori medium education. This requires a different approach from English medium in that it recognises education as a means to realising Māori aspirations for language, culture and wellbeing.

In summary we found that there are four main areas to consider to create a successful system that learns. These are **trust** (to collaborate and share information); **clarity** (about the curriculum direction and aspirations); **Information needs** (so that all have access to the progress information needed to promote ongoing learning); **networks** (to share expertise and strengthen inquiry and learning networks); **capability** (to design, implement and evaluate local curricula).

#### PLD Priorities

The proposed national PLD priorities in (English medium) are:

- Cultural capability

- Local curriculum design
- Using information to support learning

The NZPF executive discussed the priorities and broadly agrees with the three priorities outlined. We would also like to see wellbeing added to the list.

You have until the end of today (10 May) to have your say on these by giving your feedback. Here is the [link to the survey](#).

#### Networking in Singapore

During the school holidays I travelled to Singapore to attend the World Edulead Conference. Two of the Keynote speakers were Professor Michael Fullan from Ontario and Professor Pasi Sahlberg from Finland. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to speak with them informally during the conference.

Professor Fullan was particularly interested in our Review of *Tomorrow's Schools* and was well versed in the Report. He also had some warnings to share. He revealed the experiences of his home country, Canada, where attempts were made to make quite sweeping changes and they failed. They failed because they tried to achieve too much. This was his warning to us. In his view, we are also trying to do too much at once.

#### Connecting with the Regions

It was a pleasure to join our Taranaki colleagues in New Plymouth yesterday at their biennial regional conference.

I felt honoured to be able to address a large gathering of principals, along with their senior leadership teams and to speak alongside a respected group of speakers.

I applaud the conference theme "BE THE CHANGE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE - Ko au te taupā kīhai e puāwai i aku moemoeā" and the opening keynote Lane Clark from Canada, with her focus on deep curriculum learning. This is an area that is receiving a huge focus as a part of the Curriculum, Progress and Achievement conversations.

Next week I'm looking forward to joining our King Country colleagues and the following week our Ngāti Porou colleagues.

I am always interested in your feedback and welcome comments from you.

Ngā manaakitanga

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## Notices



### Renaissance not Reformation

*Kotahi te tapuwae, he mano, he mano, he mano kei muri*

#### NZPF Conference Early Bird - Closes Today!

This is your last chance to **save up to \$100** on your registration for the 2019 NZPF Conference. By registering early, you will also have access to the best accommodation options.

The conference will be held in Auckland on **3 - 5 July**. Speakers include: Yong Zhao (USA), Dr Karen Edge (UK), Neill O'Reilly (Hong Kong) and Glenn Cappelli (Australia).

For more information, visit the [website](#) or click [here](#) to register now!

#### Nominations for NZPF Election 2019

Nominations are now open for the NZPF President, Vice President and 12 Executive committee members.

Click [here](#) for the form to nominate candidates for President and Vice President for next year.

Click [here](#) for the form to nominate candidates for the executive committee for the next two years.

Nominations **close on 5 August** and the electoral roll closes on 25 August. Your subscription payment must be received by this date in order to be eligible for voting.

#### David Stewart Memorial Scholarship



*Memorial Scholarship*

The David Stewart Memorial Scholarship a joint initiative of the NZEI and NZPF. The purpose of the Scholarship is to provide educational leaders with the opportunity for research study that honours the work of Dr David Stewart. The **scholarship of \$20,000** will be awarded to a single applicant each year.

The closing date is Friday 31 May 2019. For more information, click [here](#).

## Bullying-Free Week 2019 - Next Week!



This year's theme, *Whakanuia Tōu Āhua Ake! Celebrating Being Us!*, is about supporting children and young people to celebrate what makes them and others unique. Schools that encourage respect, celebrate difference, and promote positive relationships make it difficult for bullying behaviour to be tolerated. It's not too late to get involved. Bullying Free week is 13-17 May.

Ideas and resources to help you, include:

- A [Free School Activity Pack](#) which includes a wealth of bullying prevention-themed classroom activities.
- Run a [Pink Shirt mufti-day](#) on Friday 17 May
- Check out the [competitions](#) and be in to win \$500 worth of resources for your school. Closing date for competition entries is Friday, 31 May 2019. Entry is FREE.