



PRINCIPAL MATTERS

NGĀ TUMUAKI O AOTEAROA

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

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Issue 12, 7 May 2021

President's Message



Kia ora e te whānau

Welcome back! As term two gets underway, I hope you are feeling the benefits of a relaxing holiday break and that you took time to recharge and re-energise.

If you haven't yet visited our NZPF National Conference website, then make it a priority and catch the early-bird registration which closes 26 May. Don't miss out because registration numbers are climbing fast. Conference is shaping up to be an exciting event and I am very much looking forward to seeing you in Rotorua 2-4 August. Click [here](#) to register.

During the holidays I attended the *Te Rito Toi Twice Born Seed* public lecture in Wellington. The event was a celebration of the arts in education and a call to action for a curriculum that has been undervalued in our schools.

I was privileged to be asked to speak on a panel about why the arts matter. Each member of the panel shared their perspective. It was good to see the Ministry of Education represented, because, as stewards of the system, the Ministry has a critical role to play in supporting schools to re-establish the arts. It is a key pedagogy.

The Ministry, in line with the *Tomorrow's Schools Review*, is establishing a Curriculum Centre. My expectation was that they

would deliver not only a 'curriculum refresh' but the much-needed sector-based curriculum advisors in each curriculum discipline, especially in the arts. In addition, principals and teachers need a direct 'plug-in' to professional learning to ensure that nationally coherent arts leadership can change teacher practice and ultimately revitalise the arts.

I am sad to report that nothing of sort occurred. Rather, the Ministry reminded those attending that every school can already choose to revitalise the Arts. They indicated there was no targeted government funding to provide the advisory services necessary to help schools develop the Arts which has been absent from teacher practise for too long.

The Arts is a curriculum that receives about 4 hours of total tuition time in most initial teacher education (ITE) programmes.

This Arts tuition is not practice-based but delivered as a short series of lectures. How any beginning teacher learns to teach drama, dance, visual art, and music through lecture-based tuition is anyone's guess.

In the arts, we have a curriculum that has been progressively squeezed out of teacher's muscle memory not helped by the dominance of reading, writing, and mathematics over the National Standards years.

Schooling in New Zealand is currently confronted by several serious achievement challenges. A significant contributing factor has been the absence of expert teachers and principals in a curriculum advisory service to help guide and grow discipline-based expertise in curriculum.

In our highly decentralised system, we have become too atomised. The dissolution of curriculum advisory services in the early 2000s did not simply bring about the loss of discipline-based curriculum leadership but forced the loss of the associated pedagogical practices that enabled each curriculum subject.

The Ministry of Education's current curriculum centre redesign appears focused on establishing a group of curriculum experts and rewriting curriculum. The glaring missing link is the national leadership of pedagogical practice and the associated reach

through professional learning into schools and the learning of young people.

Given that the Ministry has been working up its redesign for some time now, I am ringing the alarm bells on this important change process. In a national system of education that is so heavily decentralised, it is simply unconscionable to take a hands-off approach to discipline centric curriculum and pedagogical leadership, particularly when we know it is time to strengthen teachers' competence.

I spoke on TVNZ Breakfast on Monday alongside Professor Gavin Brown who commented on Minister Tinetti's concern [expressed on Q&A] that our teachers lack confidence. His response was that 'competence comes before confidence.' I agree! We need our teachers to clearly know and understand the curriculum. Only then will they build confidence in their teaching and enable the learning of important discipline knowledge in a way that is engaging, creative, and effective.

Like other peak bodies [and I suspect the members of Bali Haque's *Tomorrow's Schools* Taskforce that recommended a Curriculum Centre], we are urgently waiting to hear more from the Ministry of Education about plans to revitalise the Advisory Services so that the teaching profession can once again be deeply knowledgeable in curriculum and skilful in the associated pedagogies.

Calling for 'fast testers'!

The Ministry of Education is looking for schools to be part of their Social Sciences Writing Group as 'fast testers' – testing early drafts of the Social Sciences learning area content in June and providing feedback directly to their specialist content writers.

This would require you or a member of your school's leadership team attending an introductory Zoom session, before running a workshop with your kaiako and teachers to discuss the draft curriculum and complete an online survey giving us your feedback – this should take about 1 hour. The Ministry expects that fast testing will take place in the last two weeks of June. Once feedback has been considered, the content will be further refined so it is ready for public engagement and feedback during term 3.

If you are interested in being involved in the fast testing, please email nationalcurriculum.refresh@education.govt.nz

Public Sector Pay Freeze

We note the Government's announcement of a Public Sector pay freeze.

Given the significant challenges of principalship, this announcement comes as a shock. More than ever, strong principal advocacy on the terms and conditions of their own Collective Agreement is critical.

Principals did not do well in the last Collective Agreement round and the ACCORD parties have suffered inertia in achieving anything of consequence. U1 and U2 principals have been particularly disadvantaged.

To say that principals' expectations of the next Collective Agreement round are sky high is an understatement.

Please think hard on what we expect Government to deliver within our Collective Bargaining round. We'll be in touch very

soon about how you can strengthen the hand of principals around the bargaining table.

Ngā manaakitanga

Perry Rush

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NZPF Notices



Nominations open for NZPF Election 2021

Nominations are now open for the NZPF President, Vice President and 11 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.

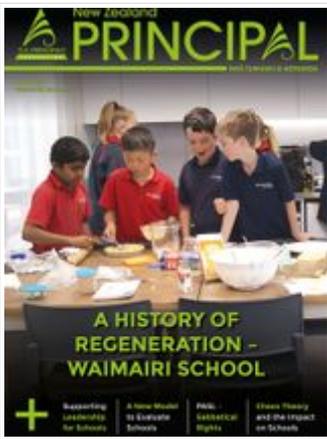


NZPF Conference Early Bird Deadline Extended!

Registrations for the NZPF Conference are open. The conference will be held at the Energy Events Centre in Rotorua on 2-4 August 2021.

[Register](#) before the early bird deadline of 26 May to get your discounted rate.

Please note that all NZPF awards given last year for the purpose of attendance at the Trans-Tasman Conference, can be used for the NZPF Conference in Rotorua.



NZ Principal Magazine also Online

You and/or your team members can easily access the NZ Principal Magazines online, as an e-magazine or as a PDF. Additionally you can search for a previous issue, an article by title or by the author of the article. All magazines back to Term 1 2012 are available in this format. To view or search click [here](#).

Useful Information



Māori Achievement Collaborative Vacancies

Ka hikitia! Ka hikitia! Hiki hikitia! Tēnei te ara, ko te ara o ngā mātua tupuna he ara oranga, poipoia ngā mokopuna ngā rangatira mo apopo, ka tihei, tihei mauri ora!

Te Akatea Māori Principals Association seek a MAC - Kaihoe Mātauranga (facilitator) in the following regions:

- Whanganui, Manawatu, Wairarapa, Horowhenua - click [here](#) for details
- Waikato - click [here](#) for details

These are full-time, two and a half year fixed-term positions commencing on 26 July 2021 until 28 January 2024.

For further information, contact Damon Ritai – Te Taurapa Mātauranga (Deputy National MAC Coordinator). Email: damon@mac.ac.nz or phone 027 555 3318. Applications close at 5pm on 21 May.

Business Partners

NZPF assures its business partners that, as members, you will contact them to have a conversation if you are purchasing products, services or solutions for your schools that a business partner supplies. Please support our partners as their assistance to NZPF means better membership services to you.

Gold Partners



Silver Partners



Bronze Partners

