



# PRINCIPAL MATTERS

NGĀ TUMUAKI O AOTEAROA

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

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### President's Message



Kia ora e te whānau

We want to be a profession keenly interested in what goes on with our next-door neighbour. They say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

We have some outstanding colleagues amongst us who have taken the opportunity to truly localise their curriculum and take learning in their neck of the woods, to the next level.

Case in point is Luke Sumich, Principal at Ormiston Junior College. Most people who meet Luke will first and foremost be impressed by his energy however chasing that impression is one of a sharp mind and brave innovator. You can be sure that at Ormiston Junior nothing happens without a deep connection to the principles on which the Ormiston Junior vision is built. Everything is required to find a home in that vision and so it shouldn't surprise that the assessment model the Ormiston team has developed is innovative and reflective of the desire to place young people right at the heart of their school.

Students learning competencies are communicated in 'student speak' and are badged. Luke has embedded these beautifully designed competency-based badges in his SMS so that a record of progress may be kept. Students work towards gaining these virtual badges but here's the thing: they are not assessed by their teacher but rather are required to present

artefacts of learning to their peers in a 'pitch' for a badge-a little bit like a Dragon's Den pitch. It is the student's peers who judge achievement and award badges. How impressive is that? Not only a process that recognises locally construed ideas about achievement but one that builds learner efficacy at the same time as their peers.

I don't think we celebrate enough, the brilliance of our talent in New Zealand schooling. The Ormiston example is one of many extraordinary local approaches to teaching and learning.

However, despite many brilliant examples of work in schools, I believe our leadership has become too conventional, too bound by rule-based thinking and too timid in our actions.

Principals are the lead education professionals in schools, and it falls to you to create the conditions for powerful learning to occur. This requires you to be brave. To create a curriculum of possibility not probability. It requires you to exercise your right as the lead professional in your community to do just that, 'lead'.

So go on, whether you look over your shoulder and imitate something great that someone else is doing or throw yourself into the unknown as Luke and the Ormiston team have done, I encourage you to reconnect with the essence of kiwi principalship. This is a practice that has always held the welfare of students close and embraced a broad conception of student success. Most of all though, is the confidence that comes from knowing that only you in partnership with your students, staff and community know what is best for the young people in your care. Localisation is a precious gem. So, let's unhitch the reins from the NZC and our professional practice and let them gallop where they need to go!

#### NZPF on Facebook

Please take time to visit and 'like' our facebook page. We have revitalised it so that it is a daily means of connecting to the work of NZPF.

<https://www.facebook.com/NewZealandPrincipalsFederation/>

As the year progresses, we will be using the facebook page to share practical examples of outstanding practice. If you have

a small vignette of innovation in your school and don't mind sharing it with your colleagues then do please, write me a paragraph about it and the impact it is having; then email it to me with a small collection of pics. We want to showcase examples of the innovative local approaches to teaching and learning in our schools.

Ngā manaakitanga

Perry Rush

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## NZPF Notices

### NZPF Awards - Applications close next week

The following awards are available to NZPF members:

- Don Le Prou Award
- Tauri Morgan Memorial Award
- PLD Grants for Principals' Association

Click [here](#) for further details. Applications close 1 March.



### NZPF/APPA Trans-Tasman Conference

The organising committee for the Trans-Tasman Conference met this past week and I am happy to report that New Zealand principals are registering in their droves. This is going to be a great event. I encourage you to register and book up your travel now.

This conference brings together the Australian Primary Principals' Association (APPA) and the New Zealand Principals' Federation (NZPF) in Melbourne, 15 -18 September 2020.

The conference theme 'Leading Today For Tomorrow: Creative...Courageous...Connected' encapsulates the joys, challenges and demands of contemporary leadership.

This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to mix with 1200+ primary school leaders from our two countries as well as international guests.

The conference website can be found [here](#).

Early Bird registrations close Friday 29 May.



### 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



### Free PD Workshops

Free teacher workshops, supported by the Ministry of Education.

- *What does progress in science look like from Level 1 to 4?*
- *How can progress be assessed?*
- *What can teachers do to help their students?*
- *What can whānau do to help their children?*

18 free PD workshops across the country, unpacking the findings from the 2017 National Monitoring Study of Student Achievement (NMSSA) in science.

Click [here](#) for further details and registration.



### New Zealand Primary School Teachers' Conference

The New Zealand Primary School Teachers' Conference Committee warmly invite you to join them at their conference in Auckland at St Cuthbert's College from April 16th-17th 2020.

They are excited to host two days of learning, collaboration, networking and inspiration. This conference will provide an array of professional development opportunities for all Primary and Intermediate Teachers. With at least 10 different Subject Associations and Industry Organisations contributing their knowledge, skills and expertise, it is set to be an incredible event.

They are welcoming all abstract submissions now! To find out more information and to register for the conference, click [here](#) or contact [events@penz.org.nz](mailto:events@penz.org.nz) with any queries.

## 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

