

Rural Matters

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Rural Matters 1 – 17 September 2015

Welcome to the first 'Rural Matters' publication

This publication is intended for rural principals. It will focus on celebrating the great things about being a rural principal and will also address some of the challenges. Most importantly it is designed to support you and I hope you will give us plenty of feedback so we can keep this publication relevant to you and your needs.



Karen Brisco is our national executive member taking responsibility for the content of this publication so please email [Karen](mailto:karen@nzpf.ac.nz) with your feedback, tips for rural colleagues, ideas that have worked for you, and above all humorous anecdotes that you want to share.

We know that as rural principals you can't delegate responsibilities to other colleagues so we hope through this publication we will be able to give you enough good ideas to help you better manage your school and declutter your desk to make your job a little easier.



Smile it forward

Sometimes we can get a bit carried away with technology and forget the value of writing, reading or drawing from a paper source. Take a look at this YouTube clip and at the same time, enjoy the humour!:

[Paper is not Dead](#) You might also want to share this with your BoT or at a staff meeting.

Out of all your weekly emails, this is a must read

'He Pitopito Kōrero', the Ministry Bulletin, comes direct from Peter Hughes and is emailed to every principal: All critical information is at the top. These are the things you need to know about any changes to regulations and requirements. There are usually support links for further information included for regulatory changes and requirements.

Homework in the Spring

Spring is a demanding time for farmers and many need their children to help more around the farm at this time. So think about skipping homework for the Spring season. Eliminating an extra stress point for families should be well received. Run the suggestion by your BoT Chair to get their reaction. Explain in your school newsletter what you are doing and why.

Management release for teaching principals

Are you using your allocated staffing entitlement for managing the school? Watch that you are not 'borrowing' from this entitlement to run other programmes, or banking it to make the school more money.

In the short term this may appear a great idea, but long term consequences may be damaging to you and your school. Indications are that principals who are not fully utilising this management component are often the ones running into trouble down the track. When you squeeze out this time and use it for something else; you either don't get around to doing things you should be doing, or you end up spending every waking hour working and get tired and stressed.

Being a teaching principal is a complicated juggling act and the need to balance your week is crucial or something will give. Don't let that something be you!

Rural lunch

At the NZPF conference in Wellington last term, we held a rural principals' lunch. Just over 40 principals attended. We had a conversation about both the complexities and rewards of being a rural principal.

To read the summary of ideas raised [click here >>](#)

Haven't been to an NZPF conference yet?

Why not plan to attend the Trans-Tasman conference in Auckland in 2016 or the Queenstown conference in 2017? The NZPF conference programme targets leadership issues at all levels, is always inspiring and will give you exposure to the very latest ideas in education both here and overseas. Conference is also a wonderful opportunity to network



with colleagues and for rural principals, those opportunities are precious. Apply for an NZPF Don Le Prou award and you could receive \$1,000 towards the cost of attending conference. Awards are for U1-3 principals only and applications close on **1 March** every year. To learn more [click here >>](#)

Rural Teaching Principals' Grant for Seminars and Conferences

NZPF also recognises how challenging it is for rural associations to offer relevant quality PLD programmes. The cost of travel and of attracting high quality professional speakers creates financial burdens beyond the affordability of most associations. NZPF therefore created a special grant to support Rural Principals' Associations to hold seminars and conferences.

Applications for these grants close on **1 November** for seminars or conferences you intend holding in 2016.

For more information [click here >>](#)

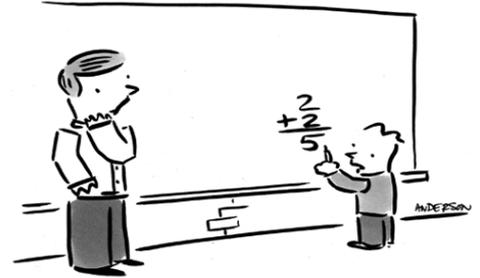
Noho ora mai ra

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"I prefer to think of it as added value."

For a map showing the location of the National Office in Wellington [click here](#)

To update membership details [click here](#)

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