



September Newsletter - Term 3 2024

***Kia ora koutou ngā kura takiwā o Aotearoa***

“Ka pō, ka ao, ka awatea” - From within the darkness comes light and a new day. This whakatauki is about new beginnings. September and October take us right into the Spring season - the perfect time to focus on rejuvenation and personal self care. As we end Term 3, we extend our best wishes to you all for an awesome holiday break - we hope that you are prioritising some “me” time for yourself to enjoy your favourite leisure activities and time with friends and family.

**NZ AREA SCHOOLS SPECIFIC NEWS**

**NZASA National Conference 2025 is in Christchurch - Save the Date!**

First up - the executive extends huge thanks to everyone who made it to our conference in Wellington last month. Our administrator will ensure that any presentations shared by our keynote and workshop speakers will be shared directly with attendees. Feedback both online and in the face to face conversations that we had with many attendees was overwhelmingly positive and confirms the value of this annual event in the NZASA calendar. Accordingly we are moving forward with the planning for our 2025 conference to be held in Christchurch at the Crowne Plaza Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd August 2025. We urge you to save the date now and to get in early with the booking of your flights. Further details will be shared in the Term 4 newsletter and on our website.

**Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi**

As shared in our last newsletter, we want to better support the needs of all schools in our Association including our kaupapa Māori kura to provide opportunities for all Māori learners to achieve success as Māori. NZASA is committed to exploring and sharing what Te Tiriti o Waitangi looks like in our Association and in our schools. It was pleasing to see an increased number of our Māori kura at the conference last month. We will continue to seek members' voices on ways that we can share best practices in this endeavour. Please contact me directly via email ([louisa\\_barham@raglanarea.school.nz](mailto:louisa_barham@raglanarea.school.nz)) if you have any suggestions and/or practices from your own schools to share.

**Subscriptions 2024 & 2025**

We want to acknowledge our schools for their timely payment of subs, which we always seek to keep affordable for members. We are largely a volunteer organisation and these subs enable us to maintain the annual events that we hold for the benefit of our students. For those who are still to pay, here is the [subs notice](#)

for 2024. The subs notice for 2025 will be shared in Term 4. Please note that there is again no increase to subs. Please ensure that subs invoices are passed on to your accounts person for prompt payment.

### NZASA Executive Members - September 2024

<b>NZASA Executive Members - September 2024</b>		
<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>
President	Louisa Barham	Raglan Area School
Vice-President	Kate Staniford	Twizel Area School
Administrator	Lesley McCardle	
<b>REGIONAL REPRESENTATION</b>		
Northland Representative 1	Grant Burns (Principal)	Tauraroa Area School
Northland Representative 2	<b><i>Vacancy</i></b>	
Central North Representative 1	Louisa Barham (Principal)	Raglan Area School
Central North Representative 2	Peter Heron (Principal)	Ngata Memorial College
Central North Representative 3	Lisa Thomson (Board)	Raglan Area School
Top of the South Representative 1	Maree Furness (Principal)	Rai Valley Area School
Top of the South Representative 2	<b><i>Vacancy</i></b>	
Canterbury ASA Representative 1	Mike Hart (Principal)	Oxford Area School
<i>(On Secondment as the 2024 Area Schools Leadership Advisor)</i>	<i>Stephen Beck (Principal)</i>	<i>Hurunui College</i>
Canterbury ASA Representative 2	Robin McKinlay (Board)	Hurunui College
South of the South Representative 1	Kate Staniford (Principal)	Twizel Area School
South of the South Representative 2	Sharon Blanchard (Board)	Twizel Area School
Maori Representative	Quenten Browne (DP)	Raglan Area School

- We still have vacancies on the Executive for Board Representatives in the Northland, and Top of the South regions. Please seek further information from your regional representative.
- 2024 Term 4 Executive Meeting Date - 23 & 24 November. This will be our final meeting for 2024 and will include a focus on planning for our 2025 endeavours. Please email your regions representative or our administrator Lesley McCardie (nzareaschools@gmail.com) if you have anything that you would like us to consider for 2025

## **Area Schools National Sports Tournament 2024**

We extend sincere thanks to Quentin Browne (Central North Island) for his leadership with this successful event which was held earlier this term. This is a major annual event in the NZASA calendar and as always the event was action packed and fun-filled for all participants. We look forward to next year's event in the South.

## **Area Schools Leadership Advisory Update**

Stephen Beck has been on secondment this year as a Leadership Advisor specifically focused on area schools. We are delighted to hear that Stephen has been informed that his role will continue in 2025. Although he is based in the South Island he is available to support Principals across the motu. He has 25 years experience of working in area schools and is a great point of contact and an impartial shoulder to lean on for advice or to just talk through questions or concerns. His contact details are below.

- Cell 027 3625 692
- Email [stephen.beck@education.govt.nz](mailto:stephen.beck@education.govt.nz)

## **"Our Schools - Our Stories" on the Ground**

We would like to share your stories (daily realities) in our termly newsletters and with the Ministry of Education. The realities of the complexities and celebrations of leading in an Area School need to be shared and heard.

Matt Barlow, Tumuaki/Principal at Amuri Area School sent a letter to the Minister of Education following our conference in August that expresses these complexities very well. Thanks for sharing this letter with the Executive and for being proactive in contacting the Minister. It is appreciated. I have included excerpts from Matt's letter below.

Dear Minister,

Unfortunately, I didn't get an opportunity to ask my question at the conference. My question is as follows:  
***"What consideration have you as minister given to the unique Year 1-13 context of an area school as you introduce change, initiatives, directives and support to help fulfil your 6 priorities for education?"***

I would like to share the following analogy with you, which hopefully provides a context for my question: Imagine an airport. There are many planes coming in to land, most scheduled and some at short notice. On one plane is the NCEA change package, on another the refreshed Maths curriculum. On yet another is increased CRT hours for primary staff and so on (the list of flights needing to land is both large and diverse). As a principal in an area school, I am tasked with being the air traffic controller, trying to accommodate all of the flights, knowing which ones to clear for landing and in what order, which flights to put into a holding pattern, where to direct the ground crew once landed etc. My principal colleagues in primary and secondary schools (and their staff) are doing the same thing; however, not to the same extent. For example, a secondary principal and staff can see flight 'NZ- 0-3 Literacy Curriculum from Wellington' on the radar and simply say *"This flight won't be landing at our airport."* Likewise, a primary principal and staff can see flight 'NZ- NCEA Co-requisites from Wellington' on the radar and say *"this flight doesn't need to land at our airport."*

The simple point that this analogy is designed to illustrate is that **every** change, initiative or directive in the education sector impacts an area school in a greater capacity than those schools who only need to worry about primary or secondary specific changes, initiatives or directives. To put it simply, we must land every plane that is currently in flight or scheduled to be in flight in the coming years.

In addition to this, our area school airports are often small, have fewer ground staff and in many cases have not had infrastructure upgraded. While we have fewer students, the same amount of time, energy and planning goes into ensuring that we are encompassing each change, initiative or directive.

At our conference, you acknowledged several challenges faced by rural / isolated or area schools including:

- We are often more isolated meaning PLD provision is more difficult,
- We are subject to shortages in teacher supply.

While both of these challenges are accurate, they still sit alongside (and compound) the fact that an area school must cover the whole gamut of changes, initiatives and directives within the education sector. I would implore you to consider the answer to my question with all of this in mind.

Once again, I appreciate all that you are doing to work alongside the sector to navigate and support your priorities. I do believe that the unique context of an area school is something that is not currently fully considered within sector-wide change. I also believe that it is imperative that it is.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Classroom Release Time Funding 2025**

From the beginning of 2025, teachers covered by the Primary Teachers' Collective Agreement (PTCA), and teachers covered by the Area School Teachers' Collective Agreement (ASTCA) who predominantly teach Years 1 to 6, and who hold one or more permanent salary units, will receive an additional 10 hours of classroom release time (CRT) per term. The ministry bulletin unfortunately gave the impression that the reporting on CRT entitlements would be correct in the September published provisional roll – this is not the case. The Ministry is continuing to work on the solution and will regularly update you. This inaccuracy in the provisional roll will not impact on you receiving your correct entitlement in 2025. All schools will receive the correct CRT entitlements for permanent unit holders for 2025.

### **Teacher Only Day 2 2024**

Your second allocated Teacher Only Day is to be used between 21 October and 15 November. You may use these days to support:

1. The implementation of: Te Te Mātaiaho / the refreshed NZ curriculum ([click on this link](#));
2. The re-design of Te Marautanga o Aotearoa ([click on this link](#)); and
3. The NCEA Change programme ([click on this link](#))

**Note** Take care to read the information that is currently being circulated around the implementation of Teacher Only Days in 2025 and beyond. The Minister of Education Hon Erica Stanford has approved two dedicated maths and pāngarau curriculum days for 2025 to support Years 0 to 8 teachers as they start to embed new curriculum content from the start of next year. The purpose is to:

- provide Years 0 to 8 leaders and staff with protected time to participate in PLD focused on understanding the updated Year 0-8 maths or pāngarau curriculum and teaching practice expectations.
- growing their knowledge, capabilities and confidence using the curriculum.

You will have flexibility over when in 2025 your school closes for these days, with parents and caregivers to be given at least a term's notice of the actual closure dates decided on. Because schools and kura are closed, it also means relief teachers can participate in PLD. Further information will be provided on how to access maths and pāngarau PLD and how to book facilitators to support the curriculum days.

### **Te Pā Rea Rangatira | National Centre for Educational Leadership**

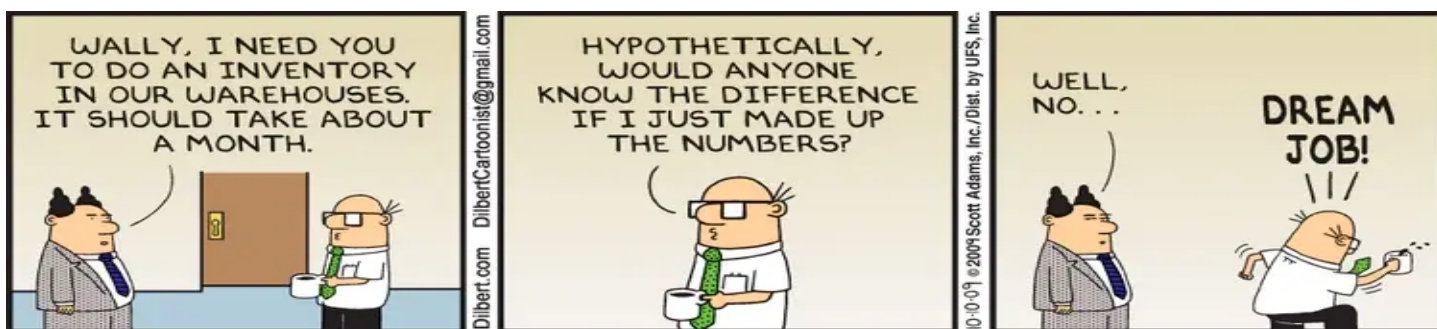
It is with great sadness that just a few months after the launching event of this centre earlier this term in July, that I have been informed by Perry Rush (Tui Tuia) that this inspiring initiative has been brought to a halt. A lot of work was done by the Steering Group (inclusive of NZASA) to support Tui Tuia in the growth of this initiative which would have given Principals a lot of support for individual and collective professional learning. The Ministry of Education focus on funding Structured Literacy and Mathematics is a major influencing factor in the closure decision. This is a huge disappointment to all who have been involved and NZASA remains committed to this initiative should it be given an opportunity to be implemented again.

### **Beginning principals self-directed online resource**

The Ministry is introducing a comprehensive resource consisting of 30 modules each in English and te reo Māori as well as 30 podcasts (25 in English and five in Te reo Māori). Modules and podcasts will be released in batches and the first tranche, available from tomorrow, focuses on self-directed learning and the tumuaki | principal role. Use your Education Sector logon on Education Learning Management System to access these: [Education Learning Management System – New Zealand Government](#)

*In closing*, as always, I acknowledge the work of our NZASA Executive team. We are unique in our representation and work hard to ensure that the voice of area schools is heard. I encourage all of our member schools to leverage us for support and influence around decisions being made at the national level. Feel free to contact your regional representatives or me directly. We are visible and our voice is strong.

Enjoy the break; a well-earned time for reflection and rejuvenation and a time to set aside to be with whānau.



### ***Ngā mihi nui - Louisa***

Louisa Barham (she/her)  
 Tumuaki / Principal Raglan Area School / Te Kura a Rohe o Whaingaroa  
 President NZ Area Schools Association / Ngā Kura Takiwa o Aotearoa  
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