

NZASA Newsletter Term 1 (17/03/25)

Kia ora koutou ngā kura takiwā o Aotearoa

As we near the end of this first school term 2025, I acknowledge that yet again we are facing numerous changes in education (listed in the final section of this newsletter) that impact significantly on our schools collectively and on our individual roles as leaders. Please email nzareaschools@gmail.com with any feedback, feedforward, celebrations or concerns. We are here to help.

We are extremely fortunate to have the services of Stephen Beck (Principal Hurunui College) who has been re-appointed to the role of Area Schools Leadership Advisor for 2025. We know that his experiences as an Area School Principal and President of NZASA are invaluable. Stephen will again stay connected with the Executive as he works in and around our Area Schools throughout 2025.

NZ AREA SCHOOLS SPECIFIC NEWS

Executive Elections

At our March meeting in Christchurch, Officers of the Executive were appointed and additional Executive members confirmed their availability and willingness to remain in service on the Executive.

- **Louisa Barham** (President), **Mike Oxford** (Vice President) and **Lesley McCardle** (Administrator) were elected to the Officer positions.
- We welcome **Rachel Clothier-Simmonds** (Mangahakia Area School) to the Executive. She is taking up the Principal's vacancy in the Northern region created by Grant Burn's resignation. We thank Grant for again providing his wisdom and experience to the Executive and wish him well in his continued role as the tumuaki at Tauraroa Area School.
- We welcome **Paul McDowall** (Roxburgh Area School) as the Principal representative for the South of the South region and **Dwight McDowell** (Roxburgh Area School) as the Board representative for the South of the South region. These positions became available due to the resignations of Kate Staniford (Principal Twizel Area School) and Sharon Blanchard (Board representative). Our sincere thanks are extended to both ladies and to Kate we express our additional thanks for her work as Vice-President.
- We now have two vacancies on the Executive for Board Representatives in the Northland, and Top of the South regions. Please contact Lesley McCardle (nzareaschools@gmail.com) our Area School's Administrator if you have any nominations for these vacancies.

NZASA Executive Members - March 2025

POSITION	NAME	SCHOOL
President	Louisa Barham	Raglan Area School

Vice-President	Mike Hart	Oxford Area School
Administrator	Lesley McCardle	Kamo High School
REGIONAL REPRESENTATION		
Northland Representative 1	Rachel Clothier-Simmonds (Principal)	Mangakahia Area School
Northland Representative 2	Vacancy	
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	Vacancy	
Canterbury ASA Representative 1	Mike Hart (Principal)	Oxford Area School
Canterbury ASA Representative 2	Robin McKinlay (Board)	Hurunui College
South of the South Representative 1	Paul McDowall (Principal)	Roxburgh Area School
South of the South Representative 2	Dwight McDowell (Board)	Roxburgh Area School
Maori Representative	Quenten Browne (DP)	Raglan Area School
<i>(Secondment 2025 Area Schools Leadership Advisor)</i>	<i>Stephen Beck (Principal)</i>	<i>Hurunui College</i>

NZASA National Conference 2025 will be held in Christchurch

- Register NOW - Here is the [Registration LINK](#)
- Dates: - **Wednesday 22, Thursday 23 and Friday 24 August 2025**
- Venue: **The Crowne Plaza** in the heart of Christchurch.
- Theme: **'He Waahi mo te katoa - A Place for Everyone**
The Executive is keen to celebrate our leaders by providing significant opportunities for self-reflection, rest, rejuvenation and revitalisation. While learning more from each other we will fully take advantage of all of the exciting, inspirational and therapeutic experiences that Christchurch has to offer
- Our Speakers include:
 - [LINK - Erica Stanford](#) (Minister of Education)
 - [LINK - Lorraine Kerr](#) (President - NZ School Boards Association)
 - [LINK - Suran Dickson](#) (Inclusive Practices and Challenging Inequality)
 - [LINK - to NZ Teaching Council](#) (Inclusion Framework)
 - [LINK - Inside Out](#) (Education in Support of Aotearoa's rainbow communities)
 - [LINK - Education Outdoors NZ](#) (Making the Outdoors safe and accessible for all students)

- [LINK - Lisa Thomson](#) and Lara Sweetman (Toitu Activation - Inclusion through a Tiriti o Waitangi Lens)
- [LINK - Jase Williams](#) (Compassionate, Equity-Centered, Relational Neuroscience Practice in Education)
- [LINK - Hone Waudby](#) (A Principal's story: Using AI to enhance our inclusion practices)

NZASA Student Excellence Award Recipients 2025

At our 2024 Wellington conference, we enjoyed hearing from Bonnie Howland, one of our previous recipients of this award. Principals accepted the NZASA Student Excellence Awards for the following 2024 recipients:

- Millie-Jane McIlraith – Hurunui College
- Jack Steele – Maniototo Area School
- Olivia Russell – Maniototo Area School
- Emma Shore – Oxford Area School
- Rory Sargent – Raglan Area School
- Skyla May Hoult – Taipa Area School

Here is the [information](#) that you require to nominate a student for an award to be presented at the 2025 conference.

NZASA Student Leadership Camp 2025

Student leaders from across Aotearoa come together to participate in a range of individual and collaborative activities and events designed to bring out and further enhance their leadership skills. Huge thanks go out again to Brendon Ferguson for leading this mahi and for the staff from across the country who will support the camp during this week. The 2025 event is scheduled for 13th to 17th April - check out this [LINK](#) for details

NZASA Student National Sports Tournament 2025

This event will be held in the Stadium Southland in Invercargill. A fabulous action packed week is being planned for all participants who will compete in a number of sporting codes. A tournament team will be named at the end of the event. The 2025 event is scheduled for June 30th to July 3rd - check out this [LINK](#) for details.

NZASA Student Music Camp 2025

The bi-annual music camp will be held in Christchurch. Information for the 2025 camp is on the website. Dates 23-26 September, Christchurch. Here is the [LINK](#) to further information and registration details.

NZASA Membership Fees 2025

NZASA Membership Subscriptions 2025

We want to acknowledge our schools for their timely payment of subs, which we always seek to keep affordable for members. Please note that there is again no increase to subs. 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 LINK](#) for 2025. ***Please ensure that subs invoices are passed on to your accounts person for prompt payment.***

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PEAK Bodies

PEAK bodies represent and support specific groups within the educational community. This group plays a crucial role in advocacy, policy development, professional development, and ensuring that the interests of our members are addressed at national and regional levels. Other roles include networking and resource provision. NZASA will continue to be represented in this group. Other members include:

- Association of Intermediate and Middle Schools (AIMS)
- Special Education Principals' Association of NZ (SEPANZ)
- NZ Pasifika Principals' Association (NZPPA)
- NZ Catholic Primary Principals Association (NZCPPA)
- Area Schools Association of NZ (ASANZ)
- The NZ Rural School Leadership Association (NZRSLA)
- Auckland Primary Principals' Association (APPA)
- Auckland Secondary Principals' Association (ASSPA)
- Wellington Regional Primary Principals' Association (WRPPA)

Between late 2024 and March 2025, our education system underwent several significant changes affecting schools nationwide. These comprehensive changes reflect the government's efforts to enhance educational outcomes, address attendance issues, and provide diverse schooling options, while also navigating challenges related to cultural and language policies. Please email nzareaschools@gmail.com with your feedback on what is the current reality and impact of these changes in your school so that this voice can be heard at the PEAK bodies meetings.

Curriculum Reforms

- **Structured Literacy and Mathematics:** In 2025, primary schools were mandated to implement structured approaches to teaching reading, writing, and mathematics for Years 0-3. This initiative included the distribution of over 450,000 curriculum-aligned workbooks to students, aiming to enhance foundational skills.
- **Curriculum Content Updates:** Schools were required to adopt updated content for English, Te Reo Rangatira (Years 0-6), Mathematics, and Pāngarau (Years 0-8). Additionally, the introduction of 20- and 40-week phonics checks for Year 1 students was encouraged to bolster literacy development.

Assessment and Reporting Adjustments

- **NCEA Changes:** Secondary schools were advised to engage with draft versions of the English (Years 7-13) and Mathematics and Statistics (Years 9-13) curricula. They were also required to utilise updated Achievement Standards for NCEA assessments, with the discontinuation of submitted reports as a method of external assessment for NCEA Level 1.

Attendance Policies

- **Revised Attendance Codes:** From Term 1 2025, schools were mandated to use updated attendance codes and report daily attendance data. The introduction of the Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) framework was encouraged to address and reduce absenteeism.

Classroom Release Time

- **Increased Non-Teaching Time:** As part of collective bargaining agreements, classroom release time for Years 0-6 teachers in our Area Schools has increased to 25 hours per term. Additionally, permanent salary unit holders received new allocations for classroom release time.

Reintroduction of Charter Schools

- **New Charter Schools:** The government reintroduced charter schools, with seven institutions opening in early 2025. These schools offer diverse educational approaches, including Māori immersion programmes and specialised curricula targeting disengaged youth.

School Lunch Programme Modifications

- **Ka Ora Ka Ako Programme:** Schools participating in the Ka Ora, Ka Ako programme transitioned to a new model in 2025. This change aimed to streamline the programme and address previous challenges related to meal quality and delivery. National providers of the programme are struggling to meet needs e.g. Libelle Liquidating early this week.

Māori Language Policies

- **Te Reo Māori Usage:** In late 2024, concerns were raised about government policies limiting the use of te reo Māori in public services, potentially impacting the language's revitalisation efforts. Several ministries ceased using Māori names and languages in official documents and stopped funding language courses for staff. A recent example is the Ministry's planned 'repurposing' of funds currently used for Resource Teachers Literacy and Resource Teachers Māori.

Consultation Standards for the teaching profession

Teaching standards outline expectations for all teachers to meet. They are also a framework for teachers to continue to reflect and further develop their knowledge and practice over time, supported by their fellow teachers, principals, and professional leaders. The current *Ngā Paerewa mō te Umanga Whakaakoranga | Standards for the Teaching Profession* were developed in 2016 and 2017 by teachers, principals, early childhood leaders and the Teaching Council. Much has changed since then, and the teaching profession and society have continued to grow and evolve.

- Read about the proposed standards [HERE](#)
- Access Principal Resources for use in staff PLD [HERE](#)
- Have your say - Complete the Survey [HERE](#)

Principal Development 2025

Principal Development Map Work update 2025

Tim White, the Chief Advisor for the Leadership Advisory Programme and his team have developed and implemented the **Principal Development Map framework** in 2023. Linked [HERE](#) is the most up-to-date version of the framework with the changes made as they were tested with the advisory group members. The group is now interested in receiving feedback about the usefulness of this resource.

Beginning Principal PLD Refresh 2025

The current beginning principal support provided by Evaluation Associates and Te Akatea concludes at the end of 2025. The MOE Leadership Advisory group is now considering a “refresh” of what is currently offered and also looking at the support for beginning principals in the context of a potential Aspiring Principals Programme.

Standards for the Profession - Specific to Principals

Watch the space - we are aware that information about changes for Principals in relation to the Standards for the Profession is in the pipeline and we will forward any information that comes to us in this regard.

Springboard Trust - Strategic Leadership for Principals Programme (SLPP) [LINK](#)

Are you looking for some leadership PLD in 2025? The Strategic Leadership for Principals Programme (SLPP) connects Aotearoa principals with strategic experts from outside of the education sector to develop principals' leadership capability and to support clear, insightful strategic planning for schools. Many Principals throughout NZ have benefited from this quality PLD.

CLOSING REMARKS

In closing, I would like to extend sincere thanks to the 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 you 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.

The coming holiday break is inclusive of Easter and ANZAC public holidays - please take some time to stay away from your school; to relax and then refresh - ready for the new term. We look forward to serving our association throughout 2025.

Ngā mihi nui - Louisa

Louisa Barham (she/her)
Tumuaki / Principal
President NZ Area Schools Association
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*Te Kura A Rohe O Whaingaroa
Raglan Area School*

~ Mana Rangatahi - Empowering Young People ~