

NZ AREA SCHOOLS CONFERENCE 2024

SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP PROVIDERS

WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST

1.00pm KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Hon. David Seymour

Hon David Seymour is the Minister of Regulation and the Associate Minister of Health (Pharmac), Finance, and Education (Partnership Schools). He was first elected to Parliament as MP for Epsom in 2014, at which point he became Leader of the ACT Party. David has degrees from the University of Auckland in electrical engineering and philosophy. Before politics, he worked as an electrical engineer in New Zealand and for private sector think tanks in Canada

2.20pm KEYNOTE 2

Tiana Wakins

Tiana Watkins is of Ngāi te Rangi, Ngāti Pūkenga, Ngāti Ranginui and Kai Tahu whakapapa, and has over 20 years of extensive experience working with communities in both government and non-government settings, across both Aotearoa and Australia. This experience is specifically in the spaces of suicide prevention, family violence and sexual violence (forensic and prevention), homelessness, and public health. Tiana's role is to lead Aotearoa, New Zealand's national suicide prevention training programme, LifeKeepers.

Title: Suicide Prevention – it's all of our business

[LifeKeepers](#) is the national suicide prevention training programme for Aotearoa; the only Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) clinically and culturally endorsed one of its kind. LifeKeepers equips those most likely to engage with individuals at risk of suicide, with the skills, knowledge and confidence to intervene, whilst fostering the ability to connect with the right supports. Additionally, LifeKeepers has supported many kura across the motu by upskilling all staff, members of the local communities and students ([Mental Wealth](#)). To date, we have 17,000 certified LifeKeepers across Aotearoa, these are all ordinary people doing extraordinary things to prevent suicide. Through our individual efforts, we can continue to make a collective difference in preventing suicide.

THURSDAY 22 AUGUST

9.00am KEYNOTE 3

Elena Moretti - Education Review Office

Title: What's on top for ERO

Elena is ERO's Director of Insights and Impact. Her work focuses on connecting the national research that ERO produces with the leaders and teachers who can use it.

Elena was a teacher before moving into social sector research and evaluation. Her published works, leadership practice and day-to-day role are all sharply focused on finding ways to ensure research and evaluation evidence is *useful and used*. Elena is particularly interested in moving education evaluation work away from long reports that sit on a shelf to read later... someday... towards shorter, more practical products and online tools that have immediate value for busy leaders and teachers.

What's on top for ERO

Principals are pivotal to the success of our schools, and are in a unique position for supporting great school practices. In this informative, fast-paced presentation, Elena will share bite-sized information about what ERO's recent and upcoming research insights mean in terms of practical actions and implications for principals.

9.30am KEYNOTE 4

Dinnie Moeahu

Mana o te Rangatira

An inspiring kōrero about leadership, resilience and overcoming adversity.

Leadership education is a lifelong journey that focuses on empowering individuals to inspire, motivate, and guide others towards a common goal. It involves self-awareness, emotional intelligence, strategic thinking, decision-making, collaboration, ethical leadership, and continuous learning. Dinnie's journey to leadership has catapulted him into many high level environments including a business mentor, charity ambassador, former Board of Trustees chair, board Director and a district Councillor. His lighthearted approach to keynote speaking will foster empathy and resilience building leaders who can inspire trust and respect.

10.45am KEYNOTE 5

Hon. Matt Doocey

Matt Doocey is the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for ACC, Minister for Tourism and Hospitality, Minister for Youth, Associate Minister of Health, and Associate Minister of Transport.

Matt has been the MP for Waimakariri since the 2014 election.

He previously worked in mental health in New Zealand and the UK, before returning home to work at the Canterbury District Health Board.

Matt went to St Bede's College before completing a BSc (Hons) in Social Policy, an MA in Healthcare Management from Kingston University in London, and an MSc in Global Politics from Birkbeck College, University of London.

11.45am KEYNOTE 6

Lorraine Kerr

Te Whakarōputanga Kaitiaki Kura o Aotearoa

1.15pm WORKSHOPS A

WORKSHOP 1 - DR SHARON BLANCHARD

Sharon has actively participated and been employed in higher education for over 30 years in both academic and senior leadership roles encompassing international education, recruitment, enrolment management, institutional communications, governance, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Sharon moved to Twizel in 2016 where she was completing her doctoral research focused on 'Principled Leadership' which aimed to inform leadership development for enhanced leadership. Since her doctorate completion, she has founded the Principled Leadership Institute which is providing leadership development to aspirants and leaders in New Zealand and in other countries and continues to research and publish.

In 2018, Sharon opened Sweet Moos Ice Cream Parlour Ltd., expanding the business to include Moostique Gastromarket in 2021. Post covid, Sharon integrated a business hub into Sweet Moos to support locals needing help getting back on their feet. In 2017, she created Leadership for Women, a local group fostering professional opportunities and collaborations. She holds several board positions and is a current member of the Institute of Directors. Recently, Sharon became author and facilitator of "The Leader in the Mirror" podcast which offers leaders' personal narratives and wisdom.

Workshop Title: Authentic Governance: Your inner compass

Workshop Descriptor: This roundtable session, led by a current Area School Presiding Member, aims to foster a candid discussion on the imperative of authentic, honest, and transparent governance. Participants will have the chance to openly explore the necessity of authenticity and assess the efficacy of Area School governance frameworks. The focus will be on how the Board of Trustees can collaborate to achieve these ideals.

We will tackle key questions:

Whom do you represent, and why? How can we collectively strive for improvement?

WORKSHOP 2 - DARREN SUDLOW AND KEN PULLAR- NET NZ

Darren is Executive Leader (Learning) for NetNZ, with oversight of educational and business development. He has extensive experience in the application of technology and the internet in education including roles as Director of eLearning at Marlborough Girls' College, ePrincipal of Cantatech (2008) and CantaNet (2011), and project leader of the Southern Central Divide Regional ICTPD Cluster. He has a passion for future focused education and

in particular 'connected' approaches to learning that embrace use of the internet innovate. He is also a founding member of Knowledge Building New Zealand, an association dedicated to the promotion of knowledge building and connected approaches to learning, and has facilitated a number of workshops on the topic. He also has a firm interest in educational leadership, and completed post graduate studies in 2010. His background is in the Social Sciences, and he currently teaches Senior Philosophy.

Ken is NetNZ's Executive Leader with an oversight of the organisation's educational and business operations. Ken has played a significant role in the development of online education in New Zealand since 2000. As Deputy Principal at Roxburgh Area School, Ken played a central leadership role in the formation of OtagoNet in 2001. He has subsequently provided active support to many of NZ's other eLearning clusters during and beyond their 'start up' phase, and played a key role in the formation Virtual Learning Network Community. Ken has a strong interest in 'future focused' education, particularly 'knowledge building', and the learning, teaching & schooling practices which centre on the growth of a 'lifelong learning' disposition of all learners. As a lifelong learner himself, Ken has completed postgraduate studies, and is a regularly participant as co-researcher in projects focussed on growing our understanding of the learning and teaching practice, particularly in an online environment.

Workshop Title: Embracing Networked Education: Exploring collective solutions to teacher supply, subject specialists and curriculum in rural education

Workshop Descriptor: Area Schools have collaborated on provision of curriculum for thirty years now, but to what extent have we fully realised the possibilities of a networked environment? The same challenges that moved Oxford Area School and the other CASA schools to provide senior courses to each other remain key challenges today. Some, such as teacher supply and finding high-quality specialists, only continue to grow. How can rural communities meet these challenges by working as a collective? Are we missing unrealised possibilities? This workshop will explore these possibilities with participants while also telling an important story of rural innovation.

WORKSHOP 3 - SONJIA WILSON AND RACHAEL SPENCER - TE WHAKARŌPUTANGA KAITIAKI KURA O AOTEAROA (NZSBA)

Workshop Title - The Workplace Wellbeing Climate

Workshop Descriptor - The Workplace Wellbeing Climate - Two Parts

So, you know your risks, you've got your register, your Health and Safety rep is in place, your committee has the physical risks under control. What about the risks you can't see? What about wellbeing?

Wellbeing fits within the remit of a board's Health and Safety obligations.

Does your board understand the workplace climate of the school it governs? Is staff wellbeing flourishing or is it deteriorating? How do you avoid being the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff?

This workshop will take a deep dive into practical ways for a board to gain knowledge and govern its way through the ups and downs of a school's wellbeing climate, including

reflecting on the treasures that te ao Māori offer us in the wellbeing space. Whakawhanaungatanga is no new concept in Aotearoa, yet how do we ensure it is entwined in our leadership practices from the board table to the staff room.

What are practical ways to gain assurance that your kura has a responsive, insightful senior leadership team and middle leaders with strong relational skills?

You will gain awareness into ways to be both a proactive governor in this space and ways to turn your school's workplace culture around to have the climate flourishing.

WORKSHOP 4 - ALISTAIR LUKE - WHANGAMATA AREA SCHOOL

Alistair Luke has been Principal of Whangamata Area School for 8 years, and is the Chairperson of the Central North Island Secondary Principals' Association.

Workshop title - The Toku Ara Curriculum.

Workshop descriptor - Toku Ara (My path) is a 28 day residential curriculum experience that has been developed for year 10 students at Whangamata Area School. This workshop will outline the curriculum, and share the journey that WAS took to realise a programme that for a long time, we thought was simply a pipe dream. The workshop is an opportunity to share the power of area schools, and the inspirational outcomes that can be achieved in our communities.

1.45pm - WORKSHOPS B

WORKSHOP 1 - PEGGY BURROWS - HATEA COMMUNITY CAMPUS

Dr Peggy Burrows has been an educator for over forty years and has taught new entrants to tertiary. She currently leads Haeata Community Campus, a large modern learning environment located in East Christchurch. Peggy is the current President of the Christchurch Business Club and is the Managing Director of Burrows Harness Racing Stables, a family business she owns in partnership with her husband, public trainer Donald Burrows. Peggy is an AMINZ Associate and has over three decades of governance, mediation and leadership experience at senior levels in Education, Law, Conservation and Animal Welfare. Peggy brings a professional clarity to her work in business, education, disputes resolution, mediation, advocacy and adjudication. Most importantly she is a leader who always acts with integrity, compassion and kindness. Peggy always puts people at the centre of everything she does. She has dedicated her life to service before self and affirms that all she has achieved has been for her whānau and her Community.

Workshop Title: Te Hokinga mai: The Return Home - The Haeata Journey (The journey to achieve 600% increase in NCEA Achievement)

Workshop Descriptor:

June 22, 2019. As an educational leader what do you do when the headline on the front page of the Christchurch Press screams, "Things are not OK': Students at experimental school speak out." You bite the bullet and step in, that's what you do! Fast forward five years and the headline on the front page of the Christchurch Press now reads, "City School Celebrates Big Turn Around." How that happened is central to this presentation.

This is the story of a 'return home,' - a return to the success the Aranau community historically enjoyed for its tamariki and rangatahi. As an educational leader how do you effect positive change and lead that change using kaupapa Māori principles of leadership in one of the most diverse communities in Aotearoa New Zealand. The answer is simple - with humility, aroha, manaakitanga and a commitment to te ao Māori and matauranaga Māori.

WORKSHOP 2 - DINNIE MOEAHU

Workshop Title - Kotahitanga: Connecting us together through Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Workshop Descriptor:

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is still misunderstood by many people across Aotearoa New Zealand. This workshop will provide delegates further understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, unpack the relationship between the Crown and Māori rangatira and provide tools on how we can move forward together as a country.

WORKSHOP 3 - SIMON COTTLE TEACHING COUNCIL

Simon has held professional leader roles in services across Manawatū, Taranaki and Hawke's Bay. This experience was utilised by serving on the Teaching Council's Complaints Assessment Committee for four years. Simon joined the Council in 2020 as an Arotake Ngaio | Professional Practice Evaluator, evaluating teachers' competence in regards to the Standards for the Teaching Profession.

Workshop Title: Empowering Teachers to Overcome Challenges

Workshop Descriptor:

This workshop will focus on exploring the role of principals in providing support, feedback, and encouragement to teachers, fostering a culture of continuous professional growth. Principals can expect an informative session that develops their understanding of Aratohu Kaiohia | Endorser Guidelines and how Tupuranga Ngaio | Professional Growth Cycle supports enactment of Ngā Paerewa mō te Umanga Whakaakoranga | Standards for the Teaching Profession within teacher practice. Join us and transform challenges into opportunities for learning, development, and success!

WORKSHOP 4 - DANIELLE VANDENDUNGEN, STRATEGIC ADVISOR DIGITAL SECURITY, MOE

Workshop Title: Reducing Cyber Risk – make a prioritisation plan for your school

Workshop Descriptor: Have you put a couple of security measures in place at your school, to reduce the highest risk items and prevent the worst-case scenarios, but aren't sure where to focus next? Have you got a long list of security, privacy and online safety tasks but have hardly any resource and an even lower budget?

The Ministry has developed a range of advice to help you identify the top risks at your school and provided templates to mitigate many of them. Come along to discover how you can get a prioritised list of preventative measures for your school. Come along and hear about the support available from the Ministry in the digital space including new templates and a Cyber Assistant Tool that's in pilot.

*Everyone who attends the workshop will receive a YubiKey USB security device to help you on your two-factor authentication (2FA) journey.

GUEST DINNER SPEAKER - BONNIE SELAK

After leaving Oxford Area School in North Canterbury, Bonnie studied Event Management at Auckland University of Technology for a year. She then moved to Wellington to launch and successfully sell my first business. Now, she is dedicated to her second venture, specialising in designing and selling creative garden art that moves in the wind. Alongside, she has had the honour of representing New Zealand at various international events and being a finalist for Young New Zealander of the Year.

FRIDAY 23 AUGUST

9.00 am KEYNOTE 7

HON. ERICA STANFORD

Erica Stanford is the Minister of Education and Minister of Immigration. She has been the MP for East Coast Bays since the 2017 election.

Erica completed a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours at the University of Auckland, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Māori Studies. She worked in a number of export sales roles for New Zealand manufacturers.

She also spent four years working in the electorate office of former MP for East Coast Bays, Hon Murray McCully.

9.45am KEYNOTE 8

Melissa Denzler and Renee Tuifagalele - NZCER
Supporting Pacific students: Culturally sustaining practices for change

Renee Tuifagalele

Renee is a Researcher and assists with different projects across the organisation. Her main interests focus on Pacific culture, society, history and education. She has completed a BA in Pacific Islands Studies and a Masters of Indigenous Studies from the University of Otago.

10.30am WORKSHOPS C

WORKSHOP 1 - NICOLA BRIGHT AND SALLY BOYD - NZCER

Nicola Bright, Tūhoe, Ngāti Awa

Nicola is a kairangahau matua Māori – senior researcher at NZCER in Wellington. Contributing to the revitalisation of te reo Māori is a lifelong passion, as is the ongoing exploration of kaupapa Māori research approaches in health and wellbeing to help make a positive difference for Māori. Nicola is currently co-leading a number of research projects, including the Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories and Te Takanga o Te Wā project, and the Decolonising Education project.

Sally Boyd

Sally Boyd is a kairangahau matua – senior researcher at NZCER in Wellington. Her main research passions are exploring the ways schools can foster student agency and wellbeing, innovate, and engage in change journeys. Sally was the lead researcher who developed the Wellbeing@School survey toolkit, and she has worked on many projects that have assisted in shaping national and local school-based thinking about curriculum design.

Workshop Title: Hei whakaarotanga: Engaging with models of health and wellbeing that draw on mātauranga Māori

Workshop Descriptor:

Hei whakaarotanga: Engaging with models of health and wellbeing that draw on mātauranga Māori

Mātauranga Māori is a new paper from NZCER that explores a range of health and wellbeing models that draw on mātauranga Māori that have been used at individual, collective, and population levels in Aotearoa New Zealand. [Hei whakaarotanga: Engaging with models of health and wellbeing that draw on mātauranga Māori | New Zealand Council for Educational Research \(nzcer.org.nz\)](https://www.nzcer.org.nz/whakaarotanga)

The wider intention of this paper is to support and prompt groups to be good partners under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and consider how they can measure wellbeing in ways that are meaningful to Māori and non-Māori. We encourage groups to reflect on how using models of health and wellbeing that draw on mātauranga Māori can assist them to uphold the cultural, political, and social responsibilities implicit in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

WORKSHOP 2: MELISSA DENZLER, NZCER

Melissa joined NZCER as Kaitohu Mātauranga/Education Adviser in January 2023. Prior to this, she was a secondary teacher for over 25 years, with 12 years' experience as a deputy principal in three secondary schools. Melissa is committed to honouring the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and mana ōrite mo te mātauranga Māori. She has expertise in growing assessment capability and brings considerable knowledge of culturally sustaining equitable practices to this role. Having worked extensively in the pastoral space, she also brings her first-hand experience of using data purposefully to review wellbeing in schools.

Workshop Title: Effective use of PAT reports at a leadership and strategic level

Workshop Descriptor:

As a leader do you wonder how to get the most from the PATs to support strategic planning and monitoring progress? This workshop explores the reporting features of the Aggregated, Learner Progress and Progress Over Time reports. Come and learn how to discover the school story in your data and ways to effectively filter cohort groups (including monitoring groups) and consider ways to use this information to support strategic direction, teacher capability and monitoring progress over time.

WORKSHOP 3 - SONJIA WILSON AND RACHAEL SPENCER - Te Whakarōputanga Kaitiaki Kura o Aotearoa - New Zealand School Boards Association (NZSBA).

Rachael Spencer is a Regional Governance Adviser with New Zealand School Board Association based in Christchurch and involved in school governance for the last 8 years.

Before joining the NZSBA team, Rachael worked as an Occupational Therapist for over 20 years specialising in mental health and intellectual disability. Rachael has been able to carry this knowledge of well-being and inclusion through to her work with school boards.

Sonjia Wilson is the Regional Lead of the Southern team of Governance and Employment Advisors for Te Whakarōputanga. She is also a Regional Employment Advisor. An experienced HR practitioner, she enjoys understanding the root cause of issues and collaboratively problem solves with boards and principals, whilst identifying key learnings. She recognises that building relationships is at the heart of leadership and values exploring the many ways that this can happen successfully, including with a te ao Māori lens. Sonjia has board experience within the education and disability sectors. She has a Master's degree in Management Studies and Labour Relations and a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Psychology.

Workshop Title: The Workplace Wellbeing Climate (Part 2)

The Workplace Wellbeing Climate - Practical ways to govern a school's wellbeing climate beyond policy and compliance, including reflecting on the treasures that te ao Māori offers us.

WORKSHOP 4 - CHRISTIAN MACDONALD - TAIPA AREA SCHOOL

Workshop Title: Leading Cultural Capability Connections & Collaborations

Workshop Descriptor: Whakawhanaungatanga and explore Te Ao Maori within Kura Auraki, developing a culturally competent strategy for both students and teachers. Look at advantages, challenges and implications. Leading connection and collaboration with Iwi, Hapu, Marae, whanau.

FRIDAY 24 AUGUST

11.30am LANCE BURDETT

Following a successful career as a construction manager, Lance Burdett spent 22 years in the NZ Police, 13 as a crisis negotiator. He brings experience from training in New Zealand, Australia, England, and the USA with the elite units of police, prisons, emergency services, the military, and the FBI. Lance has a Master of Arts majoring in Terrorism, Safety, & Security, a Diploma in Policing, a Diploma in Business Studies, and is completing a Diploma in Positive Psychology & Wellbeing. He is a published author of the bestselling books – Behind The Tape and Dark Side of the Brain – with a third book on managing anxiety due in August 2024. Lance also makes regular media appearances.

Our world is changing and having an impact on many. Lance will speak about the effects of our changing world and how to adapt to them from what neuroscience and contemporary research reveals. He will cover topics on; why it is that many people are feeling overwhelmed with fluctuating emotions, how to reduce unwanted thoughts, and how to work through life's challenges. Additionally, Lance will show us how to motivate and energise ourselves across the day, how to switch off at the end of a busy day, and how to have a more restful sleep.

