

# NZATE President's Annual Report 2017

Jo Morris

**E aku nui, e aku rahi, rau rangatira ma, tena koutou katoa**

**Nau mai, haere mai, haere mai.**

## **Introduction**

I'm proud to present the Association's 37th report on the work of NZATE at this our 37th conference, in the company of so many of my colleagues.

### **Our advocacy role and issues facing English**

Last year, I talked about the changes in the structure and delivery of subject specific Professional Learning and Development that were going to happen at the end of the year. We're starting to feel the effect of those changes now.

What you may have noticed most is a gaping hole where our subject facilitators were. To our knowledge, there's no more subject specific secondary help available, except through NZQA. One practical outcome that you may have noticed is a lack of any 'authoritative' voice entering into discussions on English on-line. This means that some teachers feel cut adrift from the kind of reassurance and consultation that was previously available. We advocated strongly against this move last year, and will continue to do so: we are dismayed by it and feel the effects of effectively disbanding the service will be negative and long lasting.

At the PPTA Subject Association Leaders' forum in April, we learned that some subject associations were approached and offered money from the government (MoE). We can't say with any certainty where this money came from or what it is intended for, since our information is anecdotal. What we can say is that NZATE hasn't been the recipient of such an offer and that we will investigate applying for any funds that become available, through the MoE, TRCC or Educational Council. We'd add the caveat, however, that we intend to remain politically independent and continue to represent English teachers in Aotearoa first and foremost.

At the forum, there was some discussion of a 'Hub' which would offer support and centrality for professional associations – with the suggestion that secondary subject associations might be part of such an entity. However, we came away no wiser about

what this 'Hub' might – what form it would take, who would look after it, what it might offer. Unfortunately, there's been no update since.

What we have at the moment is confusion and a lack of transparency on the issue of PLD in general and subject specific PLD in particular. We are worried that subject associations, staffed almost entirely by volunteers, will become the default and single source of any subject specific help for teachers. We look forward to government listening to teachers and addressing their needs in a timely and constructive way. However, we won't hold our breath.

To finish in exactly the words I used last year: we also know that, in order to meet Criterion 4 of the Practising Teacher Criterion, we need to “demonstrate commitment to ongoing professional learning and development of personal professional practice,” and so being part of the wider community of English teachers remains crucially important.

#### Professional Development Initiatives

In her keynote yesterday, Kirsten Shaw spoke positively about our newest resource: A teaching, learning and assessment guide for the Visual Presentation standards at Levels 1, 2 and 3.

The first stage of the resource is complete and we're proud of it. It will be an on-line resource, accessible through our website for our members. The resource signals the start of the changes I alluded to in my welcome yesterday. We are planning to develop and extend our website so that future resources (and some past ones) including English in Aotearoa, will be available on-line to all member schools. (We'll continue to offer our existing resources through the current channels for some time). One immediate consequence of this process is that instead of two further issues of English in Aotearoa, there will be one bumper issue in November, incorporating the usual material from Conference and other sources, but also including retrospective and 'best of' material worthy of our final print issue.

To sum up, from next year member schools will have access to a digital English in Aotearoa, and resources will be available for no cost other than the membership fee. We hope that this will encourage teachers and departments to join the National Association and make use of all the benefits of doing so.

(<https://nzate.co.nz/resources-3/>)

## Conference Scholarships

We're pleased to announce that our Scholarships this year were awarded as follows:

New teacher: Anna Upton, Eleanor Bisley

HoD: Andrew Tilby

Student teacher: Caroline Downey

## Conferences

Next year, the Conference will be held at Hamilton. Watch for updates via facebook, the website, *English in Aotearoa* and English Online.

## NZATE Council

NZATE is a voluntary organisation, which is run by a nationally elected council drawn from all parts of the country. We continue to be extremely lucky to have a strong team of talented and experienced people on council.

The goals of NZATE as outlined in our objectives include: to promote the teaching of English, to act as a forum through conferences and publications, to speak authoritatively on behalf of members and to make appropriate representation on matters of concern related to the teaching of English. As a council, we meet face-to-face three times each year and continue to conduct much of our day-to-day business through email.

As usual, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of this group of your representatives.

## Council Leadership

Your National Council for 2016 - 2017:

Jo Morris, President

Helaina Coote, Vice-President

Katie Blackett, Treasurer

Renée Hutchinson, Secretary

Idoya Munn, representative for Otago/Southland

Alison Cleary, representative for Canterbury/ Upper South Island.

Kalia Lautusi, representative for Wellington

Belinda Develter, representative for Central North Island/Waikato

Amy Price, representative for Central North Island

Heemi McDonald, representative for South Auckland/Tai Tokerau

David Taylor, representative for Auckland

Yvette Krohn-Isherwood, English in Aotearoa editor

## 2017 Election Results and Appointments

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominated/Elected</b>	
President	Yvette Krohn-Isherwood	
Secretary	Renee Hutchinson	
Wellington Representative	Lia Lautusi	C-opted
English in Aotearoa	Idoya Munn	
Central Regions Representative	Pip Tinnings	
Central Regions Representative	Amy Price	

Our farewells and thanks to, Belinda Develter, Cornelios Floratos, David Taylor and Jo Morris (Please see, below, the specific farewell addresses for David and Jo). Cornelios and Belinda were both on Council briefly, but made significant contributions – Belinda to the Scholarships to Conference and Cornelios to the Visual Resource. Yvette will be speaking about David's contributions in a moment. It's great to welcome Kalia Lautusi and Pip Tinning to Council and to congratulate Yvette Krohn-Isherwood on her new role.

All members of council combine the demands of teaching and leadership within their schools and local communities with their responsibilities on council. I am proud to be a member of this group, and applaud their professionalism, energy and commitment.

### PLD and Regional Associations

It's been great to talk to teachers at this Conference about the possibilities of new regional associations and opportunities to share PLD. Please contact your regional representative with issues, needs, concerns etc – you'll find contact details here:

<http://www.nzate.co.nz/index.php/about-us>

NZATE exists for, and because of, its members and we urge you to share the benefits of membership of NZATE with those you know do not yet belong. It is crucial to the health of any organisation to have we members, with new ideas and perspectives, willing to share their experience and expertise. To this end, we continue to look for ways to actively engage and involve teachers newer to the profession in our work at national level. I urge all members to participate actively wherever possible, so that we can continue to support each other and respond to the issues and challenges that confront us all.

Kia ora koutou.

Jo Morris

President

NZATE

## *NZATE farewells outgoing President – Jo Morris*

Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa

It is an honour to speak on behalf of NZATE as we farewell Jo Morris, our President, whose involvement with the association goes back over fifteen years.

The minutes of the March 2003 meeting at Christchurch College of Education stated, 'Jo Morris may be interested' in reviving the Waikato- Central Region by coming onto Council. As the dynamic chair of Hawkes Bay English Teachers' Association, she had been involved in running a series of workshops around the country on teaching film. I know that this influenced how we as teachers taught visual language in our classrooms and led to Jo being elected on to the council as Waikato/Central Regions representative.

Reviving her region is something Jo certainly did well. Her key focus at that time was to develop greater connection between NZATE and the teachers she represented and this was no easy task in a region which was a huge one in geographical terms. Hours spent driving across the length and breadth of the central North Island in an effort to better represent teachers led Jo to advocate for the splitting of the region and we have her to thank for the two representatives who now serve this area on the council.

Jo's influence on the way we currently teach and assess English has been significant. She contributed to the writing of unit standards when they were first being mooted as a replacement system for School Certificate, Sixth Form Certificate, and Bursary. She was also on the writing teams for Achievement Standards, and tasks to support the new assessment system called NCEA. Once this new system was bedded in, Jo contributed to the alignment of the standards with the New Zealand Curriculum and also worked with the Ministry of Education on teaching and learning guides, designed to help teachers create quality teaching and learning programmes.

Jo has been a driving force and convenor of two national conferences in the Hawkes' Bay, one in 2006 and the most recent in 2013. We have her to thank for the increasingly regional flavour of the conferences, with each organising committee seeing the conference as an opportunity to showcase what makes their region unique.

When Jo became President at the end of 2010, she continued to work towards getting greater representation from regions. All this happened in addition to her full time work as a Head of Faculty at Karamu. She is described as an inspiring leader who made sure she led by example and always celebrated the success of those who had the privilege of working in her department. It is a testament to her that many of her colleagues have been actively involved with NZATE at a regional or national level. She is skilled at fostering confidence in others, so they are ready to step up to the next challenge.

A passion for teaching and learning has always been at the core of what drives Jo and she is a creative and highly skilled classroom practitioner. In 2012, she was awarded one of 20 *National Excellence in Teaching Awards* and in 2013, Jo received a Woolf Fisher study award, which she used to explore indigenous education in Australia.

Jo has put her energies into developing a number of resources that have supported teachers of English around the country. 'Sound and Sense: Level Two poetry exemplars' was her baby, and stemmed from her Masters in Creative Writing, which she was also working on. Jo used her skills and contacts to develop a resource deliberately created to assist teachers to feel confident when teaching, giving feedback on, and assessing poetry as part of a senior writing portfolio.

At the end of last year, she made a difficult decision to leave the classroom earlier than she would have liked to. Her teaching is not over yet, however. She has embarked on an exciting new venture as a writing coach (feel free to ask her for a business card) and is also teaching creative writing in a local prison. There is now a wider range of people who will benefit from Jo's expertise.

Jo, we as a council have loved your passion, energy, your generosity, and your efficiency as a council member and president. We are thankful for all the work you have done for the teaching of English in Aotearoa, New Zealand. You should be proud of the legacy you have left. You leave NZATE and the community of English teachers in good heart.

I would like to end by reading the whakatauki from conference, which I think encapsulates the work Jo has done whilst on council:

**WHIRIA NGĀ PAKIWAITARA, KA PUTA HE TŪHONONGA**

**WHIRIA NGĀ TANGATA, KA PUTA HE ORANGA**

From weaving stories, comes connections.

From weaving people, comes life.

Jo, please accept this taonga as a symbol of our gratitude.