

NZATE President's Report 2019-20

40th Annual Report

Presented by Jacqueline Gilbert

Tēnā koutou kua huihui mai nei
E mihi ana ki ngā mana whenua
Ko Jacq tōku ingoa
No Ōtautahi ahau
E mahi ana au hei perehitini
Ki Te Pouhere o Whakaako o Te Reo Pākehā o Aotearoa
Nō reira, tenā koutou katoa

This is the first year, in forty consecutive years, that the NZATE Annual Report will not be delivered at our annual conference.

The conference, along with many plans across the globe, has been postponed until 2021. Our conference always provides an opportunity to reconnect and reinvigorate, to step back from our classrooms and the ākongā in front of us and widen the aperture to 'possibilities and opportunities'. This has meant that as an English teaching community, we have needed to look for other ways to do this in 2020.

We offer our gratitude to the organising committee—constituting representatives of the South Auckland, the North Auckland and the Auckland Associations for Teachers of English. The committee had completed much of the mahi before the necessary postponement decision was made, and now, several months on from that decision, they are tracing over that work in anticipation of hosting us next year.

We took the opportunity to use this year's scholarship fund to have members attend the online conference offered by our Australian counterparts in July. Pip Tinning and Sian Evans both presented workshops at this event. Congratulations to our scholarship recipients in each of the categories below.

Head of Department

Jennifer Smart - Wakatipu High School

Pasifika

Elsie Lesley - Melville High School

Māori

Ngawai Hooker - Hamilton Girls' High School

Beginning Teacher

Laura Harris - Kaipara School

Beginning Teacher

Alyssa Kidd - Sacred Heart College Lower Hutt

Remote or Sole Charge

Krista Maley - Whangamata Area School

Chair of a Regional English Teachers' Association

Aneta Dezoete - NARATE - North Auckland Regional Association for Teachers of English

We look forward to our 40th Annual Conference “Navigating New Voices - Whakatere ngā rerenga hou” at Auckland in July 2021, and to a fresh round of scholarships for attendees.

In the past year we have undertaken a significant programme of work. Workshops have been run all around the country — 2019’s Engaging Students and 2020’s Preparing Students for Externals. In addition to the dozens of face to face workshops we have also used our new-found comfort with Zoom hui to offer a series of online workshops and plan to continue with this model into the future. Feedback from all workshops—in person or online—tells us these were well received and you have provided plenty of ideas for the focus of future PLD. We also collated, with the help of members, a collection of impressive digital resources for use on online platforms and look to commission more resources in the near future. Our practice exam provision continues with the writers already working on the 2021 papers. This time we would like to also include Junior assessment resources.

In the past 12 months we returned to the hard copy publication of our journal *English in Aotearoa*. This included the 100th issue, an important milestone indeed. Editor Laura Borrowdale has created a distinct and cohesive look and the journal contains a mix of lofty literary articles and ready-to-use material for the classroom. Thank you to all from the English teaching community who have contributed to this journal.

These workshops, examinations, publications and resources are all supported by Network of Expertise funding provided by the Ministry of Education. We wait to see if the Network of Expertise funding will continue beyond 2020. We are certainly hopeful that it will.

Our social media accounts on Twitter and Facebook are active and well supported. This year, again in part due to our increased comfort with online meetings, we have used this platform for live events. Firstly for the launch of *English in Aotearoa* Issue 99, where we enjoyed hearing from the contributing writers; then in the form of an online book club series hosted by Pip Tinning and Laura Borrowdale. These recordings remain on our Facebook page and are recommended viewing.

Social media, along with all of our email and newsletter communications, form an important part of our dialogue with members. Pip Tinning, our Vice President, represented us at the PPTA

Subject Association hui during lockdown, sharing the concerns of our membership over the now very clearly amplified digital divide and the impact lockdown was having on learners and their teachers.

Pip and Steph Julian (Chair of Culture, Diversity and Advocacy) also successfully sought an extension to the feedback round for Phase 2 of the NCEA Review. This is a small but not insignificant concession that illustrates that your dialogue with us does translate to action. Your subject association is being heard by the authorities who make decisions and set the direction that affects us all as classroom teachers. We will continue to support and advocate for your concerns as we move through the pilot stages and iterations of the NCEA review. NZATE maintains positive working relationships and links with both NZQA and the Ministry of Education.

We requested, and received, the resignation of former president Yvette Krohn at our March meeting in Auckland. Prior to the March council meeting, we reluctantly received the resignations of Abbie Wright and Renee Hutchinson from the council. Abbie joined as Secretary in 2018. Already in the busy role of HOD at Garin College in Nelson, she has stepped down from the council to create more time for her family. We recently caught up with Abbie at our workshop in Nelson where she continues to contribute positively to the work of English teachers through her work with NETA (Nelson English Teachers' Association). Abbie, along with her Nelson colleagues, plans to host our 2022 conference.

Renee was a council member from 2016, Secretary in 2017, and Vice President in 2018/19. At the beginning of 2020, Renee left her role as HOD English at St John's College Hamilton to take up a position with the Ministry of Education. Renee recognised this as a conflict of interest and, unfortunately for us, chose to step down. During her time on council Renee was dogged in her advocacy for English teachers and was instrumental in helping to ensure that meaningful professional learning and development was delivered to the English community.

In July we elected four new council members--Philly, Kit, Alex, and Anneke. Our congratulations to them on their election. This was the first year in the history of NZATE that the election was held online and therefore a vote was made available to every member. This will be the practice for all future elections.

Your National Council for 2020/21 is:

Jacq Gilbert--President
Pip Tinning--Vice President
Jenny McPherson--Treasurer
Susy Carryer--Secretary

Sian Evans
Stephanie Julian

David Schaumann
Laura Borrowdale
Anneke Smit
Philly Wintle
Kit Haines
Alex le Long

In April, I wrote to membership to make you aware that we are investigating the potential misappropriation of NZATE funds. This investigation is ongoing and we are continuing to work with the NZ Police. This does mean that at this particular meeting, at this point in time, we are able to present an accurate statement of our financial position but not a breakdown of our 2019 accounts which still sit with our auditors. I am confident that, despite the discrepancies of 2019 which concerned us, NZATE is in good financial health and all checks and balances are in place to ensure rigorous financial practices and safeguards.

We held our winter meeting in July at Auckland. The subcommittees which had been formed in response to lockdown were formalised, defined and an action plan created. These committees are Resources and PLD; Network of Expertise Funding; Communications; and the newest group, Culture, Diversity and Advocacy. There is capacity for members outside council to join us on these groups to share expertise and the mahi. The impact of this restructure on our efficacy has been notable.

The people who make up your National Council are volunteers. They consist of diverse and experienced practitioners who have, at the heart of their motivation, a wish to support your individual efforts to be the best practitioner of English teaching that you can be. I am very grateful for this group of dedicated people, who dug particularly deep to respond effectively to the challenges of 2020.

We are excited for the year ahead. We are excited to widen the aperture and look for 'possibilities and opportunities'. We welcome your perspective on the concerns of English teachers and it is through dialogue with you that we set the direction this subject association will take into the future.

Ngā mihi nui

Jacqueline Gilbert
President