

## Report/Feedback on Professional Development

Thanks to the grant received from APPA I was able to attend both the NZPF-Trans Tasman conference in Auckland, and the NZEI Rural and Teaching Principals' conference in Tauranga.

I felt that the speakers linked the theme 'Knowledge in our hands' effectively into their presentations.

APPA Trans-Tasman Highlights for me:

- **Dennis Yarrington's** (Australian APPA President) focus on hardworking Principals loving their jobs; the need for strong networks; the need for us to understand that *'parent engagement in learning is so different in each family'*.
- **Te Ringakaha Tia Ward** sharing his story of his Maori/pakeha background meaning he was not fully accepted in either culture; the generational gaps when grandparents bring up a grandchild who in turn brings up their grandchild
- **Linda Kaser and Judy Halbert** (British Columbia): *Learning involves patience and time; Learning requires exploration of one's identity; Learning involves recognising the consequences of one's actions; Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities*
- **Andrea Nicholson and Liz Woods:** We need to ask, 'How big is our welcome mat?'; their school needed to get out of their 'pakeha paralysis'
- **Jamie Fitzgerald**, Performance through People: very inspiring story of physical and mental challenges; *It's all about heading in the right direction...Need to have alignment rather than agreement*

NZEI Rural and Teaching Principals' Highlights for me:

- **Brendan Spillane:** *What teachers do every day is heroic*; Screenagers only have an attention span of a few minutes; NZ seems to continue to take failed overseas systems trying to implement them differently, but if it is a pig of a system, then ***painting lipstick on the pig is not going to change it!***; We are missing the presence of people we are not meeting ... just connecting with them through technology; Brendan led an excellent workshop on **'Speaking with Impact'**
- The visits to schools were very interesting – I saw two very different schools, one with an MLE approach and one smaller rural school where children are definitely not wrapped in cotton wool!
- **Janelle Riki-Waaka** (Core Education): shared a framework for Whanau Hui

I have many ideas, quotes and stories to share with my staff, Board and colleagues. Brendan Spillane was my overall 'Highlight Presenter' – motivational, providing supportive ideas, yet prompting challenging questions.

I need to thank APPA for the grant which has allowed me to access these conferences, the opportunities for valuable networking and time to think while outside the busy school life of a Principal.