



New Zealand
Literacy
Association

President's Report to the Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Literacy Association

9 June 2018

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

A very warm welcome to all of you attending this 2018 Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Literacy Association. If this is the first time that you have been to our Annual Meeting, an especially warm welcome to you. This meeting gives you the opportunity to learn more about the association, and to also take part or be an observer in the decision making and discussions that take place over the next two days. It gives me great pleasure to present my second and final report as President the New Zealand Literacy Association.

First of all I would like to acknowledge Canterbury Literacy Associations former President and Delegate Raewyn Maher. Soon after returning from our NZLA Annual Meeting last year Raewyn became unwell and sadly passed away on 16 December 2017. Raewyn spent six years on the Canterbury Literacy Association and during this time she attended NZLA Annual Meetings firstly as the Observer and then as the Delegate. Raewyn was a vibrant and enthusiastic person who always showed a passion for all things literacy. In memory of Raewyn and to acknowledge the work that Raewyn did for both Canterbury Literacy Association and for NZLA, the Executive made a donation to the Cancer Society.

In July, our President Elect Joy Hawke and I travelled to Hobart to the AATE (Australian Association for the Teaching of English)/ALEA (Australian Literacy Educators' Association) National Conference. We were warmly welcomed by ALEA President Grant Webb, the Executive and the Conference Committee. We were invited to attend the ALEA Leadership Workshop as well as ALEA's Annual Meeting. I was also invited to take part in the President's Panel where we were asked to respond to a variety of questions. The Conference theme Cutting Edge: margin to mainstream provided ample opportunity to explore student engagement, creativity, critical and divergent thinking, innovation and collaboration and how they relate to high quality English and literacy learning experiences. There was a wonderful choice of quality plenary and keynote speakers as well as workshops and presentations.

The following weekend I attended the International Literacy Association 2017 Conference in Orlando, Florida. The theme for the conference was Literacy Reimagined and there were a huge range and number of General Sessions, Featured Speakers, Workshops, Research Presentations etc that you could attend. During the conference I was honoured and privileged to be invited to the Reading Hall of Fame's Annual Meeting where Heather Bell was inducted into the Reading Hall of Fame. Heather also received an International Literacy Association award for a Distinguished International Leader from the ILA Special Interest Group Leadership Education and Development for Educators in Reading (LEADER). Heather has been a member of this group for over 20 years and is only one of three "international" (outside America) people to receive this award. On behalf of past and present members of the NZLA I acknowledge and congratulate you Heather on receiving this distinguished international award.

At the end of September I attended my second IDOC (International Development of Oceania Committee) meeting in Auckland. Due to a change in personal circumstances, Wendy Morgan resigned from IDOC so I picked up her role as treasurer and Joy Hawke as NZLA President Elect joined the IDOC Committee. ALEA's new President Beryl Exley is IDOC's Chair and Chris Walsh Vice President of ALEA took on the secretary role. Beryl's term as IDOC Chair finishes in July this year and Joy Hawke will pick up this role for the next three years.

In the September/October holidays I was privileged to attend all three NZLA 40th National Conference One-day Roadshows, "The POWER of Words" which were held in Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch. We were treated to a very full programme with International Literacy Superhero Ralph Fletcher, two amazing Super Literacy Heroines Sheena Cameron and Louise Dempsey and National Superhero and author Kyle Mewburn.

On behalf of NZLA I extend very sincere thanks to the Super Hero Team from Waikato Literacy Association for doing such an amazing job of organising three very successful NZLA Conference Roadshows. Organising a one-day conference in your local town is no small feat, but organising three one-day conferences in different venues, different towns and in two different islands is something only a "Super Hero Team" could achieve and I thank Waikato Literacy Association for their dedication and commitment to making sure all three one-day conferences were successful. Their attention to detail and warm hospitality was very much appreciated.

At the Hamilton Conference Roadshow I had the privilege of presenting New Zealand Literacy Association Citation of Merits to Rob Southam from Auckland Literacy Association and Wendy Carss from Waikato Literacy Association. The Citation of Merit is the highest award offered by the New Zealand Literacy Association, and acknowledges and honours those members who provide outstanding service to the association at a local, national and international level.

At all three Conference Roadshows we celebrated those councils who achieved Honour Council status. They were Auckland, Canterbury, Hawke's Bay, Manawatu, Otago, Tai Tokerau, Wairariki and Waikato. Congratulations to all Councils for gaining Honour Council status.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing financial support NZLA receives from the Marie Clay Literacy Trust each year. Last year thirty Marie Clay Literacy Trust 'Early Career' teachers and twelve Experienced teachers from our Councils received either \$500 or \$250 each from the Marie Clay Literacy Trust to attend the National Conference Roadshows. The Trust also gave us \$2,000 for the Dame Marie Clay address, which was given by Sheena Cameron and Louise Dempsey at the Conference Roadshows.

NZLA and Local Councils sponsored two IDOC Committee members to attend the Conference Roadshow at Hamilton. Apolonia Tamata from Fiji and Folia Tohovaka from Niue thoroughly enjoyed their experience and were inspired by the professional learning that you all made possible for them through your generosity.

Our 'Books for Oceania' project was again very successful, resulting in \$9,550 of quality children's books being dispatched to two schools in the Cook Islands. A huge thank you to Rob Southam, and Scholastic NZ for their on-going support of this project. So far, a grand total of \$97,500 worth of books have been sent to schools in the Pacific Islands. This is a wonderful project that is making a difference. We are so appreciative of this on-going partnership with Scholastic NZ. A huge thank you also goes to all Conference Roadshow attendees and Councils for their generosity in purchasing books.

This year NZLA's 41st National Conference is being hosted by Manawatu Literacy Association and is being held in Palmerston North from Wednesday 3rd to Friday 5th October. Manawatu Literacy Associations theme is Literacy Landscapes and they have an amazing line up of keynote

speakers. More information can be found on the NZLA website. If you haven't registered yet, I would encourage you to do so.

Jenny Reichenbach from Auckland Literacy Association and Helen Brunner from Southland Literacy Association were awarded the two Marie Clay Literacy Trust travel scholarships for 2018. Jenny will travel to the 54th International Literacy Conference in Cardiff, Wales and Helen will attend Camp ALEC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Literacy Education Communication) to do a Level II literacy course in Michigan, USA. We had nine applications for this year's travel awards and all nine applicants were worthy of winning the awards. We are pleased that our members are keen to take up the opportunities that the Marie Clay Literacy Trust offer.

This year NZLA received two excellent applications for the NZLA Research Scholarship for 2018. The scholarship was awarded to Aylene FitzGerald from Auckland Literacy Association. Aylene's research is titled "Harnessing the synergy between oral and written language". We look forward to reading about Aylene's research in a future edition of Literacy Forum NZ.

The 2018 Regional Leadership Workshop was held in Invercargill on the 10th March. Nine people attended and the participant feedback was very positive. A huge thank you to Lorraine Dallas President of Southland Literacy Association for organising the venue and catering. Joy, Scotty and I shared the facilitation of various sessions. The feedback we received highlighted that it was great to have the time to plan strategically with committee members, share issues and ideas, and network with other Council members. Thank you to all who made it such a worthwhile day. The 2019 Regional Leadership Workshop will be for the councils in the Lower North Island.

There is a number of people who I would like to acknowledge for their continuing support of NZLA and for the work they do.

I would like to thank Mal Thompson for her outstanding efforts in maintaining the high quality of our journal 'Literacy Forum NZ' and all the hard work she does as Editor. Our thanks also to Hawke's Bay, Waikato and Auckland Literacy Associations for providing and organising material for 'Literacy Forum NZ' during the past year.

Scotty Delemare has continued to do a fantastic job as IT Coordinator. Scotty has continued to work on our website. A major focus for Scotty has been making our journal Literacy Forum NZ available to members digitally. Scotty worked with the Waikato Conference Committee and is now working with the Manawatu Conference Committee to make sure our NZLA National Conference information and registration is easily accessible on our website. Scotty continues to work with Local Councils to help them upload information to their Council's pages. Thank you Scotty for all the time and work you have put into our website.

To the Executive - you are an amazing group of people and I feel very honoured to have worked with you during the past two years. I have really appreciated your on-going support.

A huge thank you to Kath and Tricia, who have so efficiently and capably carried out their jobs as secretary and treasurer over the past two years. Kath ends her job as secretary tomorrow and a huge thank you to Tricia who has agreed to carry on as treasurer for another year. Both Kath and Tricia have been the most amazing and efficient secretary and treasurer that anyone could want. They have both gone over and beyond for me and the Association. Thank you so much. I so appreciate all that you have done.

Many thanks to Sarah, Scotty and Joy for your valuable and worthwhile contributions to our Exec. Joy has been a great support as President Elect and I know she will carry out the role as President so well. Jacqui Malham from Canterbury Literacy Association will be Joy's new secretary. Welcome to the Exec Jacqui. I look forward to working with you all next year as Past President.

Last, but not least, a huge thanks to all of you here and to your local committees. The people who work within local councils and give so freely of their time are the valued foundation of our association. It is great to be able to meet so many of you at our conferences, leadership workshops and here at Annual Meeting. You can be so proud of the work you do which is inspiring and appreciated by so many educators.

We have a great subject association of which we can be very proud. We are a strong network of councils, all being passionate about literacy, and spreading new ideas and pedagogy to our fellow teachers, parents and children. NZLA and local councils play a crucial role in providing professional learning with a literacy focus in our communities. In spite of the challenges we meet and the pressures we face in our professional lives, we need to continue to fulfil this role.

*He kete korero
Nau te rourou
Naku te rourou
Ka ora ai tatou*

With your basket of knowledge and my basket of knowledge all will benefit.

Glenice Andrews
NZLA President
June 2018