

Greetings. Tena koutou katoa.

This newsletter covers the following:

- **The Executive**
- **NZ Area Schools Definition**
- **Area Schools Collective Agreement**
- **Classroom Release Time/Quarterly Roll Returns**
- **Conference – Invercargill and 2011**
- **Sports Tournament**
- **ICT**

NZASA Executive

We have had one change to the Executive since the Invercargill Conference. Our thanks to outgoing Executive Member Bill Feasey, Twizel Area School who has been replaced with John Auld, Lawrence Area School. This is the only change to the Executive which is good news as far as continuity is concerned.

Portfolios have been updated and are now as follows:

PPTA Principals Council – John Garner
NZEI Principals Council – John Auld
RERG – John Haerewa/Chris McIntosh
Sports Committee – Neil Wilkinson
Property – John Wright
Resourcing/Staffing – John Garner/John Wright
Payroll Reference - Lesley McCardle
Data Statistics – Lesley McCardle
NZSTA – Chris McIntosh
ICT – John Wright/John Garner
Student Leadership – delegated to Colin Lindsay (Karamea)
Strategic Plan – John Garner
GSE – Grant Burns/John Wright
Finance – Lesley McCardle/Neil Wilkinson
Conference 2011- The Executive

Please take a note of these and if you need to contact anyone about a particular issue refer to this list in the first instance.

The Executive met in Wellington on the 11th and 12th of August. The minutes are now showing on the website www.nzasa.org.nz for your information.

If you did not receive a **HANDBOOK** at conference please let us know and we will post one out or they can be downloaded from the website.

Area School Definition

There are some discussions between the unions and Ministry Officials at the moment around composite schools and a possible change to the funding formula. We felt it was important to ensure Area Schools are not lumped in with other composite schools and spent some time compiling a definition. This definition is “An Area School is a state school in a rural and often isolated setting which provides learning programmes based on the New Zealand Curriculum to students from years 1 to 15”.

This has been sent to Union Officials, Karen Sewell and the Minister of Education. We are hopeful they will take this into account when they are working on funding and staffing formulas and the Area Schools Collective Agreement.

At this point we are in discussions with these groups about the definition which could lead to a change in membership status. This will be set as a topic for the AGM in 2011.

Area Schools Collective

We met with PPTA, NZEI and NZSTA. All report that negotiations as far as collective is concerned are not going well and could well be protracted and bitter. Please ensure you and your staff read all correspondence sent regarding these negotiations. Paid union meetings as far as the secondary contract have been announced. While the Unions state they are not directly linked to the Area Schools Collective as we all know one follows on from the other and they would appreciate any support we can give.

Classroom Release Time/Staffing

We were thrilled to announce at conference that primary release time for Area School primary teachers will be funded/staffed as from 2011. This development is as a direct result of the Executive meeting with officials in Wellington and constant lobbying on your behalf. It took almost three years to see this term being agreed to and we should all be please with the resultant staffing.

Quarterly roll returns for Y9-13 students will be in place for 2011. As well as the normal full returns on 1st March and 1st July we will be required to provide a return on the 1st June and 1st September for Years 9-13. We will then only be funded for that quarter on the number on the roll return. There will be no catch ups or back payments. While we are a little uncertain how this will work we can most definitely say that it will see us disadvantaged. The Government have announced it will save approximately \$25M which in itself tells the story.

Please keep an eye out for correspondence relating to this and ensure your Administration Manager is kept in the loop. Funding notices will take on a different look and will become more complicated to analyse.

Also from 2011 any unused staffing at the end of the staffing year will be refunded in cash to schools. This will not be at the top of the scale but at a rate yet to be disclosed. Schools should continue to attempt to fully staff schools and not rely on any cash back from the Ministry.

Conference 2011

When: **26th and 27th May**
Where: James Cook Hotel, Wellington
Start: 8am Thursday (suggest travel Wednesday)
(There may be an earlier start with a special ICT programme on the Wednesday – details to be advised)
Finish: 4.00pm Friday
Theme: Managing the Winds of Change

This conference will be managed by the Executive and will focus on a variety of items – Board training (Boards will be fully established by then), ICT, NZQA alignment, time for networking plus a variety of quality workshops.

If you have some great ideas you wish to share with us for this conference please drop either Lesley or Grant an email. We would welcome any suggestions around workshops, keynote speakers, dinner arrangements.

The Executive discussed whether conference should continue to be held on an annual basis. This conversation was sparked by some suggestions that we could look at a bi-annual conference. After some reflection and the huge possibility of losing momentum, sponsors etc it was decided that the conference would continue to be held on an annual basis.

Sport

Following a very successful tournament in Christchurch we are now in the reporting stage and working with SPARC to finalise these and sign the tournament off. Our thanks to Colin Lindsay and his team for organising and running such a successful sports tournament.

Next year the tournament will be held at the Events Centre, Taupo (24th to 28th July). More details will appear regarding this closer to the time and via your sports co-ordinators. It may pay for travelling teams to get a group booking organised with Air New Zealand to keep the cost down.

Web Site

Please keep an eye on the NZ Area School website www.nzasa.org.nz for updates on any of the matters included in this newsletter. This is where information is posted on a regular basis including minutes from all executive meetings. We are also on the look out for any interesting stories from area schools which we would be happy to publish on your behalf.

ICT

There are huge developments around ICT in the sector at the moment and Area Schools are the primary target group of schools for SNUP upgrades. If you are invited to be part of this we highly recommend you take the opportunity.

We are hoping to offer a half day pre-conference session regarding ICT developments and what they could mean to our schools and will keep you posted as to this possibility.

Ka kite

NZASA Executive Committee

The Executive:

President	Robyn Bristow	BoT	Oxford	Robyn14@slingshot.co.nz
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