



# NZEALS WAIKATO

*Educational leaders are invited to the*  
**2016 VISITING SCHOLAR EVENT**

**Coming to know: Educational leaders developing the insight to flourish  
 through appreciative inquiry**

WITH DR RACHEL MCNAE

Attention to notions of flourishing in leadership is rare as leaders struggle to find the time, courage and mechanisms to interrogate how their leadership practices and priorities have come about. This presentation will share insights into an alternative approach to making sense of leadership, where centre and school leaders explored their personal leadership formation through a dialogic and reflective process incorporating appreciative inquiry (Cooperrider & Whitney, 2005). Through this mechanism, the leaders participated in a strength-based investigation into their own leadership to come to a deeper understanding of how they might flourish in their leadership. This presentation reveals the strategies that the school leaders identified and mobilized to enact essential elements of their leadership and assist with educational change within their leadership contexts. Attendees are given opportunities to explore how this approach to inquiry might be applied their own leadership context and are supported in developing initial strategies for enhancing their leadership formation through this proactive and strength-based approach.

**THURSDAY 25 AUGUST 2016** *beginning with wine and cheese at 5pm,*  
**MEETINGS ROOMS A & B, (JUST PAST THE MAIN FOE RECEPTION)**

**FACULTY OF EDUCATION, GATE 5, UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO**

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**DR RACHEL MCNAE** Dr Rachel McNae (PhD) is an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and the Director of Te Puna Rangahau o Te Whiringa - The Centre for Educational Leadership Research (CELR) at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand. Rachel's research agenda is founded on a firm belief for social justice and utilises strength-based approaches to assist centre and school leaders to enhance their leadership practices. Generating research that spans the fields of pedagogical leadership, student voice, youth leadership, women and leadership, appreciative inquiry and leadership curriculum development in schools and communities, Rachel seeks to disrupt practices and systems which oppress and marginalise educational leaders. She is recognised as a key researcher in the field of educational leadership, and her scholarship in these areas has resulted in numerous overseas invitations to publish, join editorial boards, lead research teams and coordinate conferences. Rachel's work has been recognised with the 2010 NZEALS President's Research Award, the 2011 European Foundation for Management and Development Outstanding Research Award in Leadership and Strategy, and the 2015 Meritorious Service Award by the Waikato Branch.

**NZEALS MEMBERS: NO CHARGE • NON-MEMBERS: \$40PP**

RSVP TO NZEALS WAIKATO SECRETARY: [VICKI@MELODYCHILDCARE.CO.NZ](mailto:VICKI@MELODYCHILDCARE.CO.NZ)