

President's Report - Waikato Principals' Association 2017

It gives me great pleasure to be able to present the president's report that highlights another successful year for our association.

The strength of our association continues to be the members, 122 paid members in 2016, who support a very active programme of events throughout the year organised by a highly efficient and committed committee.

We thank you for your positive response to the survey that was completed in November of 2016 with 91 members providing feedback. This gave great insight to your thoughts and perceptions of the wider association and has provided valuable information to help with planning future events.

A big part of making our programme of events possible, is the continual support we experience from our wonderful stable of business partners, their support means we are able to heavily subsidised events throughout the year. We continue to ask you to provide the opportunity for our business partners to have an active partnership with your own schools by giving them the opportunity to quote on goods or services they provide.

Many of our business partners have had a relationship with us since 2010 and well before. The Business partners do need to be acknowledged as they do provide significant funding to our association well over \$60,000 a year, without them, we wouldn't be able to provide the level of activities throughout the year.

We would like to acknowledge the years of relentless work of Tony Grey in maintaining an excellent working relationship with our business partners along with his ability to attract new business partners to our association. We would like to acknowledge Tony's work as his time has become more precious as he leads his local Community of Learners.

It is worth noting we continue to show a strong financial position, even when the committee had budgeted for a \$29,200 deficit in 2016, we finished with a \$14,183 deficit but with over \$100,000 in cash on hand. In 2016 \$35,000 was put towards 35 members forming a tour group to Singapore in Term 1 of 2016. This Road Trip was extremely well organised by Nathan Leith with the support of Edventure Tours (Robyn & Chris Hamilton). This provided those who went an insight and first hand experience of 4 different cultures, working together, on the edge of South East Asia. The importance of Asia as our largest combined trading partners which will open doors for our students in the future, is something that can not be underestimated.

As part of the tour we were also able to explore the Education setting in Singapore, which included looking at career pathways for teachers and principals and also provided an insight into how their community of schools worked as well.

As part of the visit, we were also lucky enough to visit world renowned International Schools and look at a different approach to teaching and learning with a focus on the "Steam" movement while continuing to nurture "mother tongue" to ensure learners will always be connected to their own cultural background.

In 2017 we will be supporting a group heading to the NZPF Conference to be held in Queenstown to the tune of \$35,000. This includes another 10 scholarships for U1 and 2 school principals of \$700 a piece.

Week 2 of Term 2 also sees our Annual Road Trip heading towards Auckland, \$15,000 has been put towards this trip. We still have space with only 22 booked so far, we need to lock in numbers asap for accommodation purposes. This tour will provide a real smorgasbord of education through different settings and approaches. This was put together under the watchful eye of Tony Mangan with the help of Tony Grey, they were able to coordinate and organise both the Auckland Road Trip and Queenstown Conference as part of their reccie trip to Auckland in Week 2 of this term.

In recent time, and in the near future we will be saying goodbye to some long standing principal's from the Waikato scene. The 2 I wish to make mention of are John Coulam and Pat Poland. These 2 gentlemen have worked hard over many years and between them account for over 2 decades of leadership on the WPA. It was under John's tight financial management the WPA are in the position it is today, but this position reflects the strength of the association which has come about from years of communication and clear strategic planning from both Pat and John, the committee will certainly notice these two wise heads missing from around the table. We will certainly miss Pat's strong views and willingness to put his neck on the line to fight for the greater education cause in our country.

We wish them both well in their new educational journeys.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the other committee members, Paul Cooper who is our liaison person with the Life Education trust which takes up a Friday evening every month and Linda McCabe who is taking over the organisation and general running of the Catch Up Days which is a huge commitment but she also organised the end of year dinner for 2016.

We are lucky enough to still have the services of Sandra Jefferies, who does an admin component for the WPA looking after registrations, subscriptions, minutes of meetings, invoicing for business partners and another set of eyes over our financial accounts. This has led to an increase in revenue but most importantly, has led to efficiency with our systems. We thank Sandra for her continued hard work, as I feel that the WPA is winning in terms of her time. Sandra, your commitment to the WPA is certainly appreciated.

Last but not least, thank you for your continued support, feedback but most of all collegiality that makes this a unique Principals' Association that many strive to emulate. At the end of the day, we strive to be an organisation that supports your hard and ever changing work as principals.

Events to note in your calendar for 2017

- Term 2 Catch Up Day - Thursday 8th June - Cath Savage / John Leonard (week 6)
- Term 3 Catch Up Day - Thursday 7th September - Nathan Wallis (week 7)
- Term 4 Catch Up Day - TBC
- Schools Challenge - Trots Night at Cambridge Raceway - Thursday 13th April (last day of Term)
- Auckland Road Trip - 10th to 12th May (Week 2 Term 2)

- NZPF Conference Queenstown - 19th to 22nd September (Week 9 Term 3)
- Principal's' Dinner - Friday 17th November

Look forward to seeing you over the year.

Kind Regards
Hamish Fenemor