



Waikato Principal Association
Presidents Report
Annual General Meeting
18th March 2021

I don't think there is any such thing as a normal year. 2020 definitely wasn't normal. For the first time in any of our lives we faced a deadly pandemic and so naturally our year was thrown into turmoil. A crisis like COVID19 and the resulting lockdowns emphasise the importance of strong networks to support each other and never before was the WPA's kaupapa of 'Principals supporting Principals' more important. The pleasing thing is that this thinking wasn't necessarily led by the WPA, it seems to be something that is naturally ingrained in Principals' DNA and it was great to hear about our members reaching out to each other and offering support. That to me is the sign of a strong association. This perspective was also supported by the number of members we had for 2020 - 153 up 11 from 2019. Central to supporting our colleagues is the communications we send out. Thanks Chrissy for the great work you have done taking over from Tony Mangan with our Monday Mailout. It seems a lot less angry now.

Travel restrictions due to COVID19 meant there were limited opportunities for quality professional learning. As always the WPA filled this gap and we were able to run 2 very well supported Connection Days with Marshall Diggs in term 3 and Kevin Bigger in term 4. Our first ever Rotorua Retreat on March 12/13th was a great success. We were challenged by Mary-Anne Murphy to think about 'Daring Leadership for courageously caring cultures'.

Lockdown restrictions meant we were unable to hold our Term 2 Day with Shay Wright. We have rebooked Shay for 2021. Another key event WPA had to cancel was the NZPF/APPA Melbourne roadtrip. Due to COVID the conference was rescheduled to August and then to 2021. Because of the uncertain times we live in at the moment the WPA executive decided not to subsidise or formally support the Melbourne conference in 2021.

This year, (2020), we farewelled Tony Mangan who had been on the WPA executive for many years. Tony made many contributions including planning our Road-trips and organising the Monday Mailout. At our exec retreat on the 30th October it was agreed to co-opt a new member to replace him. To strengthen our kaupapa of 'Principals supporting Principals' it was decided to appoint a member into a Wellbeing/Hauora portfolio. Someone to keep an eye and ear out for anyone who may need support in any way. Marie Bramley accepted our invitation and we are lucky to have her on board.

Because NZPF didn't have a conference in 2020 the AMG was held in Christchurch on 17th September. The Executive Committee approved Nathan and I to attend and represent the Waikato. At the AGM it was moved that Te Akatea Maori Principal Assoc. be given a seat on the NZPF executive committee to represent Maori perspectives. A special acknowledgement was made that the WPA was represented and supporting the AGM. The WPA was also recognised as a 'high performing' association and disappointment was voiced that no one from the Waikato was on the NZPF exec.

We have a full and varied programme planned for 2021

Term 1 - Thursday 18th & 19th March Millennium Rotorua	Mark Osborne	Leading Change in Schools
Term 2 - Thursday 24th June	Sport Waikato	Change to Sport Waikato and developing systems to increase activity.
Term 3 - Thursday 2nd September	Shay Wright	Culturally reflective leadership
Term 4 - Thursday 11th November	Core Education	Linda to confirm

Thank you Linda and Sandra for the organisation of our Connections Days. These are a feature of the WPAs programme and are central to how we support each other.

In 2020 we acknowledged 4 Business partners who had supported the WPA for 10 Years. Furnware, ASB, SiTech and Kukri. This is a great milestone for both the WPA and the business partners. It signals the relationship is beneficial for all parties. We have a full 'stable' of business partners for 2021. Their contributions are significant and allow the WPA to run the events we hold. Thanks Geoff and Drew for your work liaising with the business partners.

We budgeted for a \$2500 deficit for 2020 after running a \$5 230 surplus in 2019. Despite all the upheaval of 2020 we ran a surplus of \$19091.69. This was due to higher than projected income and slightly reduced expenditure. In 2020 we changed our accountant. Russel Wilkinson retired after doing our accounts for 10 years and we are now using Education Services. This has enabled the WPA to get charity status and we are now exempt from paying income tax on profits, this has also contributed to the surplus. Thank you Nathan and Sandra for managing our finances.

Hauroa became the focus for 2020 and the Cambridge Trots night was another highlight of our members calendar. For the first time in many years we had a fine evening, possibly because it was in November, and it was extremely well supported. A big thank you to John Coulam for his organisation of this event. Another key contributor to our colleagues well being was the Principals end of year dinner. Thanks Leslie for her organisation of the event.

As always change is a constant in education. As school leaders we have a number of new initiatives to be aware of and engaged in. The NZ Curriculum refresh is in full swing and the new History curriculum has been released. We had to work through the new Teacher Aide collective and the massive pay jolt they received. This created a number of employment contract headaches for principals. There are also Maori and Pasifika Education plan refreshes, a new ERO review approach and developing professional growth cycles on top of this we still have the day to day complexities of leading our schools. There is a growing perspective that NZEI are doing little to support Principals with challenges we face. This was supported in an NZPF survey where the overwhelming majority of respondents supported a move away from NZEI for our representation and a move to set our own union under the NZPF banner. Watch this space.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the hard working executive group. As you can see in this report they do a massive amount of work making things happen for our members. I would especially like to acknowledge Hamish, our immediate past president who has always made himself available to support me in my role. His wise perspectives are greatly appreciated. Geoff and Drew our Business Partner Liaison team, Linda and Sandra for Connection Day organisation, Chrissy for the Monday Mailout organisation and Leslie for Iwi liaison and social events coordinator. There are many others out there who contribute in the background, thank you for your support. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with such a committed group and look forward to another awesome year in 2021.

Waiho it toipoto, kaua i te toiroa
Let us keep close together, not far apart

Marcus Freke
President - Waikato Principal Assoc.