



NOTES FROM THE NZALT EXECUTIVE MEETING 18 – 19 October 2008

Below is a summary of the main points covered at the NZALT Executive Meeting in Palmerston North on 18th and 19th October 2008. A full copy of the minutes is available to current members by emailing nzalt@paradise.net.nz

Executive Meeting This was held in Palmerston North for a change of scenery on the 18 and 19 October and was coincidentally a cheaper cost to the organisation.

NCEA External Listening at Level 1 and 2 – In response to the numerous concerns that members and sister organisations had concerning circular S2008/19, NZALT are communicating the following to NZQA: that in the event of a teacher not being available on the day of the listening section that NZQA assure there be a digital version of the listening assessment made available to the concerned school and in the event of this failing that NZQA do give compassionate consideration to students. Watch this space for further news.



2008 - International Year of Languages
2008 - Année internationale des langues
2008 - Año Internacional de los Idiomas
2008 - Международный год языков
السنة الدولية لللغات - 2008
国际语言年 - 2008 年
2008 - To kuu o te reo ā Ao

Limited Edition UNESCO / NZALT Stamps – Special Languages Stamps designed in New Zealand for sale! As you will be aware UNESCO and NZALT ran a Design a Stamp competition for International Year of Languages and provided prizes to each section's winner. They have also provided funding for NZALT to subsidise the stamps for members at face value: 50c per stamp. NZALT and UNESCO have jointly funded this project. The funding allows us to produce 45 sheets (of 20 × 50c stamps) at \$10 each.

Here are the winning designs, which are reproduced here the size they will be as a final stamp:

Year 1- 6



Year 7- 8



Year 9 -10



Year 11-13



If you want to take advantage of this exclusive offer please send your cheque made out to "NZALT" along with your name, school and which years' design you would like printed to James Donaldson, Iona College, Private Bag 1000, Havelock North 4157. At this stage we are offering one sheet per member at this price and once the 45 sheets order is filled, James will return cheques to the sender if you miss out. The stamps will be sent to you when the order is complete or by mid November at the latest.

SCALES project – NZALT is involved in this project. Senior Secondary teachers will be consulted either later this year or early 2008 about the Achievement Standards' Curriculum Alignment of Languages Project. The consultation process will be that the new Languages Matrix will be put on the NZALT website along with a questionnaire for your feedback. A short time after the online information is made available, your local Regional Officer or Adviser will hold a meeting for teachers in your area to give you an opportunity to discuss issues face to face. You will be notified of the dates for doing the questionnaire and where and when the meeting will be held in your area.

Polyglot The very first online version will appear at the end of the year and members will be E-mailed with the password, so if you have changed your E-mail address recently, update your online details by logging on: <http://nzalt.katipo.co.nz/index.php> Contact the webmaster if you have forgotten your username. This will give you access just to the 2008 edition as part of your 2008 membership.

Higher Languages Studies Three visitors from Massey University attended our meeting and talked about studies available to teachers and school leavers, available both on campus and by distance learning. Their new qualification is Bachelor of Communication which combines a Business Major and Language Minors. Bachelor of Arts and other courses for graduates are available. Languages offered are: Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, Linguistics (Majors/Minors) and in French and German (Minors). The courses have good online based activities where New Zealand students interact with students of the Target Language. The aim is to connect students with the world. Massey University also run Exchange Programmes with partner universities in Target Language countries. Languages in a degree are valuable to give students the edge over others. NZALT are starting to establish better links with tertiary sector who offer International Languages. Visit: <http://language.massey.ac.nz/> for more information.

NZALT/Language Perfect Language Olympics This was a highly successful competition run as a co-operation between the two organisations in line with International Languages Week and the Beijing Olympics where students competed on the learning vocabulary programme. Congratulations to the winning "Olympians". The presentations were made at Manurewa High School late last term: <http://www.languageperfect.co.nz/Olympics/Info.html> .

Change of Address The NZALT Post Office box will be closing and we ask that all mail in the mean time be sent via the President's postal address. See www.nzalt.org.nz .

Teacher courses offered A reminder to year 7-10 French teachers' Stage de Nouméa to be held during the April holidays in 2009. A great opportunity! Applications are due on 7 November.
<http://www.edgazette.govt.nz/notices.php?action=view&id=63504>

National Online Language Teachers' Survey Our president, Adèle Scott, has extended the online survey deadline for those who missed this unique opportunity or just haven't got around to it. Make time this week and visit www.nzalt.org.nz and follow the yellow star.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Late this year/early 2008, SCALEs Project – dates to be confirmed. Online surveys followed by local meetings.(See item 3.)

2009

January 17-18 Special Strategic Planning meeting (National Executive)

February Application deadlines for:

NZALT Professional Development Award for Year 9 – 13 teachers <http://www.nzalt.org.nz/support/pd-award.shtml> Are you studying Languages or Language related professional development without substantial support for your school? Below are details of our Professional Development awards which will next be decided in March. You will need to have your applications in by the end of February.

Speak-Up Award for Year 7 and 8 teachers. <http://www.nzalt.org.nz/support/speak-up.shtml>

March 28 – National Executive Meeting

Other Dates

LangSems are to be held next year instead of conference. Regional LangSems are a good opportunity for more local Professional Development for teachers and are held during term time.

Approximate Langsem Dates in 2009:

10 March - Otago(Dunedin)

Late May – Auckland

14 August – Christchurch

21 August – Massey(Wanganui) AGM here

Late August/early September – Waikato

21 September – Victoria