



NOTES FROM THE NZALT EXECUTIVE MEETING 28 – 29 March 2009

Below is a summary of the main points covered at the NZALT Executive Meeting in Wellington on 28th and 29th March 2009. A full copy of the minutes is available to current members by emailing nzalt@paradise.net.nz

Refund of membership subs Congratulations to the following early subscribers whose names were drawn out at our Executive meeting, who will receive a refund cheque for their membership to go back into your departmental coffers:

Lesley Taylor of John McGlashan College (Otago/Southland)
Taka Kuze from Cashmere High School, Christchurch (Canterbury)
Leo Wilson from Diocesan School for Girls in Auckland
Eru Mita of Whakatane Intermediate (Waikato)
Manu Menard of St Matthew's Collegiate of Masterton (Victoria)
Megan Nelson-Latu of Otaki College (Massey).

Nominees for National Executive at NZALT Annual General Meeting (AGM). We particularly need a Secretary – all other roles need to be nominated or re-nominated and in the hands of the care-taker secretary and current President Adele Scott before 25 June. Roles include: Junior Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Regional Officers. Please contact me if you are interested in nominating someone to be Massey's new Regional Officer so we can arrange a regional election before the AGM: <http://www.nzalt.org.nz/community/nom.pdf>

AGM items This year's Annual General Meeting is to be on 7 August at the Kingsgate Hotel in Wanganui. Remits to the Working Rules and Constitution have been further modified to come in line with NZALT strategic plan, re-defined roles with the subscription system and becoming GST registered. You will be notified by email when these changes are posted on the website.

Polyglot and The New Zealand Language Teacher Criteria and application forms are available from our website for Editor for both of these publications and are due at the end of May.

The first electronic version of Polyglot in 2008 was well received by members and we look forward to the next edition so start to think about your contribution now!

The New Zealand Language Teacher has now become part of an e-Library. This is at no cost to NZALT but will assist us in achieving wider readership for our journal and will even bring in some royalties. NZLT will still be sent to all members in hardcopy only and the electronic version will only be available to paying members, most likely universities and governments.

The company which manages this library is called RMIT Publishing. It was established in 1989, and is a not-for-profit business unit of Melbourne University and exists to further education and research aims. Informit e-Library is used in every university and government library throughout Australia and New Zealand and produces the largest collection of world class research databases and journal collections from the region. Increasingly they sell their services into SE Asia, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere. Website: <http://www.rmitpublishing.com.au/>

Certificates of Excellence These should have arrived in your schools. Remember the end of term one was the close-off date for 2008 certificate requests. The certificates will be reprinted in a slightly different format in the future.

NZALT's involvement in projects NZALT has representation in the following projects: SCALEs project, PPTA Curriculum Support Days, AFS Immersion Awards, Core Education IT and ILANZ Reference Group.

Standard Curriculum Alignment (SCALEs) Project Thanks to all who responded to the consultation at the end of 2008 and earlier this year. There were 137 responses (representing 216 individual teachers) for the draft Languages matrix and 20 responses (representing 32 individuals) for the draft Latin matrix. Several factors contributed to misunderstandings evident in some of the responses received:

- The timing
- The draft matrices gave only titles, mode and credit
- Little explanation of the wording allowed
- Respondents were not always looking at the alignment with the NZC (2007) – instead they were viewing their languages specific documents

There will be a second larger round of consultations in late May on our website. This will include a further version of the matrices and draft standards. Please take the time to respond with constructive criticism and feedback – linked to the principles of the alignment and the NZC (2007) – providing alternatives where possible.

VISITORS at the March Exec meeting

ILANZ – Axel Laurs, the director of ILANZ generously allows us to use their offices off Cuba Street, for our Executive Meetings when they are held in Wellington. ILANZ has a lot to offer teachers. Firstly most of the National Advisors are based in the Wellington Office: German, Japanese, Chinese and Spanish, with French being based in Hamilton. These national specialists travel the length and breadth of the country supporting teachers. Visit their website www.ilanz.ac.nz to contact them. You can ask for various services from the National Advisors to support you as the classroom teacher.

Language Assistants are another service provided by ILANZ. These are young university graduates who have learned English at university in their corresponding country who apply to come to New Zealand and assist with languages in your school. They are employed by your school or a group of schools. The costs are available through Jocelyn Laine. Japanese has another arrangement available too.

Teachers can go on exchange to several overseas countries through ILANZ too with relief being paid for successful applicants.

University of Victoria Dr Andrew Barke visited our meeting and talked about courses made available in six languages. There are several entry levels and requirements: starting from beginners then level 2 entry and it carries on from there. See the following website for more: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/subjects/offered/lang.aspx>. We are trying to link with all universities and Colleges of Education to recruit student teachers of languages into our association. If you have any teacher education students placed with you for their Teaching Experience or 'sections' please refer them to our free membership for final year tertiary students/first year teachers.

NZQA was represented during our weekend by Barbara May (in charge of moderation for languages). Other key personnel overseeing Languages are Veronica Young and Liz Scally. Just a reminder that the TKI website is for internal Assessment, but the NZQA website www.nzqa.govt.nz, has the list of standards, old external exam papers and other resources on their NCEA section. Each language will have new resources or links available on the NCEA section, but French has been the first subject to have already been developed.

There are 33 moderators over all subject areas of which there are 3 for languages. Because not all of these moderators are based in Wellington, it can be difficult for them to easily travel. As mentioned in October the two main moderators for us are Doug Anderson (Languages) and Shirley Bain (French). NZQA based their Moderator workshop dates on the surveys that teachers and principals completed last year. This was why they are on at the times set this year. The \$95 charge by NZQA is to help get the Moderator to your area. Moderation needs to be consistent and transparent for validity, credibility and consistency of internal assessment. Press releases targeting schools' accuracy of internal assessment was

demanded only at the early stages of investigation and became reported out of context. Workshops will be re-thought for next year.

Concern was also expressed of a lack of a School Support Languages Advisor based in Otago.

Other members' questions were raised about Best Practice, time and the cost of the workshops and the change to the external standards. We were informed that the standards are being brought into line with other subjects. NZALT and sister organisations have asked for exemplars or more explanation notes be made available and NZQA has promised to rewrite the 2007 Listening and Reading marking schedule in the new format, though a timeframe has not been given for this.

Shirley Bain has updated internal resources on TKI for French at the end of 2008/2009.

In light of the unexpected cost to attend the moderation workshops, it was decided that NZALT will fund the \$95 for up to 25 members to attend (see <http://www.nzalt.org.nz/news/> for further details)

FIPLV Award – If you would like to nominate someone who has served languages well visit: <http://www.nzalt.org.nz/events/index.shtml#FIPLV> to nominate them for this prestigious award.