



Chairperson's Report – giftEDnz AGM: April 1st 2017

It is exciting to be presenting this Chairperson's report at the conclusion of the first of our giftEDnz Roadshows. These Roadshows have been the culmination of a great deal of hard work from a dedicated committee and it is a pleasure to be holding our AGM in Christchurch, my home area, and to reflect on an inspiring day. I would like to thank both Selwyn House School and CAGE for their support of the Christchurch leg of our Roadshows.

Although preparation for these Roadshows has been the focus of the work for giftEDnz in the 2016-2017 year the Board has also been busy progressing several other initiatives in line with our goals as an association, which I would like to share with you in this report. It is also pleasing to be able to report that our membership has grown over the past year and Andi, our Secretary will give more details on this in her report. This growth in membership is testament, I believe, to the hard work of the giftEDnz Board and to our increased efforts to communicate with both our members and the wider educational community about giftEDnz initiatives. The Board's work is ultimately guided by the overarching goals of giftEDnz but we always value any feedback that we receive from you, our members, and we continually use this feedback to endeavour to serve your needs more effectively.

Communication

Website and social media

Our website remains the main focus of our on line presence and this is kept current and active through the excellent work of Vanessa White, our website manager and Board member. Ness has added a creative, interactive element to the website and it is thus much more attractive for those who choose to visit the site. Ness, with the help of another Board member, Nadine Ballam, has set up a Facebook page for the association, an initiative that is long overdue and there has seem some good uptake on this over the past few months. We hope that members will find this means of communication useful and that many will post on it themselves, keeping us all up to date with various happenings in the gifted education world.

Emails and email alerts

We continue to communicate with members regularly via emails from our gmail account. I would like to thank Andi Delaune, our Secretary for these emails, one of the many jobs she manages so efficiently in her role as Secretary. Andi always manages to find a wonderful positive, cheery way of getting any message out. We are delighted that Andi is willing to serve the Board for another three year term.

In addition to regular emails, we aim to send out three major email alerts each year, written by myself as Chair, which summarise the work of the Board and any progress on our main initiatives. This is our way of ensuring that members always know what their elected Board is doing behind the scenes and also gives us a chance to seek ideas from members about any of our initiatives. We hope that members find these alerts helpful.

E-zine

Emma Scobie-Jennings has taken on the lead editor's role for our e-zines in 2016 and 2017 and, with the support of co-editor Eunice Guerlin-Price who was the lead editor last year, there is no doubt that these continue to be excellent publications. I thank Emma and Eunice for their great work. It is never easy sourcing and coordinating articles, notices and up to date information around a specific theme but the very positive feedback we have had from both members and others who have read the past year's e-zines on Wellbeing, Culture and Technology is proof of the professional job that these two Board members have done for us. I would also like to mention the wonderful e-zine that Vanessa developed for us for the Roadshow. This was a great marketing tool and a creative and informative publication. We are lucky to have the talents of such imaginative and creative Board members at our disposal.

Sadly, one of our very talented editors is leaving the Board at this AGM. We thank Eunice very much for her dedicated contribution to giftEDnz, especially for the way in which she has collaborated with Emma to progress giftEDnewz into the professional e-zine that it is today. We wish Eunice all the best with her growing family!

Supporting Professionals

Speakers' Bureau

The giftEDnz Speakers' Bureau is now very well established and is efficiently managed by Board member Lynda Garrett. I thank Lynda for her excellent work in growing this initiative. In the 2016/17 year we have funded four Speakers' Bureau events. The major goal of the Bureau was evident as we were able to send speakers to three different geographical regions. In March 2016, Associate Professor Tracy Riley provide what the organisers called a 'one-woman conference' in Central Otago speaking to students, primary teachers and Heads of Departments from the Secondary area and to parents. In August 2016, Dr Melinda Webber's talk about supporting gifted Maori students attracted a huge audience of 130 teachers, Boards of Trustee members, students and parents in Palmerston North. Also in August Dr Janna Wardman spoke to teachers and then to parents from Whangaparaoa School and Stanmore Bay School on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula about the challenges facing gifted and talented students. Comments from those who have accessed the Speakers' Bureau are often around the benefit of having an expert speaker visit a region which is not normally well served by professional development in the gifted education area, unlike the major cities. Our final Speakers' Bureau event was supporting Nadine Ballam to present at the NZAGC conference in Christchurch at the request of the Canterbury Explorers, the organising group.

The Board is very grateful to our Speakers from the Bureau for their time and expertise. You can keep up with the latest Speakers' Bureau events through reports in our e-zines and email alerts.

Special Interest Groups

The Board is continuing to work towards progressing the giftEDnz Special Interest groups. The Early Years SIG has set up a Facebook page and this is well supported by Board members Andi, Ness and Jo. The Emerging Researchers' SIG also has an active Facebook group.

Thanks to the wonderful efforts of Board member Vanessa and giftEDnz member Karen Keppel the Twice –Exceptional SIG has been revitalised. This SIG has been renamed the Multiple-Exceptionality SIG, in line with current research and thinking. Led by Ness and Karen an e-booklet for allied professionals with information around the implications of recognising giftedness when diagnosing and managing ADHD, Asperger's and learning disorders has been produced. Plans are under way to

disseminate this very important resource widely. More information on this resource will be shared with members in the next e-zine and on line.

Roadshow

We have been pleased to be able to bring the giftEDnz Roadshow, ***Confident, caring and connected: Weaving a future for diverse learners*** to Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland. This is a new way of providing professional learning and development support for our members and the wider educational community. We see it as a trial to determine if it is a better way of doing things than the more usual conference in one venue. We will be evaluating the success – or not – of these Roadshows and learning from these as we make decisions about future events. At this time, it is disappointing that our numbers for the Roadshow events appear to be lower than we had hoped and we will need to look at why this might be and try to find solutions. We do, however, feel confident that those who attend the Roadshows will certainly have a great experience. I would like to especially thank Board member Sunny Bush, the convenor, for her tireless efforts and also her organising committee of Vanessa, Lynda and Brooke Trenwith for the hours of dedicated work they have all put in to these events. I would also like to mention the above and beyond efforts of Eddy van Til our PCO for the Roadshows.

Supporting New Zealand Research

Emerging Researchers' Retreat

We were thrilled to be able to offer a second Emerging Researchers' retreat in 2016. This was possible because of the superb organisation of Board member Nadine Ballam who had great support from past Board member Tracy Riley. These two acted as wonderful mentors for three emerging researchers who had a busy, productive but, I believe, also fun weekend at an Airbnb in Auckland in September 2016. The work done at the retreat has culminated in New Zealand based articles in the area of giftedness being published, two highly graded completed theses and plans for further journal articles in the future. We will continue to update the giftEDnz Resources page on our website with new articles from our emerging researchers and the e-zine will also alert members to any new research that we know of around gifted and talented education in Aotearoa New Zealand. We hope to run an Emerging Researchers Retreat bi-annually.

National Research Project

During Gifted Awareness Week in June 2016 giftEDnz announced that we were undertaking a national research project with the aim of exploring the current state of gifted education in Aotearoa New Zealand across all sectors of the education system and from all perspectives; educators, parents and whanau and students. This project is being very ably led by Nadine Ballam, supported by a research team of Melinda Webber, Jo Dean and myself. We have also been supported by Waikato University Faculty of Education and through their support we were able to employ a summer research scholar who has worked with Nadine on the first phase of the research, conducting and analysing a survey of primary schools in New Zealand. Although the response return from this survey was disappointing there is still some very valuable data from the findings we did get. A summary of the results will be sent to giftEDnz members shortly and findings will be disseminated to the education sector through presentations and written papers. The next step is to conduct a survey with secondary schools and this is due to happen in the next month. We plan to have the survey translated into Maori for kura, and adapted for the Early Years and the tertiary sectors and for parents and whanau in the 2017 year. I want to thank Nadine for her creative funding efforts and for leading this project so ably. I am very pleased that Nadine has been re-elected in her position as Treasurer for another three year term.

The Board continues to make available scholarships for members to present about gifted education at conferences and we encourage members to apply for these via our website.

Collaboration with other Organisations

Gifted Awareness Week 2016

giftEDnz once again supported NZCGE in Gifted Awareness Week in June 2016. My thanks to Board member Jo Dean who co-ordinated our efforts during this week. We helped develop the joint Position Statement with NZCGE and NZAGC on *Belonging: accepted, included and connected* which is available for reading on our website, along with other Position Statements that may be useful to members. <http://giftednz.org.nz/position-statements/> giftEDnz Board members contributed to the blog series, which was so well led by Ness, during this week. The Board values the opportunity to collaborate with the other national organisations during GAW.

NZAGC conference

giftEDnz supported the NZAGC conference in Christchurch by funding Nadine as a speaker at the conference through our Speakers' Bureau. Nadine gave two well received presentations as part of her Speakers' Bureau role. We also had two other Board members presenting at the conference – Andi Delaune and myself – and we had a display table there. Our ongoing goal is to continue positive collaboration with the other New Zealand charities supporting gifted education.

Mutual Affiliation with AAEGT

The Board is very excited about the new development in 2016 of a mutual affiliation agreement with the Australian Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented (AAEGT). We are progressing ways in which we can work together, including contributing New Zealand based research to the AAEGT Australasian Journal for Gifted Education (even more important now that APEX is no longer publishing), accessing visiting speakers, and possible joint professional development opportunities. giftEDnz Board members Jo, Andi, Nadine and myself are presenting a symposium at the WCGTC conference in Sydney in July about the work of our association and we have scheduled a meeting with AAEGT executive members to discuss further plans of collaboration.

Advocacy

Advocacy towards the Ministry of Education continues to be frustrating and problematic with no designated person available as a contact at the Ministry – or at least, this person is constantly changing. With the change to professional learning and development systems in education and the end of specified funding for gifted education, the waters are even more blurred. giftEDnz will continue to pressure the Ministry for appropriate and equitable support for gifted learners, with the support of NZCGE and NZAGC and especially so in this, an election year.

TKI Review Representations

The Ministry did provide some funding for a small contract in 2016 to review the Ministry tki on line website. Andi and I were involved as part of that review group, representing giftEDnz, and with Andi bringing a particular Early Years focus. However, follow up and action from the review meetings has seen only glacial progress and it remains to be seen if any changes that were suggested in updating the site are actually implemented. Again, a frustrating process.

Conclusion

As Chair, I am incredibly proud of the work that has been done by the giftEDnz Board in the 2016/17 year. The length of this report – (I did try to keep it brief!) – is proof of how much we have achieved

and of the dedication of our team of voluntary Board members who all have extremely busy professional and family lives but who always manage to find the time to do that bit extra. Thank you Andi, Lynda, Jo, Sunny, Melinda, Nadine, Vanessa, Emma who will be continuing on the Board for 2017/8 and special thanks to Eunice who is leaving our Board for all your efforts for giftEDnz. I would also like to thank our superb financial administrator, Lynda Spence, who has been invaluable to us for the past two years but who has had to resign from her position as her family grows in number!

I would also like to thank all our members for their ongoing support and suggestions during the year and I hope that you feel that the work we are doing is useful to you and that ultimately this impacts on the gifted and talented young people we are all trying to support. We look forward with positivity to 2017/18.

Louise Tapper

Chair giftEDnz

March 30th 2017