

NZARE

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION
- TE HUNGA RANGAHAU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA -

President's¹ address at the Annual Conference 2007
University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.
December 2007

(mihi)

It is my privilege, as President of the New Zealand Association for Research in Education, to welcome you here. To the people of Ngāi Tahu and to the University of Canterbury—thank you for hosting us in this beautiful part of Aotearoa-New Zealand.

Welcome to all delegates. And a special welcome to our international visitors—we trust that your time in our land and with our peoples will be enriching and memorable.

May I also honour our conference committee for their wonderful work: Missy Morton, Bridget O'Regan, Lindsey Conner, Alex Gunn, Penni Cushman, Ronnie O'Toole, Jocelyn Howard, Janinka Greenwood, Amosa Fa'afoi, Diane Gordon-Burns, Karen Haywood, Liz Depree, and Eddy van Til. We are also privileged to have sponsorship from a number of institutions and organisations. You will find these listed in your conference booklet. Please take time to appreciate their interest in our conference.

Your NZARE Council met for a full day yesterday. I must say that I found it a real honour to work with such a team of hard working, committed council members. One of the topics on our agenda was next year's conference, which was to be a joint conference with the Australian Association for Research in Education, to be held in Brisbane. A major issue to consider was the cost of the conference – the registration fee alone is \$800 Australian dollars – some \$960 New Zealand dollars (nearly double our usual NZARE fee). While the student fee is half this amount, we believe that this is an unrealistic expectation for our students to pay. All avenues for reducing the conference fees had been explored by our representatives on the conference organising committee. We thought and discussed long and hard, but in the end decided that this fee is something that the majority of our members could not fund from the conference money available from their institutions. We felt that in order to serve NZARE's purposes, our members, and our education research community in New Zealand, we must offer a conference that is affordable and within the constraints of New Zealand institutions' budgets.

Accordingly we decided to withdraw from the joint conference and will hold a NZARE conference from 3-6 December 2008. We are disappointed in having to withdraw from the joint conference, but we believe it is a wise decision for the membership. Your council, therefore, is seeking expressions of interest from districts or institutions that might be willing to organise a conference. If you or your institution would like to offer to do this, please see Council member Cheryl Stephens.

Colin Gibbs
President NZARE

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