

NZARE Annual General Meeting 2009

President's Report

This year NZARE Council has focused its efforts on

- enhancing the quality of New Zealand educational research (expanding international opportunities through WERA, enhancing the selection process for AERA, BERA etc)
- playing a leadership role in the review of educational research ethics (Ethics working group)
- improving the quality and efficiency of our systems and processes (e.g. on-line membership, membership database)
- engaging more of our senior researchers in the work of NZARE (letters from the President)
- engaging new members and interest groups in NZARE (Special Interest Group policies, support for Pasifika Researchers)
- Developing more innovative ways to bring researchers together (State of the Art Symposia starting in 2010)

As NZARE President I have been keen to re-commit our members to the notion of **an intellectual 'community'** that can come together to conduct meaningful, exciting, vibrant, insightful, provocative, critical, reflexive **research conversations about education** in Aotearoa New Zealand and in the world. I want to ensure we do this together as a broad and diverse community rather than as a narrowly defined group that speaks only to itself and is interested only in a narrow spectrum of educational possibilities. NZARE Annual Conferences have been one of the few places where research, teaching, policy and resource development can be brought together as colleagues, as members of a project greater than the sum of all of us. We can do this across all our varied sectors, institutions, geographies, paradigms and languages. Our Annual Conference is not merely a conference but a meeting of minds, a fellowship of members and a Hui. Attendees enjoy the talks they have over food as much as they do the presentations. It has also been our Annual General Meeting. For these reasons this Conference is called the **NZARE Annual Conference and Meeting**. We wish to encourage research groups and other organisations to time some of their meetings

with this event, for example research advisory groups, collaborative project teams. The event is also an opportunity for us to facilitate **professional development** through **pre-conference workshops**.

NZARE is a voluntary association of members governed by a Council of peers who are also volunteers. Our membership has changed over the last two decades reflecting significant changes in terms of the number of higher education providers involved in degree teaching in education, the Performance Based Research Fund, the diversity of topic areas and methodologies in educational research, the changing demographic of educational researchers and the change in the work and practice of educational researchers. Time is a significant resource over which many of us have little control or authority. As Council we are grappling with innovative ways to provide benefits for our members that meet your needs and support you professionally and connect you with each other.

Next year we will be undertaking a review of our Constitution. In addition we will be supporting the development of the state of the art symposia and looking to refresh our collaborations with the AARE. Good succession planning means we look forward to training a President elect and a new Council.

I wish to thank the 2009 Council members for their commitment and work effort, thank the editors of In Put Susan Sandretto and the New Zealand Journal for Educational Studies Dr Liz Gordon and Professor Trish Johnston, the Editorial Board for NZJES, the NZARE Treasurer Heleen Visser, and NZCER for their financial management of our accounts and database. I also wish to thank those of you have taken the time to review nominations, referee conference papers and contribute to our association. This work is voluntary and I thank you for your contribution.