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Conference plans for 2016; SIG activities; reflections on the 2015 conference

2016 annual conference: save the date
Planning for the 2016 conference has begun in earnest. Important first details are:

Venue: Victoria University of Wellington, Kelburn Campus  
Date: November 20-23, 2016

The conference Whakatauki is “Nōku anō te takapau wharanui”

The takapau wharanui is a ceremonial whāriki traditionally woven for a specific occasion. It represents a fusion of traditional knowledge/s and tikanga with the contemporary happenings of life and beyond. Thus the metaphor of the takapau wharanui is fundamentally representative of the power inherent in all of us to be the architects of our own lives, and to leave a legacy that helps shape the future.

The theme of the conference is ‘The Politics of Education’

The organising committee is currently working on the Keynote programme. Information on the key people will be available on the website soon, and a call for papers will be made in a month or so.

Changes on the Council
Since the AGM Bridget Percy has resigned from Council for personal reasons. We are sorry to see her go – her energetic presence will be missed. Student members of NZARE, in particular, benefitted from Bridget’s work in organising workshops and forums in different centres.
SIG news

Science Education SIG
A SIG day is planned to take place in conjunction with the NZASE conference for science teachers and educators (SCICON) in Wellington in July. The theme of the research strand is ‘Shaking up Science Education’. This collaboration will provide a conference strand focusing on education research, in recognition of the importance of the research-practice nexus. The plan is for teachers and researchers to meet and share ideas and practices in a mutually beneficial environment. Teachers involved in teaching as inquiry projects, a teacher fellowship, or projects funded by the Teacher-Led Innovation Fund or Unlocking Curious Minds fund are particularly encouraged to consider submitting an abstract for this strand. For more information see the Science SIG webpage.

ECE SIG
There is an up-to-date report on the ECE SIG webpage. Check out their activities at the 2015 NZARE conference.

Educational Ideas SIG
The Educational Ideas SIG draws your attention to an international call for papers for a Special Issue of Journal Educational Philosophy and Theory entitled: “Thinking with Spinoza about Education.” This special issue will take up a discussion based on recent re-workings of Spinoza’s Ethics within educational research literature. It aims to establish an open discussion on the ethics of various new realisms and materialisms within educational research. The editors seek 500 word abstracts by mid-March, with accepted manuscripts due in November for publication in early 2017. For more information and contacts refer to the full Call for Paper document which has been put on the Ideas SIG page of NZARE Website.

Inclusive Education and Community SIG
On the 17th February, the Equity Through Education Research Centre at Massey University held their inaugural symposium in Auckland. The symposium focused on identifying challenges and solutions for achieving equity through education and on identifying a future research and advocacy platform in New Zealand that will address these important challenges. All interested persons are invited to visit the Equity Through Education website and join this community.

Jill Bevan-Brown and Vijaya Dharan have launched an edited book titled Autism Spectrum Disorder in Aotearoa New Zealand: Promising Practices and Interesting Issues. The book was written by students enrolled in the Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Teaching, based on their practical experiences during the programme. The aim is to motivate teachers to try the new ideas and interventions outlined. Further information about this book can be found on the NZCER Press page. For information about another book in the pipeline, with strong SIG member contributions, check out the SIG page on the NZARE website.

Adult and Tertiary Education SIG
The previous convenor, Liz Gordon, has stepped down from this role. If you are interested in convening or co-convening this SIG, please contact admin@nzare.org.nz

Assessment SIG
The Assessment SIG is looking to have another one-day event, similar to that held last year in Wellington. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

Pasifika caucus activity
A report of recent activity has been posted to their NZARE webpage.

The Pasifika Caucus is delighted to welcome Fuapepe Rimoni from Victoria University as a co-opted member of Council. Rae Si’ilata continues as an elected council member representing the Pasifika Caucus. Tanya Wendt Samu was elected to council as an individual member, but will continue to support the work of the Pasifika Caucus.

The Pasifika Caucus plans to host another Pasifika Education Research Symposium in 2016. Details will follow in a future edition of this newsletter.

News from NZJES
The editors of NZJES are looking to widen their pool of reviewers. If you are interested please contact them: editors@nzare.org.nz and/or submit your details to Springer’s reviewer panel directly: https://www.editorialmanager.com/nzje/default.aspx This link will register you as a reviewer and record your details in one step.

The Editorial Board of NZJES has decided to move away from the production of “Special Issues”. Instead there will be a themed section (3-4 articles) in NZJES issues from 2017 on. The board encourages SIG convenors, or researchers working on a common theme, to submit proposals for a 3-4 paper themed collection at any time. The aim is to be more responsive to educational issues, and to publish debates in a more timely way.

Papers submitted as a collection will still go through the usual peer review processes but there will be room in EACH ISSUE for a theme. Ideas are welcome now as the editors would like to begin this with the first issue next year. Please get in touch with one of them if you have an idea – roseanna.bourke@vuw.ac.nz or judith.loveridge@vuw.ac.nz

Opportunity to give feedback to the Royal Society
NZARE is a constituent member of the Royal Society of New Zealand. They have recently sent a memo asking if individual researchers would like to participate in a short on-line survey. They aim to identify those of their activities that the wider research community would most value. They hope to get responses from a wide
range of disciplines and researchers. Here is our chance to ensure a strong representation from the education research community.

The survey would take you about 10 minutes. Click on this link to take part. RSNZ has said that they are happy for the link to be shared with non-member colleagues. The closing date is March 18, 2016.

Through the eyes of students

If you attended the wonderful 2015 NZARE conference in Whakatane you probably saw the young people from Kia Aroha College who made such an impression on those who heard them speak. Here in their own words are some of their impressions of attending the conference.

**EBONY PIRINI-EDWARDS. Ngāpuhi. (Y13):**
As a member of the senior Warrior-Researcher team it was an honour and privilege to attend and present our research at the annual NZARE Conference, hosted by Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi. Upon reflection, I am moved to comment that it was a great opportunity for a group of young students to connect with information and research that both informs what we do at school and the potential for future leadership for myself. My interest in future researching for academic purposes was significantly strengthened after attending both the session of Tā Hirini Moko Mead and Dr.Arnetha Ball, along with the other researchers. I appreciated the perspectives they shared around the ineffectiveness of the modern education system. I now feel that I am quite accustomed to working under-pressure and speaking in front of large audiences, after presenting at the conference and speaking at The Quay restaurant with conviction. I am sure my experience at the NZARE will benefit my future work as a lawyer, to speak with confidence and argue with passion and to understand with compassion.

**KIWA ROPITINI-FAIRBURN. Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahungunu. (Y12):**
Overall the experience for me was just brilliant, when we first arrived at the conference, we were welcomed with open arms as Māori do. The kuia, koroua, hau kainga all were very lovely and welcoming to all people from all around the world and all over Aotearoa. Being in Whakatane was really amazing, the weather was beautiful and the motel we were staying at was so flash to what I'm used to. Meeting people at the Conference from different places all with different experiences had a real impact on me. It was funny that all the things that people were talking about, all their ideas and methodology, we already knew about. It seemed like they discovered something new, yet it wasn’t new to us. When we presented our research, it was amazing to see that people all agreed with what we had to say. Knowing that what they were only finding out is what we already know, and know at
our young age, surprised me. I loved every second of this trip, it was like a wake-up call to all people in education.

'AISEA TUKUTAU. Foa, Kolovai – Tonga. (Y12):
Going to the NZARE Conference was a once in a life-time experience, presenting at the same stage with some of the greatest minds within Aotearoa New Zealand. Getting to interact with people from around the globe such as Professor Arnetha Ball and also listening and learning from the man himself, Sir Hirini Moko Mead, talking about the "Changing landscape of Maori Education" and how the dominant discourse (European Settlers) place "Trojan Horses" within the community to disrupt the common flow of how Maori people use to live their peaceful lives.
Getting to know my fellow Warrior-Researchers was also a high-point of the trip. The whole trip was a great wake-up call where I learned that culture is a very important aspect of one’s life and that we need to know ourselves before we can proceed and succeed. In a way, life is a journey of self-discovery where to succeed we cannot go with numeracy and literacy alone, but also with our self-identity learning as a curriculum as well.

Upcoming conferences of interest
RECE (Reconceptualising early childhood education)

The 24th annual conference will be held at Wairakei Resort, Taupo, from October 30- November 3, 2016. The conference theme is: He korero, he kaupapa, he whāriki – Kia tipu whakarito: Re-weaving theories and practices to re(construct) critical questions, new imaginings and social activism

The conference website has more information.

Connections and Communities in the History of Education
This is the symposium of the Australia and New Zealand History of Education Society (ANZHES). It will be held on 8 - 9 July, 2016, in Melbourne, Australia.

Details are on the ANZHES webpage

New publications of interest
NZCER has just published a book about Elwyn Richardson by 2011 Sutton-Smith Award winner Margaret MacDonald. The book is available from the NZCER website or you can read ore about it on the NZARE news page.

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