



President's Comment 8

25th March 2010

Dear Colleagues

1. **Peter Gall: Immediate Past President**

We owe a debt of gratitude to Peter for his service to us as President for the last three years. It has been an enormous personal and professional sacrifice and I thank him on your behalf. He has done an excellent job representing and advocating on behalf of our Association.

2. **SPANZ Symposium, Queenstown**

Once again the SPANZ Symposium was a highlight on our Professional Development Calendar for 2010. There was an excellent mix of international and national speakers, practical workshops and opportunities for networking. My appreciation goes to Paul Daley, Elizabeth Forgie and Ros Robson, who have developed over the years, considerable expertise in putting together first rate conferences. It is worth noting it takes a year of careful planning for our symposiums!

3. **The 2010 Executive**

Your Executive for 2010 is:

Patrick Walsh - President
Paul Daley - Vice President
Peter Gall - Immediate Past President
Jan Anderson - Executive
Elizabeth Forgie - Executive
Tom Parsons - Executive
Sandy Pasley - Executive
Linda Tame - Executive
Ros Robson - Executive Manager
Jo Christini - Executive Assistant

4. **SPANZ Union**

I am pleased to report that we have negotiated the signing of a joint protocol with NZSPC for joint bargaining.

Notwithstanding there are fundamental, philosophical differences between our two unions, joint bargaining is in both our interests.

It will be a watershed event since for the first time our members will have VOICE and VOTE around the bargaining table. It will be a difficult bargaining round given New Zealand's slow emergence from the recession and the government's desire to cap state servant salaries but I have every confidence that our team of Richard Harrison, Tom Robson and myself will give it their best.

Previous Comments

Comment 7 - 18.03.10

Farewell to Peter Gall
- previous President of SPANZ..

Comment 6 - 11.03.10

Ministry of Education and
NZQA Regional Seminars.

Comment 5 - 04.03.10

Internet Safety in your
school.

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As an aside (but certainly an industrial issue) it was interesting to note Professor John Hattie's observations on the effect of principalship under Tomorrow's Schools. He observes:

'The expectations on all principals are becoming too great and fewer teachers are seeking to take on this role or seeing it as the epitome of a career in teaching. The principal is expected to be everything to everyone, and the skills demanded are so wide – human resource manager, building and infrastructure overseer, chief executive officer, instructional leader, cultural guru, community leader, major arbiter with school boards, fund manager and fund raiser, seeker of 'donations', and marketer to foreign fee-paying students. So much of this work is managerial and entrepreneurial, rather than instructional. As the workload moves to encompass much more than teaching and learning, the major reasons for entering teaching dissipate.'

Tomorrow's Schools 20 years on' Cognition Institute 2009 p127

5. NZ Teachers Council Registration Fee Increase

You will have received a letter from the NZ Teachers Council indicating that registration fees will increase to over \$200 in June.

The NZTC has a huge legislative mandate under the Education Act 1989 and no doubt the fee increase is justified. It has also lifted its performance in recent years. My observations are however:

- The NZTC is a Crown Entity with considerable influence by the state e.g right of appointment of the chair and three other members by the Minister. The government, like the teaching profession, have an obligation to maintain professional standards and deal with teachers who are determined incompetent or guilty of serious misconduct including, if necessary, deregistration. The government's financial contribution to protecting this 'public good' is however inadequate.
- A number of commentators have argued that teachers found guilty of serious misconduct by the Disciplinary Tribunal should have to meet a greater burden of the legal costs. They are the creators of their own misfortune and there is no reason why the teaching profession as a whole, should have to shoulder a large part of the costs of prosecuting them.
- Large one off costs should be avoided. Careful planning around registration and the other functions of the Council should have seen incremental increases over the years, which we would find more acceptable particularly given Boards pay for or subsidise these professional fees.

Kind regards



Patrick Walsh
President