



# SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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**President**  
Graham Young  
Tauranga Boys' College

Friday, 9 February 2007

President's Comment 1 2007

Dear Colleague

The Executive at their meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup> wanted to record their thanks to all of those SPANZ members who gave us such positive and constructive feedback on the Strategic and Operational Plan for the organization.

The Strategic Planning document was generated from the consultation session with members at the 2006 Queenstown Symposium. This was a great model to hear directly from our members about the issues the secondary principals of New Zealand are facing and about the future directions for SPANZ and we are keen to repeat it in the future.

We appreciated the statement that at is "great to know that someone is working towards a better life for the next generation of principals" and that "independence and autonomy will attract the best principals".

Members' comments included:

- "huge expectation of principals to know everything, be skilled at everything, be everywhere!"
- "Continuing to advocate for principals and retain our independence from the teacher union and the Ministry of Education."
- "Principals should not be members of the teachers' union."
- Remuneration totally unsatisfactory.... The gap between DP and Principal in small schools is miniscule and bears no relation to the difference in the roles and responsibilities."
- "The cost of support staff and the need for more is an issue."
- "There is an absolute need for more flexibility in the management of staffing without the increasingly mandated prescription for staffing models eg. MMA, Specialist Classroom Teacher etc."
- Continue to keep the barrier between Primary/ Secondary Principal."
- Funding still the big one for schools."
- The inability we have to cope with students whose social inadequacies place huge pressure on us to find the magic answer."

Thank you to SPANZ members we appreciate your feedback on the Strategic Plan and in responding to our regular issues surveys.

**Reminder**

1. Closing Date for nominations for SPANZ Executive close on 14<sup>th</sup> February
2. Study Tour Information was mailed with Comment 39. To avoid disappointment get your deposit into the Secretariat now.
3. SPANZ AGM and Gala Dinner Registration Closing Date 9<sup>th</sup> March

Graham Young  
**President**