



# SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

**Secretariat Address**

P O Box 11541, Ellerslie Auckland 1542

Phone: 09 571 2233: Fax: 09 571 2244

Email: [office@spanz.school.nz](mailto:office@spanz.school.nz)



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## President's Comment 1

Dear Colleagues

Best wishes for the 2008 school year! The two major political parties have sent out early signals that education policy will be a high priority in their election campaigns and I believe there will be some interesting opportunities for principals to have a voice on key issues in the year ahead. There has certainly been keen media interest coinciding with the start of school on matters such as school fees (again!), student behaviour, class sizes, teacher recruitment and, of course, the policies around engaging youth in education programmes announced by Labour and National. One hopes that political points' scoring doesn't dominate discussions and that big issues such as resourcing our schools and the supply of teachers gain priority and action.

### SPANZ Symposium

An excellent programme offering high quality professional learning opportunities for secondary principals has been confirmed for our symposium in Nelson from 30 March to 2 April. Registration forms and an information pamphlet have been mailed to you all and I encourage you to make your bookings early so as to take advantage of discounted airfares. In a mail out you received last year I foreshadowed a motion that will be put to the AGM on the formation of an industrial arm to our association and it is perhaps timely to reacquaint yourselves with that information – a copy of the rule changes is attached.

### Teacher Professional Learning and Development BES

A copy of this excellent research publication should have arrived across your desk and I encourage you to take the time to read it and share it with members of your staff who have responsibility for professional learning programmes. It has the potential to be an incredibly influential resource in the promotion and development of sustainable, high quality teacher professional learning in each of our schools.

Peter Gall  
**President**