



**NEW ZEALAND
GRAPHICS AND TECHNOLOGY TEACHERS ASSN. INC.**

NGA POUAKO TOI O AOTEAROA

14th August 2008

To all members,

I trust this letter finds you well, I wish to up date you on the following important topics.

1. Annual General Meeting

As you will be aware the AGM is to be held in Wellington on Monday 6th September 4.45pm at the Quality Hotel Wellington. The AGM will take place after the first day of the TRCC. I look forward to Delegate representation from all regions at the AGM. All those attending, please ensure travel arrangements are in place. Thank you to the regional branches who have submitted remits. I remind all Regional Branch Presidents, Vice presidents, Curriculum Advisors on Executive, to forward your annual reports to Andy Andy.Parsons@lphs.school.nz prior to week 7 of term 3.

NZGTTA - Executive Office Positions Available (2008 – 2010)

The executive officer positions of *NZGTTA President, Secretary, Treasurer and Communications*, are open for nomination and appointment at the AGM as per two year cycle.

The responsibility for these positions has been held across Otago and Southland regions by John Maguire and Andy Parsons (*Dunedin*) and Piki Brown (*Invercargill*).

Traditionally these positions have been held by a particular branch. While this has been desirable in the past, I believe the association has been as well served by having these positions filled by individuals with expertise who can work cooperatively and in partnership with each other from a distance, as has been achieved by the current administration. Email, text messaging, Teleconference, Audio conferencing etc easily make this manageable.

While the role of subject associations has not changed there has been significant change in the expectations of subject associations by organisations such as the Ministry of Education and NZQA.

We need leadership in the executive office positions, people with the ability to work as a team, who are articulate, committed to representing the views and opinions of the membership and have the ability to maintain professional working relationships with organisations such as NZQA, Ministry, ITO's, Tertiary institutions etc. Is this you?

I encourage members to consider nominations for the positions available. Being President of NZGTTA has offered me some of the best professional development and education networking opportunities I have had during my teaching career. Email me if you wish to discuss the positions jmaguire@kavanagh.school.nz

2. Professional Development - TRCC 'Gaining Momentum by Design'

NZGTTA in association with TRCC present the three day conference for Graphics and Technology teachers in Wellington (Oct 6 -Oct 8). If you have not enrolled yet, do it now on-line www.trcc.org.nz. I look forward to catching up with many of you at this conference.

TRCC 'Gaining Momentum by Design'

- Engaging Best Practice
- Successful Programs
- Interpreting Assessments
- Tools for Design
- Creating Inspiring Classrooms
- Futures in Design

A big thank you to Brian Allen, Tricia Winter and the organising committee, and the many others who have worked diligently on behalf of the association to organise this conference, thank you also to the many presenters who will make this conference a valuable Professional Development opportunity for all teachers attending.

3. Alignment of Standards with the New Zealand Curriculum (2007) Project

The alignment project involves all of the Essential Learning Areas and Subjects. For GATTA this has meant some serious time and effort has been put into discussion and meeting with the ministry and NZQA by members of the executive

regarding Technology and Graphics. The ministry has requested NZGTTA as the representative subject association for Graphics and Technology Teachers to submit contract proposals to undertake the alignment of the Graphics and the alignment of Technology Achievement Standards and Unit Standards with the New Zealand curriculum (NZC). The alignment will involve addressing issues of duplication and credit parity, including planning and managing consultation to ensure the provision of quality standards.

At this stage the Ministry have not negotiated or signed a contract for either Graphics or Technology Proposals.

Basically what all this means is that the current Unit Standards and Achievement Standards available at L1,L2,L3 NCEA for Graphics and Technology will be audited, decisions will be made as to how the current sets of standards assess the relevant knowledge and skill asked for in the NZC and Graphics Senior Subject Guidelines. Some standards may be discarded, some rewritten, new ones written or some may remain unchanged. The persons named within the NZGTTA contract to the ministry to undertake this task will then produce a set of recommendations based on the audit. These recommendations will then be sent out for consultation with Graphics and Technology Teachers later this year. Be prepared for this and give your feedback.

- Alignment of Technology Achievement Standards and Unit Standards to NZ Curriculum. In the case of Technology GATTA has agreed to work cooperatively with TENZ and HETTANZ on the alignment project as each of these associations have shared interest in these standards and technology education. NZGTTA has developed a contract proposal in partnership with the two other associations and will have representation in the alignment process and consultation process. A memorandum of understanding will be used to ensure NZGTTA members maintain effective representation and have valid input in the process of alignment.
- Alignment of Graphics Achievement Standards and Unit Standards to New Zealand Curriculum. **Stage one**, NZGTTA Executive has taken a leadership role for the ministry in the development of a New Essence Statement and Objectives for Graphics. This has included reference to NZC. This has taken significant time and work by the Executive on behalf of all members and Graphics teachers at large. You can expect to have documentation for consultation on the new Essence Statement and Objectives approx within the next two weeks. It is planned that each

regional branch will call a special meeting for the consultation, one of the Experts who have been involved in the writing of the essence statement and objectives will facilitate this meeting to provide guidance and interpretation of the changes. Please be ready and expect Consultation Material in approx two weeks. Please do get your feed back in to ensure the Graphics Essence Statement and objectives are suitable for use in schools. **Stage two** Unit Standards and Achievement Standards will be aligned to the new Essence Statement, objectives and NZC. Work on this will begin when the ministry negotiate and agree with the NZGTTA and sign the contract. **Stage three**, The Graphics Guidelines (Orange Book) will be reviewed and rewritten, to bring it into line with the NZC and new objectives.

I apologise about the length of this letter, but these are significant issues affecting us as Graphics and Technology teachers. I thank you for your support and involvement in the association. More specific information will be given relating to the consultation processes for;

- Graphics Essence statement and Objectives (within next few weeks)
- Technology Matrix and recommended changes to Standards (late 2008 – early 2009)
- Graphics Matrix and recommended changes to Standards(late 2008 – early 2009)

Keep your eye on messages from NZGTTA Executive or within Education Gazette, etc for information relating to each of the upcoming consultation opportunities.

Kind regards,

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