

REGIONAL ROUND UP TERM 3 2007

NZALT Canterbury

by Jo Guthrie

NZALT Meeting

We had an NZALT drinks and nibbles at Boys' High in the last week of Term 2, where Jo Ritty reported back on the TRCC course she attended in New Plymouth in January. There were about 16 people there, which is probably to be expected on a cold Christchurch night at the end of term. Once Jo had given her low-down, an interesting discussion ensued about, amongst other things, Alistair McLauchlan's book on attrition rates amongst language students.

Other meetings

The French teachers had an after school get together at Rangi Ruru mid-term and heard back from Trish Hickmott who had been on an AFS one month exchange to Clermont-Ferrand. This was a good opportunity for teachers to speak in French and we also took the opportunity to present Stephanie Barnett with a bunch of flowers as a thank you from the region for all the work she has done as the National French Adviser.

The Japanese teachers meet regularly in Christchurch and organise immersion afternoons for their students. The most recent immersion afternoon was held on 17 May and 101 students participated. Students take part in a "Canta Lang" quiz, food activities and practise their Japanese with native speakers.

The German OSKAR competition was held on Friday 10 August in the Christ's College Drama theatre. The key sentence to include in each play was "Übung macht den Meister".

Villa Maria College won first prize, 2nd went to Christ's College and 3rd to Avonside Girls' High. The German teachers were especially grateful to the German Embassy, MacDonald's and to the three adjudicators Judith Geare, Bernd Schliephake from Wellington and Susanne Ledanff from Canterbury University.

Sarah Perkins, Languages Adviser for EdPlus, does an excellent job in keeping teachers in the region up

to date with NCEA/NZQA news and organises a cluster meeting once a term to workshop/discuss new curriculum/assessment matters.

Luba Roth organised a wonderful dinner at the Pagoda Court restaurant on Friday 4 May to mark Cherry Hill's retirement from Lincoln High School. Cherry was one of the first teachers of Chinese in the region and teachers of Chinese and other languages were delighted to be able to recognise her great contribution to the teaching and learning of Chinese in New Zealand

Christchurch Language teachers were invited to an after school get together at Canterbury university to encourage dialogue and exchange between secondary and tertiary levels.

The Language Department at Canterbury was well represented with university staff from Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish.

Langsem

The Canterbury Langsem held at Riccarton Racecourse on 27 July was a great success. Jo Guthrie with Judy Lafdal did an excellent job at convening and we have a good team of language specific convenors. The generic section was particularly popular this year.

