

NZALT REGIONAL ROUND-UP 2010

Auckland / Northland

by Catherine Linnen, Regional Officer

It has been a relatively quiet year for the region. We encouraged our members to attend the NZALT Conference in Queenstown by awarding 15 \$100 subsidies towards costs. Only 13 were taken up, but appeared to be appreciated.

Junko Tomooka ran a day for Japanese teachers, which was supported by NZALT Auckland committee members who teach Japanese. It was well attended.

We held a PD day in term three for both primary and secondary teachers. The primary section was run by Dawn Jarbeau from Team Solutions, who talked about data gathering/e-learning. This was not as well attended as we hoped, but the feedback was positive. The secondary part focused on the new standards and best practice for implementation, particularly of the .3 interaction standard. We were lucky to have Gunhilde give a presentation (which is now on the NZALT website. Members' feedback was positive and there were a lot of questions asked. We had planned to do some resource writing, but members were so interested in the presentation we did some spontaneous "re-planning". We also took the opportunity to talk with members about the new vocabulary lists.

Adele Scott attended this day and was presented by Peter with the trophy for the Peter & Eunice Beveridge Award which will start next year. Doug Anderson's receipt of the Excellence in Teaching Award was also acknowledged and I believe Adele re-presented it to Doug at his school while she was in Auckland.

For next year we are looking at supplementing any Team Solutions cluster meetings by running extra cluster meetings to help with discussion of new standards for NZALT members.

Waikato / Bay of Plenty

Christine Williams, Regional Officer

This year teachers in the Waikato-Bay of Plenty area have been gearing up for the changes in Achievement Standards and the new curriculum in 2011. Jeanne Gilbert and Shirley Bain have worked tirelessly to provide Professional Development days for teachers to work together to understand and implement the new standards and curriculum. We have also focused on using e-portfolios in order to showcase and organise our student work.

In term 1, French teachers held a very successful language camp in Rotorua which 180 students attended. In term 2, Japanese teachers, in conjunction with the University of Waikato, held a senior Languages day at the university.

At our May meeting Nicola Daly from the Faculty of Education, University of Waikato, reported that Learning Languages has been made a part of the compulsory primary teacher-training course at Waikato University, i.e. all primary teachers will have to teach a 2nd language.

In 2012 the NZALT Conference is to be held in our area. We are pleased to announce that it will take place in Rotorua with Laytee George being the convenor. Subject conveners have been appointed.

They are as follows:

- Adviser: Jeanne Gilbert Advisor – E & M Learning
- Chinese: Kwei-yi Dannenbring
- French: Hilary Clarke
- German: Mary Hamill
- Japanese: Heather Richardson
- Spanish: Lois Parker
- Intermediate: Rose Powley

Any suggestions of speakers or activities for the conference can be made to the subject convenors.

Massey

by James Donaldson, Regional Officer

These few terms have been busy with International Languages Week, exams and competitions. A lot of schools have run their own events during ILW, a good week to showcase Learning Languages.

As a regional group Gunhild Litwin has hosted workshops. I attended the Secondary workshop on the new Interaction standard which was very useful. I would like to thank Gunhild on your behalf for the tireless work she does for this region and her continual support and enthusiasm. We are very fortunate to have her.

The Hawke's Bay teachers finished their year off with a social function at Bistro 103 in Hastings. Our meetings have been at Lindisfarne College this year and will be at Tamatea High School next year.

NZALT stuff

Helen Ngapo was presented with her NZALT Excellence in Teaching Award at Aramoho School.

NZALT Design A Pen Competition: The Eunice Beveridge Memorial Award for Japanese was awarded to Natalie Kittow of Iona College this term. Natalie also received a Warehouse voucher and ten pens with her design on them. Rebecca Pointon also of Iona College won the year 9-10 section of the competition.



Other Competitions

French Scrabble Competition, held on December 4 at Woodford House for Girls. This was the first French Scrabble competition organised by NZAFT/NZALT. Sylvie Plant arranged the prizes and guests - Lesley Parris and Pascale Hyboud-Peron. NZAFT sponsored the event with Taradale High School winning the year 10 section and Woodford House the year 9 section. NZALT provided pens as prizes to competitors.

Table F - Rivals Iona College and Woodford House battle out in the Year 9 section of the French Scrabble Competition at Woodford House for Girls.

Massey Japanese Speech Contest, held during International Languages Week at Massey.

Category 1 (Y10) 1st prize : Edward Richards, St Peter's College; 2nd : Rory Robinson, Awatapu College; 3rd : Terry Lee, PNBHS; 4th : Dylan Richardson, PNBHS

Category 2 (Y11) 1st Harrison Faumuina, Awatapu College; 2nd : Dakyung Lee, PNGHS; 3rd : Steph Hunt, Awatapu College; 4th : Yinan Zhang, PNGHS

Category 3 (Y12/13) 1st : Phway Aye, PNGHS; 2nd : Declan Meynell, PNBHS; 3rd : Joseph Hall, St Peter's College

Open category (spent more than three months in Japan/university student)

1st : Molly Selway, Awatapu College; 2nd : Wade Stafford, New Plymouth BHS

IPC Nihongo Contest (September 24)

Knockout Quiz on Japanese curriculum grammar and culture: 1st : Molly Selway, Awatapu College; 2nd : Emma Robinson, Awatapu College; 3rd : Min Jung Kang, PNGHS

Speech 1st : Min Jung Kang, PNGHS & Sam Hunt, PNBHS; 3rd : Joseph Hall, St Peter's College

Overall winning teams 1st : Awatapu College and PNGHS. Because there were two firsts no further places were awarded.

Japanese DVD Competition, Iona College year 12/13 class won the annual JETAA National High School Japanese DVD Contest 2010 out of schools from Australia and New Zealand (JETAA is the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association International).

Senior Category 1st : Iona College "An International Student Comes to Iona" \$300; 2nd : KingsWay School "Kiuii Geemu Shoo" \$200; 3rd equal: Lincoln High School "Kurisutochaachi e Yookoso", \$100 & Sam Bennett (Home School Nelson) "Utsukushii Kono Neruson Chihoo", \$100

Junior Category 1st : Year 11 Lincoln High School "Chigai Ne!", \$300;

2nd : Year 10 Howick College "The Day We Went to the Cultural Programme", \$200

Victoria

by Philippa Doig, Regional Officer

NZALT Victoria supported a very successful French Year 10 Immersion Day on December 6, 2010 at Silverstream Retreat. We had seven schools participating with a total of 113 students and 10 teachers. We hope that in 2011 other languages will take up the challenge of providing this very successful day for their year 10 students. Everyone had fun and the target language was spoken throughout the day, encouraged by teachers giving out slips of paper (rewarding the students' efforts to Speak French) which represented a euro they used at the auction at the end of the day.

Victoria subsidised 11 members to go to a conference in Queenstown (\$100 each): Junko Bracefield (St Matts), Manu Ménard (St Matts), Sharon Henry, Juliet Stewart (MIS), Manu Corcoran (SBC), Darren Kerr (MIS), Margaret Gallaher (SHC), Shirley Anne Morrow (Tawa Coll), Han Xi (Chinese adviser), Erin Johnston (Newlands Int),



Using the target language: Rencontre-minute (speed dating) at the year 10 French Immersion Day (Victoria).

Junko Tomooka (Japanese adviser). It is good to see teachers of year 7 and 8 taking advantage of NZALT membership.

On August 5 we had a conference debrief meeting at St Mary's College. Twelve members attended. All conference attendees subsidised by Victoria region were invited to come and present a highlight from the conference. This meeting turned into a very interesting discussion. NZALT provided afternoon tea.

On October 12 I visited VUW Faculty of education to promote NZALT to final year students and distributed membership forms – a few student teachers have so far taken up the offer of free membership.

Canterbury / Nelson / West Coast

by Marie-Eve Therrien, Regional Officer

Term 1 We met at the beginning of the year to discuss how we were going to be affected by the new standards. Some concern was expressed about the current lack of clarity around the standards. Later during the year some teachers attended PD workshops organised by UC Education Plus to discuss the new standards and strategies to make the implementation of these standards more manageable for teachers.

Term 2 The Canterbury branch of NZALT nominated Marie-Eve Therrien to replace Jo Rittey as regional officer. We also held a social evening at Le Tour de France, a French restaurant in Christchurch.

Term 3 We met at CPIT on August 5 to discuss how tertiary and secondary language educators can support each other to promote languages to our students. Mark Hornby from CPIT informed us that approximately 70 per cent of students at CPIT said they enrolled into language programmes because of the influence of a high school language teacher.

On August 26, we met at Rangī Ruru Girls' School to celebrate our new waiata and farewell our previous regional officer, Jo Rittey.

The Canterbury earthquake also affected several schools in the region (school closures, stress etc.).

Term 4 We enjoyed a social function with the University of Canterbury languages staff. About 12 members attended. It was a good occasion to ask questions to university lecturers who are likely to teach our students next year. As a result, we decided it would be a good idea to meet again at the beginning of term one, 2011 so we can work together to promote languages to our students, especially senior students. We want to organise a "forum" for year 12/13 language students in Christchurch where they could talk to university students, practise the language, have movie nights, etc.

We are also planning the next Langsem for August 2011.

Otago/Southland

by Kirstyn Mawdsley, Regional Officer

Languages in Aotearoa

There has been ongoing discussion in the Otago region about Learning Languages, the decline of student numbers and what seems like an increasingly difficult environment to work in. The teachers in the Otago/Southland region have asked Exec about gaining some kind of national data (however formal or informal this may be) in terms of national trends and support in school, as well

as nationwide. A number of teachers are feeling increasingly overwhelmed by what they are expected to do and offer and are wondering how "normal" this is.

The Otago teachers who attend the NZALT meetings are exceptionally active and politically engaged. They have sent various submissions to NZQA concerning various matters, not least of which has been the recent examinations. It is great to have this fighting spirit present and I look forward to seeing it continue as we fight for what we, as professionals, believe is best for our students and subject areas.

LIAs

Keith Ferguson from Invercargill has been granted a three month LIA in Argentina and leaves next March. Heike Cebulla-Elder, from Queen's High School in Dunedin, is in France on a three-month LIA and Jessica Ware, from Otago Girls' High School in Dunedin, just returned from a three-month LIA in Japan.

French Exchange

Chris Cheyne took Gore High students to New Caledonia immediately after conference, and then a group from Invercargill (three teachers and 19 students, with two parents for just over a week) went to France. They spent a week in Paris, then three weeks in Lille with the students they had hosted in February this year. It was a great event and one we hope to repeat in a couple of years. This is just one of the many exchanges that run over the course of the year.

Language lessons

Swedish Language has continued all through 2010 on Monday evenings, with Ted Nye and Barbara Johnston as tutors. All things being equal the sessions will resume in late February next year.

Conference

...is done! For another two years at least.