

NZALT REGIONAL ROUND-UP 2011

Auckland / Northland

By Catherine Linnen, Regional Officer

Here are the highlights of 2011:

- The following were elected into office for 2011
President - Doug Anderson
Secretary - Stephanie Mortimore
Treasurer - Catherine Linnen
Regional Officer - Catherine Linnen
- A PD day was held mid year with an emphasis on Task based Learning for all levels. Junko Bracefield and Manu Menard from Wellington came and presented on this topic and were well received. In the morning there was a course for Years 7 – 10 teachers which was well attended and also specific language groups to discuss progress with the new standards and work our grade boundaries etc.
- Several schools and areas held Year 7 – 9 speech competitions in various languages and NZALT Auckland supported these by providing funding for prizes and so on.
- ILW: The annual visit to the zoo (see Polyglot article) was organised for students of Japanese and was enjoyed by those schools which participated.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty

By Christine Williams, Regional Officer

I would first like to pay tribute to Jeanne Gilbert, the Learning Languages advisor based at School Support Services in Hamilton. Unfortunately Jeanne's position just like other regional language advisors throughout the country ceases from December 30, 2011. I do not know how language departments will cope without Jeanne's input, collaboration and passion for language learning. She has single-handedly assisted teachers in moving forward with new pedagogy, organised and run professional learning opportunities and advised, supported and nurtured both new and experienced teachers throughout our vast region. We are all immensely grateful for her service to languages for many years and we know that she will find another niche for herself in the very near future.

Jeanne Gilbert has initiated and developed the website www.learninglanguageswaikato.blogspot.com. There are many useful ideas and activities on this for language teachers and we are very grateful to Jeanne Gilbert for making this.

Our first meeting of 2011 was at St Peter's School in Cambridge in February. For the last two years our meetings have been held at 4.30 which suits teachers more than an after-dinner meeting. At this we had a report back from Elissa Cooper who was part of the January NCEA writing party.

One highlight of our year was the Waikato Langsem, held at the Hamilton Airport Motor Inn in September. We had more than 100 teachers, presenters and retailers who contributed to making the day both collegial and informative. Our keynote speaker was Dee Reid, the advisor in Te Reo Maori at Waikato University and co-facilitator of Te Manawa Pou - the online Te Reo Maori programme for years 1-8. She spoke about identity, language and culture and what that means for her as a person who walks in two cultural worlds. She also included her recent experiences at the World Indigenous People's Conference in Peru. Other presenters were Liz Scally, Rachel Elliott on Taiko Drumming, co-operative learning activities in the language classroom and My Portfolio Café.

In 2011 Jeanne Gilbert initiated inviting six teachers to become cluster leaders of the 2010 clusters i.e. two in Hamilton, two in Rotorua and two in Tauranga. These cluster leaders participated in a specially arranged best practice moderation workshop in March in Tauranga and then facilitated locally, one cluster session in terms 1, 2 and 4, supported by Jeanne Gilbert (NZC) and Toni Twiss (E-learning). Teachers have found these cluster meetings which focused on the new Achievement Standards and the New Curriculum to be very worthwhile.

This year as usual the French teachers had a language immersion camp in the first weekend of the April holidays. The German teaches also ran a Talkfest. Both of these were very successful.

In 2012 the National NZALT conference will be hosted by the Waikato Bay of Plenty in Rotorua. This promises to be an exciting conference at a beautiful venue. The theme of this conference is Value the Advancement of Languages for Universal Education. For more information on this please go the NZALT website or contact the conference convenor, Laytee George: georgesotonga@xtra.co.nz.

Massey

By James Donaldson, Regional Officer



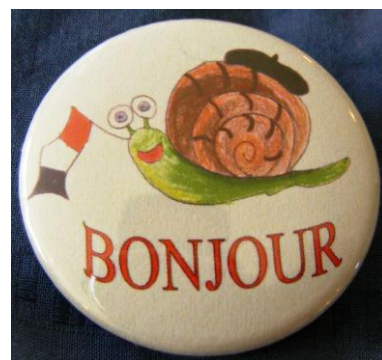
It is the first Thursday of the school holidays, the second for some of us. I meet up with two other colleagues, Judith and Christine who have both retired after several years service teaching languages, but today is not about them. We leave Hastings at 8am on a wet December morning and head for Palmerston North. After the road works and delay going over the Saddle Road we make it in plenty of time to Palmerston North. The Plaza Mall is a welcome place on such a wet day, but we the Plaza isn't the purpose of the visit but a surprise lunch for Gunhild Litwin to thank her for being our advisor. Adele Scott invited her to lunch and had invited those who could make it from around the region. There were 12 altogether at the lunch and it was an enjoyable time with Gunhild being presented with gifts to help her find her way back to the classroom as she will teach German and French at Palmerston North Boys' High in 2012. Good luck Gunhild we will miss your support as advisor but are glad that you will still be our colleague. We like other regions will notice this change to our support in schools. I encourage you to write to and lobby MPs and the like as language teaching will not be the same again unless we try to do something to have some sort of advisory service.

<http://www.nzalt.org.nz/events/index.shtml#SSS>.

Another big thanks to Gunhild for being such a big NZALT supporter with the behind-the-scenes co-ordination for LangSems, which would have not run the same without your support and experience especially the effort you make to promote the association and collegiality among cluster groups.

As a regional group Gunhild Litwin and Lesley Parris have hosted workshops for implementation of Level 1. I would like to thank you both for your support during the years and the ideas you have developed to make our job in the classroom easier.

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. For the third consecutive year a student from Massey region was awarded the Eunice Beveridge Memorial Prize for Japanese. It was an action-packed assembly at Napier Girls' High School where I was invited to present the Language Perfect certificates before awarding the prize to Na Hyun Kim. I was impressed with Mary Nixon's (the principal's) genuine support for Learning Languages. There are four languages offered at Napier Girls' High School,



Badges: Artwork by Hannah Moore of Chilton St James (top) and Olivia Mendonça of St Margaret's College).

one of the school NZALT memberships in our region. The parting wish of the principal was that I would feel free to return for an assembly.

Badges are still available: <http://www.nzalt.org.nz/events/comp11.shtml>.

NZALT stuff: Adèle Scott - Thanks for your commitment to the association and to our region in particular. I have enjoyed your leadership style and how you are not scared to try new things in our association. I have learned a lot from you so keep up the good work as the Senior Vice President.

13 August was Massey LangSem at Francis Douglas Memorial College in New Plymouth. What a welcome we received in Taranaki! This is the first time we have made LangSem on a Saturday and there was a good number of delegates attending. The sessions were varied and the food put on by the school's chef was excellent too. With this being Adèle's last year as president the Executive and AGM were held at our LangSem. I wonder how often that will happen in the future. This was run including the NZALT AGM. A big thank you to our organisers: Sabine de Crevoisier, Ruth Marris, Reiko Smithers and Gunhild Litwin.

We had 10 \$50 petrol vouchers to encourage teachers to come from all around the region.

The Hawke's Bay teachers will finish off their year off with a social function in Napier to wish Judith Drabble and Christine Parnell all the best as they retire after providing students around the region a door of opportunity into the world of languages.

Our meetings have been at Tamatea High School this year and will be at Woodford House next year.

Wishing you all a well-deserved break with family and friends. Christmas blessings.

Victoria

By Philippa Doig, Regional Officer

In Wellington we held NZALT Victoria LangSem "Winds of Change" on July 8 at VUW Karori campus. Attendance was a little down on my estimate: 72 secondary teachers, 11 primary/intermediate teachers, six exhibitors and seven ILEP advisers and administrators. But evaluations from teachers were positive and the atmosphere energetic and enthusiastic throughout. Plenaries were: Pascale Hyboud-Peron: My Portfolio; Manu Ménard: Task-based learning; National advisers' discussion: Seeing ourselves as others see us. My thanks go to the section convenors: Primary Intermediate: Jocelyn Pollock; Chinese: Marion Chiu; French: Rebecca Anderson; German: Miriam Tornquist; Japanese: Junko Bracefield; Spanish: Lucy Gower.

NZALT has supported Regional Adviser Cluster meetings by providing afternoon tea (five times during the year). NZALT had a meeting and an afternoon tea on October 6 to introduce the new French Adviser, Glenda Palmer, to French teachers in the region. I sold NZALT badges to teachers at LangSems and regional adviser meetings – and more are available!

NZALT held an end-of year meeting to discuss feedback to NZQA on NCEA exams. This took place at VUW Karori campus on December 7. I collated the feedback from French, Spanish, German and Japanese, edited the letter we agreed on and sent all in a hard copy to Liz Scally. Afterwards some members went out for dinner together at the Shepherd's Arms on Tinakori Rd.

Succession. This is my last year as RO for Victoria – I will step down at the NZALT International Conference in Rotorua. I hope the next person in the role benefits as much as I have from being part of NZALT executive.

I would like to thank teachers in the Wellington region for their support in various projects during the year, and for being willing to work to improve outcomes for your students. I would also like to thank Catherine Hannagan, Regional Languages Facilitator, for her valued input into events, meetings and documents. She will be missed in this advisory role, as all regional languages facilitators will be missed in all regions.

Happy Christmas and have a restful and enjoyable break.

Canterbury/Nelson/West Coast

By Marie-Eve Therrien, Regional Officer

After all the disruptions we had in terms 1 and 2 because of the Canterbury earthquakes, we have been able to organise a few NZALT events in terms 3 and 4. As a consequence of the quakes, the Langsem planned for August 2011 was cancelled and in term 2, and a survey about professional development needs was sent to members in the region. About 15 teachers took time to complete this survey and after the feedback was analysed, it was decided that NZALT would subsidize 25 members to attend the NZQA Best Practice Workshop and that we would hold a Saturday workshop about MyPortfolio with Pascale Hyboud-Peron. A total of 15 teachers applied for a subsidy (\$60.00) to attend the Best Practice Workshop. The BPW had twice been cancelled because of earthquakes and snow disruptions so everyone was looking forward to this day! It was very well attended and very helpful.

Christchurch Girls' High School hosted the workshop about MyPortfolio with Pascale Hyboud-Peron on August 27. NZALT Canterbury provided lunch to all members attending the workshop. On that same day, Ruth Bouchier also ran a workshop for year 13 French students taking the scholarship exam.

We held a movie night on September 22 at the Christchurch Rudolf Steiner School. About 12 teachers attended the evening and watched the documentary *Speaking in Tongues* which we highly recommend. NZALT provided drinks and nibbles for this social evening.

In November, the University of Canterbury School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics invited secondary school languages teachers to meet with their staff and we discussed how UC staff can best support secondary school teachers. It was a good opportunity to network and obtain information regarding the forthcoming changes at the University.

Finally, we held a farewell dinner to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of two of our members who are retiring after many years of service to the language teaching profession. Luba Roth and Margaret Weiss will be sorely missed for their enthusiasm and support they have given to our association.

Otago/Southland

By Kirstyn Mawdsley, Regional Officer

The Otago/Southland community of language teachers ended 2011 with full commitment and motivation. November 11 saw us hold our (very successful) LangSem at the College of Education. We had fellow language teachers from Christchurch and Auckland also added to the large number of teachers from around our region. We heard from a number of our colleagues in workshops and were "updated" in various technological areas. It was a fantastic day and thanks must go to Philippa Kruger, Jessica Ware and Carla Joint (among others) for being at the forefront of the organisation.

There are always fantastic examples of teachers taking learning outside of the classroom. Some examples of this are French Day Out, which ran again with great success. The *Amazing Race* style of this day really appeals to students (and teachers alike!) and they get a lot out of the day of immersion. The University of Otago also put on a languages and culture quiz for senior students, there were plays, radio shows, camps and exchanges. Our students are lucky to be part of such a vibrant learning community.

Hopefully all of you are planning for the conference in Rotorua next July. Remember you can be rest assured in the knowledge that it won't be our turn for a while now! So come and enjoy the geothermal surroundings and partake in some top class professional development.

I am sure we are all looking forward to the successes and (maybe the challenges too) that 2012 is sure to bring and rest assured that we are working in a fantastic community with great support networks.