

Chairperson's report November 2021

Kia ora koutou katoa

It is hard to believe that a year has already gone since our last AGM. There is no doubt with all the lockdowns and uncertainty that the year has been difficult for many of us. That said, there are a number of "thank you" that I want to make at the beginning of this report. First to Jane Battersby who has continued to provide excellent support both as secretary and treasurer. Her ability to "go with the flow" and adapt to ever changing conditions has been extremely helpful. I also thank Alan for his steady commitment to providing the matauranga which I have needed to draw on whilst finding my way as the Chair. Thanks also to Virginia for her support and guidance and her unfailing optimism that we could get the mini conference to happen. Last and certainly not least I want to thank the committee and all of the people who have participated and contributed during this last year to keep the ANZELA fire burning.

During this year I have attended a few meetings with the Ministry of Education on behalf of ANZELA related to the Dispute Resolution service for domestic students and been able to provide some input into the same.

In June, I also presented a paper as did Alan Knowsley and some other ANZELA members at the Conference Legal & Governance Essentials for School Leaders delivered by Conferenz. Looking back this was an amazing event held both in person and virtually and I am pleased to say that we gained interest in some attending our Mini Conference.

It was also great to receive and read articles written for the International Journal of Law & Education – ANZELA which is a massive achievement given the impact of Covid on both New Zealand and Australia. These articles are available for all members to read and provide interesting insights into various issues. I particularly recommend the article on Truancy across Australia and New Zealand written by John O'Brien.

I have been contributing to LinkedIn social media to help raise awareness of ANZELA. It would be great to have more contribution on social media.

I signalled at the beginning of my term as Chair that I want ANZELA to develop in a way that shows a commitment to New Zealand's bi-cultural heritage with the development of a Rōpu Māori, and I hope that we can make some traction on that during 2022. I would be particularly interested in hearing from anyone who wants to assist with this.

### **Mini Conference**

We were particularly disappointed not to be able to host the mini conference. I want to thank all the committee members and Bill Anderson for the effort they put into the planning and decision making. I also want to thank Professor Tairahi Black both for being prepared to be the keynote speaker whether in person or virtually and also for his continued willingness to participate when we can get together for a mini conference - fingers crossed for next year. Thank you also to all of you who were prepared to present your papers. We have refunded all registrant's money and hope they will join us again next year.

Thanks to Jane's negotiating skills we have been able to maintain the credit at Rydges which we will use to run the mini conference as soon as we practically can. We are looking for a date in March 2022.

We have decided that a refresh may be needed to our proposed programme given the time that has passed since we put the original programme together. I am certain this is going to be a priority task for the incoming committee.

## Membership

Membership has been fairly static this year which is not surprising given we have not been able to hold any events. We are very pleased to welcome Owen Hoskin who has just joined us following a recommendation from another member. Also, a warm welcome to Rachel Schmidt-McCleave for re-joining us.

## ANZELA Update

Thanks again to the editor, Alan Knowsley, the *Update* this has continued without interruption. I wish to record the appreciation of the New Zealand Chapter to Alan and to those who have contributed through-out the year. The publication of this is dependent on content being prepared. Given the talent and expertise among ANZELA members, it should be relatively easy, however the load falls on a few. We welcome more contribution from members.

## Zoom Cocktail parties

This year we have held three zoom cocktail parties. These have been opportunities for us to come together and discuss issues affecting education and law. There have been wide ranging discussions about various matters including the impact of Covid on education, employment issues within the education sector and legal issues generally.

These issues have included challenges with online delivery of education, management of assessments including the ability of students to “cheat”, implications from mandatory requirement for vaccination of teachers. This later discussion also included implication for home based teachers and the need for “in person” attendance at supervision and assessments. We also discussed how far the implication of the vaccination requirements will extend – to contractors and suppliers engaged in education for example.

There was a lot of discussion about the dispute resolution provisions in the Education and Training Act which included frustration about the lack of detail and progress being made in respect of the same.

And there were also lighter discussions about life in general. It was really lovely to see so many familiar faces and also to meet new people in these meetings. It looks like lockdown will continue in various ways for a while so we will have a **December Cocktail party on Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2021** to end the year.