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| DATE: | **Tuesday, 8 March 2016** | **'Excellence is a commitment to completion' - John de Martini** |

Welcome to this, the first newsletter for 2016:

You won’t have seen these two in the November photo. Leith, on the left, is

an exec. first timer from Tairawhiti, and

Cary represents Taranaki.



* Our purpose
* Messages from Lianne Kalivati, Principal Advisor to RTLB.
* NZRTLB Association/NZEI.



* The AGM & Conference feedforward
* Executive Meeting dates and venues 2016
* The Website
* Membership
* Various bits and pieces –
  + Retirees;



* + Celebrations;
  + Cluster Manager’s input;
  + Regional Representation.

***Our Purpose***

The first NZRTLB association executive meeting for 2016 was held on Friday/Saturday the 11 – 12 March 2016. It was full of interesting and robust discussion.

We discussed a wide range of topics related to RTLB practice and structures, not the least of which was to rationalise our purpose. With an eye to building a constructive future for our members, our purpose was defined as follows:

Our National RTLB Purpose:

**The Association is:** a Professional Body that connects RTLB to become agents of change in order to strengthen and enhance –

* Classroom practice;
* Relationships between teachers, whānau and students;
* The ability to fulfil the mandate of Ministry of Education (MoE) national priorities.





You can be a part of this Professional Body.

Everyone knows there is –

***Strength and support in unity and collaboration.***

***Lianne******Kalivati -******Principal Advisor to RTLB:***

This is the second time we have had a response from Lianne since I began attending Association Meetings. Lianne has always made herself available and her valuable sharing was in the form of question and answer.

To give you an idea of the work we are pursuing on your behalf, the following questions were put to Lianne. She was able to answer some directly, and others need a little work. Lianne’s answers are in blue.

* How can we strengthen our relationships/links between the MoE/Association and make this more visible?

I think the first step is to strengthen the relationship with lead school principals, cluster managers and RTLB.  The Association may want to consider articulating and circulating a clear vision and purpose so that (potential) members are clear about how the Association can support RTLB effective practice.

* What’s coming from the MoE that may impact upon the RTLB? E.g.
  + Cognitive assessments;

I am not aware of any expectation that RTLB will be required to undertake cognitive assessments.

* + Gateway;

It is anticipated the Ministry will be asking for Expressions of Interest from cluster managers interested in contributing to a working party on revising the contents of the Gateway Education Profile.

* + . . .
* It is important RTLB keep informed about the direction of the Special Education Update and attend opportunities to engage with Ministry of Education staff and share their thoughts on system improvements.   [http://www.education.govt.nz/ministry-of-education/specific-initiatives/special-education-update/](http://www.education.govt.nz/ministry-of-education/specific-initiatives/special-education-update/" \t "_blank)
* Is there anything that challenges the existence of the Association in the pipeline?

As above.

* Is there a document that normalises the allocation of leadership payment in a transparent way that is fair for all?

There is no document that gives guidance to how clusters should allocate leadership payments within the cluster.  Like schools, clusters make their own decisions as to the number of leadership payments that are given to practice leaders, or RTLB who are given additional responsibilities.  These allocations will be based on cluster’s needs analysis.

Aside from these, I am sure that Lianne will, as mentioned last meeting, continue to

* Encourage cluster managers to share RTLB related information with their teams.

When I email newsletter updates to lead school principals and cluster managers I encourage the recipients to “share the information with their teams”.    I will continue to support information sharing and collaborative ways of working.  We are all focussed on facilitating improved learning and achievement for children and young people with additional learning needs.  Let’s work out how we can support one another ie MOE/RTLB cluster LSPs, CMs, RTLB.

***NZ RTLB Association/NZEI:***

The Association, our collaborative Professional arm, has asked the National Co-ordinator to write to NZEI, the N.Z. teachers’ Industrial arm, to ask about the disparity in $4000 management units vs $5000 ACET allowances, given the need for RTLB to complete and pass 2 years post graduate training and the 16 years or so since they were first introduced.

[](https://www.google.co.nz/imgres?imgurl=http://www.oldvallarta.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/negotiate-cartoon.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.oldvallarta.com/?p=1268&h=375&w=560&tbnid=FD8JGBVzF5kezM:&docid=ua2OZ8uXvxlCRM&hl=en-GB&ei=cWTnVurIKsKxmwWk-JTACw&tbm=isch&ved=0ahUKEwiqxZ-jxMHLAhXC2KYKHSQ8BbgQMwg3KBQwFA)







[](https://www.google.co.nz/imgres?imgurl=http://www.inkcinct.com.au/web-pages/cartoons/past/2009/2009-402--negotiating-with-China-.gif&imgrefurl=http://www.inkcinct.com.au/web-pages/global/region-and-country/asia-pacific/2009-asia-pacific.htm&h=373&w=482&tbnid=P_vu3SA3Ha7tvM:&docid=67fyHqenbpPRnM&hl=en-GB&ei=cWTnVurIKsKxmwWk-JTACw&tbm=isch&ved=0ahUKEwiqxZ-jxMHLAhXC2KYKHSQ8BbgQMwg4KBUwFQ)

**THE AGM:**

As conference is moving to a biennial format, AGM options are being refined and confirmed. You will be informed as soon as possible.

***Conference feedforward***

We would like members to contribute their ideas. Let us know. Our thinking at the moment:

***Conference & Collaboration:***

Exec is pursuing options. When a decision is reached we’ll let you know. It has been agreed that conference will be Biennial and perhaps the years between could develop as regional gatherings (Ngā Hau e Whā). Each gathering may also coincide with an Exec. Meeting, and so be spread throughout the year i.e. one each term.

***Executive Meeting dates and venues 2016***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Month | March | June | August | November |
| Host City | **Auckland** | **Auckland** | **Auckland** | **Wellington** |
| Venue | Holiday Inn | Holiday Inn | Holiday Inn | Mercure, Willis St. |
| Duration | 2 day | 2 day | 1 day | 2 days |
| Date/Style | 11 – 12 March | 17 – 18 June | 20 August | 18-19 November  Consult with MoE?? |

(Remember to let your regional rep know of anything for exec. to think/consider.

Your Regional Roundups (Reports) are becoming our lifeline and our challenge).

***The Website:***

The Association have secured ownership of the web domain and intellectual property and is proceeding with a new RTLB Association landing page for the web. A deadline date has been set.

The page will have two sections:

1. Public section - in broad terms who we are, what we do, how to contact, how to join, etc.
2. Association Members, once joined, password access:  our intellectual property - behaviour kits, dyslexia kits, best practice, etc. . .

It is hoped to have at least part of the landing page accessible shortly, in some form. It will be in place by the start of the new financial year.



***Membership:*** The process is being refined and will be available shortly.

**You will save by paying early.**

**Memberships paid for prior to June 20**

**will cost a low $1.15 per week,**

**a one-off $60.00 for the year.**

**After that it still only becomes $75 for the annual subscription.**

**What will you get?**

* Access to the NZRTLB Association ‘revamped’ website including access to Communities of Practice and other

professional groups and opportunities to establish networks.

* Discounted fee for Conference.
* Four times a year NZRTLB Association Newsletters following Association Executive meetings.
* 12 issues of TRUMPET, our collaborative one-pager.
* A voice to MoE, currently the Association is on 3 working parties.

We are actively seeking members support to explore education partners, look into research and cross-cluster projects…Let us know your ideas!

***Various Important Bits And Pieces:***

**RTLB leaving the service**

It is important to the Exec to acknowledge those RTLB who have contributed much to the well-being of students and to their colleagues, and who are leaving the service, retiring or moving on.

Let your regional rep. know, ***we want to acknowledge them***.

The following have retired and/or moved on. The Association wishes them well and thanks them for their contributions, both to the Association as appropriate, and especially to the school, staff and students. You may read a little more in the Regional Roundup which will be posted on the upcoming website.

In Marlborough: Jan Bentley and Lois Mead- McEwan both retired from their full-time positions at the end of 2015 but are continuing to support our Cluster in a number of ways.

In Franklin: Janet Davis and Saki Saunokonoko have officially retired but are also continuing to support our Cluster in a number of ways. Kathryn Whelan and Jayne Senington have taken up positions in schools and Gareth Bolstad is on his o.e., including some missionary work along the way.

In Murikiku (Southland): At the end of 2015, with sadness and fond memories we farewelled Des Collins, Hahona Paraki, and Louise Stevenson. Both Des and Hahona have been members of the RTLB Exec and are enjoying retirement, and Louise is the incoming Principal of Balfour School in Northern Southland.

In Otago: John Muskett. John has been an RTLB since inception and worked in Otago and Southland.

If we haven’t mentioned retirees and others moving on from your area, you didn’t tell us. Please advise your regional rep. and we will place that important information in the next newsletter. Thanks.



Let’s celebrate. Tell your Regional Rep. of celebratory news that you know about, . . . work, study, travel, intervention success, . . . We would all love to share in your successes and adventures.

* The Specialist Teaching Programme (Massey and Canterbury) has had its biggest intake this year (lots of new RTLB coming on to the market?).
* In Marlborough: Bern Hocquard was accepted to train as a TIPS facilitator after a rigorous selection process. She will be working country-wide.

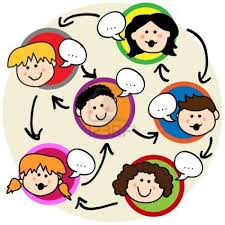
***CLUSTER MANAGER’S INPUT:***

Emil Va’afusuaga, CM for cluster 10, was welcomed to the meeting and he was able to share some insights and strategy information with the Association Exec. He also provided some Pasifika viewpoints. When we reflect upon Emil’s words, and those of Lianne, viz a viz:

“I will continue to support information sharing and collaborative ways of working.  . . .”

Engagements like this can only see both groups becoming a more effective voice for children. Our thanks are extended to Emil for taking the opportunity to share with the Executive.

We would welcome other Cluster Managers to present at our forum in the interests of improving bi-lateral communication and strengthening outcomes for children. (see below).

[](https://www.google.co.nz/imgres?imgurl=http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-uYKOaPiheTg/UbwlH5JtK7I/AAAAAAAAADQ/YJfF0qYKwmY/s320/12064224-social-network-concept-fun-cartoon-of-kids-talking-and-being-interconnected.jpg&imgrefurl=http://ardelacruz.blogspot.com/2013/06/what-is-communication-based-on.html&docid=iXFV9SDJLNHRnM&tbnid=imxdExRfa9ep9M:&w=1200&h=1200&hl=en-GB&safe=strict&ei=GOXpVuntLYfK0gTe_bvgAw)

***RTLB Regional Representation:***

* The Executive, and Association members would like to think that all regions

would be represented on our Executive, a collaborative and supportive group

with the professional interests of members and service delivery to students

at its core. Again, we agree with Lianne when she says:

“I will continue to support information sharing and collaborative ways of

working.  We are all focussed on facilitating improved learning and achievement

for children and young people with additional learning needs.  Let’s work out how

we can support one another ie MOE/RTLB cluster LSPs, CMs, RTLB.”

We, the Association Executive, have previously welcomed Cluster Managers

to speak at our Association Executive Meetings, including Annette MacDonald, Lianne Kalivati, and, as recorded above, more recently Emil Va’afusuaga.

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Please check with your colleagues that they have received this email…

If not, please email your Regional Representative so that we continue to ensure that all RTLB have had the opportunity to be kept up to date…

**Thanks, The NZRTLB Association Communication Team.**

Want something in the Newsletter?

Have an idea we could share with everyone in the TRUMPET?

**Contact your rep.**