

RS MATTERS

Welcome RSTAAANZ members.

The following are offerings from the exec and wider membership relevant to our RS mahi.

Membership survey

As mentioned in the previous newsletter the Committee would like to provide members of RSTAAANZ with the opportunity to participate in a survey. This will help the Committee to understand more about you as a member and your expectations of the RS Teachers Association. The results of the survey will be released in a future issue. Please complete the survey using the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZ30TBrrqocl-WzhUdTE9WrcfoXpn1HYy-YJFHOU MwWjkH9g/viewform>

AS91919 - Changes for 2025

It has been announced through Subject Associations that Level 1 1.4 (External) Standards for all subjects including our own AS91919 will change their assessment mode from a Common Assessment Task to an Examination from 2025.

Many of the other 1.4 Standards will change to assessment by portfolio. RSTAAANZ have received feedback previously from members that the assessment for AS91919 was inequitable and presented an unmanageable workload. However, the committee is interested in your feedback on whether the change to an examination is suitable. Would you prefer a portfolio? Please get in touch with your suggestions at RSTAAANZ@gmail.com

Meet the Member:

Each newsletter we will introduce you to a member of the Committee. This issue we introduce our Chairperson Colin MacLeod - Director of the National Centre for Religious Studies (NCRS):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YSfva33w6idY8gmGtv--EF49YUHCuv1R/view>



Dear Erica - Letter to the Education Minister

As Chairperson, Colin led the significant move of writing a letter on behalf of the RSTAAANZ committee and its members to the current Education Minister, The Rt. Hon. Erica Stanford. The letter which expresses a reminder of our role as a subject association and that as experts in our field we should be involved in her review of RS achievement standards. To read the letter please click on the following link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18PIVKFPMhtQWM8UfHy0lvY_SvMWIB950/view?usp=sharing



RSTAAANZ Team:

Who are they? Use the link below to meet the Committee:

<https://www.rstaanz.org.nz/team-4t>

Where are the next Religious Studies teachers?

It seems that even though we are in a global teaching crisis the most elusive position to fill in our Colleges is that of a Religious Studies teacher. The RSTAANZ newsletter will run a series of features over the next few issues which highlight the importance of promoting to students the benefits and career possibilities of studying RS and RE as well as how to become an RS teacher. So that our students are able to see a career path outside of the classroom. We will cover University course, teaching qualifications and the real life story of an RS College students journey to being an RS teacher. We begin with some resources which can be used in your classrooms to promote the importance of RS and RE at school and the affect that being taught RS and RE had on people in different occupations:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=789bE7GcNCo>

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/my-future-my-career-my-re/>

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/ollie-my-future-my-career-my-re/>

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/mo-my-future-my-career-my-re/>

Conor Entwistle, a teacher at Villa Maria College, has been studying towards Bachelor of Divinity through Te Kupenga. Here are his thoughts on the degree. “Choosing to delve into studying the various subject areas that make up a Bachelor of Divinity was one I took with great enthusiasm knowing it will deepen my understanding of the Catholic faith and therefore, God! There seems to be no limit to learning in subjects such as theology, philosophy and history, and so when the opportunity emerged to begin the Bachelor of Divinity journey, I was more than excited to get stuck in. I think that formation in the faith is Vital in conjunction with devotion to it, and formalising and streamlining my learning through a Bachelor of Divinity has brought a great sense of clarity and cohesion to my knowledge of the faith. Studying toward a Bachelor of Divinity has tremendously helped my teaching because the learning I am experiencing is giving me a fuller understanding of the Catholic faith and insights into more of the big picture. What this translates to in the classroom is that when teaching a specific topic, I have greater knowledge at my disposal to share with students and address their questions with. It has also meant that I am more readily able to extend the thinking of those students who are capable. To date, studying has proven to be a great strength to my teaching, the improvement of my own writing in the courses I have studied to date has improved my own ability to share the faith in a concise and simplistic way, and from observation this has led to greater student understanding.”

For more information see:

<https://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/catholic-theological-college-2/so-you-want-to-study/our-programmes/bachelor-of-divinity/>

Teacher becomes the student.

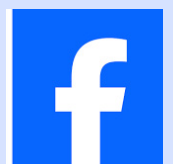


Showcase your Faculty

- It would be wonderful if members celebrated the success of their faculties or individual members showcased areas of their teaching and learning within RS. Maybe its a topic taught at Scholarship or a particular lesson which went well, resources which could be shared with other members. Whatever you wish to showcase please email RSTAANZ on RSTAANZ@gmail.com and a committee member will be in touch.

Scholarship RS Examination date:

November 25th PM



You should be well underway with essay planning and preparation for the assessment in November. Remember to exchange ideas with other members on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1919793654929376/>