

Tapu

Religious Studies Teachers' Association of Aotearoa New Zealand



Newsletter December 2016

RSTAANZ launch

The Religious Studies Teachers' Association of Aotearoa New Zealand was officially launched at Auckland University (with a live stream to a group gathered at Victoria University), on Thursday 24th November. Those gathered included Secondary School Religious Studies teachers from State, Integrated and Private schools, RS advisors, university lecturers, representatives from TCI, NZCEO, PPTA and NZQA.

Jeremy Hema (Kaiarahi) from Auckland University began with a poignant karakia, honouring the significance of the evening.

Philomena Clare, interim Chair of RSTAANZ, acknowledged many of those over the past three decades who had made this day possible. She introduced the RSTAANZ interim committee of Amjad Ali, Colin MacLeod, Andrew Murray, Philomena Clare, Susan Mudford and Anita Nielson (pictured right).

Guest speaker Mike Henson from NZQA highlighted the support networks and resources available to Religious Studies teachers from NZQA and the Ministry of Education.

To conclude the evening Nick Thomson from Auckland University's Theology and Religious Studies faculty congratulated us on the launch and talked about how understanding religion is so important across many occupations.

The RSTAANZ launch is both timely and exciting as it gives Religious Studies an official, professional voice to interact with the Ministry of Education, NZQA, schools, universities, the media and society at large.



VISIONING DAY

Following the launch evening, the interim Executive committee gathered for a planning day to build upon the foundations established by those who had brought the now official RSTAANZ to this point. In order to maintain continuity and momentum, this interim committee will work through the first year of establishment.

President: Philomena Clare
Vice President: Andrew Murray
Secretary: Susan Mudford
Treasurer: To be advised
Website/Social Media: Colin MacLeod
Curriculum support: Anita Neilson
Support & consultation: Amjad Ali
State sector rep: Linda Aitchison

Our day began with an insightful Q & A session with Mike Stone from Team Solutions and also highly active in the Biology Teachers' Association (BEANZ). Among the many matters discussed and plans made, two working parties were formed to explore Scholarship RS and Vocational Pathways.

COMING UP....

RSTAANZ Conference 2018

2018 will see the inaugural conference for the Religious Studies Association of Aotearoa-New Zealand.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

These will be sent out in late January, with the deadline being March 30.

