

Tapu

Religious Studies Teachers' Association



Newsletter June 2017

STUDENTS PUT THEORY INTO PRACTICE

Level 2 Social Studies at Rosehill College provides a superb example of how similar learning aims straddle a diversity of subjects. Year 12 students collected over 1,000 non-perishable food and personal hygiene items for the Papakura Salvation Army foodbank. They study a unit of work on poverty in New Zealand which is assessed using two standards. AS90822 (how a social action derives from ethical principles) where they look at the work of the Salvation Army and AS91282 (participate in a social action) where they organise, publicise and run the food drive. The cross-pollination between Social Studies and Religious studies provides plenty of opportunity for dialogue between teachers of both subject. The Association looks forward to seeing such dialogue flourish.



ENCOURAGING FEEDBACK FOR RSTAANZ

It is great to see that word is getting out about the Association and our goals. More especially the desire to promote and enhance dialogue across state/integrated/private sectors, as well as being inter-faith and inter-denominational. The possibility of many and varied resource bases being made available to teachers is very exciting, even more so as we find the potential connections extend across a range of curriculum areas and subjects (eg Philosophy, Social Studies, English, Classics, History). There is also the prospect of something involving ESOL as we could have an MoE funded RS group focussing on RS and ESOL students (migrants, refugees and International students).

These words of encouragement were received earlier this year from Xanthe Sulzberger, Deputy Principal, Mt Roskill Grammar, Auckland:

"I just wanted to say congratulations on the RSTAANZ subject association, I think it is a wonderful idea to support RE teachers in NZ. So glad to see the standards are now an approved domain for UE. What positive steps forward for the subject as a whole. I think that it is wonderful to have a group of colleagues who can facilitate strong Professional Development and support around this subject area. Keep up the good work and I will watch the progress of this area. No doubt with your tenacity and passion many forward thinking steps will be taken."

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION INVOICES

These have been sent to all schools and/or individuals who have registered with RSTAANZ. \$40 per individual or \$140 per school/institution. Prompt payment would be greatly appreciated.

LOBBYING FOR MEMBERS — SCHOLARSHIP & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Several RSTAANZ members have expressed a desire to be able to offer students of Religious Studies the opportunity to engage with Scholarship (usually in Yr 13). Up until now, there has not been a unified voice to advocate for this issue. With the establishment of RSTAANZ this now changes. One of the issues which the Executive takes seriously is endeavouring to remedy this anomaly. In May this year, RSTAANZ wrote to NZQA and the Ministry of Education to signal the intention of the Association to include Religious Studies in the list of scholarship subjects. RSTAANZ is currently preparing a case to submit to NZQA/MoE in term 1, 2018. In reply to our letter, the Minister of Education Nikki Kaye wrote, "Religious Studies is a subject for targeted consultation with the sector in 2018. The consultation will be with relevant stakeholders". If the opportunity to access Scholarship Religious Studies is one of your passions, then you are strongly encouraged to speak to stakeholders in your area: Students, Principals, RS teachers, Parents, Universities.

- Nga mihi, *Philomena Clare* (Chair RSTAANZ)



Correspondence with RSTAANZ—Minister of Education
Nikki Kaye

COMING UP....

RSTAANZ Mix and Mingle, St Cuthberts College, September 5, 4.30pm.

A chance to meet people interested in the field of RS/RE and discuss what RS PD members would like. Diarise the date now! More details to follow.

Centre for Science & Citizenship PD Workshop 'Technology at the beginning and end of life—tough ethical questions'.

July 3, Christchurch & July 21 Wellington.

Go to <http://www.nzcsc.org/>

NZAPT (Philosophy Teachers) Conference September 28/29 St Cuthberts College.

Conference theme is 'responsibility'.

Contact Libby Giles

libby.giles@stcuthberts.school.nz

NZARETSC (RE Teachers & Chaplains) Conference August 7-9 Wellington.

Conference theme is 'Journeys'. Go to: <https://sites.google.com/view/nzaretsc>

Contact David Jackson

IN CONJUNCTION WITH NZQA — MEMBER FEEDBACK WANTED

Please complete the survey to help us provide you with the RS PD you want.

<https://goo.gl/forms/7kAsxWqKGL5Sq7n12>

Please respond by **June 30**.

