

Tapu

Religious Studies Teachers Association
of Aotearoa New Zealand



Newsletter (10) - Term One / March 2015

Prayer is
the key of
the morning
and the bolt
of the
evening.

Mahatma
Gandhi

Many of our colleges and
offices have multiple con-
tact persons—if you'd
like to check who we
have listed for your
school (and importantly,
who might be missing) -
email us back today.
susan@nzceo.org.nz



Thanks everyone for the enquiries about the development of our association—there is no clearer indication that it is time to get going! With Term One already all but gone we are at the point of wanting to find and confirm who is out there and who we are missing. As promised last issue, what follows is a list of all schools and offices we have on our email database.

1. Is your college or office listed?
2. Do you know of another local college that is missing?

Susan Apathy (NZCEO) & Chris Duthie-Jung (NCRS)

- Al Madinah School, Auckland
- Anglican Schools Office, Napier
- Aquinas College, Tauranga
- Archdiocese of Wellington
- Auckland University of Technology
- Baradene College, Auckland
- Bethlehem College, Tauranga
- Bethlehem Tertiary Inst., Tauranga
- Bishop Viard College, Porirua
- Campion College, Gisborne
- Carmel College, Auckland
- Catholic Cathedral College, Chch
- Catholic Ed Office, Auckland
- Catholic Ed Office, Christchurch
- Catholic Ed Office, Dunedin
- Catholic Ed Office, Hamilton
- Catholic Ed Office, Palmerston North
- Catholic Int Schools' Office, Ham
- Catholic Schools Ed Services, Wgtn
- Chanel College, Masterton
- Christchurch Adventist School
- Christian Renewal School, Whangarei
- Cullinane College, Whanganui
- De La Salle College, Auckland
- Elim Christian College, Auckland
- Excellere College, Whangarei
- Francis Douglas Mem College, NP
- Garin College, Nelson
- Good Shepherd College, Akld
- Hato Paora College, Feilding
- Hato Petera College, Auckland
- Independent Schools of NZ, Wgtn
- John McGlashan College, Dunedin
- John Paul College, Rotorua
- John Paul II High School, Greymouth
- Kaikohe Christian School,
- Kavanagh College, Dunedin
- Laidlaw College, Auckland
- Liston College, Auckland
- Longburn Adventist College, PN
- Mahurangi Christian Sch, Warkworth
- Marcellin College, Auckland
- Marian College, Christchurch
- Marist College, Auckland
- Massey University, Palmerston North
- McAuley High School, Auckland
- Middleton Grange School, Chch
- NZ Grad School of Education, Chch
- Nga Tawa Diocesan School, Marton
- Nukutere College, Rarotonga
- NZ Catholic Education Off., Wgtn
- NZ Presbyterian Schools Off., Wgtn
- Pompallier Catholic Coll, Whangarei
- PPTA, Wellington
- Rangiora New Life School, Chch
- Rathkeale College, Masterton
- Roncalli College, Timaru
- Rosmini College, Auckland
- Sacred Heart College, Auckland
- Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt
- Sacred Heart College, Napier
- Sacred Heart Girls' College, Hamilton
- Sacred Heart Girls' College, NP
- Sancta Maria College, Auckland
- St Bede's College, Christchurch
- St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt
- St Catherine's College, Wellington
- St Dominic's Catholic College, Akld
- St John's College, Hamilton
- St John's College, Hastings
- St Joseph's Maori Girls' Coll., Napier
- Catholic Vicar for Education, Chch
- St Kevin's College, Oamaru
- St Margaret's College, Christchurch
- St Mary's College, Auckland
- St Mary's College, Wellington
- St Matthew's Collegiate, Masterton
- St Patrick's College, Wellington
- St Patrick's College Silverstream, UH
- St Paul's College, Auckland
- St Peter's College, Auckland
- St Peter's College, Gore
- St Peter's College, PN
- Catholic Vicar for Ed., Hamilton
- St Thomas of Cant. Col, Chch
- The Catholic Institute
- University of Auckland
- University of Canterbury
- University of Otago
- Verdon College, Invercargill
- Victoria University, Wgtn
- Villa Maria College, Chch
- Waikato Diocesan School for Girls
- Wellington East Girls' College
- Wesley College, Pukekohe
- Zayed College for Girls, Akld

Subject Associations Forum 2015

The annual Subject Association Forum run by the PPTA will provide a spring board this year for our Association. Religious Studies will be represented by Chris Duthie-Jung and Colin MacLeod (Kavanagh College, Dunedin) at the April meeting. Chris and Colin will consult other associations to actively seek ways forward for our Religious Studies. Expect to be contacted early in Term Two with a proposal and details of consultative options as we move forward.



Are Level 3 Achievement Standards at University Level?

Considerable concern has been expressed that the Level 3 Achievement Standards in Religious Studies might be at University level. Yes indeed the Achieved with Excellence level could be expected to be at a similar standard to a 100 level course in Theology or Philosophy. However, it needs to be acknowledged that this is the case in any subject eg Year 13 Chemistry and Mathematics has some overlap with 100 level Chemistry and Mathematics at Victoria University. This can be seen as an advantage as the student is being prepared for further study.

However, at the Achieved level the Level 3 Achievement Standards are at an appropriate level as they need to be more difficult than Level 2 which needs to be more difficult than Level 1.

If we look at the Achievement Standards about key beliefs of a religious tradition we see that at Level 1(90819) to gain Achieved the student needs to describe the key beliefs of a religious tradition. At Level 2 they need to explain the key beliefs within

two religious traditions in relation to a significant religious question. This is at a higher level than Level 1 as the student needs to outline the beliefs and then explain the similarities and differences between the key beliefs of the two religious traditions. At Level 3 the student needs to analyse the key beliefs of a religious tradition and a secular world view in relation to ultimate questions. This requires the student to break the belief into essential features and draw conclusions about the differences and similarities, supported by evidence. Again a higher level of thinking is required than Level 2.

When reading this carefully we can see that there is a gradual increase in difficulty as the student moves through the different NCEA levels. That is only appropriate.

The fact that each of these Achievement Standards is worth six credits has also been discussed on many occasions and continues to be an area of contention. However, this is beyond our control. At the time of the introduction of the Achievement Standards it was strongly argued that the Achievement Standards in Religious Studies should each be worth four credits. NZQA insisted that they remain at six. When setting a task the assessor needs to ignore the number of credits a standard is worth. The assessor should write a task that gives the student an opportunity to achieve the standard at all levels and not even think about whether the task is big enough for six credits. The students are very motivated to achieve the standards in Religious Studies because they are more manageable and are worth six credits.

Judy Houlahan (recently resigned from being DRS St Mary's College Wellington.)

