
AGM Presidents Report 2018

Warm greetings to you all and thank you for the opportunity to present the Religious Studies Teachers' Association of Aotearoa New Zealand (RSTAANZ) annual general meeting report for 2018.

Over the past 12 months the RSTAANZ Executive have been working extremely hard to represent you on a national scale. We have had two main focuses this year;

1. the application for Religious Studies to be confirmed as a scholarship subject with NZQA.
2. planning for the 2018 elections and the first AGM.

The 2018 executive members were:

Colin MacLeod, Andrew Murray, Linda Aitchison, Susan Mudford (resigned in May), Philomena Clare (resigned in May), Amjad Ali, Maria Fouhy (appointed according to 4.76 as secretariat)

As your Executive we are working hard to provide a national voice on issues of concern to Religious Studies teachers, provide support and guidance to promote the development of competent, well-informed and confident Religious Studies teachers, promote a comprehensive information sharing network and foster links with relevant educational groups. We are also working towards raising the status of Religious Studies teachers as a profession, creating a forum where all Religious Studies teachers can share ideas and experience, and providing a range of educational conferences, seminars and other forums for professional learning and development. Further to this we believe that it is important to develop our website and have this as a platform to promote best practice, provide research and professional learning and development opportunities, support professional growth, communicate and strengthen networks across New Zealand and support colleagues in remote areas.

I would encourage you to provide feedback through your representatives so that RSTAANZ is able to remain relevant to its members.

It has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated group of individuals who are committed to providing their expertise and support to the Religious Studies teachers of New Zealand. The executive members are true servants of education and have always had the best interests of you the members at the centre of all that they do for RSTAANZ. Thank you, for all that you do for us.

I look forward to working with the elected members of the executive in 2019. Thank you especially to Colin MacLeod for his work in this space organising our first election.

Our scholarship application took much of our time in 2018 on the back of work undertaken in 2017. Our meetings with NZQA regarding the scholarship application enabled us to raise the profile of the subject, voice the concerns of Religious Studies teachers and to highlight the issues that we face in carrying out our jobs. NZQA gave assurances that the application was about open consultation. Our successful application was down to the work of all of us. I thank you for this. While this mahi is not complete, NZQA will now take this project to completion. Some of our members may be involved in writing, moderating and marking the first exam in 2019 or 2020.

Our first priority in 2019 will be focussed on administration issues. Due to changes in the executive we will need to change banking accounts. Since RSTAANZ is not a registered charity with tax-exempt status, it is liable for tax. Currently the rate seems is 28% (the first \$1,000 of income is exempt) and some filing may need to be done with IRD. We are at the initial stages of [registering as a charity](#). We have engaged a solicitor to assist us in re-writing our rules/constitution as part of the application to become a registered charity.

Please visit and promote our website, Twitter feed and Facebook page to help us to grow and develop your association as a strong support network for Religious Studies teachers. I trust that you have had an enjoyable 2018 and thank you for your continued support of RSTAANZ.

Ngā mihi i runga i te whakaaro o te mātauranga.

Andrew Murray