



Small Schools Newsletter

September 2007

Kia ora

To ensure that those who were unable to attend our Kaikoura cluster day are still kept in the loop a brief update for you.

Kaikoura Meeting - Building a Learning School - Roger Hornblow

Date: Thursday 13 September

Present: Karen, Selena, Diane, Michelle, Tania, Lance, Dave, Cheryl, Odette, Alison, Allan, Nicky

Apologies: Andrew L, Kerry, Andrew M.

Thank you for the huge effort you made to travel to Kaikoura last week. It meant a long trip for many of you but I know our Kaikoura colleagues enjoyed the chance to catch up with everyone again after conference and appreciated having a session held closer to home.

Roger led the session with a focus on vision and effective teaching practice. He spoke about beginning with the end in mind and looking at an ideal pupil and what a successful school leaver would look like at your school. He stressed ownership comes from being clear about expectations for students and staff and shared ideas for revamping job descriptions. One of his quotes to ponder on.....! *'Once mediocrity infects an organisation it is extremely difficult to cure. Mediocrity becomes the professional standard. If the boss allows mediocrity than it is validated.'*

The feedback was that you were all keen to attend his second workshop which will look at curriculum design and you will leave with another CD packed with practical ideas to support you with the process.

Next Small Schools Cluster Meetings

Term 4 2007 - Tour of the Town

- **Thursday 29 November –Week 8**

We plan to visit Fairhall and Witherlea to look at the quality schools philosophy in action and also discover some of Simon and Murray's time saving tips and great systems they have developed to cope with the paper war! As Murray is away at present I am unable to confirm that this date works with him until next term but pencil it in your diary anyway. ***Please note this is week 8 and not week 9 as originally planned as Simon is away on camp.***

Term 1 2008 - Building a Learning School – Roger Hornblow

- **Wednesday 2 April 2008** - 3:30-5:00 session (For teachers)
- **Thursday 3 April 2008** – 9:00-3:00 session (For principals, middle managers)

More details will be sent out nearer the time and to enable us to keep the costs to a minimum I will open these sessions up to all schools. Please let me know asap if any of these dates are not going to work for you.

Have a wonderful, well deserved break.

Nicky