
Editorial

As the 'new-look' *set: Research Information for Teachers* enters its second year, NZCER would like to thank all subscribers for their loyalty and positive feedback. We would also like to thank the Specialist Education Service, and in particular Lewis Rivers, for their support, help, and advice during 2000. Although this partnership will not continue in 2001 we still hope to bring you articles on special education.

This issue contains a number of articles written 'from a different angle'. These articles by some of New Zealand's leading researchers, challenge some of our conventional thinking and question some long-held views. Learning styles, guided reading, integrated learning packages, and views of culture all come under scrutiny.

There are also a number of articles on literacy:

- Joan Hobbs provides new information about the literacy levels of Maori and Samoan boys at age six;
- Judy Kirk describes her research project showing how progress for severely disabled readers in secondary school is related to their beliefs about their ability and the effectiveness of the strategies they use;
- Maureen Lewis et. al. reveal the findings of a small British study which used 'curiosity kits' to encourage boys to read.

Issue 2 will feature a number of case studies from low-decile schools. Their learning journeys show how they are using a combination of their own resources, external research, and curriculum assistance to improve the teaching, assessing, and reporting of literacy.

Issue 3 examines middle schools and their place in New Zealand education. Their advantages and disadvantages are discussed from a number of viewpoints.

We always appreciate feedback from readers. To let us know your views on the contents of *set* just fill in the reply paid 'Have Your Say' coupon which is attached in this issue and return it to NZCER. We also welcome suggestions for topics you would like to see included.

As always *set* 2001 will try to address issues which are relevant to New Zealand educators, and in the usual tradition, attempt to provide articles which offer practical ideas for the busy teacher.

Bev Webber
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NZCER