
Editorial

In this, the final of issue of *set* for 2007 we bring you a rich variety of articles that highlight both some key issues in education and the changing environment that we work in.

As this issue goes to press, the new national curriculum has recently been launched. To mark the significance of this we bring you an expanded “He Whakaaro Anō” section. There are three thought-provoking pieces that raise some possible implications for both students and teachers. Cheryl Doig uses a “tailoring” metaphor as she discusses the need to customise the curriculum to “fit” student needs and interests and to move away from a “one size fits all” approach. She sees the curriculum as a challenge for the future and puts forward two ways of meeting this challenge. We can either tinker with the new ideas or we can tailor them to meet our students’ specific needs. Tinkering is unlikely to meet the needs of a changing environment but how ready are we for the challenge of change?

Jennifer Garvey Berger takes up this theme of change when she says “... The new curriculum has the potential to change teachers’ relationships to their students, their content areas, and their teaching. She sees a need for teachers to “change their minds” as well as their practice. The development of new ways of thinking is generally overlooked in professional development programmes and yet this is what will be pivotal in implementing new ideas. The new curriculum document itself is clear about the different mindsets that teachers will need but Jennifer sounds a warning about the need to start where teachers are at.

This view is reiterated by Andy Begg “... implementing a new curriculum, like introducing a new topic in class, involves the change process, and just as a teacher starts where the students are, so a curriculum change agent must start where the teachers are”.

All three writers are agreed that this new curriculum offers teachers autonomy and the right to make decisions but that to be successful the right kind of support will need to be available.

While the writing about the new curriculum looks forward, Helen Moore’s article looks back at 100 years of the *New Zealand School Journal* and the ways in which the images have reflected New Zealand’s growth towards “New Zealandness”. This is fitting way to congratulate Learning Media and to mark a milestone in the life of the *School Journal*.

And we at *set* look forward to 2008 and the opportunity to continue to bring you the best in teacher-oriented research.

Bev Webber
Managing editor