

Membership



October 2019



Kia Ora,

Ko te tamaiti; he matauranga te kai, he taniwha te tangata

An educated child will one day rise to lead their people

We began 2019 as we mean to continue, with an *uncompromising commitment to excellence*. This does not mean we have to be heavy-handed or confrontational. What an uncompromising commitment to excellence requires is that we all, as boards and as an Association, undertake to do whatever it takes to ensure that our schools are giving our children, and our friends' and neighbours' children, the skills, knowledge, and experiences they need to succeed in life.

There is a song at the heart of every school. Each one is a song about hope and opportunity; about the joy of learning and growing and becoming better; about nourishing the treasure that our children and young people can and will be. The song can too often be drowned out by the noise of day-to-day school life. As trustees, we are the guardians of our school's heart song. It is our task to know the song in the heart of our school and to sing it back when others forget how it goes.

We do that by knowing why we are there and keeping focussed not just on how and when we do things, but why we do them, and whether we might do them better. The result is a firm, shared commitment to creating an excellent school, with staff who excel at the work they do, with students who excel at bringing all they can be, whether academically or ethically; physically, emotionally, or socially. However well we have done so far, we remind each other that there is always more we can do. When boards of trustees do this well, our schools thrive, and so do our students and the things they can achieve.

NZSTA is your Association. We do a lot of work in the sector that has definite benefits for students, parents and caregivers, principals and staff, other sector stakeholders – but the reason we exist is to provide support and leadership for our member boards. These other groups benefit from our activity because we work effectively for our membership, and education for all our students is after all why we are here – the teamwork, and we all know there is no 'I' in teamwork. Remember your school's "heart song" – this is who we are.

As your organisation, NZSTA has again been active in advocating for you, our member boards at national and local levels. We have continued to provide high-quality practical support

through our Trusteeship Advice and Service Centre as well as the hardworking governance and employment advisors in the field. At local level, we continue to strive for more active membership of our regional bodies, to challenge ourselves and each other, and to model a process of continuous improvement in our own activities. You will be hearing more from us on this throughout the coming year.

And in the engine-room of all this change is you: our members. Let me take this opportunity again to congratulate you on a difficult job well done since the Board of Trustee election in June 2019 and, to challenge you to help us – as NZSTA, as educators and parents, and as a society to raise our game in 2020.

The Government's Education review program and in particular the Tomorrow's Schools Review promises to be a mixed bag of challenges. We will continue to keep you informed.

I would like to again congratulate those who are new to their role this year. The next three years will be critical as you grapple with your role, your responsibilities, building relationships with the staff and the community- kia kaha 😊

More importantly, I would like to thank the many thousands of trustees who so unselfishly give time and energy to the trustee role and therefore their school our children our future. Whilst you may get very few thanks for your commitment to your school, not to mention being held accountable to the government and your community which of itself is a huge responsibility I would like to personally thank you all for supporting our schools in our mutual endeavours toward quality education.

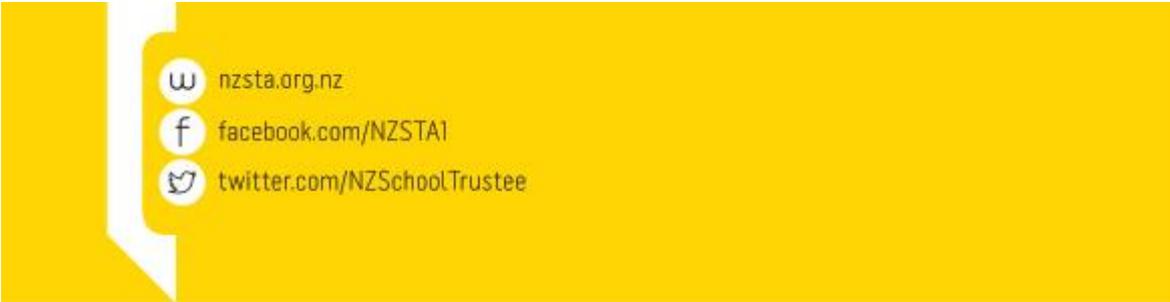
Moemoetia te moemoea, engari whakatinanahia
Dream the dream, but achieve it as well.

Nga mihi mahana kia koutou katoa

Na



Lorraine Kerr MNZM
President



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