

December | 2016

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM NZTC

As we wind down for 2016, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our alumni members for their continued support and involvement with New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC) and reflect on some of the highlights of this exciting and productive year.



NZTC Community Liaison Rebekah Clearwater wishes you a very Merry Christmas!

2016 has been a year in which a number of exciting initiatives were launched. NZTC began the year with two new postgraduate qualifications added to its portfolio – the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Leadership and Management) and a Master of Early Childhood Education. We celebrated our first graduate of the postgraduate certificate Zahra Herrmann in November who enjoyed the professional development opportunity to enhance her leadership skills.

In April, our treasured Māori language resource - *Te Reo Māori: He taonga mō ā tātou mokopuna* (He Taonga) was first shared with graduates at our graduation ceremonies in Auckland and Christchurch. 5000 copies of the book were then gifted to NZTC students, early childhood centres and members of our community throughout New Zealand.

NZTC hosted its 6th annual NZTC Symposium in August with international keynote speaker Luis Hernandez giving an engaging presentation on the five key ingredients of leadership. Alumni members were among the attendees interacting, discussing and reflecting on speaker's presentations throughout the day.

We revelled in celebrating our students achieving their qualifications with domestic graduation ceremonies in Auckland and Christchurch as well as an international ceremony in Mumbai, India for *NZTC India* students and beyond.

2017 is already promising to be another exciting year with NZTC celebrating its 35th anniversary of providing comprehensive and professional early childhood qualifications.

Guided by our values of *Vision, Heart, Competence* and *Spirit*, plans are in place to expand our suite of qualifications even further and we look forward to sharing these details with you in the new year.

The College will close down for a short break over the Christmas holiday period. The Auckland and Christchurch Campuses will close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 21 December 2016 and re-open on Monday 9 January 2017 in accordance with our usual operating hours.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our alumni members. Thank you for choosing to study with NZTC and for your continued involvement in our community.

The NZTC Team wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to continuing our early childhood conversations in 2017.

Kia ora,

The NZTC Team

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94% OF NZTC GRADUATES RECOMMEND STUDYING WITH US

New Zealand Tertiary College is committed to ensuring that our students and graduates voices are heard so we recently conducted a survey to gain a better understanding of the areas we are doing well in and the areas in which we can improve.



Above: Fiona Frew (left) with NZTC lecturer Tracey Genet
Below: Jyoti Dunlop (right) with Selena Fox

The College was humbled by the amazing responses received. One graduate commented, "To me, it's not as much about my qualification as it is about what I learnt during the course of my study - both about early childhood and myself, that counts. And if I could be half as good a teacher as NZTC has been, I think my students would be very lucky! This is what I aim for... To live and teach in the way I was taught during the three years I spent with the most nurturing and inspiring teachers and teachings with NZTC! Thank you!"

In appreciation for our respondents' time spent filling out the surveys, the College gave away an iPad to two lucky winners; one student and one graduate.

Master of Education (ECE) student Fiona Frew from Geraldine was gifted an iPad for her efforts. The mum of two and Associate Teacher has been very busy having completed a Diploma of Teaching (ECE), Bachelor of Teaching (ECE) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (ECE) before pursuing her master's.

Upon receiving her iPad Frew commented, "I was very grateful. I have been with NZTC for a long time and I have found them to

be very helpful and it is nice to be recognised and to know that your opinion is valued."

"We use iPads at the two centres I manage for educational purposes such as educational games, research and photos, so to get the best use out of this iPad I plan to use it in my centres."

Jyoti Dunlop was the other lucky winner, currently studying towards a Bachelor of Teaching (ECE).

"I was so excited to receive the news - it was the highlight of my day. I am going to gift it as a Christmas present to my 5 year old daughter to help her with her schooling. Her school uses a lot of maths and science apps which we will download so that she can continue learning at home."

Dunlop also shared how she has implemented her gifted copy of He Taonga into her everyday practice.

"It has been a wonderful resource. It has taught me how to pronounce a lot of the te reo Māori words and has made me realise how different te reo is to English, no wonder the Treaty was misunderstood," she said.

NZTC Chief Executive Selena Fox summarised the thoughts of the College in sharing, "Thank you to each and every student and graduate who took the time to offer valuable feedback, input and thoughtful suggestions. NZTC values and seeks student and graduate voices to ensure they are central to our NZTC professional review process, developments, our qualifications, and support services."

1089 students and graduates participated in the survey:

88%

OF GRADUATES FOUND THEIR PROGRAM OF STUDY MET
THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAREER INTENTIONS

87%

OF GRADUATES ARE CURRENTLY WORKING
IN A ROLE THAT UTILISES THEIR
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION QUALIFICATION

94%

OF GRADUATES FELT WORK READY UPON GRADUATING
FROM THEIR QUALIFICATION

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CELEBRATING OUR VERY FIRST POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION (LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT) GRADUATE



Zahra Herrmann

Postgraduate Certificate in Education
(Leadership and Management)

Why did you want to become an early childhood educator?

I have been fascinated by the art of teaching since the first day I went to school and I don't remember ever wanting to be anything else. My interest in ECE started when my eldest son was born. I wanted to be a good parent, give my child the best opportunities and help him to achieve his full potential.

What motivated you to further your education and undertake the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Leadership and Management)?

I have been a centre manager for many years and in a number of countries, but I realised that I had no formal training in leadership and management and certainly not specifically in an educational setting. I knew that I needed specific training in this area to help me do a better job.

How did the qualification help you grow as a leader?

I became more self-aware and understood my own leadership style better, and I am now able to recognise other styles. This clarification has helped me build better relationships with my team members.

What qualifications have you undertaken with NZTC and how have you found studying with the College?

I first did a Diploma of Teaching (ECE) and then upgraded to the Bachelor of Teaching (ECE) with NZTC. I work full-time, so the flexible hours work well for me. I find there is lots of support from NZTC for students like me who study online.

Have you had any major challenges while studying and how have you managed to overcome them?

I have been challenged by writing assignments at a postgraduate level. English is my second language and formal writing (any writing for that matter) is a bit of a challenge. I find it difficult to express my thoughts accurately in a different language, however, I was able to find programs which helped me with grammar, spelling and finding alternative words.

My other challenge was time. With full-time work, studying means making a serious commitment that takes its toll on the whole family. I worked on my time management and communicated my needs with both my employers and family.

What advice would you give others thinking about studying this specialist management and leadership postgraduate certificate?

The courses are informative and very interesting and the knowledge is useful even if you are not formally in a leadership role. I believe every teacher is a leader in their own area of strength and interest. If being a leader comes naturally to you then you can benefit from the information and self-awareness the qualification offers. Some of us are not natural born leaders and in that case the skills learnt in this qualification are absolutely necessary if you intend to teach early childhood education.



GRADUATES SHINE IN NATIONAL TEACHER AWARDS

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Most inspiring teacher finalist Robert Jensen

Finalist Robert Jensen graduated from the College with a Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood Education) in 2014. He has gone on to become an inspiring teacher at Tui Early Learners Young Investigators in Palmerston North.

"I strive to be an inspiring teacher so that I can draw out children's curiosity and wonder in their learning journey. Inspiring children to think, learn and understand the world around them helps us all to take part in nurturing the leaders, thinkers, and doers of the world of tomorrow," he said.

NZTC congratulates all of the finalists as we look forward to our 35th year in 2017, continuing to empower our students to become effective early childhood educators.

Celebrating the NZTC finalists:

Kimiora Daniel-Hoani

New Shoots Children's Centre – Waikato

Natasha Pinto

Castor Bay Infant Care Centre – Auckland

Fiona Frew

Karaka Learning Centre Temuka – Canterbury

Hayley Vinten

Kindercare Learning Centres (Aotea) – Wellington

Laura-Paige Henry

Little Waikato Scholars Prep School – Waikato

Olivia Brook

New Beginnings Pre-School – Canterbury

Robert Jensen

Tui Early Learners Young Investigators – Manawatu–Wanganui

The New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC) values of *Vision, Heart, Competence and Spirit* have been shared by our graduates beyond the College walls.

Seven NZTC graduates have been recognised as finalists in the early childhood division of the 2016 Most Inspiring Teacher Awards.

Nominations were judged on the qualities of enthusiasm, creativity, dedication and drive.

NZTC Chief Executive Selena Fox commented, "We have always known that our graduates inspire our youngest generation of learners but it is great for these graduates to gain recognition for it, and we are incredibly proud of them."

INSPIRATION CORNER

The Christmas *Spirit* is alive and well at New Zealand Tertiary College. Our tree is looking stunning with homemade decorations celebrating our 35th anniversary, and the presents are piling in for our staff secret Santa, but there's no denying that this is a busy time of year and we thought you might need some inspiration to get you through to 25 December.

**"Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store.
What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"**

- Dr. Seuss

**"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern,
is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do
we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"**

- Bob Hope

**"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: The
presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other."**

- Burton Hillis

"Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling."

- Edna Ferber

**"The sun looks down on nothing half so good as a
household laughing together over a meal"**

- C.S. Lewis