

Canterbury Regional News

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Kia ora,

As 2015 draws to a close, I would like to offer my thanks to you all, for all that you have done throughout the year and for your contribution to education for all children and young people in Canterbury.

The highlights and successes, of which there have been plenty for 2015, would not have been possible without every one of you. It is your commitment and care that makes our region a great one. It is an honour to work alongside you all and I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved this year.

The children and young people are most fortunate to have you working on their behalf. Great things are happening because of the work of persistent and dedicated people like you. Working together, learning and supporting each other is the key for success and I thank you for that. I am grateful to work with you all; people who care about children and want to invest their time, energy and careers in making their dreams and aspirations a reality.

I hope that you find the time to enjoy the festive season, have a very relaxing break with family and friends and may it be a time of forming many more happy memories for you. So, once again, thank you and I wish you all a wonderful end of year and a very happy New Year.

The Ministry will be shut from close-of-business on Thursday 24 December 2015, with Ministry offices re-opening 8am, Tuesday 5 January 2016.

Ma te wa,

Coralanne Child

Director of Education for Canterbury



Creating an education network that inspires children to reach their full potential.

Whakatau for new taonga Toitū te Ao

About 50 guests attended an emotional mihi whakatau and blessing for a carved taonga (treasure) that was flown back from Wellington to take its place at the Ministry of Education office in Christchurch. Ministry staff along with staff from Chisnallwood Intermediate School, their kapa haka students, Gavin Britt (carver), Rev Sandy Kaa and Ian McKinnon the Chair of the UNESCO NZ National Commission had the privilege to welcome the Toitū te Ao (A Sustainable World) carving back to the region.

It was gifted to the Ministry of Education and UNESCO for the length of the decade for Education for Sustainable Development 2005 - 2015. It is very special to have the privilege of holding onto this wonderfully carved taonga at our office.

To be able to share this occasion with Gavin Britt who worked with students from Chisnallwood Intermediate School to create the carving was an emotional experience.



The carving was created as a visual metaphor representing a Māori view of Education for Sustainability. It embodies a range of effective teaching and learning approaches, concepts and strategies that promote a change in thinking and develop students' and teachers' action competence for sustainability.

Toitū te Ao was made using a variety of sustainable material and taonga species (indigenous natural resources) to highlight the importance of Māori being able to access and use natural resources in order to continue traditional cultural practices.

Toitū te Ao was designed by Raukura Gillies for the National Education for Sustainability Team as part of the development of a series of resources to support teacher professional development.

Mō tātou te Taiao ko te Atawhai

Mō tātou te taiao ko te Oranga

If is for us to care for and look after the environment to ensure its wellbeing

In doing so we ensure our own wellbeing and that of our future generations



Building a new and better future for education and for the community

Canterbury Education Sector Expo

The aim of the recent Canterbury Education Sector Expo, was to provide an opportunity for principals and board chairs to come together to discuss support and resources available to them from the Ministry of Education and support agencies as well as a chance to celebrate our educational successes.

Canterbury has seen some difficult and challenging times in education and events have meant that we needed to take the time to imagine and innovate. We began to imagine what could happen, there were some who doubted and claimed such things could not be done. The goal too ambitious, too difficult with our demographics, too costly! But because of imagination, determination, and belief in our abilities, our education services and our students, we are making amazing strides.



Finding the right way to include education on such a long and complex renewal and reconstruction agenda is often not easy and the expo provided an opportunity where we could explore a range of education possibilities for Canterbury.

Each time the sector comes together Coralanne Child, Director of Education for Canterbury is reminded of a quote by Nelson Mandela that emphasizes the importance of our collective work; “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Exhibitors included Ministry teams from ECE, Property, Education Renewal, Youth Guarantee and Special Education. New Zealand Police, Work and Income New Zealand, NZSTA and ERO also exhibited and there was information regarding the region’s demographics and education profile. Education managers, school and early childhood senior advisors, advisors and property delivery managers were also available to provide advice and support. Again we have demonstrated that as a sector we continue to work together to provide the best possible future for our young people.