

Tui Tuia

Newsletter of Literacy Aotearoa

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Kia ora koutou e ngā tauira, ngā pouako, ngā kaiarahi katoa, tēnā koutou katoa. Greetings to you all.

We hope that all attendees of the recent Literacy Aotearoa National Planning Hui found food for thought from the various guest speakers and many workshops that focussed on *Te Ao Hurihuri, Changing Lives, Changing Worlds*. This issue of *Tui Tuia* highlights recently released research on young adults' literacy, and a guide for practitioners to reflect on and in their practice. Ngā Poupou news comes from Wairarapa, Waikato, the North Shore and Porirua, with examples of how lives and worlds are being changed through various literacy and numeracy learning opportunities.

ALLS Reports: Literacy skills of young adult New Zealanders & Factors linked to young adult literacy

Two new reports, using data from the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey 2006, look at the differences in literacy skills for people aged 16 to 24, and 25 to 65.

Literacy skills of young adult New Zealanders

For people aged 16 to 24, literacy scores increased as the number of hours of home computer use increased. Computer use for playing games or online chat made no difference to literacy. Literacy scores were related to computer use for written language-related activities, e.g. writing, editing, email, and these were predominant uses of home computers. These are new findings.

For people aged 16 to 24, there was no difference in English literacy between those born in New Zealand or overseas, or those with or without English as a first language. By way of contrast, these factors made a huge difference for people aged 25 to 65.

Findings relating to other characteristics were in line with previous research on literacy and on educational achievement. One such finding was that people who watched television or videos for five or more hours per day had lower literacy on average. Another was that those who never used a library had lower literacy than those who used a library even infrequently.

Factors linked to young adult literacy

Statistical modelling indicated that the factors most strongly associated with document literacy skills for people aged 16 to 24 were:

- the language (English or other language) spoken most often at home
- ethnic identification (among those who spoke English most often at home)
- participation and achievement in formal education
- home computer use
- library use.

And for those aged 25 to 65:

- First language learned, and language spoken most often at home
- Ethnic identification (among those who speak English most often at home)
- Age and gender
- Level of completed formal education
- Work computer use
- Home computer use
- Number of books in the home

These reports are on the Education Counts website via the following links:

- [Literacy skills of young adult New Zealanders](#)
- [Factors linked to young adult literacy.](#)





Literacy Wairarapa – Read with a child

From Roy Farman, Literacy Wairarapa

This project was started 18 months ago partly from the idea of the 'travelling books' and partly from the fact that many of our learners grew up in homes where books were scarce. We realised in the Wairarapa that many of our children do not have access to children's books and so the project began.

Many of the local primary schools have adults who help with their reading programmes and it is these children who often come from homes where there are no books, their carers do not read to them, and in some cases, are unable to read to them.

The project was called 'Read with a Child' to encourage people to read to children. Advertising for used books was carried out by the local media and on various notice boards as well as through local service clubs. Masterton South Rotary club gave us \$500 for new books, a local book seller gave very generous discounts, and the local branch of the Heart Foundation (who have an annual book sale), allowed us to have children's books from their huge stock pile.

The response from the public has been excellent with boxes of books being dropped in to Literacy Wairarapa.

The books are checked for suitability and then re-distributed to pre-school and school-aged children. Books for older children are passed on to the Heart Foundation for their book sale.



A label affixed to each book tells of the project and offers literacy help to adults. The books are then given to welfare agencies such as Child, Youth and Family, Whaiaora, the Women's Refuge, Supporting Families - and many more are left in doctors' waiting rooms to be enjoyed and for people to take home.

By the end of May 2011, about 2,700 books had been re-homed and this is on-going. Literacy Wairarapa feels this is a very worthwhile project, as do the various welfare agencies involved in the project.

In this day and age where everything is dominated by cost, this project costs nothing except for a little bit of work and organisation.

Recently National Families Day was celebrated in Masterton and we participated by providing a warm, cosy space to sit on bean bags and 'Read with a Child'. We gave away 100 books to families and the joy of seeing children setting off with books firmly placed under their arms, was wonderful.



Literacy Waikato – 'Picture this' on the radio

Literacy Waikato enrolled a large number of new learners in Term 2. To a large extent this was due to the radio advertising sponsored by Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC). Literacy Waikato Coordinator Louise Gaastra says they are very grateful to PwC and to other community organisations and businesses that support Te Poupou.

The ads give a 'picture this' scenario, e.g. "Sophie a 28 year old mum of three, wants to return to work..."

Louise provides the background to the radio advertising:

Pricewaterhouse Coopers wanted to extend their community input and decided to sponsor radio advertising for 10 community groups that they felt were not particularly high profile. Someone in their organisation had heard of us and so we were lucky enough to be chosen.

The procedure was very easy and the radio station listened to us and put together ads that we felt really caught the essence of what we do.

We ran a number of ads directed at males/females and tutors. The ads for volunteer tutors were especially effective. We have a long waiting list of interested tutors.

The ads ran in February and in April. After the February campaign we were a little disappointed in that we had only a few responses. After the second run though we had more and some of them said they had heard it months ago and it wasn't till the second time that they decided to do something about it. It was great!

To listen to the ads go to: <http://www.literacy.org.nz/news-releases.php#apr-june11>



Literacy North Shore – Louise gives back to a community in need

From the Pipiri (June) issue of the Literacy North Shore newsletter. literacyns@xtra.co.nz

When Louise joined Literacy North Shore a few years ago, she was shy and afraid to talk, read or write for fear that people would laugh at her. But her literacy journey has been transformational. It has given her the confidence to set goals and work towards achieving them.

One of her dreams was to follow in her parents' footsteps to become a North Shore Māori Warden. Having already completed two units of study and with only one to go, Louise has successfully achieved her goal and wears her uniform with pride.



Following the devastating February earthquake, Louise was part of a group of wardens who travelled to Christchurch to offer support, distribute food parcels, water and clothing to those most affected and traumatised by the event. "The days were long and stressful but we accomplished a lot," recalls Louise. "Many people hadn't seen anybody for over a week when we went to their houses; they were so pleased to see us and talk to us. You had to be there to see how bad things were."

This was Louise's first trip to Christchurch, the South Island and her first flying experience!

Although it was a very stressful time, Louise made many new friends while she was there and she is hoping to return for Christmas this year! We are very proud of your achievements Louise, and we hope you will soon be able to fulfil your next dream of being employed as a nanny.

Kia kaha!

To read more newsletters from Ngā Poupou go to:
<http://www.literacy.org.nz/links.php#PoupouWebsites>



Changing faces and places at Ngā Poupou

The theme of the recent Literacy Aotearoa National Planning Hui was *Te Ao Hurihuri, Changing Lives, Changing Worlds*.

Recent changes for our Poupou include building renovations at Read Write Plus (Upper Hutt), farewells to retiring tutors and governance committee members at a number of Poupou and welcoming new managers, tutors and governance committee members from some others ...

New Poupou managers include Rene Babbington at Te Whare Whai Mātauranga in Wairoa, Dee Gulliver at Literacy Waiheke and Helen Jansen at Literacy North Otago. Dharmesh Parikh is the new Workplace Coordinator at Waitakere Adult Literacy. Welcome to you all.

Welcome also to the new tutors and trainee tutors throughout the country who are working towards their CALT or NCALE.



Literacy Aotearoa Porirua – Learning resources found on the web

Interesting Internet Sites:

- Have a look at www.tarheelreader.org .
This is a US site that has got thousands of short online stories covering all sorts of topics for lower level students. As anyone can upload a story, it is a good idea to read them yourself first to check that they are suitable, but the choice is huge.
- An amazing site is www.khanacademy.org .
This is another US site that has got hundreds of videos to watch, mainly on all aspects of maths and the sciences, including ideas for teaching concepts at all levels.

(The Khan Academy also features on TED:

<http://blog.ted.com/2011/03/09/lets-use-video-to-reinvent-education-salman-khan-on-ted-com/>)

A Tertiary Practitioner's Guide to Collecting Evidence of Learner Benefit

<http://ako.aotearoa.ac.nz>

At the recent Literacy Aotearoa National Planning Hui, Dr Peter Coolbear (Director, Ako Aotearoa)

spoke about aspiring to excellence in adult teaching and learning. He asked hui delegates to reflect on how learning is measured and what methods are used to identify effective teaching practice. 'What evidence do you have that learning has taken place?' and, 'How do you know?'

The publication 'A Tertiary Practitioners Guide to Collecting Evidence of Learner Benefit' (by Ako Aotearoa) can assist tutors as they consider and reflect on their practice and record keeping to become more effective in their teaching.

In the Preface, Dr Peter Coolbear asks:

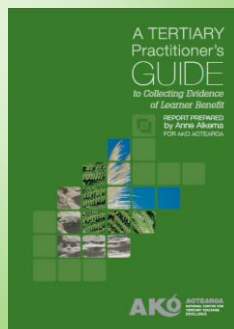
How do we know what is effective practice?

How do we test our assumptions about what is working for our learners and what is not?

On the surface this is an obvious and fundamental question, but across the sector we have been surprised at the relatively small number of practitioners who systematically gather and use evidence of how learners do or do not benefit from different approaches to teaching.

To read the Guide, go to:

<http://ako.aotearoa.ac.nz/collecting-evidence>



Upcoming Events 2011

Here turi kōkā (August)

Travelling Books Launch

sponsored by New Zealand Post

8 Here turi kōkā (August) 2011

More info coming soon...

Mahuru (September)

International Literacy Day 2011

8 Mahuru (September) 2011

Whiringa ā nuku (October)

Adult Learners' Week –

He Tangata Mātauranga 2011

31 Whiringa ā nuku (October) –

6 Whiringa ā rangi (November) 2011

<http://www.aceaotearoa.org.nz/events/adult-learners-week>

Hakihea (December)

International Volunteer Day

5 Hakihea (December) 2011

AUT: Masters in Adult Literacy and Numeracy Education - 2012

Maori (Adult) Literacy Historic and Contemporary Perspectives

This online paper developed and to be delivered by Literacy Aotearoa will commence in Semester One, 2012.

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