

Tui Tuia

Newsletter of Literacy Aotearoa

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Ngā mihi mahana... greetings to you all. Literacy Aotearoa recently welcomed Her Royal Highness Nanasipau'u the Queen of Tonga to the national office of Literacy Aotearoa. The kaupapa of the visit was to highlight programmes and services that support and strengthen whānau and communities, thereby reducing family violence. The Queen's visit was co-hosted together with *Transitioning Out Aotearoa* (a trust delivering social services to South Auckland communities) and *South Auckland Family Violence Prevention Network (SAFVPN)*. Guests included the Tongan Minister of Education Dr Ana Taufe'ulungaki, the Minister of Māori Affairs, Dr Pita Sharples and other Pacific leaders of community groups based in Auckland. After the formal speeches Her Royal Highness spent time mingling with those who attended.

See below for an abridged version of the speech given by Te Tumuaki, Bronwyn Yates.

Te Tumuaki, Bronwyn Yates addresses Her Royal Highness Nanasipau'u the Queen of Tonga and gathered guests (abridged)

In New Zealand there are **over 1 million adults who experience difficulties with literacy and numeracy**. Our programmes enable people to identify the specific learning goals that will assist them to become more literate and numerate. People come for a number of reasons including to complete their qualifications, to assist their children with their schoolwork, to get their Driver's Licence, to improve their English language skills as speakers of other languages, and sometimes without a specific purpose, but rather **a desire to address what they couldn't achieve at school** and so to read better, to write better, and to get more confident and skilled with maths.

Sometimes people come because they know they need to find better ways to express themselves orally. We know of students, who caught in the frustrated state of being unable to say what they want to say, who have their kōrero misunderstood, or ignored, resort to shouting, verbal abuse and ultimately physical abuse. We hear of the joy and the tears shed by men and

women, and their families when they discover the techniques of effective communication, when they realise that their issues of verbal and physical abuse can be resolved by a series of interventions, including literacy tuition.

Improving literacy and numeracy skills is an effective pathway to achieving wellbeing. This tapa is one representation of this.



In 2002, one of our local providers, including one of their Tongan tutors, began work with a group of Tongan women who wanted to improve their English language skills and get their Driver's Licence.

They knew that improving their literacy and language could change their lives. The women were very quiet in the beginning, and over the...

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...following weeks, they became more confident, and began to participate in different activities organised by a local women's group. While they were improving their literacy and language, their children attended a local playgroup and language nest. Those of their men that were not working, sat under a nearby tree doing things that weren't the most useful things to do; over a period, the women sat and **passed their Driver's Licence, got actively involved in a tailor-making service, participated in the playgroup and school activities, supported their children with their learning**, and started to ask how they could encourage their men to improve their literacy and language skills.

They started an 8-ball programme, and over time integrated literacy and numeracy into the programme by organising events around the 8-ball games. The men began to look at literacy skills for the workplace, and language skills that would assist in interviews.

Things started to change, and as a thank you, the women presented us with this tapa. Some of the women became literacy tutors too.

And so the opportunity to celebrate our communities' efforts to change lives can be found in a host of activities, and I close by acknowledging the many community leaders who are here today, who contribute so very much to building New Zealand, Aotearoa, with heart, with aroha, with passion and commitment, with or without money and always with respect.



Reaching more learners – literacy in groups

In 2012, almost 1000 tutors from Literacy Aotearoa Poupuu (member providers) provided literacy and/or numeracy assistance to more than 8000 learners throughout the country. These adult literacy services have largely been delivered face-to-face in one-to-one and small group settings. While effective in meeting the needs of learners, this method of delivery is limited in its capacity to assist the 1.1 million adult New Zealanders with low literacy and numeracy skills*.

Literacy Aotearoa is developing a Growth Strategy to identify how we as a national organisation can contribute to reaching more adults throughout Aotearoa who wish to improve their literacy, language and numeracy (LLN) skills. Online learning delivery is an obvious response, through smartphones, google+, facebook, skype, webinars or podcasts and other media, and Te Kōruru (Literacy Aotearoa Governing Body) and the national office management team are investigating how this goal of reaching more students through online media can best be achieved.

In the meantime it is business as usual for Ngā Poupuu. Research shows that small group learning provision is an efficient way to meet the needs of more learners from the local community, given funding constraints.

Small group learning fits well with the Literacy Aotearoa Kaupapa of *ako* (sometimes teacher, sometimes learner), and provides a powerful learning environment. In most instances the tutor does not know what it is like to struggle with literacy and numeracy, while other learners genuinely share in the day-to-day challenges that are faced. The group offers opportunity for learners to share their knowledge and show what they know, as well as strategies they have used to deal with difficult situations and solutions found. In some instances group learning provides the opportunity for a new peer network. Groups offer more opportunity to develop critical thinking, due to the inevitable range of opinions. Difference is part of society, and exposure to difference in a supportive environment can lead to acceptance of others, while maintaining a personal and possibly opposing view.

Group learning strategies will be on the agenda for Ngā Poupuu at Literacy Aotearoa hui this year. Look out for the next issue of Tui Tuia, where Literacy Taupō will share the success of their whānau-based literacy programme.

Refer to [Tui Tuia](#), Issues 3, 4 and 11 from 2012; and Issue 1 from 2013 for a range of group learning successes throughout the country.

* [pg 6, Literacy and Numeracy Implementation Strategy, TEC](#)

Twitter – what is it and how does it work?

Twitter was set up as a way of sending SMS (text) type messages to groups of people.

It's sometimes termed *micro blogging*, as the length of message is limited to 140 characters and allows people to send a *tweet* quickly about what they're up to, whereas a *blog* takes time to compose, compile and review.

Twitter has its own vocabulary. Find out about tweets, hashtags, how to retweet, and what it means when something is trending.

Here are some numbers relating to *twitter*.

A review of 2000 tweets showed:

- 41% pointless babble
- 38% conversational
- 9% pass along value
- 6% self promotion
- 4% spam
- 4% news
- More than 106M users
- 300K new users every day
- 55M tweets sent a day = 640/second



Find out more about *twitter*:

<http://infostocksy.wordpress.com/twitter-whats-it-all-about/>



A blog about twitter

Ann Walker is the WEA Director for Education. Her *blog* gives [20 reasons to use twitter in adult learning](#), where the focus is not on 'pointless babble'.

Which leads to the next question... What is a blog?

(With thanks to Google...)

In simple terms, a blog is a website, where you write stuff on an ongoing basis. New stuff shows up at the top, so your visitors can read what's new. Then they comment on it, or link to it, or email you. Or not.

A blog is a personal diary. A collaborative space. A political soapbox. A breaking-news outlet. A collection of links. Your own private thoughts. There are millions of blogs, in all shapes and sizes, and there are no real rules.

See '[Blogger](#)' for more information.

https://www.blogger.com/tour_start.g

Making choices: Financial Literacy

A resource tip from 'Literacy Works'



MoneyPACIFIC is a website that offers free, independent guidance so that you can make the best choices with your money.

"We are not selling you any products or services. This website is full of smart tips, amazing stories and some great tools to get you going – at any stage of life."

<http://www.moneypacific.org/>

The tab 'Success stories' may be of interest to learners and may lead to group discussion and inspire writing.

SendMoneyPacific

Send Money Pacific is an independent website that provides information and costs for transferring money from 20+ providers, so you can compare and get the best deal.

This website offers opportunity to discuss many aspects of financial literacy and to gain a better understanding of reading tables, understanding abbreviations and icons.

SendMoneyPacific is **not** a money transfer service. It is a website that allows you to compare the costs for free.

<http://www.sendmoneypacific.org/>

Professional Development Opportunities

NCLANA 2013 PD Workshops

From the NCLANA (National Centre for Literacy and Numeracy for Adults) website:

"Our professional development theme this year is for 'Enquiry, Experimentation and Creativity'. In alignment with the theme, our professional development programme is designed to provide high quality professional learning opportunities to develop the capability of organisations, educators and managers."

<https://www.literacyandnumeracyforadults.com/resources/356617>

Ideas that work (Australia)

A resource tip from the Literacy Portal:

What Works is an online library of free video segments of 2-6 minutes duration, for use in Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) training and assessment. These videos cover a range of topics including who needs LLN support, identifying a learner's LLN skills and identifying workplace LLN demands. Titles include:

- Why is LLN so important?
- What has LLN got to do with my role as a trainer and assessor?
- Who needs support with LLN skills?
- What are the LLN skills?
- How do I know what LLN skills are required on the job?
- How do I identify my learners' LLN skills?
- What are the LLN demands of the training environment?
- When is specialist LLN support needed?

More info: <http://www.ideasthatwork.com.au/lln>



2013 Calendar of Events

Paenga whāwhā (April)

🌐 Ngā Poupou Managers' Hui & PD Day 2 & 3-4/04/13

Haratua (May)

🌐 Te Heke Tuarua/Region Two, Whanganui Learning Centre, (Whanganui) 9-11/05/13

🌐 Te Heke Tuatoru/Region Three, Southern Adult Literacy (Invercargill) 16-18/05/13

Adult Literacy Practitioners Association ALPA, Wellington 23-25/05/13 [more...](#)

English Language Partners New Zealand, tbc.

🌐 Te Heke Tuatahi/ Region One, He Waka Matauranga (Papatoetoe, Auckland) 28-30/05/13

Pipiri (June)

ACE Conference, Confident Communities Hāpori Tū Rangatira 18-20/06/13 [more...](#)

National Centre for Literacy and Numeracy for Adults Symposium, The University of Waikato, Kirikiriroa (Hamilton) 27-28/06/13 [more...](#)

Mahuru (September)

Adult Learners' Week - He Tangata Mātauranga 2-8/09/13

🌐 Travelling Books Launch, Government House, Auckland 3/09/13

International Literacy Day Sunday 8/09/13



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