



Emerging Researchers SIG

Writing retreat 2014

Louise started this SIG and I joined her in preparations for offering a giftEDnz funded 3 day writing retreat in 2014. The intention was to encourage post-graduate members of giftEDnz to attend *Ignited* conference and to then submit an article to APEX. We invited Expressions of Interest and specified that applicants needed to have a piece of writing in progress (approximately 2000 words), which could be developed into an article for publication.

There was significant interest in the writing retreat and the EOIs gave Louise and I a problem as they were all deserving of development - yet we could only choose four, being limited by budget. Sharon Mansfield, (Massey University); Mel Wong (Canterbury University); Eunice Price, (University of Auckland) and Emma Scobie-Jennings (Massey University) were the successful applicants. Louise, Tracy and I all attended as mentors. Louise had offered her bach at Hanmer Springs - which was a wonderful setting; the only difficulty being that all, except Louise, had to travel. We had expected a geographic spread of applicants, but the interest this time came from Auckland/Northland.

Getting away from the pressures of every-day life gave us all the opportunity to focus on writing. The mentees found the conversations and written feedback with mentors provided the impetus needed to advance their writing. The three mentors also found the retreat inspirational, as the enthusiasm and skills of the emerging researchers impacted and gave us a professional boost. The articles were duly submitted to APEX and all are 'in press'. Job done!

Future Plans

After a meeting at *Ignited* conference, the group grew and a Facebook page has been set up specifically for members of giftEDnz who are Emerging Researchers. It is proving to be a supportive network with members exchanging information and even making plans to meet up at conferences. Contact Mel Wong for details of how to join this group: melanie.wong@pg.canterbury.ac.nz. We encourage our emerging researchers to publish their research on gifted; it is hoped that the writing retreat will be an on-going feature of this SIG. Louise and I invite you to make contact.

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