



Chairperson's Report Annual General Meeting 2015

It is my pleasure to be in Auckland this AGM as we reflect upon the work of giftEDnz over the last six years and begin looking forward to the future. Thank you to Janna Wardman and the University of Auckland for providing our venue and organizing the hospitality.

This report highlights the work undertaken by the Board since our last Annual General Meeting. I am happy to take any questions from the floor at the meeting.

Governance

This year has been a great year for the Board, especially given the contributions of our newest Board members: Andi Deluane as Secretary; Janna Wardman as Treasurer; and Sunny Bush who graciously organised not only our 2014 AGM event in Gisborne but also our national conference in Nelson! While I appreciate the contributions of all the Board members, I must acknowledge these three important roles and the development work that has gone into these roles during this past year. With new processes and procedures developed and put into place, especially around finances and secretarial matters, the organisation is in a very sound position.

Today also sees the end of terms of office for several members of the Board, including myself as Chairperson. It has been an honour and privilege to work in the position of inaugural Chair for the last six years. I have had the joy of engaging with a range of professionals in gifted and talented education and today want to thank those Board members who are stepping down or changing roles:

- Louise Tapper has had a critical role in giftEDnz since its inception at the Rising Tides conference back in 2006. Louise worked with the Steering Committee, which was funded by the Todd Foundation based on an application she assisted develop with members of the Ministry of Education Advisory Group on Gifted and Talented. Louise was elected in 2009 as an Inaugural Board member, serving as Deputy Chair from 2009-2012. Louise is now finishing her second term as a Board member and she has made substantial contributions through her leadership of our 2012 conference, the Speakers Bureau and the Emerging Researchers Special Interest Group.

It is fitting that Louise now take up the mantle of leading giftEDnz as Chairperson and I strongly support her nomination for this role. As we move into the future, Louise is the most likely member to assist us in analyzing the original goals and purposes of the organisation and how those may shift and change, like 'the tides.'

- Sue Breen is also completing her second term of office as an elected member. Sue has made a major contribution to the Early Years Special Interest Group, but also to our conferences and events over the last six years.
- Anna Meuli is finishing her term as an elected Board member. Anna has made contributions to several aspects of our work, but particularly to the development of the Speakers Bureau and conferences and events.
- Sue Barriball was co-opted onto the Board in 2012 to serve as the editor of our electronic newsletter, *giftEDnewz*. Sue not only served as an excellent editor, bringing fresh ideas and greater organisation to our newsletter, but she also helped with the development of our 2014 position paper on gifted students as priority learners.
- Mary St George was co-opted in 2012 to take on responsibilities related to our online presence, particularly the website. Mary has led the way for our organisation and others participating in the Gifted Awareness Week Blog Tour, not only raising awareness but engaging a range of people in thought-provoking discussion and debate.

At this AGM, we welcome our two new giftEDnewz editors, Emma Scobie-Jennings and Eunice Price. I can't wait to see how these two enthusiastic, energetic and knowledgeable professionals reshape our newsletter!

I am also delighted by the seven nominations for the three Board positions. The calibre of the nominees is outstanding and provides gifted education with fresh ideas and new perspectives. My greatest thanks to the nominees, Jo Dean, Vanessa White, Mel Wong, Sharon Mansfield, Brooke Trenwith, Nadine Ballam and Lynda Garrett – and congratulations to those who have been elected!

Membership

Currently giftEDnz has 160 financial members:

- 48 schools/institutions with 112 members in total
- 41 individual members
- 7 student members

This is a decrease in membership by 13%, and one the Board will no doubt be working hard to resurrect. Please do encourage your colleagues to join our association by completing a membership application on our webpage:

www.giftednz.org.nz/membership.

Membership renewals for 2014/2015 will be sent out in May.

Strategic Planning and Development

The Board priorities for 2014 were:

- *Strengthening our regional presence* was achieved through the 2014 AGM, Working Together, co-hosted with Tairāwhiti REAP, and the Ignited Conference, co-hosted with Nelson's Ministry of Inspiration.
- *Maintaining and establishing Special Interest Groups* was achieved with the development of an Emerging Researchers Special Interest Group and funding support for the Twice-Exceptional Special Interest Group to present at our national conference, Ignited.
- *Supporting Gifted Awareness Week* was accomplished through our work with the NZ Association for Gifted Children and NZ Centre for Gifted Education to host political panel discussions in Wellington and Auckland, as well as a special issue of our newsletter, blogging in the blog tour, the release of a Position Paper on gifted students as priority learners, and letter writing campaign.
- *Facilitating face-to-face networking opportunities* was achieved through our conference, AGM events, writing retreat for Emerging Researchers, conference funding for members to present their work, Speakers Bureau, and Board meetings.
- *Promoting and supporting quality professional learning and development* has been supported through our own conferences and events, but also newsletter and website publicity for national and regional events (e.g., the upcoming Columbus Group symposium hosted by REACH Education).

Funding has been provided for the following events:

- Hamilton Girls hosted an event in 2014 with Ann Easter as the presenter.
- Marlborough Boys' College will host an event in 2015 with Susan Hassall as the presenter.
- CenGATE will host an event in 2015 with Rosemary Cathcart as the presenter.
- Taranaki Gifted Community Trust will host an event in June 2015 at which I will be the presenter.

Members can apply for the Speakers Bureau online [here](#).

We currently have four active Special Interest Groups: Twice-Exceptional, Maori , Early Years and Emerging Researchers. While each of these groups brings together small numbers of professionals, their work is far reaching and growing through the publications, presentations and other resources they continue to share and develop. We are always keen to see other groups develop and have allocated funding for these groups, as well as any others that our members design. (Members can apply for funding online [here.](#))

Another way we have been supporting our members is through providing small grants for attendance at conferences as presenters. This past year the Board was pleased to support these member presenters:

- Eunice Price – *Meet, Prey, Like* will be presented at the Australian Association for Gifted Children conference later this month.
- Louise Tapper - *'To reach your potential' - should that really be the question for gifted and talented learners?* at the NZARE/AARE conference in 2014.

If you are keen to apply to be a presenter at a conference, please go [here.](#)

Professor Roger Moltzen was presented the Te Mana Kotuku award in recognition of his outstanding service to gifted education at the Ignited conference in November last year. The conference was a successful event, with exciting keynote speakers, Prof June Maker and Two Bit Circus. My sincere thanks to Sunny Bush and Lynda Garrett for their sterling leadership on the conference committee! I am looking forward to the next issue of APEX which will be a conference edition and I thank Kate Niederer and Lynda Garrett for their work on this publication.

Looking Ahead

As I prepared this report, I reviewed the strategic plan and was astounded by the progress the association continues to make, but I also realize that there is much more work to be done in gifted and talented education. I hope that the discussions initiated last year with the New Zealand Association for Gifted Children will continue, as one way of increasing the likelihood that both of our volunteer organisations will continue to be viable and sustainable. I believe that the goals we share can be better met through a balanced approach to providing for the needs of gifted learners, their parents and families, and the professionals who work with both. By working together, we can combine our strengths, and actually further develop and enhance these.

I am confident that the work of giftEDnz continues to make a difference to gifted and talented learners in New Zealand. But our association goals cannot be achieved without the hard work, volunteer hours, and sheer commitment to the common good that is required to turn visions into realities. It will be through the efforts of all of us, working together, that we will achieve great things for gifted and talented learners and the professionals who support them. *We need you, you need us!*

As this is my final report as the Chairperson of giftEDnz, I want to thank my fellow past and current Board members, for your ongoing support of me in what has sometimes been a very challenging, yet exciting, role. It has been a privilege and honour to serve as the inaugural Chairperson, and I look forward to continuing to work with giftEDnz over many years to come.



Tracy Riley, Chairperson
14 March 2015