



# ISNZ Newsletter

Confidential to ISNZ Member Schools

April 2009, Issue 2

## Conference May 2009 - Register now!!

### ISNZ Member Schools and the Economic Climate – Getting it into Perspective

Despite the media comments over recent months and their somewhat sensationalist newspaper headlines about the financial demise of all private schools, ISNZ has been made aware of only two member schools which have formally written to the Minister of Education expressing an interest in pursuing the integration application process. That is not to say there are not others, but ISNZ is aware of only two. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, our overall roll figures are sitting at about the same as this time last year. ISNZ will be in a better position to provide accurate trends in enrolments and roll growth once we are in receipt of all statistics returns from member schools. However, it would be fair to say that many member schools can expect to see an effect on their rolls in 2010 and 2011. Many of our schools have provided parents with a range of payment options to assist them in meeting the tuition fees and thus enabling them to keep their children at the school of their choice.

History is on our side. Despite some seemingly discriminatory conditions towards independent schools, despite our funding support being at the whim of the government of the day, our schools have endured, they have maintained their positional strength, and there continues to be a demand for the services that independent schools offer.

In a time of economic uncertainty, a time when parents realise, more than ever, the value and the need of a good education, one that will provide their children with the skills to thrive in the good times and the bad, independent schools are well placed to meet the demands of a strong customer-based service. Our survival has depended on our customer service.

In promoting our schools to your school family and the wider community, it is important that you inform people of the contribution the independent school sector makes to the education system in New Zealand. It should be emphasised that independent schools in this country have a proven track record, that they promote choice, diversity and innovation, that they give parents the basic right to choose the education that best suits the needs of their children, and that the existence of choice in education prevents New Zealand from taking a backward step towards a state-controlled monopoly education system, one that would serve only to produce mediocrity and that would strip this nation of its ability to educate and produce exceptional young New Zealanders who will go on to rightfully take their place on the world stage as outstanding leaders.

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### Government

In February this year we were informed by the Minister of Education, Hon Anne Tolley, that she had formed delegation groups and that the private schools portfolio will be held by Hon Heather Roy, Associate Minister of Education (and Deputy Leader of ACT). My initial reaction to this was one of disquiet, given that the Hon Heather Roy is a Minister that sits outside of Cabinet. I initially questioned her sphere of influence and the degree to which she could make some headway for private schools under the new government.

However, at the first meeting with the Hon Heather Roy, I was very encouraged by her obvious support for the private school sector, her willingness to listen and her preparedness to get to know our schools and the challenges we face. As a parent, she has had children attending state, state-integrated and private schools and it was clear she has a good understanding of each sector.

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## Government cont'd

The Minister addressed the Heads at their CEO Day where she was warmly received and Peter Ferguson and I also met with her on 23 March. Again, she expressed support of our schools and was sympathetic to the areas of concern raised with her.

The Minister made it clear that it was highly unlikely that the allocated additional funding of \$10 million would be implemented before January 2010. She also stated that the actual amount of additional funding is yet to be approved. She explained that all Ministers were being encouraged to make cuts in their spending and that subsequently this may impact on the amount of additional funding allocated to the private school sector. We have strongly emphasized to the government that we have seen a huge shift from the initial \$40 million promised to private schools, to a much reduced additional funding level of \$10 million per annum, and that given the fact that our school communities were encouraged to vote for a National-led government based on these pre-election announcements, it would be unwise of the government to make further cuts to allocated additional funding.

Hon Roy also said that a decision was yet to be made on how any additional funding would be allocated to schools. The Minister has suggested that additional funding could be used to set up a scholarship scheme for disadvantaged students (similar to the Targeted Individual Entitlement (TIE) Scheme). We have emphasised to the Minister that, in our opinion, it is not timely to introduce such a scheme and that the additional funding would be best used to support current families in our schools. We suggested to her that some member schools might choose to use the additional funding for scholarships but that not all schools would be in a position to do so. We have suggested to the Minister that any additional funding be allocated in the same way as current government subsidies.

We have furnished the Minister with a full list of member schools, a full report on the background of funding of independent schools and the 2003 NZIER report on "Funding Arrangements for Independent Schools". We have sent an Issues Paper, outlining areas we would like addressed by government during the next three years, to the Prime Minister, the Hon Bill English, Minister of Education, Hon Anne Tolley, and Associate Minister of Education, Hon Heather Roy.

Hon Heather Roy expressed a desire to visit as many of our schools as possible during the next two to three years. We would encourage Heads to invite the Minister to view their schools in action.

The Minister of Education, Hon Anne Tolley, hosted the ISNZ annual cocktail function at Parliament recently. Again, her words were encouraging and she spoke positively of the contribution the private school sector makes in educating New Zealand children. She said she was happy to continue dialogue with ISNZ to discuss the challenges we face as a sector. I would again encourage member schools to extend an invitation to Hon Anne Tolley and local Members of Parliament to visit schools so that they might develop a deeper appreciation of the learning environments we offer and the challenges we all face to a greater or lesser degree.

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## Law Commission

The Law Commission produced Issues Paper 12 in November 2008 on "Private Schools and the Law". This Paper was sent to all private schools and organisations that have an association with the private school sector. The Commission called for submissions or comments on the Paper to be sent by 20 March 2009. ISNZ has sent full submissions to the Law Commission (a copy of which has been sent to all Heads and Board Chairs) and some member schools have sent separate submissions. The foreword to the Issues Paper states, "The law concerning the regulation of private schools... has never had systematic attention. The reasons for the original provisions are lost in the mists of time. The Law Commission does not think that it is an area requiring great or significant reform. But it is an area that needs some modest tidying up. That is the thrust of this Issues Paper."

John Burrows QC, from the Law Commission accepted an invitation to speak at CEO Day for Heads on 17 March 2009. He gave an informative overview of the review and reiterated that the Law Commission sees little need for substantive change to the laws relating to private schools. He stated that current legislation was "clumsy" and that it was difficult to navigate within the Education Act. He acknowledged the submissions made by member schools and the importance of such feedback. Mr Burrows will give an update of the Commission's analysis of submissions in a workshop presentation at the ISNZ Conference in May.

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## ISNZ 2009 Annual Conference

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Independent Schools of New Zealand Conference will be held at the Duxton Hotel in Wellington 29-30 May 2009. The ASBA (Bursars) conference will run from 27-28 May and the AHIS (Heads) conference from 28-29 May. The theme for the 2009 conference is “Sustainable Innovation”.

Registration is now open for the ISNZ conference and all information pertaining to the conference can be found on the ISNZ website—[www.isnz.org.nz](http://www.isnz.org.nz). We hope you will support this conference with your attendance. It is a wonderful opportunity for networking, sharing best practice and to be challenged by some outstanding speakers.

The Hon Heather Roy, Associate Minister of Education, will address delegates on the Friday morning prior to the Conference Opening.

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## ISNZ Strategic Plan

The ISNZ Executive attended a Strategic Planning day in March. This was held in Wellington and was chaired by an independent facilitator. The strategic plan for the next few years is still a work in progress and is in its draft form. The overarching definition of the core purpose of ISNZ was to continue to “serve and strengthen our schools”. We look forward to outlining the strategic direction of the organisation at the May ISNZ Conference.

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## Excellence in Teaching Awards

Mrs Gail Thomson, our independent adjudicator, is completing her evaluations of the candidates for the Excellence in Teaching Awards and we hope to have the results any day. Formal announcement of the winners will be made at the ISNZ Conference where the Vice Chancellor of Victoria University will present the awards.

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## Heads of Independent Schools Scholarship Trust (HISST) Grant

Applications for HISST grants closed on 31 March 2009. The trustees of HISST are in receipt of the applications and following a meeting of the trustees the successful recipients of the grants will be notified in early May. The grant is offered to Principals and staff of ISNZ Member Schools for current research and/or study that advance the value of independent schooling in New Zealand.

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## School Mergers

- The chairman of Wanganui Collegiate School, Mr Phil Barron, has informed ISNZ that in 2010 Wanganui Collegiate School and St George’s School will merge into a single school with students from Years 1 to 13. Wanganui Collegiate Headmaster, Mr Tim Wilbur, will become Headmaster of both schools. Mr Barron said the key motivation was one based on curriculum alignment and that there would be both administrative and financial benefits to the decision.
- The Trust Board for Auckland’s Corran School has announced that the School is going to merge with Saint Kentigern. The Corran School will remain in its present form until the end of 2009. In 2010, the Corran School – Years 1-8 – will remain on the present site and be renamed the Saint Kentigern School for Girls at Corran. The 145 senior pupils at Corran will be offered places at Saint Kentigern College in Pakuranga. Girls in Years 12 and 13 will have the option at that stage of remaining at Corran to complete their Cambridge qualification.

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## New Appointment at Ficino School

### Gold

Fuji Xerox  
Marsh Ltd

The Board of Ficino School is very pleased to confirm the appointment of Mr Peter Crompton to the position of Principal of Ficino School. Mr Crompton and his wife are New Zealanders who since 1989 have lived in England. Mr Crompton is currently employed at St James Senior Boys School in London. He and his family will join Ficino School in September and Mr Crompton will assume full responsibilities as Principal of Ficino School at the commencement of the first term next year.

### Silver

ASB Bank Ltd  
Gallagher Security Management Systems (Cardax)  
Karndean International  
Programmed Maintenance Services  
RED  
School Supplies  
Spotless Services (NZ) Ltd

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## Board Chairman Appointments

We warmly congratulate the following people who have recently been appointed to the position of Board Chairman.

Mr Keith Newell: St Mark's Church School, Wellington  
Mr John Shackleton: Wellesley College, Wellington  
Mr Rodney Wong: Carncot School, Palmerston North  
Mr Phil Barron: Wanganui Collegiate School, Wanganui  
Mrs Bridget Thomas: St Margaret's College, Christchurch

### Bronze

3P Learning (Mathletics)  
ACTIVboard NZ  
Computing Directions  
Australia  
Distinction  
Education Personnel Ltd  
Learning Network NZ  
Lundia Shelving Ltd  
OMNILINK  
Rent for Plus Education  
Schoolgate  
Pacific YearBooks Ltd  
University of Cambridge  
International Examinations

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## ISNZ Sponsors

In these uncertain economic times many organisations have found it necessary to make cuts in expenditure and prune back budgets wherever possible. Many organisations that offer sponsorship to the not for profit sector have either frozen sponsorship budgets or in some cases have had to withdraw their sponsorship.

One of our Gold Sponsors, Konica Minolta, has had to make cuts on their sponsorship budget due to the current economic climate. As a result of this ISNZ has lost Konica Minolta as a Gold Sponsor. We would like to acknowledge the support of Konica Minolta over a number of years and especially thank them for their support at the annual Conference and for the loan of a photocopier for the ISNZ Office. We also thank Konica Minolta for their sponsorship of the Excellence in Teaching Awards.

As one door closes another opens and we are delighted to welcome **Fuji Xerox** as a new Gold Sponsor. Fuji Xerox places a high value on the relationships it has in the education sector and therefore is very keen to support our member schools in both product and service it provides. We look forward to working with Fuji Xerox and introducing their team to our member schools.

In the current economy sponsors have to show a return on their investment. Where there is minimal return and/or little growth in market share sponsors are likely to withdraw sponsorship. We are continuously looking for improved return for our sponsors and I would once again ask our member schools to support our valued sponsors, give them the opportunity to speak with you about the services and products they provide.

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Finally I would remind you to register for the ISNZ Conference to be held at the Duxton Hotel in Wellington, 29–30 May. We look forward to welcoming you and giving you the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of belonging to ISNZ.

**Deborah James**  
Executive Director