

## News letter 2018 Term 2

Ka pū te ruha, ka hao te rangatahi. The new net goes fishing...

So here we are at the end of term 1 2018; a new government, a new mix of political views, a new Minister and Associate Minister of Education and guess what Chicken Little? The sky hasn't fallen in! On the contrary, where the education sector in Auckland is concerned the new government has made some pragmatic and sensible decisions and these actions should alleviate the immediate demand for relief teachers as well as filling the gaps in full time secondary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) subject shortages and the demand for experienced primary practitioners. Although it must be said that had these actions been implemented years ago it would have made many previous year's school staffing, a lot easier.

The government's decision to fund the TER is both sensible and well directed. Speaking to some of the TER providers as well as hearing from many affected teachers, this one move has motivated potentially thousands, of alienated teachers with lapsed registrations to apply to the course to renew their registration. The funding of the TER means that many teachers who resented and refused to pay the large sum of money required to retrain, are now participating fully, faithfully and consider themselves to be valued. Consequently, they will re-enter the workforce at a critical time (before the winter terms) with their practical teaching methodology updated and with their morale and self-esteem high.

Oasis has been very much involved with the new changes. Since late last year we have been in consultation with the MOE around teacher supply and as we have been advocating for the TER to be government funded for many years we now feel vindicated and very happy at the outcome and just hope that this funding will continue to be available on an ongoing basis. We have received renewed NZ Ministry of Education preferred recruiter status for Auckland which allows us to offer Ministry funding to Auckland schools for attracting NZ experienced and beginner teachers and overseas teachers in high shortage areas. It also allows us access to graduate teachers to advise and assist them in the job seeking process and to assist them into fulltime or LTR roles here in Auckland

I hope we would all agree that it is not ideal to rely on overseas teachers to solve our STEM shortages BUT, if we fail to attract NZ science and maths graduates to the profession what other choice do our schools have? Here again government initiatives have been swiftly implemented and are already making NZ a

more attractive destination for overseas teachers, offsetting the rising cost of living and accommodation. International Relocation Grants have been reinstated for both returning Kiwis and overseas teachers; a wage round this year suggests a pay increase in the offing; the expensive and lengthy process of qualification assessment via the NZQA is now waived for most teachers coming from countries with similar educational systems to NZ, and lastly the Ministries of Education and Immigration are cooperating far more than before in an effort to facilitate and make easier the process of registering and securing a visa to work here.

While some of these measures were probably pending under National, credit must go to the current government for acting swiftly once it took the reins of power. Interestingly these changes mean that whereas six months ago teachers were being charged \$4,000 plus to complete the TER, we are now funding people to re-enter the profession as well as rewarding and assisting overseas teachers who might be looking at repatriating or coming to NZ for the first time.

That's great but...

This week ITTs (Initial teacher training providers) reported that enrolments for 2018 are well up on previous years which suggests a promising trend for future teacher supply, but the question should also be asked why is teacher attrition currently so high? Has any research been carried out on this and is there any correlation between applicants entering teacher training and those teachers who are resigning after one or two years in the profession. Common-sense would suggest that it is not the number of applicants enrolled that is important, rather, the number being retained long-term in the profession and arguably a carefully targeted more sophisticated screening process with resources directed at areas of high need might yield the long-term retention so critical to the stability and quality of the profession.

Haere ra, Haere mai.

Earlier in the year, we farewelled Amorangi Ngata from our afternoon teacher placement operation. Amo had an offer of work in sports training and development which is her field so while we are sad to see her go we wish her all the best in her new job in her chosen field. However, change is the one constant in life and our new addition to the team is Claire Foy. Claire is a qualified ECE teacher which is exciting as it raises the possibility of Oasis extending our operation into the ECE sector at some stage and Claire brings a wealth of new experience that is and will continue to be of great value.

## A message to Schools

Since October 2017 Oasis Education has been a Ministry of Education preferred recruitment agency for Auckland and an integral part of the Ministry's strategy to lift the number of teachers in long term and permanent roles with a specific focus on the Auckland region. The targeted teacher recruitment includes NZ beginning and experienced teachers as well as overseas trained teachers in shortage subjects. As of 1 MAY 2018, we have had strong indication from the Ministry that this status will be renewed and extended at least until the end of term 2 2019. Where exceptional circumstances exist, assistance for schools include:

- **Subsidised NZ beginning teacher placement**
- **Subsidised experienced NZ trained teacher placement**
- **Subsidised experienced overseas trained teacher placement**

Local teacher recruitment activities includes:

- Networking with teacher training providers
- Liaising with Auckland Principals
- Nationwide advertising
- MOE (Govt) endorsement
- Specialised, professional, candidate vetting

Overseas recruitment services includes:

- Pro-active search and candidate engagement
- Candidate evaluation and reference checking
- Arranging job interviews
- Providing information and support to schools and teachers to ensure NZQA, Teachers Registration and right to work are completed quickly
- Provide options and pathways when difficulties arise

*For more information and application in 2018 please contact Oasis Education:*

*Telephone +64-9-815-8152 Email: enquiries@oasis-edu.co.nz*



## A writer among us...

### “One Shoe and The Cake”

Kirsty Cameron, one of our stellar ‘relief’ teachers has written and published a children’s book. This is something that Kirsty has been working on for some time and it came to fruition last year. It’s a great read, and she is already looking at a second print run!

I used to spend a lot of time with my rather tall friend Anna. We were always getting dressed up and going on an adventure somewhere together. We’d take my car because it was old, and we thought no one would steal it. I used to call her The Giraffe because of her height and she would call me One Shoe because I was always taking my one slightly too tight shoe off under the table. We named my car The Talking Car after always wishing it well and telling it to be good until we got back. Other characters and their nicknames have come into my life since then and subsequent events, such as the cake decorating course I did last year, have helped form my story.

‘One Shoe and The Cake’ had been waiting inside my head for quite some time. Partway through last year I managed to actually get it down on paper. Since then I’ve gone on the self-publishing journey, working with the talented illustrator, Amrit Tigga to help bring it to life. The first run of copies has now sold out!

### NOTE:

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this book, then please contact Kirsty Cameron direct via email [kirstycameron023@gmail.com](mailto:kirstycameron023@gmail.com)

*Kirsty Cameron - One Shoe & The Cake*



## Protect IHUMĀTAO

Further to an article (by Farrell Cleary) that we included in our July 2016 newsletter regarding the land dispute at Ihumatao near Auckland Airport.

### Take a Stand on the Land

**Saturday 26 May**

**2pm - 3pm**

Assemble 2 pm at Kaitiaki Village  
30 Ihumatao Quarry Road, Mangere  
near Auckland Airport

• Now is a critical time in the campaign to protect the historically significant whenua at Ihumatao from unwanted development by Fletcher Residential.

• Confiscated from the local people in 1863, then used as farmland, the land has now been purchased by Fletcher who hold almost all of the consents required to begin construction.

• Take an hour of your day to make your support visible and Take a Stand on the Land. It is time to show the new Government that it must act to stop this injustice.

Organised by Save Our Unique Landscape: Protect Ihumatao (SOUL)

More information: [www.protectihumatao.com](http://www.protectihumatao.com)

Contact: [saveihumatao@gmail.com](mailto:saveihumatao@gmail.com)

## Housekeeping

### • AVAILABILITY

When Oasis is trying to send the required relief teachers to schools, we call anyone suitable who is listed as being available. Sometimes you may have become unavailable, but if you haven’t told Oasis then we do our best to call you to offer you work. If you don’t answer your phone when we call, even if it’s to advise us that you are not available, we usually keep trying to contact you for work.

In the interests of us not calling you repeatedly when you are clearly not available, thus wasting everyone’s time, it would be easier and more helpful/efficient for all if you simply answered the first call and told us you were not available.

### • PAY

We get several calls each pay day, when a school you have worked at hasn’t paid you. For the record, the Novopay cut off time is 5 working days prior to pay day. This means that the schools you have worked at in the preceding 5 days may not actually show up until the following pay day. In saying that, some schools (depending if they are on an automated system or not) can and do push your pay through manually despite it being after the cut off time. If your pay isn’t through in the next pay cycle, then we can contact the school to find out why!

### • OASIS TEXTS

At Oasis we believe that talking to our teachers and talking to our client schools is one of our points of difference. We don’t want to lose that personal touch we are renowned for and that our schools are paying for. Given the busy nature of coordinating the relief schedule, we may send you a text during class time just to let you know that we have work for you. This is so you know to call us when you get a break or are out of the classroom. We text you from a mobile phone that spends most of its’ time turned off or in a drawer so please don’t respond to this number as your reply will not be received by us.

### • SICK / CANCELLATION

If we have you booked for work and (for whatever reason) you are unable to get there, we would expect you to notify us as early as possible. We need enough time to find another teacher to cover you. It is unhelpful to leave it until the last moment to back out, when all other teachers have been deployed.



# What I did in my School Holiday...

By *Martin Strang – Manager.*  
*Oasis Education.*

Last year in the October school holidays I walked one of NZ's 'great walks' the Heaphy Track at the top of the South Island. A couple of my poor snaps of the flora and fauna don't do it justice but perhaps might give you a little taste of the sights to be seen.

Most people take four nights and five days to complete the walk and in retrospect (despite daily evening walks with a 15 kg pack for a fortnight in advance) the three-night four-day schedule was a little too tough for a rather out of shape 50 something like me! But, despite my pain, the overall experience was tremendously satisfying and the chance to walk in such an untouched pristine range of scenery was something I will always treasure. From steep climbs to alpine passes; from vast tussock-covered alluvial flatlands to river valleys leading to the stormy Tasman sea, the Heaphy track and Kahurangi National park through which it runs, is a quiet jewel in our national geographical heritage. The logistics of getting there and back are definitely problematic but if you ever get a chance to walk it I can't recommend the 'Heaphy' strongly enough.

<http://heaphytrack.com/>



Heaphy track accomodation



Oasis Education  
Silver Sponsors of the  
Auckland Primary  
Principals Association  
2017

## Professional Development

It is that time again! We are looking for ideas on what to include in a PD day.

If you have anything that you would like us to include or if there is anything from past sessions that you would like us to repeat then please email [sheryll@oasis-edu.co.nz](mailto:sheryll@oasis-edu.co.nz)

To be held  
Wednesday 18th July  
9:30am – 2pm

Details will be emailed out and put on the 'Oasis Education Relief Teacher Information Sharing' page on Facebook, (make sure you have joined this group)!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/220303251682038/>

## In Demand

Oasis teachers are always in demand and we know you often connect with schools we send you to regularly. It is important that relievers inform Oasis if they are booked directly by our schools or asked back the following day, even if the school say they will tell us. There have been occasions in the past where the school 'relief coordinator' hadn't realised the teacher had been asked back and another relief teacher had been arranged causing a double up! Fortunately, this doesn't happen that often but once is too much if you are the teacher that is excess to requirements!

## Resources

We always suggest to our relievers that they keep refreshing their resources. The general feedback we sometimes get from schools is that teachers often don't have particularly creative resources but insist on using 'old school' regurgitated photocopies!

Keep things relevant and updated. Times change, so don't let your resources get left behind!

## Being a Referee

We have had several requests lately asking if we can be a nominated referee on your CV. Unfortunately, Oasis Education cannot supply a reference on your behalf as we do not actually observe you in a classroom teaching. We can however, happily supply a Statement of Service detailing where and when we have booked you for teaching work.



## INVITATION TO 2018 OASIS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE

- Date:** Wednesday 18th July  
9:30 am – 2:00 pm
- Venue:** 599 New North Road, Kingsland
- Parking:** Limited to surrounding side streets,  
but Morningside station is only 5 minutes walk away
- Cost:** \$40.00 per person payable to:  
Oasis Account Number: (M Strang) ASB 12-3057-0214302-50  
Particulars OasisPD  
Reference (Your surname)
- The non-refundable fee covers lunch, presenter costs and the cost of a formally recognised first aid certificate.
- Registration:** All day course - Limited to 30 Oasis registered teachers on a first in first serve basis  
(attendance confirmed on fee payment)
- RSVP by 15 June 2018 to [info@oasis-edu.co.nz](mailto:info@oasis-edu.co.nz) or phone 09 815 8152

## PROPOSED COURSE OUTLINE

- 9:30 - 10:00 am Morning Cuppa & Welcome
- 10:00 - 12:00 am First Aid Course St Johns Ambulance (confirmed)
- 12:00 - 12:30pm LUNCH supplied
- 12:30 - 2:30 pm Te Reo & Pasifika – a basic course in Maori, Samoan and Tongan Language & protocol.
- Closing / feedback
- \*Subject to change without notice

## Contact Us



**Secondary**  
Martin Strang  
[secondary@oasis-edu.co.nz](mailto:secondary@oasis-edu.co.nz)



**Primary/Relief**  
Sheryll Hoskin  
[primary@oasis-edu.co.nz](mailto:primary@oasis-edu.co.nz)



**Primary/Relief**  
Debbie Aley  
[relief@oasis-edu.co.nz](mailto:relief@oasis-edu.co.nz)



**Relief**  
Clair Foy  
[relief@oasis-edu.co.nz](mailto:relief@oasis-edu.co.nz)

### OasisEducation Limited

599 New North Road, Kingsland, Auckland | PO Box 26-302, Epsom 1344, New Zealand | T +64-9-815 8152

[www.oasis-edu.co.nz](http://www.oasis-edu.co.nz)

