



**Giftedness Unfurled:
Fostering Best
Practice in Aotearoa
New Zealand**

**CALLING
FOR YOUR
PRESENTATIONS**

**CLOSING ON
14 NOVEMBER**

**SEE PAGE 4 FOR
GUIDELINES**

**GO TO
[www.eenz.com/
giftednz/2/](http://www.eenz.com/giftednz/2/)**

**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:**

Conference Themes 2

Conference Scholarships 3

Important Dates 3

Call for Papers 4

Have Your Say! 5

Webinars 5

Book Review 6



Message from your chairperson

This issue of our newsletter is a little late in arriving because we have been jam-packing it with news about our inaugural conference!

**Giftedness Unfurled:
Fostering Best Practice in
Aotearoa New Zealand**

30-31 March 2012

The Amora Hotel

Wellington

I would like to acknowledge Jeanette Christensen for her work as the conference chair, as the Board regretfully accepted her resignation when the conference venue changed. Jeanette and her team laid the groundwork for an exciting conference, as you'll see in this newsletter! Thank you to Jenny Smith and Louise Tapper who have agreed to co-chair the subcommittee, working along with Sue Breen and Karen Bush. We also warmly welcome Anna Meuli to the subcommittee.

This fantastic team are working with Eddy van Til of e-events to make the conference an exciting event for all our members, as well as other colleagues across the education sector.

In this issue of our newsletter, you will find out more about the conference plans, including the conference theme, scholarships, and giftEDnz's Te Manu Kōtuku Award. See you in Wellington!

Tracy Riley

Introducing The Te Manu Kōtuku Award

We are very excited to be able to introduce to members a prestigious new award for exceptional involvement in the gifted and talented education field of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Te Manu Kōtuku Award is in recognition of the recipient's outstanding service and contribution to the education and development of the gifted and talented children and young people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

In Maori oratory, the most telling compliment is to liken someone to Kōtuku. It symbolises everything rare and beautiful. The feathers of Kōtuku were highly prized by Maori and were used to adorn the heads of

chiefs both in this life and after. We have chosen to use this manu, Kōtuku, in our naming of this award and lecture to signify the uniqueness of the person and the value we attribute to the recipient for their contribution to gifted and talented education in Aotearoa and beyond.

The Te Manu Kōtuku Lecture is planned as a biennial keynote address presented by the recipient of the award. The lecture is hoped to reaffirm, yet challenge, professionals who work with gifted and talented students.

The Board of giftEDnz has much pleasure in announcing that the recipient of the Te Manu Kōtuku Award for 2012 is

Dr Jill Bevan-Brown.

Jill will deliver the Te Manu Kōtuku Lecture as the opening address at our conference on 30 March 2012 in Wellington.

Many of our members will know Jill and be familiar with her work. But for those who aren't, Jill works as an Associate Professor at Massey University's College of Education. She is of Māori heritage (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Wehiwehi, Ngāi te Rangi and Ngāti Awa ki Waikanae) and has a particular interest in Māori students with special abilities. You can find out more about Jill on page 5. Ka pai, Jill!

The Board of giftEDnz



Giftedness Unfurled:

Fostering Best Practice in Aotearoa New Zealand

This conference celebrates the progress gifted education has made in New Zealand through the passion and practice of teachers and other professionals. The conference wants teachers and professionals to share the work they are doing in gifted education with others. Teachers have had opportunity over the last 10 years to become skilled in recognising giftedness and to understand the tensions for children who are gifted and talented. They have been creating classroom environments and programmes that are inclusive of the needs of the gifted and talented learner. This conference is designed to offer opportunities to share the work they are doing in a forum of professionals able to take these ideas, strategies and programmes back to centres, schools, universities and classrooms round New Zealand.

The conference will address the field of gifted education with special focus on Maori giftedness, early child education and curriculum practice. There will be opportunities to hear from teachers, managers, researchers and writers with expertise in these areas along with others in gifted education.

Giftedness from the Maori perspective is of great importance to all who teach in New Zealand. Culturally responsive approaches to working with gifted children who are Maori and their whanau are becoming better understood through the efforts of professionals such as Associate Professor Jill Bevan-Brown, recipient of the Te Manu Kotuku Award for 2012. The conference will offer opportunities for those with experience in teaching and researching with learners who are Maori to share the centre and classroom practices known to positively engage Maori learners in gifted education.

Early intervention is advocated for any child with a special need and the gifted child is no exception. This conference is aiming to reach professionals in the early childhood sector. There is more interest and information about the needs of very young gifted children and the ways which ECE centres can meet these needs. How ECE centres recognise the needs of these learners, the strategies for adapting the centre to meet these needs and the transition into school for very young gifted children will be addressed in plenary sessions and presentations. Teachers in ECE are encouraged to present the ways they are adapting the centre programme to meet the needs of gifted learners.

The third focus for the conference is adapting the curriculum to meet the needs of gifted and talented learners. Meeting the needs of the gifted learner happens within curriculum contexts and it is now time for New Zealand teachers and researchers to share the ways in which they are adapting their curriculum teaching. Focussing on the curriculum is a great opportunity to showcase the gifted education approaches of secondary teachers who specialise in curriculum, and primary teachers with interest and expertise in a curriculum area. Through the curriculum strand we hope to attract presentations from classroom practitioners who have adapted and designed programmes that meet the needs of gifted learners, and those with expert knowledge of a curriculum area who can appreciate ways in which the curriculum might be adapted for extension and enrichment.

So gifEDnz is calling on all members who have expertise in Maori gifted education, Early Childhood gifted education and in curriculum design and adaptation to put in a proposal for a presentation at Giftedness Unfurled. Members need to encourage colleagues to join us as presenters or delegates in Wellington on March 30 2012.

Jenny Smith, Co-Convenor



Bookmark the conference webpage!

<http://www.eenz.com/giftednz12/>

Join us for Conference 2012!

What can you do to be part of this exciting home - grown conference?

Put in an abstract to present at the conference. Tell others about the work you do for gifted and talented learners in New Zealand in schools or centres. Tell others about your research. Share innovative programmes. Present as an individual, a pair or a team. Include students as presenters. Just have a go!!!

Register for the conference and encourage others to register too. Lobby your school or centre or institution to send you and others to the conference. Spread the word!!

Apply for a Todd Foundation scholarship – see details below.

Send ideas for the conference to the conference sub-committee. Let us know what you think would be good at a conference. What have you liked about previous conferences you have attended? What do you think would work for an Aotearoa New Zealand conference? Email nltapper@xtra.co.nz or jenny.smith@canterbury.ac.nz

We will aim to keep members up to date with any plans as they unfold!

Apply Now for a Conference Scholarship



With generous support from the Todd Foundation, the Board of giftEDnz is delighted to be able to offer a limited number of scholarships for teachers to attend our upcoming conference in Wellington in March 2012. We have five full conference and 15 partial registrations available, with priority given to delegates from the Canterbury region who are working with gifted and talented learners and who have also been accepted as presenters.

If you are keen, get your application to the Board **NOW** by applying online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/giftEDnzScholarships>

The closing date for applications is **November 14th** and recipients will be announced on 2 December.

Important Dates

Monday 14 November
Friday 2 December
Wednesday 1 February 2012
Mid-January 2012

Call for Presentations closes
Email notice to paper submitters of Acceptance / Decline
Early Registration closes and Deadline for receipt of refereed papers
Publication of conference programme on website

HELP US DEVELOP ONLINE RESOURCES!

We are interested in the ways in which gifted and talented learners are supported in local communities across New Zealand. For example, some schools partner or network together to provide workshops, competitions, mentoring, online programmes, or other learning opportunities for bringing like-minds together - or connecting communities of learners. We have developed an online survey and the questions ask about the types of provisions, decision-making processes, linking between school and community, transitions, and evaluation. Your responses to the open-ended questions will be analysed to provide educators with a range of examples of ways that gifted and talented students have their needs met in local areas. You may answer one, some or all of the questions. This is for the MoE contract to develop online resources so we need you!

COMPLETE THE SURVEY ONLINE

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/communitiesoflearners>



Share your local gifted and talented education provisions! We want to hear from you!

Some Tips for Writing Abstracts

Select a clear, informative title. Short, catchy titles are often attractive, but be sure it also clearly reflects your topic. Briefly describe the work you will cover, including any conclusions. Importantly, don't exceed the word limit—or sell your idea short either! Proofread your work or have a colleague check it!

GIVE IT A GO!



Call For Papers, Workshops, Round Tables and Posters! Submit Your Ideas Today!

There are many presentation options available to encourage our practitioners to share their best practices: Papers; Workshops; Round Table Discussions; and Posters. There is something for everyone, so don't be shy! Submit your proposal today online at <http://www.eenz.com/giftednz12/>

Description of PAPERS

- Academic papers are either classified as Completed (Refereed) or Completed (Not Refereed).
- Authors can opt for either a 45 or 90 presentation slot for their paper.
- For papers which authors wish to be refereed, two versions (blind & full) of the paper (electronic) need to be sent to the conference organiser by 5pm Wednesday 1 February 2012. The blind version is a full paper with any identifying references to the author/s removed. The refereeing process will be conducted by a panel of recognised and experienced NZ academics. Papers that pass the review process will be eligible to be published in APEX, the online journal of NZAGC (www.giftedchildren.org.nz/apex)
- Authors submitting non-refereed papers do not need to produce a written paper.

Description of WORKSHOPS

- Presenters can choose to submit either 45 or 90 minute workshops. Presenters will be asked to describe an innovation, share a resource or discuss a strategy from their practice. There should be a strong focus on interaction between presenter and audience.
- Any student participation is encouraged, if feasible.

Description of ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

- These presentations will be assembled into groups of 4 within one room. Each presenter will have 5 minutes to explain their topic to all those present, before all 4 presenters occupy a table in each corner of the room. For the remaining 20 minutes, they engage in discussion with attendees who join their table.
- Presenters will have the services of an overhead projector but not a data projector / laptop for the 5 minute presentation. Presenters can bring their own laptops to use at individual tables if required, but data projection and screens are not feasible.

Description of POSTERS

- Posters can either be A2 (420mm x 594mm) and A1 (594mm x 841mm) in size.
- They are mounted on panels or walls in the catering area at the very start of the conference. There will be a programmed session when authors are required to stand alongside their poster and engage in any discussion or respond to questions.

Jump online today to share your best practices!

<http://www.eenz.com/giftednz12/>

Introducing our Keynote Speaker ... Dr Louise Porter

Dr Louise Porter earned her Bachelors in Psychology and Education, and Masters in psychology from the University of Canterbury. Subsequently, she gained a Diploma in Education, Masters in Gifted Education, Doctorate in Early Childhood Education and Bachelor of International Studies, all in Adelaide, South Australia. There she worked for 10 years in disability and mainstream settings and lectured at university for 13 years. Now in private practice in Brisbane and Hong Kong, she consults with parents and practitioners about children's developmental and social or emotional challenges. She has published widely, with her books including *Young children's behaviour*, *Student behaviour*, *Gifted young children*, *Teacher-parent collaboration and a parenting course*, *A guidance approach to discipline*. She has also produced two DVDs, *Guiding children's behaviour* and *Gifted children: Meeting their needs*. She is patron of the Hong Kong Gifted Children's Association. See www.louiseporter.com.au to find out more about Louise. And keep an eye on the conference website to find out more about Louise's plenary address and workshops at the conference. We look forward to warmly welcoming Louise back to New Zealand in March 2012!

Have Your Say! Your Advice Needed!

Over the last few months, the Gifted and Talented Policy Advisory Group has been developing a vision statement, principles, and recommendations for supporting and strengthening gifted and talented education in Aotearoa New Zealand over the coming 3 - 5 years. These will be provided to the Ministry of Education for their consideration. The draft document is now available for consultation from the wider gifted and talented education community. A survey has been designed which embeds the vision, principles and recommendations with opportunities to rate each statement's importance and also to provide any comments you wish to make. We want the final document to represent the gifted education community and for this to happen we need a strong response to this survey. Please take the time to complete it now by clicking this web address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Consultation-MOE>

The time lines are tight so the survey will close on **5 October 2011**. Following this consultation process, an advisory sub-group will come together to review feedback, before submitting a final version to the Ministry of Education, which will then be progressed to the Ministry's Leadership Team for consideration.

Introducing Dr Jill Bevan-Brown

Jill is programme co-ordinator of the Bachelor of Education (Special Education), co-director of the Post Graduate Diploma in Specialist Teaching and Director of the Inclusive Education Research Centre of Excellence at Massey. Jill was a member of the MoE's National Advisory Group on Gifted Education for many years, is on the Editorial Board of *Apex*, was a member of the research team that investigated the extent, nature and effectiveness of gifted education in NZ and, together with Shirley Taylor, she wrote the MoE publication *Nurturing Gifted and Talented Children: A Parent-Teacher Perspective*.



Jill will deliver the inaugural Te Manu Kotuku Lecture as the opening address at this conference, presenting the audience with a challenge for the future of gifted and talented education in Aotearoa New Zealand. Links to some of Jill's many articles are in the side

[Identifying and Providing for Gifted and Talented Maori Students](#)

[Providing a Culturally Responsive Environment for Gifted Maori Learners](#)

[Indigenous Conceptions of Giftedness](#)

Webinars: Learning Online about Gifted and Talented Education

Our Ministry of Education contract includes an exciting, new way of learning about gifted and talented education: Webinars! We have hosted two successful webinars to date and are pleased to announce our third one:

Webinar on School Self-Review Wednesday 28 September 2011, 4:15pm

In this webinar, Carolyn English will talk about schools' self review processes and in particular what schools and boards need to be thinking about when monitoring the impact of decisions they make, about the identification of gifted and talented students and about the curriculum provided, on improving valued outcomes for gifted and talented students. Examples of school practices will be explored and shared in this webinar.. Carolyn is the lead consultant at Learning Media and has been the project coordinator for two national literacy projects; Literacy Professional Development Project and CPL Literacy.

Register your interest by sending an email to: gifted.webinars@tki.org.nz with "Register me" in the subject line. We will send you a reminder email one day beforehand and an email invite to the webinar on the day with the login details to the live broadcast.

Connecting Communities of Professionals

As part of our ongoing online resource development for the MoE contract, we want to make sure educators and other professionals in gifted and talented education have the opportunity to be actively engaged in communities of practice. We are eager to hear about the types of communities you are involved with, locally, regionally, nationally or internationally, as well as face-to-face and online.

What communities of practice would you recommend as valuable for educators and professionals working with gifted and talented students?

Email your ideas to t.l.riley@massey.ac.nz



Please note our new contact details!

giftednz@gmail.com

PO Box 12067, Rotorua South

<http://www.giftednz.org.nz/>

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**The Professional Association for
Gifted Education**

The goals of our association are:

- To advocate for equitable educational opportunities for gifted and talented students.
- To enhance the profile of gifted and talented education in New Zealand.
- To create a professional community for networking, supporting and learning.
- To encourage the pursuit and sharing of best practice in gifted and talented education.
- To provide liaison with international organizations and other national associations for gifted and talented education.

**WE NEED YOU, YOU NEED US!
GET INVOLVED IN YOUR
ASSOCIATION!**

Share Your Ideas

We would love to hear from you! If you have ideas for the newsletter or a contribution to make, please contact Tracy or Rosemary. We are particularly interested in hearing about:

- Local conferences and events
- Resources for working with gifted and talented students
- Our members and those they work with

Email Tracy (T.L.Riley@massey.ac.nz) or Rosemary (reacheducation@xtra.co.nz)

DEADLINE FOR TERM 4 NEWSLETTER: 15 December 2011



Book Review:

Teaching Gifted Students in Inclusive Classrooms

This 50-page book by Tracy Riley is the latest in 'The Practical Strategies Series in Gifted Education' and practical it is! It provides an excellent, easy-to-read overview for the classroom teacher on how to effectively cater for gifted and talented students in inclusive classrooms. It includes straightforward advice, backed up by research, which can be easily translated into the everyday classroom. As is stated in the book, most gifted and talented students are taught in inclusive classrooms so this book is a must for all teachers as catering effectively for gifted and talented students in this setting can be a struggle when there is such a diverse range of abilities to provide for.

The book covers strategies for identifying gifted and talented students, then looks at the basics of differentiation and provides some practical guidance for using differentiation in practice. Also covered are ways to check that the differentiation being used is effective and it concludes with useful links to recommended readings - a comprehensive list of books, articles, websites and DVDs on the topic.

I definitely recommend this book for teachers who want to further their knowledge about how to effectively teach gifted and talented students in their classrooms, it is an easy-to-read, informative and practical guide.

The book can be ordered online from Prufrock Press as a paperback or PDF file: <http://www.prufrock.com/productdetails.cfm?PC=1761>

Emma Scobie-Jennings

Looking forward to seeing you in ... *Wellington*