

NZEI Student/Beginning Teacher Newsletter

Issue 1, May 2010

YMN
YOUNG MEMBERS, NEW MEMBERS AND STUDENTS
NZEI · TE RĪU ROA



Hello to all students and beginning teachers, and welcome to the first issue of your newsletter! Now, I realise that 'the newsletter for students and beginning teachers of NZEI' doesn't really have that snappy sound that I'm going for, so email me in some suggestions and the best one will win....a personal mention in the next newsletter...yusss!

We've had a jam-packed year so far, and looking at the calendar it's only getting busier. I was hired as student/beginning teacher organiser in December 2009 (again...if you can think of a snappier job title please let me know!). I made the move from the deep south (Otago University), shed my polyprops and David Bain-esque jerseys and am now based in balmy Auckland. I kicked off my job and the year with the 'recruitment roadshow', where a lot of you would have joined NZEI. We descended on six university campuses in a blur of yellow t-shirts, free sausages, national standards petitions and membership forms.

From here I embarked on creating a student/beginning teacher campaign plan, which focuses on building our membership numbers, increasing our presence within NZEI, and organising lots with and for you guys! Check out everything we have planned in the 'upcoming events' section.

I'm still coming down from the YMN-Hui high. For those who aren't savvy with NZEI abbreviations yet (and don't worry, you're not alone) YMN stands for young members and new members of NZEI, and it's a network specifically for you guys! YMN Hui is held annually and is the YMN event of the year.

- Where? Hillside Hotel in the beautiful Taupiri Ranges, 8-9th April
- Who? 40 students and beginning teachers, from Auckland all the way down to Invercargill!
- What? We spent two days discussing issues and, most importantly, figuring out what we can do about them. The issues varied from reviewing advice and guidance programmes, to figuring out how we can increase student membership.

Check out the post-hui comments!

The forum where YMN has been influential over the past few years is NZEI's Annual Meeting. This is held at the end of September and all members are welcome to attend. We're always keen to get more student and beginning teachers to Annual Meeting, so have a read of the 'How do I get there' article and take action!

I hope the start of term two is being kind to beginning teachers, and I hope students are staying on top of essays and placements! Enjoy this first issue- and remember that this isn't the only way to stay in touch with NZEI. Check out the various online groups we have- especially those just for students and beginning teachers!

Cheers,
Cordelia Huxtable
National Student/BT organiser

Hui 2010!



FAQs

Fixed term agreements

I am on a fixed term employment agreement. Is this legal?

Fixed term agreements are only legal if the fixed term is for a genuine reason based on reasonable grounds, e.g. to cover an absence of another teacher. It is not legal to employ a teacher on a fixed term basis just to establish their suitability for the job (unfortunately many schools do this when employing beginning teachers). So have a look over your letter of employment and see if your fixed term is legal.

Your letter of employment should contain the reason for your fixed term employment and how and when the employment will end (it needs to give exact dates). If your letter does not contain this information or you do not have a written employment agreement then the current legislation deems your fixed term agreement illegitimate and you could be considered a permanent employee.

If you're not sure if your fixed term is legal, or that that the reason is genuine and based on reasonable grounds, or if you have any questions at all, then ring 0800 NZEI HELP. We can offer you confidential, personal support, right on the spot!

Do you have questions that you want answered? Visit our Facebook page, go to the discussions tab and check out some of our FAQs. If yours isn't there, then post a question and we'll answer! Or, alternatively:

- **Ring 0800 NZEI HELP**
- **Visit the NZEI website- look for the pages for PRTs. There is lots of information on salary, employment conditions and advice and guidance programmes**

What's coming up on the NZEI calendar?

29th May: National Standards Hui, Wellington

YMN have funded three reps from each region to attend.

14th - 25th June: seminars for Provisionally Registered Teachers, Nationwide

All beginning teachers will be sent an invitation to attend these seminars focusing on advice and guidance programmes, and your rights as a primary and early childhood teacher.

3rd - 4th July: Te Kahui Whetu, Rotorua

Te Kahui Whetu is the annual hui for Miro Maori members of NZEI. If you're keen to attend as a student or beginning teacher, get in touch with your local Aronui Tomua, or contact y mn@nzei.org.nz for more info.

August: Nationwide student recruitment

NZEI will be visiting training institutions nationwide, talking to students who have come in after mid-year intake, and running session for those graduating in a couple of months. A focus will be made on the smaller sites not visited during the recruitment roadshow.

6th-10th September: PRT seminars, nationwide

A catch-up round of PRT seminars will be happening in the main centres this week, in case you missed the ones in July.

13th-24th September: Primary Leadership seminars, nationwide

Leadership seminars for primary teachers are happening nationwide, and are for those who want to extend themselves professionally and within NZEI. Look out for invites arriving at your schools.



Teacher's Toolbox- resources suggested by beginning teachers, for beginning teachers (and students)

Hi all,

found this today and it really looks like it will hit the mark.

When you just need basic worksheets for students to do for numeracy etc, here it is. You can choose to leave out whole numbers which makes it great for targeting learning. <http://www.softschools.com/math/worksheets/>

Hope you guys get some use out of it.

From Liam

Kia Ora whanau,

Here's my resource - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/teachers/default.stm>

It has a bunch of really good ideas for using international issues with our young people. And it provides child-readable news stories about international issues.

Max

How do I get to Annual Meeting?

Students

NZEI Area Councils have an entitlement to send their Chairperson and **2 student teacher members**.

If you are a student, and don't already have links with your Area Council:

- find them (we can help)
- talk with them about the YMN Hui and what's happened since (offer them a copy of your branch report...)
- tell them you'd love to attend AM to learn more / participate / support your colleagues

Students and Teachers

Branches / Aronui Tomua / Komiti Pasifika have an entitlement to send a certain number of members based on a formula (approx 1 rep per 95 full-time equivalent members).

For large branches that means a lot of reps, for small branches often only 1 rep and 1 observer.

If you want to get to AM, branches will be selecting reps at their meetings (some may have already started this process).

They will be looking for a range of members to take, and will be interested in those who show a willingness to be active and involved.

Your report back to your branch following YMN Hui will provide a good starting point....

- make contact (in person, by phone- be brave!) with the branch president
- ask when the next meeting is because you would like to talk about the YMN Hui, and about AM
- ask them what the process is for getting selected to go, and how you would ensure you were considered
- tell them you'd love to attend AM to learn more / participate / support your colleagues

Be friendly, fun, enthusiastic!

Keep in contact with us - if you're coming, try and get flights/transport that gets you to Rotorua early on Sunday so we can have a pre-AM YMN huddle to help get prepared. If you're not coming, get on a waiting list.

If you didn't attend YMN Hui, but like the sound of Annual Meeting and think that you'd be a good rep for students and beginning teachers, email ymn@nzei.org.nz



26th-29th September: Annual Meeting, Rotorua

Check out the 'How do I get to Annual Meeting' article. We strongly encourage students and beginning teachers to consider attending this important NZEI event.

30th September- 1st October: Early Years Conference, Rotorua

A two-day conference for those involved teaching kindergarten and early childhood. Students and beginning teachers are encouraged to attend. Contact your local branch, or ymn@nzei.org.nz for more info.

9th and 16th October: YMN Action Days

The exact location of these is still to be finalised, but these days are envisaged as a half-way point between hui, as a debrief from Annual Meeting and as a way to gather our collective strength and look towards 2011... the election year! More info will be available over the coming months.

In addition to these national events, we also have YMNers keen to set up local events for students and beginning teachers. If you'd like to help set up an event, email ymn@nzei.org.nz

And do you want to know the best part? All of these events are free to attend with NZEI membership! So take advantage and get involved!

The Magical World of Online Communication!

Become a fan on **Facebook**, search **NZEI for students and beginning teachers**. The page is updated with events specific to students and BTs, photos, links, videos, FAQs and students and BTs chatting with each other from all over the country!

If you're looking for deeper discussion about issues, then join the YMN **Google Group**, where students and BTs talk about professional and political issues, share classroom ideas and resources with each other, plan YMN action and support each other. To join you have to be added, so email ymn@nzei.org.nz

Your mission: recruit one other

If every student and beginning teacher recruited one other, then we would double our membership, which means doubling our power, strength and influence within NZEI!

Your mission is to recruit one other. Go to <http://www.nzei.org.nz/Join+NZEI.html>, download the student, or full membership form and get recruiting! Here are some common reasons people give for avoiding union membership. Crush those reasons to dust with logic and enthusiasm! Good luck!

	There's no real benefit in me joining.	I'm only a student. I'll join when I become a teacher.	I've never had a need for any help so far. I'll be fine.
Explore (find out what lies behind the person's concern)	What kind of benefit would you think would make you want to join?	What is about being student that makes you feel like you can't join?	So do you see advocacy and support as the main reason for joining NZEI?
Equalize (acknowledge the person's concern)	When pay increases are guaranteed union subscriptions do seem like an easy thing to forgo.	Sometimes student teachers feel like NZEI membership is only really for full-timers.	A lot of people think union membership as insurance
Educate (address the concern by demonstrating how being a union member can make a difference to that person)	What kind of pay increases and improved conditions do you think there will be if NZEI is not able to maintain or improve membership?	Joining as a student member is a fantastic idea, because it means we can help you with the transition from student to beginning teacher. We also have a network and run free events specifically for students and beginning teachers!	But that's only a part of it. Most people have no need for NZEI support with individual issues but feel secure knowing its there if they need it. And like you they want to do something about pay/workload.

YMN Hui! Can we kick it? Yes we can!

Here are some post-hui gems from the student/BT Facebook page:

"Epic hui! Having a blast! Thanks heaps everyone xo"

"I had the best time, thanks everyone for the laughs...and the good conversations of course"

"It was great meeting you all. I look forward to actioning the action!!!!"

"Loved it!!"

"Still high on hui!"

"I thoroughly enjoyed the hui, if you didn't come, then make sure you do next time because it was heaps of fun. The discussions were great, too."

"The hui last week was awesome! I would highly recommend it to other beginning teachers. Had so much fun and met lots of new people!"

"Hui was the bomb was well organised...looking forward to the next one but until then its time to put what I learnt to practice ...I'm going to start up a coup anyone interested???.....hahaha"

"Awesome hui! was great seeing some new faces and catching up with some old ones. nga mihi nui guys =]"

"Awesome AWESOME time!!!"

Stay in touch!



0800 NZEI HELP
0800 693 443



ymn@nzei.org.nz



www.nzei.org.nz/ymn

teachersmatter.org.nz
ecetogether.org.nz
nationalstandards.org.nz