

Dramatic

DRAMA NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

Special 2023 Holiday Edition

Meri Kirihimete



In this issue: A call for 2024 Conference Presenters, a letter from Anna Richardson, a report on NEX spending and projects, and some yummy holiday recipes!

A Note From The Pres

Kia ora Drama New Zealand whānau,

What a year! It is lovely to now take a pause and reflect on what has been another busy year here at Drama NZ.

Your National Executive have been supporting Drama teachers from ECE through Primary, Secondary and Tertiary levels with advocacy, resourcing and support. We hope that we have provided a safe haven for you to come to and feel like you can chat about all things Drama.

Recently we held our face to face for our National Executive in Auckland at Auckland theatre company - thanks Sam and the team there! Your Drama NZ Executive is a team of drama kaiako who have given a huge amount of time and energy on top of very full lives as teachers across Aotearoa. I want to thank them for all that they have given this year to Drama NZ. Vice President and Regional Rep, Nick Meissel; Primary Rep, Judy Norton; Treasurer, Samantha Wehipeihana; NEX Kaiwhakahaere, Emma Bishop; Primary, Samantha Bates; Regional Rep, Cory Hare; Socials, Kimberley Fridd; NCEA Support, Bridget Crooks. Plus our amazing administrator, Dinna Myers, who supports the running of the organisation and day to day business of Drama NZ. Ngā mihi to you all - what a team!

Drama New Zealand would like to thank the lead people on all of these projects over the three years:

Emma Bishop as Kaiwhakahaere for the NEX projects. Emma has coordinated, facilitated, organised and kept NEX responsive to the needs of our members and the growing of the association's reach in the drama education community. Lead Projects:

Verity Davidson - Mentoring and Resource writing

Judy Norton, Charles Bisley and Sam Bates - Primary projects

Annette Thomson - Advocacy, Tertiary and PCT support network

Nick Meissel - Behind the Page

Emma Gillies, Leigh Sykes, Emily McCrae - Scholarship Drama

All these were supported by the National Executive team.

We really hope that you can take a pause, make a cuppa and read over this holiday Dramatic - with some reflection, some looking forward to next year and a bit of holiday cheer!

I'm planning on a lovely, aroha filled holiday season- with a trip down the Clarence river, a gathering of family and a few special parties to look forward to.

I wish you all a very restful summer holiday season.

Mā te wā.

Annette Thomson



Call for Conference Presenters

An invitation to Kia Tōnui/Flourish

*Poipoia Te Kākano Kia Tōnui-
Nurture the seed, and it will
flourish*



Join us in Aotearoa New Zealand for the combined New Zealand, Australia Drama conference Kia Tōnui - Flourish! We're thrilled to announce that 2024's conference will be held in

Te Whanganui a Tara - Wellington, New Zealand

27th - 30th of September 2024

We are now accepting applications for papers, workshops, presentations and more for the 2024 combined Drama Conference.

Gather in Aotearoa New Zealand in the embrace of our unique whānau/community to share the riches of storytelling through whakaari/drama and theatre in education, to create new ways to regenerate, revive and thrive as creative educators and artists. In this Drama New Zealand and Drama Australia combined conference we will consider our foundational roots, cast the seeds of the imagination, and nurture the multiple ways to sustain and grow our practice, so that our communities can be nourished by changes much needed for the future. It is time to celebrate the many ways we flourish in our work.

Our 2024 Conference Kia Tōnui - Flourish aims to:

- Nurture the roots that sustain us, examine what we have achieved and consider how those strong foundations continue to shape practice and research today,
- Trace the branches of new growth and flourishing ahead. Gather as whakaari /drama educators and whanau/family together to tell critical stories of artistry in practice and research.
- Plant seeds of innovative pedagogy and research in drama education and consider the conditions needed for imagination and growth in difficult and unpredictable times and futures.
- Celebrate and share successful practices and research in drama and theatre education in schools and communities that enable our field of drama education, participants, and educators to Kia Tōnui - Flourish.

[Apply to Present Here](#)

Show us the Money

Recently, at a regional AGM, there was discussion about accountability and where Networks of Expertise Funding (NEX) for Drama NZ has been spent.

All these details are available, including financials, in the minutes from our AGM held in April 2023. But to help clarify, here is an outline of spending for the NEX projects for the last three years.



In 2021 we received funding for two types of funding:

- A) Baseline funding - to sustain and grow the association
- B) NCEA funding - specifically for NCEA change and level 1 implementation support

Over the three years this is how we have allocated the funding:

A) Baseline:

- Administration - Emma Bishop on a contract position to facilitate the NEX projects
- [Advocacy](#) - produced resources that advocate for Drama across the sectors
- [Behind the Page](#) - produced resources that relate to NZ playwrights. These interviews sit on our website
- [Running a Department](#) - resources created about running a Drama department
- PCT - created an online support network to support beginning teachers



- Primary/Intermediate Sector - Literacy programmes using Drama in schools pilot programmes to mentor teachers in using Drama cross curricular in kura across NZ
- Whakamana Mana Reo - Primary Conference
- [Primary Resources](#)



- Secondary Resources - created several resources / units that sit on our website
- Reaching the Edges - online workshops and hui to support people during covid recorded that now sit on our website
- Scholarships - for teachers to attend national and international conferences
- Tertiary - Hui for tertiary educators, online workshop on writing practitioner research
- HOD mentoring - experienced HOD mentoring beginning HOD's both face to face and online
- Insurance and Accounting - as part of NEX we are required to have insurance and we have updated our accounting capabilities
- Whirimanga - the setting up of an allied Arts organisation that will support educators in all four arts disciplines across the sectors
- National Administrator - contracted to support the increased load from growth and projects
- Face to Face Hui - for our National Executive to run the organisation



- Website / Logo - continued updating of logo and website to reflect new resources and members

B) NCEA change - This Funding has been spent predominantly this year (2023) as details, resourcing and pilot information became available.



- Mātauranga Māori resourcing and hui
- Te Rākau Theatre - workshops nationwide
- Supporting roll out of NCEA change with workshops around the country
- Face to Face hui including governance training for the National Executive
- Scholarship Mentor programme
- Secondary Resources - NCEA change
- Entertainment and Events Technology
- Admin NEX NCEA
- National Administration
- Ka Mua Ka Muri Conference Rotorua 2023



In Term 1 2024: we intend to finish off this NEX round of funding with these projects

A) Baseline:

- Behind the page - further interviews with Theatre Aotearoa Playwrights
- Establish an online support network for Māori kaiako

- PCT - continue online support with possible face to face
- Primary Resources - three more to be created plus the creation of a book of resources
- Establish phase three to develop leadership in school with online support, one on one mentoring and regional workshops
- Face to Face hui for the National Executive with additional governance training
- Tertiary hui - possible online for kaiako and students for pathways
- Website Overhaul to incorporate Te Reo as appropriate and make navigation and resource acquisition more user friendly

B) NCEA NEX

- Mātauranga Māori resources
- Māori Drama Practitioner interviews
- NZ theatre company interviews
- Resources to support the NCEA change - available for all Drama teachers
- NCEA workshops for level 1 - support these workshops in Term 1

This round of NEX Funding finishes in December - but we have just received notification that this will extend to the beginning of Term 2, 2024. As we are unsure of whether we will be successful for the next round we are working on two budgets for moving forward into 2024 - One with and one without NEX funding.

We have been growing steadily, but carefully in full consideration of the possibility the NEX funding may not be available after this final round, but that the Association needs to remain strong so that moving forward it can continue to support you, our members. You will see that this list above doesn't include things like Practice Exams as these sit outside NEX funding and we will continue to maintain our core focus of: Create/Auaha, Communicate/Whakaari, Educate/ Whakaako.

We are feeling very positive about moving forward into the next few year with a strong strategic plan and a clear path ahead. We hope you are, too.

A Letter from Anna Richardson

Kia ora e hoa ma,

It is with mixed emotions that I let you all know that I have recently resigned from the Ministry of Education and my role of NCEA Implementation Facilitator. From the end of January next year, I will be moving back into the school environment.

It has been an absolute privilege to meet and work with so many of you across the motu this year. I have been in constant awe of your passion for Drama, your dedication to your students, and have really enjoyed our rigorous conversations (even what I fondly call - 'spicy questions'). I hope that the work we have done together has set you up for the changes to Level One and inspired your planning and thinking. My feeling has always been that Drama and Arts teachers in general have been ahead of the game and now NCEA is just catching up to us. While change is always difficult, I feel you have all engaged in the kaupapa and done the work, next year you will get to see the fruits of that labour.



This decision has been a difficult one for me, as helping my colleagues grapple with change has been rewarding and I feel I have been able to contribute in a positive way. BUT I have deeply missed being around ākonga, teachers, and other creatives. The demands of the job have also meant my wee boy has been without his Mum for long periods at a time. I am looking forward to being home a bit more with my family and actually getting to see some theatre!

A heartfelt ngā mihi to Annette Thomson, the exec of Drama New Zealand, and the wider association for the work you have enabled this year and the relationship we have built. I hope that I can continue to support the change package with the knowledge I have gained, just in a different capacity. Drama New Zealand is such an incredible taonga. I have said it before and could wax lyrical, but this subject association is gold standard and has teachers and students at the heart of all that it does. This community is a special place and I look forward to continuing to be a part of it.

I will be on board at the MoE until the 17th of January – so if you need a sounding board or to ask questions, please continue to get in touch. It is always a highlight of my day when Drama emails roll in or we get to chat on Teams.

I wish you all the very best for implementation, I know that you have this, and you'll do the best by those students in your classes.

Wishing you a very happy festive season, I hope that you enjoy time with whānau and friends. Thank you for filling my cup at every workshop and gathering, I loved every minute.

Arohanui,

Anna Richardson

Māori Theatre Practitioners

New Interview series brings visibility to Māori Theatre Practitioners and NZ Theatre Companies

Over the past month Drama NZ have been recording interviews with a number of practitioners in both Tāmaki Makarau and Te Whanganui a Tara.



The three days of recording in Tāmaki took place at Te Pou Theatre. This was a perfect venue with a strong sense of wairua.

Te Rākau opened their space at Massey university for Pōneke. This was also exceptional as

they were in rehearsal for their production and the energy was alive.

Our recording has been in two parts with individual practitioners including award winning director writer Tainui Tukiwaho, Performer/producer Jason Te Mete, Brady Peeti, Manuka

Luiten Apirana, Jim Moriarty and Tanemahuta Grey and then capturing initiation stories from theatre companies including Te Pou, Te Rākau, Tuatara Collective, Indian Ink, Massive Company, Red Leap Theatre Company and Auckland Theatre Company.

Emma is thrilled to be working with Doco Maker and Videographer Ethan Alderson-Hughes - *Someday Stories* and *Doc Edge Fest*, on this mahi...

Ethan's eye for capturing the narrative is genius and throughout the process he was able to capture truly beautiful korero.

Hosting our interviews is Toi Whakaari graduate Taylor Rogers whose contribution to this kōrero has put the interviewees at ease.

We can't wait to share these two series of interviews with you and feel they will be superb resources to support teaching and learning in 2024 and beyond.



Happy Holidays from our family to yours!
Wishing you a warm and lovely Christmas
and a Happy New Year!
Cheers!



Canterbury Branch.

Kia pai te whakatā,

At last! Time to put your feet up, lie down for a long time, read that book you've been meaning to read, see that movie, binge watch that series, tramp that track, bake that cake – whatever you've been putting off and that fills your bucket.

Watch this space for a primary workshop in Christchurch in Term 1: Drama NZ Canterbury Branch on Facebook.

Have a wonderful and well-deserved break, koutou. Enjoy the beauty of our wonderful country. Here are some pics of our region for inspiration: Lake Rotoiti at St Arnaud, Brook Waimarama Sanctuary in Nelson, Mt. Arthur Track, Owen Valley. And this is only the start – so much more to see in our ataahua rohe!

Verity Davidson / Regional Representative, Canterbury Branch



Summer Yum!

The holidays are for sharing and our National Executive decided this year to share some of their favourite recipes for a refreshing summer salad. Check out all the delightful recipes on the following pages and have yourselves a Merry and a Bright!

From Annette:



Nadia Lim's Beetroot and Feta Salad

INGREDIENTS

red wine vinegar 3 tablespoons
sugar 1 teaspoon
red onion ½ thinly sliced
beetroot 3 large or 4 medium peeled, cut into 2-3cm cubes
olive oil for cooking
raw almonds ½ cup chopped
garlic 3 cloves chopped
ground sumac 1 tablespoon
chilli flakes ½ teaspoon
baby spinach and/or baby beetroot leaves 120g
medjool dates 4-5 or 6-8 regular dried dates, chopped
feta 75-100g crumbled
extra virgin olive oil for dressing salad

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 200°C. Line an oven tray with baking paper.

In a bowl, mix vinegar and sugar. Add onion and toss to coat. Set aside in the fridge to marinate for about 20 minutes while you prepare the rest of the salad.

On the lined tray, toss beetroot with a good drizzle of olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast for 25-30 minutes or until tender.

Heat a drizzle of olive oil in a frying pan. Cook almonds and garlic for about 2 minutes until golden. Turn off heat and mix in sumac and chilli.

When ready to serve, drain red onion (reserve vinegar) and toss with salad leaves, beetroot, almonds, dates and feta. Dress with extra virgin olive oil and some reserved vinegar.

NOTES

Marinating the onion for this recipe in a little vinegar and sugar is key to this salad! It softens the onion and gives it a nice pickled flavour, which is delicious with creamy feta, roast beetroot and spiced almonds.

Sumac is a reddish purple powder made by grinding up dried berries from the shrub of the same name. It has a tart flavour (much like lemon) and adds a lemony taste to many Middle Eastern dishes. I recommend you try to seek some out, but if you can't find it you can substitute it with a little lemon zest or leave it out altogether from this recipe.

From Kimberley:



Mary Berry's Creamy Potato Salad

INGREDIENTS

500g baby new potatoes
4 tbsp olive oil
3 tbsp Dijon mustard
1 tbsp caster sugar
3 tbsp white wine vinegar
6 tbsp mayonnaise
1 bunch spring onions, thinly sliced
150g radishes, thinly sliced
4 celery sticks, finely chopped
1 small bunch flat leaf parsley, finely chopped
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS:

Put the potatoes in a pan of salted water and bring to the boil. Cook for 15 minutes, or until tender. Drain and slice each potato into quarters.

Mix the oil, mustard, sugar and vinegar together in a large bowl. Add the hot potatoes and season with salt and pepper. Stir and set aside to cool.

Add the mayonnaise, spring onions, radishes and celery, mix together well and check the seasoning. Stir in the remaining lemon juice. Enjoy. Perfect for the festival summer buffet!

From Emma: Christmas Salad



INGREDIENTS

1 packet cos Romaine hearts halved
1 punnet strawberries sliced
½ cup dried cranberries or Craisins
1 small bunch of green grapes seedless is best
1 firm ripe avocado diced
½ cup mixed nuts almonds, walnuts, brazil nuts

INSTRUCTIONS

Arrange all salad ingredients on a festive platter.

Once it's looking colourful and enticing, drizzle a favourite dressing or vinaigrette over the top to bring out the Christmas zest. Serve as a perfect accompaniment to your festive feast.

From Dinna:

INGREDIENTS

Some Kiwi Fruits
Some Strawberries

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut them up and throw them on a platter in the shape of a pine tree.

Dinna doesn't cook!



From Sam W: Blue Cheese, Pear and Walnut

INGREDIENTS

Mesclun salad mix
Fresh or canned pears
Walnuts
Creamy blue cheese
Balsamic vinaigrette dressing
Bacon

INSTRUCTIONS:

Lightly toast, the walnuts placed them aside to cool.

Chop the bacon into small pieces and fry until crisp. Remove to cool.

Slice the pears and place them into the same pan as the bacon, gently fry until a little bit golden.

Spread the mesclun salad onto a large platter sprinkle over the toppings, squirt over the vinaigrette and then crumble up the blue cheese and serve.



From Sam B: Broccoli Salad

The first step in this broccoli salad recipe is chopping the broccoli. Make sure to cut the florets into bite-sized pieces and to finely dice the stems. The small pieces will soften and soak up the dressing better than larger pieces will.

Next, you'll mix up the homemade broccoli salad dressing. Instead of using the typical 1 cup mayo: 2 tablespoons vinegar ratio for my broccoli salad dressing, I replace some of the mayo with olive oil and up the proportion of vinegar. I also add a few teaspoons of Dijon mustard and a little honey to the mix, making for a light, super tangy dressing with a delectable sweet/salty flavor.

Add the broccoli, red onion, and dried cranberries to the creamy dressing, and stir to coat.

Now for the best part: the smoky tamari almonds and pepitas! They add wonderful crunch to the salad and bring richness and smoky flavor. They're the perfect nutritious substitute for bacon and cheese. They're easy to make—toss the almonds and pepitas with tamari, maple syrup, and smoked paprika, and toast in a 350°F oven for 10-14 minutes, until golden brown. Top the salad with the nuts.

Season to taste, and enjoy!



**Drama Magic Ltd
wishes our Drama
teachers all the best
for the Festive Season
and a well-earned
break**

**Kind Regards,
Susan Battye**

**From the
Play Bureau
Family to You
and Yours:
Meri
Kirihimete !!**



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

For many members, renewal time is at hand. You will automatically receive an invoice in mid January. Please ask your school to make prompt payment to ensure you retain all the awesome benefits of membership for 2024.

Ngā mihi o te Meri Kirihimete o te tau hou!

Season's Greetings from everyone at Red Leap Theatre.
It's been great working with you through 2023.
Have a restful and joyful summer holiday, we can't wait to
embark on more Education fun with you all in 2024!



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