

Ministry bulletin for

SCHOOL LEADERS

He pitopito kōrero

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Get in touch with me

After my comments in the last edition of The Bulletin, some of you took the opportunity to get in touch with me.

However, I noticed that some of you didn't have my email address.

So if you would like to contact me directly, there is a new link on the electronic version of the bulletin. It's below the Feedback option near the top right. You can also [click here to email me directly](#).

I would be very happy to hear from you.

Peter

- In the coming weeks, you might receive a letter about student data quality. The letter will show differences between student information in your March 2014 roll return (.moe files) and ENROL. We ask that you look into these differences and update your SMS or ENROL as necessary.
- Based on the Education Review Office's evaluation of Activity Centres (June 2013), the Ministry will soon be consulting with Activity Centres to develop a success measures framework.
- Dates for 2014 Youth Guarantee workshops, including discussions on achievement 2013 – 2017, Vocational Pathways and Secondary-Tertiary programmes are available at www.youthguarantee.net.nz
- A small number of schools will soon be contacted by the Ministry regarding participating in a pilot for updating schools' Education Sector Authentication and Authorisation (ESAA) logins.

Critical need to know and action

- **Final Reminder:** [Windows XP unsupported after 8 April](#)
- **Operational Funding and Confirmed Staffing for 2014:** On 26 March, the Resourcing Division will be posting out the 2014 Confirmed Staffing Entitlement Notices and the Operational Funding Entitlement and Instalment Notices for the April Instalment.
- [The Secondary Tertiary Alignment Resource \(STAR\) funding is no longer tagged](#)
- Please check that your enrolment forms are up-to-date so that it's clear to students and parents that these details may be shared with MSD. [Refer to page 7 of the Roll Return Guidelines for more information.](#)

Heads up

- The first view of Education.govt.nz goes live on 4 April. You will see **the start** of a new portal replacing minedu.govt.nz and other Ministry websites.

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Critical need to know and action

Microsoft will stop supporting Windows XP on 8 April 2014

After this date, the Windows XP operating system will become more vulnerable to security threats, and increasingly incompatible with new software and hardware. This also means you will no longer receive:

- New security updates
- Non-security hotfixes
- Free or paid assisted support
- Online technical content updates

If your school still has computers running Windows XP, the Ministry recommends that you move onto another operating system as soon as possible.

All Windows laptops leased through the Ministry's TELA programme in the last 3 years have been provided with Windows 7 or 8.

To find out more about the range of Ministry funded software and support available to schools, go to the ICT Helpdesk website: <http://ict-helpdesk.tki.org.nz/> - phone the Helpdesk on 0800 CALL ICT (0800 22 55 42), or email callict@tki.org.nz

Ministry contact details:

Marie Nordstrand - Marie.nordstrand@minedu.govt.nz - Ph 04 463 8862

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The Secondary Tertiary Alignment Resource (STAR) funding is no longer tagged

STAR funding, which is part of the Operational funding, assists secondary schools to help their Years 11-13 students smoothly transition from school to further education and/or employment. STAR funding, which was originally tagged, is now untagged.

The STAR funding will remain the same during 2014, which means that all eligible schools will continue to receive STAR funding. Schools are encouraged to continue to use STAR to facilitate transition to further education, training, and employment by providing or purchasing tertiary-type courses.

A review of STAR will be announced in 2014 and may impact on how STAR is calculated and its status as untagged funding.

For further information about the changes to STAR, please see our webpage www.minedu.govt.nz/starchanges or email us at STARcontact@minedu.govt.nz.

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Heads up

All Heads up items are included in full in the Index [Back to top](#)

Changes to the Ministry – working better together

Over the last few months we've been talking to a number of you about how we can work together better. We've listened and we're making some significant changes to how we operate.

As a first step we'll be moving from four regions to ten so we can provide better support at a local level. This means:

- Services will be better coordinated and easy to access, regardless of who you talk to at the Ministry
- Local issues will get local attention and expertise
- Support will be available where it will make a difference
- Resources and support from different Government agencies and local communities will be brought together to make a difference for children and young people.

We want to work with you in your communities to make a difference to education outcomes. We've started by listening more and adopting a partnership approach. These

new changes will help embed this approach by putting the right structures, processes and priorities in place.

For Special Education, we will continue to work with four regions and our local district offices.

This is the start of the process. Changing everything that needs changing will take time. I'll keep you up to date with our progress. In the mean time look out for our new Ministry leadership roles when advertising commences this Friday.

Katrina Casey
Head of Sector Enablement & Support

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\$30,000 movie competition for Intermediate schools

Entries for 'Our Nation's Children Movie Competition' close on 19 April

The deadline is approaching for intermediate schools to get a taste of Hollywood and a chance to win a \$10,000 school trip to Waitangi in the 'Our Nation's Children - Movie Competition'.

Our Nation's Children – an initiative of the Waitangi National Trust and supported by Westpac – is asking intermediate age students to produce a video based on the Treaty of Waitangi and its relevance to New Zealanders today, for a chance to win.

Academy Award-winning movie producer and director Andrew Adamson NZOM (Shrek, Chronicles of Narnia, Mr Pip) will judge the competition and says he is inspired by the idea of reconnecting Kiwi kids with their history.

Entries will be judged on visuals, audio, editing skills, story/script and overall effectiveness. Students who make the three top movies will receive a class trip to Waitangi in the Bay of Islands valued at around \$10,000.

Approximately 3,000 school children – just over 2.5% - of New Zealand's students currently visit Waitangi each year. Our Nation's Children was launched in November 2013 with the aim of having every child visit Waitangi to better understand New Zealand's heritage, before they leave school.

More information about Our Nation's Children and the 'Our Nation's Children Movie Competition' can be found at: www.waitangi.org.nz/our-nations-children/ or you can contact Nineke Metz at the Waitangi National Trust at ninekemetz@waitangi.org.nz or on DDI (09) 974-6781.

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ACC healthy relationships programme

A new healthy relationships programme for secondary schools is being developed by ACC as part of a new focus on preventing sexual violence.

Research shows that 15-24 year olds are the most at risk from physical, psychological and sexual harm from current and ex partners, and targeting prevention activities at young people is one of the most effective ways of preventing sexual violence.

ACC wants to see a nationally available multi-year programme that strengthens and builds on some of the great work already being done in, and by, secondary schools.

You may be contacted by specialist education providers you have previously worked with to be part of a pilot of the new programme. ACC is asking providers to partner with schools before submitting a proposal to take part in the pilot.

[Click here for more information about ACC's plans](#)

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Māori students rising to *The Challenge*

A new competition to continue the living legacy of the Ngārimu VC and 28th (Māori) Battalion is now open to Year 7 to 13 Māori students.

The competition, called *The Challenge*, is an opportunity for students to keep the Battalion's legacy alive using 21st Century technology, and to reflect on the triumphs and tragedies of the Battalion's brave young men.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Cassino. Students are invited to create a short film, musical composition, graphic novel, essay or other presentation about that battle, as if they are contributing a piece for a new museum.

Year 7 to 13 students can submit individual or small group entries in either English or Māori. An overall prize of \$1500 will help to publish the most outstanding entry. Cash prizes will also be awarded to category winners. Entries close on 19 September 2014.

The Ngārimu VC and 28th (Māori) Battalion Memorial Scholarship Fund Board has long supported Māori achievers who exemplify the traits of the Battalion. This is the first year it has offered *The Challenge*.

The Board has expanded the traditional essay competition to encompass other formats that are relevant to young peoples' skills and interests today. Individual students can still submit essays as entries for *The Challenge*.

For more information visit www.minedu.govt.nz/NgārimuVCand28thMāoriBattalion or email ngarimu.scholarship@minedu.govt.nz

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Education profiles for Pasifika and female students

As part of the Public Achievement Information (PAI) Plan, the Ministry has recently published two more infographics on the Education Counts website - <http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/topics/education-overview>.

PAI is about using data and evidence more effectively to make sure we are making the biggest difference in raising student achievement.

Pasifika education profile

<http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/topics/education-overview/pasifika-achievement>

Results show an increase in Pasifika students leaving school with NCEA 2 in 2012, with provisional results for 2013 showing a further increase of 7 percentage points. This is in addition to a 1.9% increase in 2011.

There is also evidence of Pasifika students performing better against National Standards since 2011, with a 5.3% increase for those at or above the standards in reading, a 5.6% increase in writing and an even higher increase in maths - up 6.1%.

Having access to this information helps everyone involved to contribute to achieving better outcomes for Pasifika learners – from teachers and schools to parents, families and communities.

Female students achieving in education

<http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/topics/education-overview/females-in-education>

This infographic was released on 8 March 2014 in acknowledgement of International Women's Day. It shows that in 2012 almost 80% of our 29,401 female school leavers achieved at least NCEA 2, and provisional results suggest that the proportion will be even higher in 2013.

More than half of New Zealand's young women achieved university entrance in 2012, which is a 5.2% increase over the previous year.

Performance against National Standards has also shown evidence of improvement between 2011 and 2012, with 82% of female students achieving at or above standard in reading, 1.7% higher than the 2011 result.

These results show the positive impact of work being done in schools and communities on female students' achievement.

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Investing in Educational Success

In January the Government announced funding of \$359 million over four years for *Investing in Educational Success* (IES), an initiative designed to raise student achievement in our schools. The initiative will be maintained by on-going funding of over \$150 million each year.

A Working Group of representatives from across the education sector, chaired by the Secretary for Education, is further developing the preliminary design of the initiative. For example, the group is reviewing the titles of proposed new roles and how the purpose of the proposed roles will align with existing roles.

Other development work includes how inquiry and release time could work and the criteria for Boards of Trustees to access the Change Principal Allowance.

You can visit our website for more information about [Investing in Educational Success](#), or you are welcome to contact me via IES.Team@minedu.govt.nz to discuss these proposals.

Dr Graham Stoop, Deputy Secretary

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Request for feedback on recent Professional Learning and Development provision in your school

We are seeking feedback from schools that received centrally-funded PLD support in English-medium in 2013 and/or 2014, via an online survey.

The survey is designed so that schools have the opportunity to contribute their reflections and opinions of the current PLD provision. As well as providing an opportunity for possible follow-up, the survey may also provide information on potential case studies of effective PLD interventions.

It is expected the information received will help inform on-going improvements to PLD design, to ensure that it meets schools' needs and results in improved outcomes for students.

The survey can be found on <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/System-of-support-incl.-PLD> (in the top right hand corner)

The survey will be active until January 2015 to enable schools engaging in PLD throughout 2014 to provide feedback.

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Special Assessment Conditions for NCEA students with special learning needs

Support is being provided to assist schools to identify students and gather alternative evidence to apply for Special Assessment Conditions (SAC) for NCEA.

- The alternative evidence application process for SAC has been made quicker and easier to use.

- Alternative evidence makes use of the information that schools already have about students plus some complementary assessment information.
- The deadline for applications for SAC has been extended until the end of term one. Schools can negotiate with NZQA on a case-by-case basis for further extensions.
- Ninety seven percent of applications for SAC are successful.
- RTLBs and NCEA Chief Advisors have been alerted to provide immediate support to schools over the next few weeks for 2014 applications.
- The alternative evidence approach will be further strengthened over 2014 in time for 2015 applications.

Find out on more on the [NZQA's website](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz) and the Ministry's website <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/sac2014>

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Review of enrolment schemes

Enrolment schemes are one of the tools available to Boards and the Ministry to help manage the effective use of the network of schools.

About one third of all schools have enrolment schemes to help their Boards of Trustees manage enrolments and we ask Boards of these schools to review their schemes regularly.

Letters were recently sent to the Boards of schools that will be involved in the review process this year. For the schools in Otago and Southland that are reviewing their schemes, the Ministry has also included demographic information for their area. We hope this information is helpful and if feedback is positive we can include relevant demographic information for Boards in other parts of the country in future years.

The review of enrolment schemes allows a Board to consider the ongoing effectiveness of its scheme. If it is deemed to be effective, the Board may decide that no change is required. If a Board decides that a change is necessary, it may request that the enrolment scheme is reviewed. This may result in changes to the scheme, for example the home zone being amended or the scheme being abandoned altogether.

Once the Board has undertaken its part of the review process, it replies to the Ministry (by 1 May 2014) with its findings. The Ministry will then respond by agreeing with the Board or making contact to further discuss the school's particular situation.

If your school has an enrolment scheme and you have questions about its review, please contact your Senior Adviser.

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New website connects students with NZ rivers

A new website housing New Zealand's water quality data offers students and educators the chance to connect with what's going on in their region's waterways.



The website, Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA), is a collaboration between New Zealand's 16 regional and unitary councils, the Ministry for the Environment, Cawthron Institute and Massey University.

A New Zealand first, LAWA displays state and trend information for over 1100 freshwater monitoring sites, giving the public access to all of the country's water quality monitoring in one place and in a common, easy to understand format.

"Never before has there been such a focus on the state of New Zealand's freshwater but until now there has been no one place to access information about the quality of our rivers," explained Fran Wilde, chair of the regional council sector group.

"Freshwater is a vital asset to our country and its important that the public can see and understand for themselves the state of a particular river or catchment and how it may be affected by what's going on around it."

Regional councils measure a range of parameters when assessing water quality, the most common are *E. coli*, nitrogen, phosphorous, water clarity and pH. LAWA allows users to see where a river or catchment sits in comparison to others for each parameter and indicates whether things are improving, degrading or remaining stable.

Along with the water quality data is a learning section, complete with glossary and factsheets to help visitors to the site better understand the science behind river monitoring.

"We want to see children and young people using the website to develop their own learning about river ecosystems and the pressures they face. For classes undertaking stream studies or river restoration projects, LAWA provides an excellent source of information to complement students' own inquiry," said Ms Wilde.

The development of LAWA was supported by the Tindall Foundation, a philanthropic family foundation. Co-founder, Sir Stephen Tindall was keen to see the vision of LAWA realised, after experiencing difficulty in accessing clear information about the state of New Zealand rivers.

“I have a personal interest in this project because I love swimming and love our waterways. I spend every summer holiday with my family around the water swimming, fishing and kayaking,” said Sir Tindall.

“To me, the fact that the quality of our waterways is on the decline, is a horrifying thought. As a family Foundation we were keen to fund the LAWA website so that information on water quality is easily accessible to the public. And, by collecting data, we can identify problems early and see if water quality is improving or not. Then we can see how we can help, and encourage others to do the same. This is about preserving our rivers and fresh waterways for the future to ensure the safeguarding of our ecosystems our clean green image and to protect our beaches too.”

View the website at www.lawa.org.nz

For more information contact Caroline Rowe, caroline.rowe@vodafone.co.nz or 021 083 87049

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State Services Commissioner’s guidance for the 2014 election period

The teaching sector can make itself familiar with guidance for the 2014 election period by visiting the SSC website: www.ssc.govt.nz/election-guidance

This guidance is issued to state servants each election year. The ordinary business of government continues during the election period, and state servants retain their democratic rights to participate in political activity. At the same time, there is likely to be restraints on some government decision-making and an increased focus on the behaviour of state servants and the activities of state services’ agencies.

The main guidance document “State Servants, Political Parties, and Elections” is comprehensive, and structured so that material on topics such as advertising, costing,

party political policies or briefings for incoming Ministers, can stand alone. New for 2014 is a short communications video. This video highlights the key messages in the guidance and draws attention to the written documents.

SSC staff are available to provide further advice to State servants on request; email: election@ssc.govt.nz

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Learning with digital technologies webinars

Schools are invited to register for a webinar on Tuesday afternoon about students bringing their own electronic devices to connect to their school's network. The webinar will include presentations from Churton Park School in Wellington and Wanaka's Mount Aspiring College, a discussion with representatives from the Ministry and N4L and time for participants to share their experience and ask questions.

A webinar last week, which addressed preparing schools to take up the opportunities generated by the N4L managed network, was well received with around 40 schools participating. Waimate High School reported that 2014 will be an exciting year for the school with connection to the managed network generating cost savings and allowing the school to contribute to its vision of preparing students for the future by reinvesting in digital technologies.

Rotorua Intermediate was similarly enthusiastic in its presentation and in addition to cost savings said it had been able to implement new initiatives such as the establishment of an after-school computer suite in which parents are encouraged to participate in the learning experience.

[Register here](#) for Tuesday's webinar 25 March 2014, 3.45 – 4.45pm

[View last week's webinar](#)

[Read more about connecting to the N4L managed network](#)

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REGIONAL NEWS

NORTHERN REGION

Suicide Prevention Workshops for principals and school crisis teams

Registrations are due by 31 March for the workshops, which are being held in Manukau, Auckland City and Northwest Auckland during May/June 2014.

[Click here to view the PDF that has all the details for the workshops](#)

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CENTRAL NORTH REGION

Working Together Symposium

Saturday 5 April, Bushmere Arms, 673 Matawai Rd, Gisborne

Tairāwhiti REAP and giftEDnz (The Professional Association for Gifted Education) are proudly “working together” to present their dynamic symposium and show how we support gifted learners in our region.

The collaborative event will be a first for giftEDnz and Tairāwhiti REAP, and hence aptly fits the title of our double-act, Working Together AGM-Symposium. The theme for giftEDnz in 2014 is “Taking it to the Regions” and so Gisborne-Tairāwhiti is a perfect example, because we are as regional and rural as anywhere in New Zealand! In conjunction with the Turanga-Gisborne GATE Cluster, we aim to spotlight what we do to empower and accelerate our high ability students, not only in Gisborne, but also the Wairoa District and East Coast schools.

This GATE extravaganza will be a unique blend of local showcasing, mixed with presentations from several of our top academics and ‘leading lights’ in the New Zealand gifted education field. We are delighted to welcome lecturers from Massey, Waikato, Auckland and Canterbury Universities. I’m sure that whoever attends will glean a huge amount from these high caliber specialists and national experts. Our programme offers research and evidence-based.

We will show the rest of the gifted world what we do here to not only enrich, but accelerate our brightest, high potential students. These homegrown learning intensives will model our recent focus on differentiation of curriculum areas. The workshops will offer strategies for schools to set up their own in-school extension programmes. Within our exciting symposium, we will celebrate the diversity of our region and highlight key strands, such as living science and high order thinking skills; community-minded leadership; exploring creativity through mixed art media; Māori giftedness; and chess as a game-changer to tap into traditional Māori intelligence. We are thrilled to have exceptional local experts present, and these include Dr Amber Dunn (Growing up Gifted in Aotearoa-New Zealand), Georgette Jenson (Science Alive!), Rebecca Trafford (Leadership in Action) and Dr Sarah Boyle (Fantastic Fossils for Gifted and Talented Juniors).

The Turanga-Gisborne GATE Cluster, in partnership with Tairawhiti REAP, has now been in operation for well over 11 years. In this day and age, we believe this to be quite a milestone, especially in this non-government funded era. Our sustainability is currently due entirely to the largesse of local Trusts and it is because of this generosity, the symposium is open to local schools at a heavily subsidised rate. This will be excellent professional development for all teachers, as what works best for gifted students also applies across a wide spectrum of learners.

Come along and experience for yourselves how we can support and lift the achievements of our gifted and talented learners throughout the region. It would be wonderful to have your school represented at our co-hosted symposium. This is a once-ever opportunity that is not to be missed!

Registrations are essential and are offered at a very reasonable price: Three or more teachers per school @ \$80 pp, or \$95 for individuals. Both figures are inclusive of GST.

Please see the attached [programme](#), [promotional flyer](#) and [registration form](#)

Any queries, then please don't hesitate to contact me at Tairawhiti REAP on 868 4186 or email: sunny.gisborne@tairawhitireap.org.nz

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CENTRAL SOUTH REGION

Launch of Taranaki Futures

Taranaki Futures is a new initiative aimed to create a clear line of sight from education to employment in Taranaki. It is driven by employers and connects with local education providers to develop and provide learning programmes and initiatives from education to work, across a range of industries and employment categories.

Working with the Youth Guarantee network in Taranaki, the 'Skills Squad' has been developed in partnership with schools, tertiary providers and industry partners that provides hands-on learning and vocational pathways for young people.

Taranaki students will gain valuable work experience aimed at encouraging young people to gain valued qualifications and skills, and to move onto work and remain in the region. This year, 18 Taranaki students are involved in the first skills squad project, where they will build a bach to industry standards as part of their school work.

See the full article at <http://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/business/9809024/Initiative-aims-to-lift-youth-job-skills>.

For more information visit: www.taranakifutures.co.nz or joint them on Facebook 'Taranaki Skills Squad'.

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SOUTHERN REGION

Greater Christchurch – Professional Learning and Development for Learning Community Clusters

The approach to professional learning and development (PLD) in Greater Christchurch has been designed to support Learning Community Clusters (LCCs) to achieve their goals. PLD will be tailored and support educational achievement for all students, especially for Māori, Pasifika, students from low socio-economic backgrounds and those with special education needs.

The contracted providers for centrally funded PLD within Greater Christchurch are working as one team to support LCCs and clusters will need to determine how best to use this support.

Requests from LCCs will be scoped with the cluster and a PLD plan agreed. The plan will support the vision and address the goals and challenges identified by the cluster.

Learning Community Clusters' in Greater Christchurch that wish to access PLD need to contact their operation delivery advisor.

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Pasifika church service celebrating Pasifika NCEA achievement

Dunedin is holding its first Pasifika Education Church Service and Awards ceremony on Tuesday 8 April at 6pm at First Church, Moray Place, Dunedin.

Members of our Dunedin Pasifika Education Reference Group have asked the Ministry if we could support schools with their Pasifika community engagement. The Pasifika Education Church Service brings together the education community and the Pasifika community to celebrate Pasifika education success and Pasifika identities, languages and cultures.

A letter has been sent to 12 Dunedin schools inviting them to attend the Church Service. It will inspire and celebrate the success of the top two National Certificate Education Achievement (NCEA) achievers from each participating secondary school. It will also acknowledge the crucial roles of teachers and parents. This success will model the education partnership that school leaders, teachers and education agencies need to develop with their Pasifika parents, families, church leaders and communities.

This partnership is a key goal in the Government's Pasifika Education Plan and celebrates Pasifika academic success and student leadership.

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EVENT CALENDAR

29 March 2014

Festival of Education Wellington

TSB Arena, Shed 6 and Frank Kitts Park

Commencing at 10am

For more information visit: <http://www.wellingtonfestivalofeducation.org.nz/>

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28-29 March 2014

International Summit on the Teaching Profession | Wellington

The Summit will be held at Parliament Buildings home of the New Zealand Parliament and at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

For more information visit: <http://www.istp2014.org/>

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UPCOMING MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS

Visit: <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/MinistryBulletinSchoolLeaders/Issue2.aspx> - note this is a work in progress

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FEEDBACK

Send us your feedback, comments or questions: bulletin@minedu.govt.nz

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CONTACT PETER HUGHES

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