Editorial

Waiho i te toipoto, Kaua i te toiroa! Let us keep close together, not wide apart.

The art work on the cover of this issue of *Kairaranga* was chosen for its depiction of sea life. It was contributed by Poppy Grant, a 4-year-old at Torbay Kindergarten in seaside Auckland. In preparing this issue of the journal the editorial team were struck by the imagery of the picture, and how well it represented key messages introduced by the authors of the articles. We have chosen (just as in our journal title) to weave the themes from the articles as they relate to the imagery depicted in this artwork.

One of the key purposes of *Kairaranga* is to both explore and to encourage an ecological approach to practice. This approach is evidenced in a number of the articles presented in this issue. These articles are grounded in fieldwork practice either in the form of reviewing the tools of practice (Oxford Reading Pen, book reviews) or in the form of examining the "how" of service delivery (He hui whakatika).

When underwater we see the world through a different lens which can sharpen our perceptions into closer relief. The insight provided by the lens of a SWOT analysis, for instance, can be applied to our work as illustrated in the article on the new multi-ministry response to challenging behaviour.

Fish keep together in shoals and their partnership/ collaborative behaviour goes without saying. In a similar vein, *Kairaranga* articles espouse collaborative behaviour focused toward meeting the needs of learners. The reluctant swimmer can be motivated to brave challenges through the encouragement and modelling of the rest of the group or shoal. Similarly, *Kairaranga* provides models of excellence in biographical format through our interview series with special educators who have made a significant contribution to education in Aotearoa New Zealand (an interview with Ken Ryba), but also in the articles by authors who share how they work collaboratively or in partnership.

Water is a very different medium in which humans can struggle to function, nevertheless with encouragement and assistance people can "ride the waves", stabilise themselves and begin to enjoy the experience over time. So it is with ecological practice.

Finally, mermaid culture is very different from fish or human culture, but the maxim "when in Rome ... it's okay to be a tourist" offered by one of our authors may be relevant to humans experiencing new settings, or even when wanting to visit in a yellow submarine.

Let us encourage you to dive into this edition and immerse yourselves in the ebb and flow of your colleagues' thought!

Noho ora mai, nā

Jo C, Carol, Graeme, Merrolee, Valerie.

Kairaranga

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