

Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association



Newsletter May 2012

Convenor's kōrero



Kia ora koutou.

Over the last week I've had the pleasure of reviewing abstracts from proposals that more than 60 anzea members and others have sent in for the 2012 Conference in Hamilton. Not only is it inspiring to see such a high level of interest in the Conference, reviewing the abstracts is also a great way to get an insight into the kinds of thinking that's going on at present in our profession. A major focus in this year's abstracts has been examining the role of the evaluator – how that role is evolving as the organisations that either purchase evaluation or are subject to evaluation are increasingly wanting to acquire evaluation skills and the ability to undertake self-evaluation of initiatives, programmes and services. This apparent trend is music to the ears of most evaluators whose passion is to build evaluation culture – the habit of self-reflection by individuals and organisations to promote quality improvement in the multiplicity of services that agencies deliver to our communities. And it reflects a conversation that has been going on amongst the anzea Board and also across the profession – see for example the short write-up later in this Newsletter on Michael Scriven's suggestion for a role of 'evaluation advisor', as one way to make the most of the array of skills that evaluators accumulate through years of evaluation work in diverse contexts.

On a personal note, this will be my last term with the anzea Board, and I've been thinking about all of the great things that I've got out of my involvement over the eight years since a small group of us first dreamed up the plan to create our own professional body for Aotearoa. I'm stoked at what anzea has achieved in the past six years – we're now a thriving professional body providing a suite of quality services to a large and mostly stable membership, with more initiatives in the development phase.

Some of the things that I've got out of being involved in anzea initiatives have been making some great friends, both in NZ and overseas, developing great networks across the country, linking up for contract work with people I've met through anzea projects, and getting what has amounted to top quality professional development by continuously being exposed to discussion of developments and issues in evaluation in the process of conceptualising and setting up new initiatives. It's definitely made me a better informed and better skilled practitioner. But the best bit has been being part of an amazing anzea network – Branch Committees, Conference Committees, Boards, and lots of other anzea members involved in a huge range of projects – all buzzing together to make evaluation in our country safer and more ethical and more thoughtful and more democratic and more truly a profession. anzea really ROCKS!

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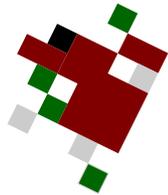
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**“GET
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Branch
level or by
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for the
anzea
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year or
BEYOND”**



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association



Convenor's kōrero - continued

So I really encourage you all to get involved in anzea projects and activities, either at your local Branch level or by standing for the anzea Board, this year or beyond. And if you're not a 'committee person', but have some energy for project work, then there is always an exciting array of anzea projects that we're keen to have members working on alongside Board members – just look through the involvements on offer later in this Newsletter.

I'm looking forward to meeting up with you all in July at the Hamilton Conference – check out the fantastic programme.

Aroha, Pam

anzea
Conference 2012

Evaluation in the real world—relationships, roles, responsibilities and results.

8– 11 July 2012

University of
Waikato,
Hamilton

Registrations now
open!
[Click here to register.](#)

Check out
www.anzea.org.nz for
more
information.

Editorial

Reflecting on two years of Board Membership

With the elections for the next anzea Board underway, it seems like a good idea to reflect on my experience as a new Board member during the current term. The point of this, of course, is to help people think about offering their time to the Board. So what does the Board do?

The Board's activity is divided into portfolios, currently the Convenor, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications, Strategic Relations, Conferences, Pacific Evaluation Development, Maori Evaluation Development, Professional Practice Development, and Membership & Branch Development. Each Board member takes on involvement in one or more portfolios, and leadership of one portfolio.

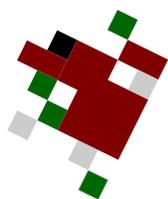
A great deal of work also goes on behind the scenes, developing and fine-tuning policy and systems and ensuring that the organisation remains solvent, whilst also providing good value for money for members. In the current Board term, amongst other activities, the Board has developed an updated [Strategic Plan](#) for 2011-2014, started publishing *Karearea*, a digest of materials related to evaluation that will come out periodically and involved input from a wide range of people. We have begun the development of an online library resource. The Evaluator Competencies Project has continued to develop and a series of workshops on Exploring Evaluator Competencies is about to be run around the country.

We have appointed the first two members of the anzea Taumata, conferring life membership of anzea, joined up our first corporate members, and developed a volunteering strategy.



*“The annual
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evaluation
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together “*





Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association



Editorial - continued

The popular annual anzea Conferences are important as a way of bringing the wide-ranging New Zealand evaluation community together to update practitioner knowledge and skills, help them to reflect on their practice and to mix with others in the sector. anzea would not exist without the enthusiasm of many volunteers. Board members give their time to help run anzea and develop new initiatives. We meet three times per year, and there is a small flurry of activity that occurs around preparing for the meetings and a more sustained burst after the meetings as new initiatives are commenced. The Board is supported by a large number of other volunteers who organise Branch activities and the Conferences and Symposia. Others contribute to activities like this Newsletter, *Karearea* and other anzea projects.

Our Manager Jackie Bourne is a godsend. Jackie has been with anzea for five years. She ably manages all aspects of anzea's functioning and is an important source of knowledge about the organisation. With the support of Jackie and our many volunteers, volunteering as a Board member is not a huge and onerous task.

Chrys Horn.

anzea Board Elections 2012

We are calling for nominations from for the anzea Board and/or anzea Convenor for the term July 2012 - June 2014.

Full details on how to make a nomination and nomination guidelines are available [here](#) on the website.

All nominations must be received by 18 May 2012.

Board News—**what's happening!**

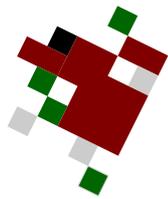
With new initiatives commencing throughout the year, we are always very keen to have members' involvement! If you are interested in contributing to anzea's growth and having some fun along the way, then please send an email to us at info@anzea.org.nz outlining your interests and skills. Here are some updates from Board members.

Professional Practice Development (PPD)

Syd King, who leads the PPD portfolio, is currently collating information collected through a series of anzea regional workshops late in 2011 on evaluators' understandings of evaluative thinking and its impact on evaluation practitioners' roles and needs for professional development.

Spinning out of the 'evaluative thinking' workshops already held is a further workshop at conference this year facilitated by Kate Averill and Syd on 'Applied evaluative thinking'. Presumably 'thinking evaluatively' is a relevant skill and worth specifically developing - but what does 'evaluative thinking' really mean? And what makes a good 'evaluative thinker'? The workshop is based on the notion that 'evaluative thinking' is an implied or explicit component of many (all?) of the key areas of the anzea Evaluator Competencies.





Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association



Board News— continued

Syd and Pam Oliver will also be facilitating a workshop around the anzea Branches and regions (and at the anzea Conference this year), to bring the anzea Evaluator Competencies to evaluators and give them a 'life' in the Aotearoa evaluation community – look out for a workshop near you soon!
If you're interested in being involved in the development of these or other PPD initiatives, contact Syd at syd.king@nzqa.govt.nz



Pam's other initiatives in the PPD team include working on the 2nd edition of *Karearea* (the anzea Evaluation Digest) – she'd love you to *get in touch with her if you're interested in being part of the editorial team* pamo@clear.net.nz.

Pam is also liaising with both anzea members and some of the other evaluation societies to scope the potential for anzea to establish a **Voluntary Evaluation Peer Review** system as a dual professional development and accountability system for evaluation practitioners in Aotearoa – if you're interested in this concept, you can read the material on the website (hyperlink) or *come to the workshop being offered by Pam and Marnie Carter at the Hamilton Conference* to develop this concept and gauge members' interest.

Another project in the planning phase is to undertake some **research on evaluation scope of practice** in Aotearoa and beyond – that is, what do evaluators do, and in what roles and contexts. *If you're interested in being part of that research, contact Pam at pamo@clear.net.nz*

Branch Development



Read about the new anzea Central Branch in the Branch news update. Steps are also under way to set up an anzea Branch in the Eastern region (Hastings to East Cape).

Conferences

Portfolio leader Marnie Carter is working with the 2012 Conference Committee to bring you another fantastic anzea Conference, more information on page 6.

Strategic Relations



Kate Averill and Syd King are facilitating a discussion on 'evaluative thinking' at the anzea Conference 2012. Discussions and planning are underway to extend anzea's communication with government agencies and NGOs about monitoring and evaluation and the role of anzea as a national evaluation association.

anzea Workshop
event in Napier

“Exploring Evaluator Competencies”

Facilitated by
Syd King

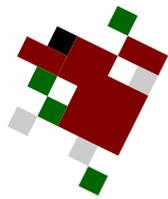
Friday 18th May
1pm– 4pm
ERO offices
Level 1
Dundas House
43 Station Street
Napier

All welcome!
Free entry!

This workshop will
be offered in other
regions throughout
2012



Accept the
fact that
some days
YOU'RE THE
statue,
some days
YOU'RE THE
pigeon!



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association



Board News - continued

Strategic Relations continued

We are interested in hearing *your views about the role for anzea in advocacy for evaluation within New Zealand - contact Kate Averill (kate@evaluationconsult.com) or Chrys Horn (chrys.horn@xtra.co.nz).* A forum for NGOs to discuss monitoring and evaluation in a results-focused environment is being scheduled for late July in Wellington. Further details will be provided. Kate McKegg is currently providing information to the International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) about the role of anzea and its contribution to evaluation in New Zealand.

Communications

As you'll have noticed, the anzea Newsletter is now in a new format, thanks to the expertise of anzea Manager Jackie Bourne. We're always looking for items for the Newsletter, and for people willing to spend just an hour or so three times a year to do the proofing, *so if you'd like to help as a proofer or on the editorial team, please contact Jackie at info@anzea.org.nz.*



Convenor

In her last few months as anzea Convenor, Pam is focusing on three main tasks at present.

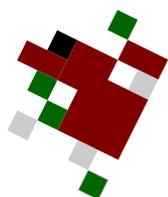
An important job has been to review and make some changes to the processes for reviewing *nominations to the Taumata*, so that Taumata status is genuinely available not only to experienced evaluation practitioners but also to people who have made other important contributions to the evaluation sector. You'll see that the eligibility criteria have been adjusted for that purpose, and the nominations review process has been strengthened to make it fully accountable to the anzea Board.

We've also been collaborating with the two founding members of the Taumata, Ian Trotman and Robin Peace, to develop the roles and functions of the Taumata, and you can catch up with those developments by either reading the short document [here](#) or by coming along to the group discussion that Robin Peace will be facilitating at this year's anzea Conference in Hamilton.

The Convenor's responsibility for setting up the processes for anzea Board elections for this year is now largely in the hands of anzea's recently appointed Manager, Jackie Bourne. Pam is also working with Jackie to give her a comprehensive understanding of anzea's policies and systems, as the Manager role is envisaged as (amongst other functions) a repository of knowledge in that area.

The other significant task is coordinating the two-yearly Board performance review, and the induction process for incoming Board members, so that the current Board is able to hand on what we have learned about how to work effectively as a Board to the new Board members who will take over the reins in July this year.





Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association



anzea 2012 Conference



Evaluation in the real world: Relationships, roles, responsibilities and results anzea Conference 8-11 July 2012 at the University of Waikato in Hamilton

What does evaluation look like in the real world? How do perceptions of the world differ amongst evaluation practitioners and those we work with and for, and how do we acknowledge, understand and evaluate within these multiple realities? What are the practicalities, challenges and opportunities we face commissioning, designing, implementing and experiencing evaluation in this real world?

anzea Conference 2012 invites you to dig deeper into what happens in the 'real' world of evaluation, and what the challenges and opportunities are for the evaluation community in serving and relating to real communities and real people.

The anzea conference provides a great opportunity to meet evaluators, commissioners of evaluation and academics all in one event and to get up to date with what's happening in the field of evaluation.

As usual we are planning a great range of informative, thought provoking pre conference workshops on Sunday 8th and Monday 9th July. Workshop topics are designed to provide valuable skills to evaluation practitioners in a variety of roles within the sector. This year, in addition to workshops from each of our three keynote speakers, they will include: a workshop from Aly McNicoll on **The Mentor's Toolbox** – developing effective mentoring relationships; Professor Angus MacFarlane on Culturally responsive evaluation; Dr Carol Mutch is providing a workshop on Integrating quantitative and qualitative data, and Pam Oliver is providing a free workshop on What is evaluation? An introduction to evaluation purposes, design and methods.

As well as our International Keynote Presenters: Thereza Penna Firme from Brazil, Yoland Wadsworth from Australia, and our national NZ presenter Samantha Lundon - there is an excellent range of presentations from around the evaluation field nationally and internationally. The Conference programme and registration details are available on the [website](#).

A Hui Māori will also be held on Sunday 8th July at the Waikato Teacher's College campus marae, and a Fono Pasifika will be held on Monday 6 – 8pm within the Conference.

[Register for the Conference now to get the earlybird discount!](#)

The lush Waikato region (including Hamilton/ Kirikiriroa) is the territory of numerous tribes descended from the people of the Tainui canoe.

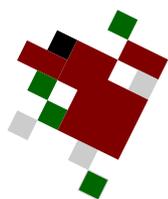
Waikato is a tribal confederation which takes its name from the Waikato River and region.

The confederation includes the tribes Ngāti Wairere, Ngāti Mahuta, Ngāti Māhanga, Ngāti Haua, Ngāti Tīpā and many more. It is also the home of the Kingitanga, the Māori King Movement.

The Waikato people are one of the major groups descended from the voyagers of the Tainui canoe. "Waikato taniwha rau, he piko, he taniwha." This famous Tainui proverb uses the Waikato River as a way to pay homage to the many chiefs of Tainui. The Waikato River is the longest river in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

For more information please go to:
[http://
www.tainui.co.nz/](http://www.tainui.co.nz/)





anzea Branch News



anzea Auckland Branch—Convenor Pauline Dickinson

Future events being planned - dates to be confirmed:

Free workshop, Exploring Evaluator Competencies, facilitated by Pam Oliver, ERO offices, College Hill - May 31, 5.30-7.30, all welcome. RSVP to Michael.Blewden@tepou.co.nz.

Simone Randle from Safekids – challenges faced by internal evaluators working on shoe string budgets.

Rachael Trotman - Reflections on 'Made to Measure', a project that aims to build a learning and evaluation culture within the Community Development, Arts and Culture Department of the Auckland Council. The project began in November 2010, with the aim being to embed good evaluation practice within the day to day workings of the Department, across the board. Rachael will present the purpose and approach undertaken via Made to Measure, its successes, challenges and lessons for others seeking to build an evaluation culture in any organisation (and especially large, complex ones). Interactive discussion will follow.

Maggie Jakob-Hoff - reflections on Outcomes Mapping

Evaluation in the networked society

Seminar by Bob Picciotto to the anzea Auckland Branch
Please click [here](#) to read this presentation

anzea Waikato/Bay of Plenty Branch—Convenor Debbie Goodwin

Many of the Branch and Committee members are involved with the hosting, planning and organisation of the anzea Conference 2012.

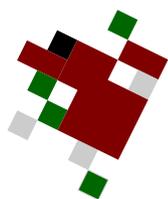
A Branch event was held on the 27th April and further events including the Exploring Evaluators Competencies event will be held later in the year after the Conference

anzea Central Region Branch —Convenor Maree Young

An active anzea Branch has now been established in anzea's Central region (Palmerston North-Whanganui-New Plymouth-Taupo), with a committee of three - Maree Young, Eloise Pollard and Lousie Tester.

They're very keen to hear from others who might like to join the local committee or contribute ideas for local anzea events - if you're interested, please contact Maree at Maree.Young@tdhb.org.nz or 06 7537777 X 8745.

The Branch will be launched with a workshop on *Exploring evaluator competencies* and drinks and snacks after work on May 24 - venue to be announced - come along and help celebrate! RSVP to Maree Young.



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association



anzea Branch News - continued



anzea Wellington/Lower North Island Branch—Convenor Melissa Weenink

An opportunity to discuss practice-based issues related to developmental evaluation.

Later this year the Wellington branches of AES and anzea are planning a two hour session on developmental evaluation. The session will focus on practice-based issues and will have a participatory approach. We are seeking four evaluators / contract managers to present an issue they have encountered in a developmental evaluation. In the first part of the session, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss each issue as it is presented. The second part will be a general group discussion across the issues that have been presented.

If you have been involved in a developmental evaluation, and would like to present an issue - we'd love to hear from you. Please contact one of the following people by end of April:

Liz Smith (AES Wellington region) – liz@litmus.co.nz or Melissa Weenink (anzea Wellington) – melissa.weenink@minedu.govt.nz

anzea Upper South Island Branch —Convenor Libby Gawith

anzea extends a warm invitation to all Branch members to come to our first session for 2012 on Friday 11 May. We are going to start the year with a powhiri:

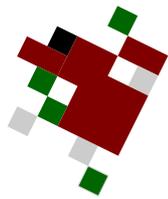
Moana O Hinerangi - whānau reflections on our iwi strategy.

Marge Wong - Evaluation in a Cultural Context: The complementary roles of mixed evaluation methodology and culturally-appropriate practices.

So come along—don't miss out!

All welcome so please bring colleagues with you.

Please RSVP for catering purposes to swylie@socialresearch.co.nz
See you there!



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association



Resources, Training, Information, Articles



Official Statistics Training Opportunities

Two formal training programmes are currently available.

Public Sector Decision Making with Official Data certificate Official Statistics postgraduate paper

The certificate is a Level 5 NZQA qualification about interpreting and assessing official statistical data in a public sector context. It includes a work-based statistical research project. It is administered by Learning State and offered via Victoria University's Professional and Executive Development unit. It is also possible to sign up for individual units without doing the assessment.

For further information see

<http://www.statisphere.govt.nz/seminars-training-forums/certificate-of-official-statistics.aspx>

The postgraduate paper is offered simultaneously by a number of universities via video-conference. Lectures are given by staff from Universities of Auckland, Waikato, Victoria, Canterbury and Otago, and by Statistics New Zealand. It offers a practitioner's view of official statistics and the methods employed in producing official statistics, such as the CPI, national accounts and demography.

For further information see

<http://www.statisphere.govt.nz/seminars-training-forums/postgrad-official-statistics.aspx>

NEW APPOINTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND - SAVILLE KUSHNER

Evaluation as a practice and a discipline was invented in expansionary times. Its seminal papers were written in the 1960s and 1970s. So its vision was expansive. In 1985 Cronbach wrote, "*Evaluation is the means by which society learns about itself*". Each program evaluation was a case study of society - its hopes, its politics, its culture. Contexts and priorities have changed. Evaluation is increasingly concerned with the measurement of a program's productivity, much defined as impact assessment. It draws closer to policy and is often shaped by accountability - less expansive, more determined.

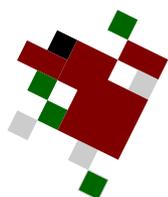
Saville Kushner, recently appointed Professor of Public Evaluation at the University of Auckland, has lived through such changes and reflects on them in his writing. He was one of the group, under Barry MacDonald, who devised Democratic Evaluation, and he joined the Transatlantic college of evaluators that included Robert Stake, Ernest House and others who were the first generation inventors of this expansive practice. He comes to Aotearoa New Zealand from the UK where he was recently President of the UK Evaluation Society and an evaluation professor at the University of the West of England in Bristol. His recent evaluation work has been in the criminal justice sector, health and social services, child protection, tertiary education and the performing arts. For a while he served as Regional M&E Officer for the UN in Latin America, and there he began to develop ideas around a rights-based approach to evaluation.

At the University of Auckland Saville is charged with continuing his focus on cross-professional and cross-sector evaluation. He will be developing accredited programs for evaluation study and training and putting this on an interdisciplinary footing. Where he finds critical mass he will be looking to develop an evaluation Unit, and in that space he will encourage conversations about the identity of this agile practice and about where its futures lie.

Saville Kushner

s.kushner@auckland.ac.uk

Tel: 09 623 8899 Ext. 48183



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association



Resources, Training, Information, Articles

UNICEF, in partnership with UNDP, UNWomen, ILO, IDRC, IOCE, IDEAS and CONEVAL, are pleased to inform you that the book "Evaluation for equitable development results" is now available for free download at http://www.mymande.org/?q=evaluation_for_equitable_results

<http://www.mymande.org/?q=evaluation_for_equitable_results%20%20> .

This new book complements the manual "How to design and implement Equity-focused evaluations" available at <http://www.mymande.org/?q=content/how-design-and-manage-equity-focused-evaluations>

"Evaluation for equitable development results" aims to contribute to the international debate on how the evaluation function can contribute to achieving equitable development results by conceptualizing, designing, implementing and using evaluations focused on human rights and equity. It does so by offering a number of strong contributions from 27 world-level experts and senior officers in institutions and governments dealing with development and evaluation. The authors also presented their contribution in

a series of webinar, whose recording are available at http://www.mymande.org/?q=equity_focused_evaluation

<http://www.mymande.org/?q=equity_focused_evaluation&x=cl>

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Michael Scriven - two recent thought-provoking articles (reviewed by Pam Oliver)

The Evaluation Advisor - A New Role For Evaluators?

In this article, Scriven proposes a role for experienced evaluators that capitalizes on their accumulated skills and wisdom in relation to knowledge of organisations and systems. The operational definition of the evaluation advisor (in two rather long sentences that deserve to be read a couple of times) is a person who "serves as a helper or guide about evaluation, *but not as an evaluator*, for an individual or organisation or programme that is being or is about to be evaluated, or is considering sponsoring external or internal evaluation of themselves, under a very strict written non-disclosure agreement (NDA). The NDA means they can discuss, with the prospective evaluatees, the nature and costs and benefits of evaluation of various types, and how to do it or get it done, or survive it or benefit from it, or avoid it, or cheat on it, but cannot discuss anything about that evaluation with *anyone else*, including in particular the agency that is funding the evalee and wants or requires it to get evaluated." In the full article, Scriven discusses some very important ethical issues about the current multi-faceted role of the evaluation provider. It's well worth the 5 minute read to get you thinking about your own practice. To read the article please click [here](#).

Evaluating Evaluations: A Meta-Evaluation Checklist

In this paper, Scriven proposes a useful checklist of parameters on which we can evaluate the robustness of the evaluations that we (or others) undertake, and how to apply those parameters in the context of a meta-evaluation (that is, evaluating one or more evaluations for their usefulness on some criteria). I found Scriven's checklist a valuable prompt and have started to use it for reviewing evaluation proposals and designs that I construct. To read the article please click [here](#).

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Email: info@anzea.org.nz. Website: www.anzea.org.nz