



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

NEWSLETTER

December 2006

In this newsletter

- Convenor's korero
- Guest editorial from Michael Scriven
- An **anzea** branch starting up near you
- Branch news
- Conferences and journals
- Get involved!
- How to join **anzea**



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

Convenor's kōrero

Kia ora ano, and welcome to our second newsletter. A special greeting to people who have joined **anzea** over the past three months.

We've realised that this is probably a hideous time to be sending out a newsletter, and have already decided (in the interests of our own sanity, and of having the newsletters actually read) that the three annual newsletters planned will now come out in May, September and January.

There's been a lot of action in **anzea** over the past three months....

- ✧ Appointment of a paid administrator (Jill Mallinson)
- ✧ A packed, full day Board meeting
- ✧ Planning for the Inaugural **anzea** Conference 2007
- ✧ The launch of the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Branch
- ✧ 20 new members
- ✧ Planning for the launch of a Christchurch Branch
- ✧ Development of the **anzea** website, which will be launched in January
- ✧ The conceptualisation of several new professional services for members (more on these in the new year)

It's been a source of amazement to Board members just how time-consuming this has all been! I want to give a big thanks to Board members – all of whom have full-time 'day jobs', not to mention families – for having given a high priority to **anzea** work this year. In the interests of transparency, accountability and involvement of the membership, a range of **anzea** strategies will be available to you on the website early next year – we'll let you know, and be looking for your input. We also plan to survey members about your priority professional support needs in the first half of 2007.

Meantime, ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou, wishing you all a groovy break over the summer!

Pam Oliver

anzea membership

anzea membership now stands at over 90! New members have joined in the last three months from both North and South Islands.



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

Guest editorial from Michael Scriven

An international welcome to anzea

Welcome from overseas to membership in the family of fifty national professional associations of evaluation! A very hearty welcome, and one that is personally important for me as for many of you, since we have all worked towards it, many of you much harder and longer than I, but I did give it a good push for the rather more than a year that I was in New Zealand (not least because I was hoping to be there for much longer). Of course, it's not as if there wasn't already a long tradition of professional evaluation in Aotearoa, since indeed there was – an amazingly long history in fact. But a national association means another level has been reached beyond existence – the level of national pride and place in the big leagues. There were mighty athletes in Aotearoa long before it became a member of the Olympics, indeed long before it became New Zealand. But it was still a great event for the country to join the Olympic nations and it has made a great mark on the Olympic record books, as it will on the evaluation ones.

And of course, you get to join the world of public relations and branding, as you've all heard, and seen in the resulting lower case logo, which seems a bit modest for Godzone, but of course that's a local privilege! Now, skipping the rest of the usual small talk, what else does it mean?

From where I sit, looking back across the span of years from the time when I became the first president of one of the first two organisations like **anzea** – the two parent associations that merged to form the American Evaluation Association – some things seem pretty clear. Evaluation has emerged from being a serious if scattered practice to being a profession. It is not yet clothed in all the legal robes of some professions, not yet united behind a common set of standards, clearly defined competencies, or even a definition (few professions are), but clearly a profession in the sense of owning a domain that: (i) requires serious professional training to reach (and to maintain!) reasonable standards of competence; (ii) is serviced by a dozen high-standard professional publications and a few hundred books with intellectually serious content; and (iii) now has around six thousand people willing to join, attend, and be identified as members of its national professional associations. That's the good news, and the limitations in the beginning of that sentence also tell us the bad news – there's still a long way to go.

Let's go for the weakest point, the weakness of the basic skills of the members of this profession. It's still probably true that most members of most of the national associations would have trouble with the following Four Minute Entry Exam, which requires giving a clear explanation of: (i) the difference between research and evaluation; (ii) why evaluation is not applied social science; (iii) why flawless evaluation reports sometimes contain no recommendations or explanations (though clients usually assume they will); and (iv) how you justify the value premises in evaluations. (Compare your own answers to these questions with mine, which will be found in the next **anzea** newsletter.)

Those aren't just issues in the philosophy of evaluation, they are points that one needs to have fairly clearly in mind (and/or implicit in ones practice) in order to avoid not only large amounts of wasted money, time, energy, and verbiage, but – sooner or later– legal actions for breach of contract. And, perhaps worse, a lack of a valid sense of identity, which means



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

a lack of courage under attack. That's important because the threats of attack are increasing.

The main new threat comes from auditing. The new standards for that field in the US (parallels are emerging elsewhere) have been developed by what used to be the General Accounting Office and is now rechristened the Government Accountability Office. They draw no line between fiscal audit and program audit, which involves both impact measurement and process analysis. Their training increasingly covers or requires what we'd all identify as program evaluation. Since the need for fiscal audit is already firmly established in business as well as government, they start from a stronger basis than evaluation.

The main old threat, for a long time, has come from old-style social science. It's a threat mainly because it by-passes the value element: including that element and some shifts in research paradigms would make it new-style social science – the makeover of the old version which results from adding what evaluation has developed to traditional social science. But powerful forces in government, politics, and business would rather have the old-fashioned type of social science dominate, because it leaves all the interpretation, and translation into action, of empirical findings up to others 'who know best'.

So, Kiwis, let's see what you make of these threats (and proposed answers) in your own territory; and be sure to pass along your solutions to the rest of the world, now part of your extended community!

One place you might consider doing that is in the pages of the online

Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation:

http://evaluation.wmich.edu/jmde/JMDE_Num006.html, which is co-edited by Jane Davidson, a Kiwi, born, bred, and baby-raising in Auckland right now (when not at Board meetings of **anzea**, of course).

Board news

anzea Board meeting November 2006

The second Board meeting for 2006 was held in Auckland and resulted in a range of plans being made, with a special focus on establishing the Association's infrastructure and strategy. Board members are working now on developing strategy for a range of portfolios.

Profiles of the two Board members who were not profiled in the August newsletter are:

Tania Wolfgramm

E ngā reo, e ngā mana, e ngā iwi o te motu, otirā ki ngā hau e whā, tēnā koutou. Tēnei te mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa. Tihei mauri ora. Malo e lava mai. Warm greetings to you all!

I am privileged to be part of this visionary, exciting, multi-cultural, and multi-talented **anzea** team. I am passionate about and have expertise in action research, evaluation and consultation across the fields of health and wellness, education, justice, arts and tourism, language and identity, and social and economic development, within a process that values,



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

respects and upholds the spirit and wellbeing of all persons involved and affected by the evaluation project. My academic degrees span psychology, sociology, criminology, philosophy and law, and my doctoral studies in socio-cultural psychology link my two (ad)ventures – the development of the Hakamana Māori Keyboard, and the creation of Pou Kapua (the largest Maori/Pacific carving in the world) in an analysis of our unique expressions of identity and sustainable self-determination.

I believe that **anzea** will provide strong leadership, vision and direction in the field of evaluation. Acknowledging and harnessing the expertise and skills of our people, we will work hard to build evaluation skills and capacity *within* our whānau, groups, communities and organisations in Aotearoa, the Pacific and internationally, to support their aims and aspirations for a healthy, prosperous, and vibrant future.

Tania identifies culturally as Māori (Whakatohea, Te Aupouri), Tongan (Vava'u) and European. Her portfolios are *Funding and Resourcing, & Māori Evaluation Development*.

Jane Davidson

Kia ora! I'm happy to be back home in Aotearoa after 12 years overseas (the U.S. and Japan) and to be serving as a board member for **anzea** in its very first year. I am a self-employed consultant, doing a range of evaluation work, including facilitated self-evaluation and capacity building, evaluation training and development, independent evaluation, formative and summative meta-evaluation. Prior to returning home in 2004, I served as Associate Director of The Evaluation Center at Western Michigan University (USA), where I launched and directed the world's first fully interdisciplinary Ph.D. in evaluation. I have also written a book, *Evaluation Methodology Basics: The Nuts and Bolts of Sound Evaluation* (2004, Sage Publications) and am co-editor of the free-access online Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation <http://evaluation.wmich.edu/jmde>.

I was lucky and honoured to receive the American Evaluation Association's Marcia Guttentag Award in 2005, which is awarded to a promising new evaluator within five years of completing their doctorate. I live in Auckland with my husband and our highly entertaining and exhausting bilingual 2-year-old, Kiri (which means "precious rational thinker" in Japanese).

Jane's portfolio is *Professional Development*, which will include directing a stocktake of evaluation capacity, evaluation training and education, as well as advancing professional evaluation development in general.

Member services at the embryo stage

A new service to be launched in 2007 will be a free *legal advisory service* to **anzea** members. If you are able to recommend lawyers whose services you have used and been impressed with, please email their contact details to Pam Oliver pamo@clear.net.nz. We're keen to get your recommendations for lawyers with expertise in any of the following areas of legal practice:

- ✧ Contracts
- ✧ Privacy
- ✧ Employment



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

✧ Intellectual and cultural property.

Auckland Branch news

The Auckland Branch Committee

Rina Tagore

I became a member of the (former) Auckland Evaluation Group over a year ago and find it to be a valuable platform for learning and growth. And now I am part of the **anzea** Auckland Committee and enjoy the opportunity to work with this group. It's great to meet people with interest in evaluation. My career in the social development sector started 15 years ago in India. Before coming to New Zealand I worked in an agency for international development aid. In my professional capacity I have always had an interest in evaluation as a process of managing social change. Currently I work with Auckland City Council as a community and social policy planner.

Pam Oliver

I really enjoyed being on the AEG Committee for the past 4-5 years, so have remained on the committee of the new Auckland **anzea** Branch while also working on the new **anzea** Board. I work as an independent evaluator/researcher, based on Waiheke Island. I'm also involved on a voluntary basis in mental health services provision and reforestation of native bush on Waiheke.

Jo Adams

Over the past year of being involved in the new Auckland Branch and **anzea** Board I have learnt a tremendous amount, and experienced some wonderful collegial support and sharing of ideas. I am currently completing a 3 year contract based at AUT University working on an evaluation of healthcare response to family violence. I am excited by the prospect of new evaluation adventures in 2007! I am based on Waiheke Island where I also practice as a part-time Bodywork therapist.

Michele Lennan

I have been an independent researcher/evaluator for the last 15 years. Being on the AEG Committee gave me an opportunity to work with some great people so I was happy to put my name forward to be on the **anzea** Auckland Committee. I look forward to having input into providing professional development and other learning opportunities for our members. If I wasn't an evaluator I'd be doing something in travel which I spend as much time as possible doing each year.

Jane Carroll

Jane is a new addition to the Auckland Branch Committee, and much appreciated. She works with ERO in Auckland.



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

Workshop review

Mainstreaming Evaluation into Organisational Culture

Workshop held by Jane Davidson, PhD, Davidson Consulting Ltd, on 19th October 2006 at Phoenix Research, Auckland

Review by Edit Horvath-Hallett

This two-hour afternoon workshop – the first event of the new **anzea** Auckland Branch – was well attended by about 20 evaluation practitioners, including purchasers. During the workshop participants had an opportunity to meet each other over drinks and nibbles and the workshop began with us putting forward our thoughts on ‘*what an evaluating organisation looks like*’. There was a great deal of agreement that such an organisation would include an emphasis on shared values, involve all stakeholders, be based on developing relationships of honesty and trust, and be built into every aspect of the organisation.

Based on her PhD and consultancy work, Jane then shared her observations about how evaluation-related beliefs, values, and practices may be built into the different levels of an organisational culture, and outlined useful strategies to get evaluation infused into the mainstream of organisational life. Jane explored the characteristics of a ‘learning organisation’ (an expansion of Senge’s *five disciplines*) and presented evaluation (thinking and practice) as an essential feature of a true organisational learning culture. She explored some interesting strategies for infusing evaluation to an organisation including:

1. Get top management commitment	5. Model the importance of external criticism (senior management)
2. Identify ‘evaluation evangelists’	6. Hire a critical mass of outsiders with the “evaluative attitude”
3. Communicate the ‘evaluation imperative’	7. Listen to skeptics & cynics; allow powerful change blockers the chance to move on
4. Train people in evaluation skills	8. Recognise and reward new behaviours & mindset, including ‘mistake of the month’

These strategies use a combination of both behaviour shift (changing practices to increase the use of formal evaluation practice), and mind shift (driving the evaluative attitude – the relentless pursuit of the truth about quality – deep into the fundamental values system of the organisation). In thinking about the role of evaluators in this process, the following points need to be remembered:

- Evaluation is threatening to many, so jumping in ‘boots and all’ is usually not the best approach!
- The potential of evaluation is often underestimated – it has many quite different uses, not all of them about ‘accountability’ (the threat)
- Evaluation is not just one ‘thing’ or type of activity; we need to remind people there is a range of options

* 1. Senge, P.M., *The Fifth Discipline: the art and practice of the learning organization*. 1990, New York: Doubleday.



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

- Evaluations don't just produce findings; they can help infuse 'evaluative thinking' into the organisation, which can enhance effectiveness in many ways (process use, conceptual use).

I am currently working on a project looking at introducing a self-evaluation tool into primary healthcare (specifically looking at family violence intervention), and found the workshop a useful framework for applying the concepts of organisational change to integrating evaluative thinking into an organisation. I also found the particular strategies helpful in refining my approach to engage with primary care providers.

The powerpoint presentation for this workshop is available on

http://www.davidsonconsulting.co.nz/index_files/pres/Mainstreaming-10-2006.pdf.

Jane returned to New Zealand in 2004 from the United States, where she served as Associate Director of the internationally recognised Evaluation Centre at Western Michigan University. There, she launched and directed the world's first fully Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation. She is now based in Auckland.

anzea Auckland Branch 'end of year' celebration

An excellent time was had by more than 25 people including Auckland members, whānau & friends, at Karen John's bungalow in Sandringham on Saturday afternoon. We all enjoyed the full spectrum of the weather, some arriving at 4pm in torrential rain, then soon drying out and sunning ourselves outside on the deck (Auckland delivering what it does best - four seasons in one day!). Auckland Branch Committee members demonstrated their culinary skills by providing a delicious array of salads and seasonal goodies, which was complemented well by lashings of champagne! It was a great way to mark the end of the year and celebrate our status as an **anzea** Branch. Many thanks to Karen for her warm hospitality and great music, and to all who came along. Here's to our Branch continuing to thrive and live up to the kaupapa of having fun in 2007!

Report on the anzea Auckland Branch AGM September 2006

The first **anzea** Auckland Branch AGM was held on 13 September and was attended by 13 people (with a further dozen apologies). Nancy Sheehan opened the evening and, following a round of introductions, gave a brief recap of the Auckland Evaluation Group's journey over 12 years till the launch of Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association (**anzea**). Nancy commented that the local branch has grown into a robust group and provided learning and development opportunities for practitioners and others interested in evaluation.

The Chair's report was read, followed by the Treasurer's report. This included a report of the finances of the 2006 AEG Conference and it was noted that the balance of the conference account will provide seeding funds for the **anzea** Conference in 2007.

Election of officers for the Auckland Branch resulted in a committee consisting of Pam Oliver, Michele Lennan, Rina Tagore, Jo Adams and Jane Carroll (ERO).

Following dinner, the guest speaker, Gerard Vaughan, who is the project manager from the Ministry of Health's 'Like Minds Like Mine' campaign, gave a very interesting presentation on enabler/barriers to effective evaluation. Thanks very much Gerard.



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Branch news

Launch of the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Branch

The Waikato/Bay of Plenty **anzea** branch was officially launched on November 23rd. It was a great turnout with 18 people attending from many different sectors of the evaluation community including central and local government, academic institutions, and independent contractors. The **anzea** national Convenor Pam Oliver was the guest speaker and she provided some interesting historical information as to why **anzea** was launched as a national evaluation body. There was some enthusiastic *kōrero* around the way that the branch can support its members through providing an avenue for support, advocacy, peer review, networking, and the sharing of knowledge and skills.

A committee was formed with two representatives from the Bay of Plenty (Tony Waldegrave & Kellie Spee) and the remaining three from Waikato (Jacqui Henry, Wendy Boyce & Jo Cottrel). They will now work together in the New Year to organise relevant branch events to ensure that Waikato/Bay of Plenty branch members are gaining maximum benefits from the organisation. It was a fun afternoon, where we all got to share great kai, *kōrero* and a few bubbles to celebrate the launch.

The first Branch Committee meeting will be held on 9 **January 2007**. Anyone wishing to have input can email to Kellie Spee: kellz@xtra.co.nz.

The Waikato/Bay of Plenty Branch Committee

Tony Waldegrave

I've spent most of my career working in the central government research and evaluation pod. I've worked for the Department of Labour since 2000. I've enjoyed a range of work from large policy evaluation (e.g. mixed methods evaluation of the Employment Relations Act) to working with our service delivery people to build real time evaluation capability. I'm now based in the Bay of Plenty and really pleased to be involved in the Waikato/Bay of Plenty **anzea** branch.

Wendy Boyce

I work for Environmental Waikato, bringing a social science focus to Environmental Waikato. I'm based in a team of social scientists and environmental economists – a fascinating and important mix of skills and perspectives. My interests are in community outcomes, governance and participation issues and interdisciplinary approaches to policy development.

Kellie Spee (Maniapoto)

I am an independent evaluator/researcher based in Papamoa, Tauranga. In the past eight years, my work has focused on evaluations of Maori for Maori social services delivery, evaluations of health services and working alongside pilot programmes. In the New Year I begin work with the Matata Community as they move through the recovery process, following the natural disaster of 2005. I am particularly interested in the interplay between community, government and whanau and the overall wellbeing of individuals and their communities.



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

Jacqui Henry (Waikato, Maniapoto – Tainui)

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou. For the past three years I have been working in public health evaluation for the Waikato District Health Board (Population Health Service) and prior to that in education at Te Wananga o Aotearoa for two years. My interests lie in the sharing of evaluation knowledge and skills, and working collaboratively across sectors and levels that can positively influence public health. I am honoured to be both a member of the **anzea** Board and the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Branch of **anzea**. I look forward to utilising my role in future developments at both a national and local branch level.

Jo Cottrell

For the past three years I have been working as a senior practitioner in Health Promotion team for the Waikato District Health Board (Population Health Service). Prior to that I worked in nursing education at Wintec (Waikato Institute of Technology) for 25 years, with a particular focus in Family & Community Health, Community Development, Health Promotion, Occupational Health and Cultural Safety. I was strongly involved in the development of Cultural Safety in nursing and its application to practice since its beginnings in 1988. I have a BSocSc (Hon) in Health Development & Policy (University of Waikato), PostGraduate Diploma in Occupational Health (McMaster University, Ontario) and am a Registered General & Obstetric Nurse with an Advanced Diploma in Nursing.

My interests lie in the supporting the development of evaluation knowledge and skills, and working collaboratively across sectors and levels that can positively influence public health and the health of the communities, in which we live and work. Over recent years I have supported the co-ordination of the Waikato Evaluation Group (Wai-Eg) which has just devolved to become the newly established Waikato Bay of Plenty branch of **anzea**. I look forward to supporting future development of the local branch.

Christchurch and Wellington Branches

It is planned to establish branches in both Wellington and Christchurch in early 2007 – watch this space!

anzea Conference 2007

We are delighted to announce the Inaugural **anzea** Conference, to be held at the Solway Copthorne Hotel and Resort in Masterton, 9-11 July 2007.

The 2007 Conference theme is...

Where is the *value* in *evaluation*? Leading, learning, and participating in change

We've chosen this theme to reflect the values of **anzea** and to throw out a challenge to people involved with evaluation, particularly in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific basin. Our fantastic line-up of keynote speakers is Peter Mataira (Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Kahungunu), Patricia Rogers, and David Fetterman.

Keynote speakers



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

Peter Mataira is a Professor at the University of Hawaii's School of Social Work, where he teaches courses in community development and community organising, social welfare policy, generalist practice and human behaviour in the social environment. Peter's current research work is in community-based programme evaluation, programme design, and organisational capacity building, and the indigenising of research methodologies. Peter's most recent publication was a co-authored chapter entitled *Issues and Processes in Indigenous Research*.

Patricia Rogers is Associate Professor in Public Sector Evaluation and Director of CIRCLE (Collaborative Institute for Research, Consulting and Learning in Evaluation) at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Australia. For more than 20 years she has been involved in monitoring and evaluation projects - ranging across multiple sectors as well as many levels (federal, state, community). Her main interests are improving the impact of evaluation through developing the evaluation capacity of organisations and the use of programme theory and systems thinking. Patricia has published widely and received a number of international awards for her work in evaluation.

David Fetterman

David is renowned throughout the evaluation community for his work on empowerment evaluation. He is a member of the Office of Medical Education in the School of Medicine at Stanford University, and a Consulting Professor of Education at Stanford. For a decade he was the Director of the MA Policy Analysis and Evaluation Program in the School of Education at Stanford University. He is a past-president of the American Evaluation Association and the American Anthropological Association's Council on Anthropology and Education, and has received a number of awards for his work in evaluation theory and practice. He has consulted internationally, and is the author of several books on evaluation.

Pre-conference workshops

Several quality conference workshops will be offered for Sunday 8-Monday 9 July. These will be hands-on, interactive sessions that provide an opportunity to acquire new knowledge and develop insights, as well as learn new skills or hone existing skills. These will be provided by both local and overseas people with strong reputations as both evaluators and as trainers. Presenters will include:

- ✧ Patricia Rogers
- ✧ Paul Duignan
- ✧ Kate McKegg
- ✧ Geoff Stone
- ✧ Pam Oliver

Dates and venue

We've chosen the Conference dates so that they don't conflict in any way with other conferences (SPRE, AEA, AES) that you might be wanting to attend. We've found a conference location close to Wellington which still allows for the peaceful away-from-it-all feeling that people have loved so much about the AEG-sponsored national evaluation conferences at Acacia Bay, Taupo over the past three years. The Solway Copthorne is a lovely piece of Wairarapa history which has been recently renovated for conference purposes, and promises to be an excellent, friendly, warm venue. The conference cost will be very affordable, and the accommodation cost includes free train or bus transfers to and



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

from Wellington. Budget accommodation options will be posted on the **anzea** website in January.

We're letting you know now so you can book the dates into your diaries, and book flights if needed. The programme times are as follows:

Pre-conference workshops	Noon Sunday July 8th – Noon Monday 9th
Conference	Noon Monday 9th – 1.00 Wednesday 11th
anzea AGM	2.00-3.00 Wednesday 11th

Both airlines still have well priced fares available. If you are booking flights and want more information about the transfer times, please email Michele Lennan mlennan@ihug.co.nz.

We'll have more information about pre-conference workshops out to you very soon, together with a call for contributions. Meantime please pass this panui on to your networks – we're advertising by email only.

Reflections on the AEG 2006 conference

Allan Wyllie, Director Social Research, Phoenix Research

My most lasting impression of the conference is one of really feeling part of a close knit community, with a strong focus on sharing and learning from one another. The people who attended were a great group of people and it felt a privilege to be part of this. The Tauhara environment also contributed to this and it will be a challenge to find a bigger venue for the next conference that will provide such a nurturing environment.

I was also struck by the tremendous amount of work that people had put into organising the conference and getting **anzea** up and running. Clearly Pam deserves special mention, but I know there are lots of others of you who also deserve to be acknowledged.

The strong Whāriki presence was also a highlight for me. Having been at the Alcohol & Public Health Research Unit when Whāriki first came into existence, its current size and strength is I believe one of the great success stories of evaluation (and research) in New Zealand.

It was good to have some evaluation purchasers present, but it would obviously be desirable to have a greater purchaser presence. As evaluators we are currently often limited by the way purchasers want things done, so it is important that purchasers are exposed to 'new' ways of thinking about evaluation. The issues of who the evaluation is for and who should have input into the design of the evaluation were topics that were well addressed at the conference and it would have been great to have had more purchasers being part of these discussions.

Chloe Harwood, Community Research and Policy Advisor, The ASB Community Trust

I found the opportunity to meet with evaluation practitioners at the National Evaluation Conference invaluable. It was inspiring to hear from not only the wonderful guest speakers but other participants and attendees, there seemed to be a buzz, energy and warmth that



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

you do not often find at conferences. The experience was personally a fantastic learning opportunity. As a Trust and funder the necessity of and for evaluation is critical and one that we have not historically been good at. We have a huge challenge ahead of us as we move towards developing an evaluation framework. To achieve this challenge we know that we need to be open and to learn from others. That is why **anzea** is such a much needed organisation and one that has so much to offer, to not only evaluation practitioners but also funders like ASB Community Trust.

Rina Tagore, Social and Policy Planner, Auckland City Council

"I may have been the last person to register to attend the Conference, *Evaluation and Social Change* and had not been sure whether I would get the opportunity to attend till the very last minute. Within a few hours of entering the conference space I felt glad to have got the chance to be there. The overall experience was something wonderful in terms of learning, growth and connecting with a wonderful bunch of people.

Thinking about what made it so unique for me; I find there are several reasons. It was perhaps for the first time in the relatively short span of living in New Zealand did I find discussions and dialogue around social issues, transformation and change processes placed in the context of evaluation in a holistic manner.

Some lines that remain on my mind:

"Its not about making measurable important, but about making measuring important"

"Quality is not the absence of defect but the presence of value"

"Evaluation should serve people at the level of community; it should be for their utility and benefit"

"Self evaluation –reflection as part of entire project and not delivery alone"

"Invest in the front-end, in relationships, in thinking and planning"

"Evaluation is shaped not just by method, but by politics and values.....and the question around whose values should be advanced through evaluation"

It was inspiring to listen to speakers like Dr Ricardo Millet and Karen Sewell, and to take part in interactive and informative sessions with Jane Davidson, Kate McKegg, Mellisa Weenink, Liz Smith and Arti Badiani.

I found the days at Tauhara enriching as there was simplicity in the processes, good time management and scope to interact with people. There was openness in sharing experiences and exchanging ideas. The combination of people, place and purpose created a very special space and kudos to the organizers for making it happen!

In addition, being there I got a chance to be a part of a significant milestone in the journey of the evaluation group and the birth of the Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association. Am sure there will be many interesting pathways that this group will travel in making social change a reality.



Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
He kura te tangata

Training, conferences, journals

Social Policy, Research and Evaluation Conference (SPRE) to be held at the Wellington Convention Centre in Wellington, New Zealand from 3 - 5 April 2007.

The Social Policy, Research and Evaluation Conference 2007 is being hosted by the Ministry of Social Development. The theme for the SPRE Conference 2007 is *Investing in Social Success*.

“We want to celebrate our diverse society, and to ensure New Zealand is an attractive place to live and work. Most importantly, we want to connect social policy, research and practice in ways that will establish new opportunities for ourselves, our families/whānau, and our communities”

The Conference 2007 is organised under four sub-themes:

- Social investment – how do we ensure effective, fair and sustainable social outcomes for New Zealanders?
- The global context for social policy – what are the opportunities and challenges we face as New Zealanders in a changing world?
- Social dynamics – what is distinctive about New Zealand values and cultures, and how will this change over time?
- Enduring social challenges – how will a New Zealand family look in the future?

<http://www.conference.co.nz/index.cfm/index.cfm/spre07/home>

Public Health Association Conference 2007 Te Torino: Re-imagining Health

The Public Health Association Conference is a ‘must attend’ for anyone who works in, or has an interest in, public health.

Public health workers and practitioners from around the country are invited to attend the 2007 conference, to be held in Auckland on 4 to 6 July. This is the only conference held in New Zealand that focuses specifically on public health.

Conference themes are urban design, food matters and voices. Topics will include kaupapa Māori, systems and structures, workforce, inequalities, determinants of health, and globalisation.

The 2007 conference will have something for everyone - including people who work in strategic management roles, researchers and academics, service providers, advocacy organisations, government and non-government organisations, District Health Boards, public health services, and community workers.

Papers are now being called for, and the closing date for abstracts is 31 January 2007. Abstracts can be submitted on the website – www.pha.org.nz



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He kura te tangata

Submitters will be notified by 31 March if their papers are accepted.
Further information about the conference will be available on the website in the New Year.
In the meantime, put July 4 to 6 in your calendar!

Aotearoa Ethnic Network Journal

The AEN Journal is an online journal, published three times per year. It publishes commentaries and critical perspectives from those in or involved with ethnic and religious communities in Aotearoa/New Zealand. The AEN Journal promotes critical debate on issues facing migrants and refugees, ethnic diasporic and religious communities. The Aotearoa Ethnic Network promotes and connects ethnic communities in New Zealand. We are proud to be a partner in the Human Rights Commission's New Zealand Diversity Action Programme and to play our part in making a positive contribution to race relations in New Zealand.

UKES newsletter

The spring 2004 edition is available here on this PDF, to give you an idea of what it looks like- a vibrant journal. The summer edition will have the theme- evaluation of learning and copy for this due 21 June 2007.

<http://www.evaluation.org.uk/UKES/The%20Evaluator%20Spring%202004.pdf>

Classified

The newsletter is a forum for advertisements relevant to evaluation – job vacancies, services offered, events – and there's no cost. To place an ad, contact the Editor, Karen Johns karen.johns@xtra.co.nz

Members' forum

anzea invites you to write to the Editor with news, ideas, grumbles, bouquets, or anything else likely to be stimulating or interesting to **anzea** members.

Get involved!

A core value of **anzea**'s establishment is member participation – this means we want to have you actively involved in developing the kinds of services evaluation practitioners need. If you would like to become involved – either in a particular development, or in general – get in touch with any member of the Board.

Right now we are keen to have people involved in the following:

- ✧ *Newsletter contributions from the regions* – contact Karen Johns 021 555956
- ✧ *Māori evaluation development* – contact Laurie Porima 06 3673655
- ✧ *Regional membership* – contact Rachael Trotman 09 8183531



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He kura te tangata

- ✧ *Setting up the Christchurch branch* – contact Will Allen 03 3219600
- ✧ *Setting up other regional branches* – contact Jacqui Henry 07 8382569

How to join anzea

Membership in **anzea** now stands at over 90 and continues to grow rapidly. We're delighted to see that the people joining **anzea** come from all sectors, from across Aotearoa, and represent a broad range of cultures.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in evaluation – there are no other eligibility criteria (why would we need any...). The fee is just \$55 per annum and only \$35 for student members. If you'd like more information about **anzea**, contact the membership secretary Rachael Trotman, or any other member of the **anzea** Board (contact details follow in this newsletter). To join, all you have to do is complete the attached membership form and send it with your payment to: **anzea** membership, PO Box 106732, Auckland. (If you prefer to pay electronically, see details on the membership form.)



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He kura te tangata

anzea Board contact list

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aotearoa new zealand evaluation association
PO Box 106732
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JOIN THE

aotearoa new zealand evaluation association

anzea was launched in August 2006. The key goals of the new association are to:

- ✧ **promote** and facilitate the development of evaluation practices and standards which are relevant to Aotearoa New Zealand, with particular reference to the principles and obligations established by Te Tiriti o Waitangi and reflecting the unique bi-cultural context of Aotearoa New Zealand, while also providing a framework from which multi-culturalism can be embraced and responded to
- ✧ **promote** excellence in evaluation in Aotearoa New Zealand, with a focus on the maintenance of appropriate ethical standards for the profession and the development of effective practice and craft, for the well being of communities in Aotearoa New Zealand
- ✧ **facilitate** debate and exchange of ideas and dissemination of knowledge in the practice of evaluation through the conduct of meetings, conferences, education and training events, newsletters and other publications, and other activities
- ✧ **recognise** outstanding contributions to evaluation in Aotearoa New Zealand.

anzea has active branches in Auckland and Waikato/Bay of Plenty, and branches are in the process of being established in other regions across the country.

anzea's Inaugural Conference 2007 will be held at the Solway Copthorne Hotel and Resort, Masterton, 9-11 July 2007. For further information, email Michele Lennan mlennann@ihug.co.nz.



aotearoa new zealand evaluation association
PO Box 106732
Auckland
info@anzea.org.nz

anzea membership form 2006-2007

DECLARATION

I wish to become a member of **anzea**

I agree to abide by the anzea constitution and by-laws

My membership status is (tick one):

- Ordinary member \$55
 Student member* \$35

*Requires evidence of full-time current student status at an accredited academic institution (please enclose photocopy of current enrolment confirmation).

- I wish to make an additional payment of \$45 and to receive a special edition **anzea** Founding Member Certificate.

- Total enclosed \$_____ (Please make cheques payable to **anzea**)

- I have paid \$_____ by direct credit into the **anzea** bank account;

Name: Aoteaora New Zealand Evaluation Association

Bank: ASB Grey Lynn

Account: 123022 0419447 00

in the name of _____

[insert your account name]

- I agree to the information below being published in the on-line directory of **anzea** members

NAME:	POSTAL ADDRESS:
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	
SIGNED:	DATE:

NB. The following information is sought in order for **anzea** to suitably support a diverse membership and to facilitate the professional development of evaluators. Your answers will become part of a publicly available membership profile. Answering these questions is optional, but will be valuable in **anzea's** planning.

<p>CURRENT PRIMARY EMPLOYMENT</p> <p>Position:</p> <p>Organisation:</p>	<p>TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS</p>
<p>GENDER: <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>	<p>AGE: <input type="checkbox"/> 18-25 <input type="checkbox"/> 26-35 <input type="checkbox"/> 36-45 <input type="checkbox"/> 46-55 <input type="checkbox"/> Over</p>

ETHNICITY/IES:

NZMaori NZ European/Pakeha Other European Cook Island Maori Samoan

Tongan Nuiean Chinese Indian Other _____

IWI OR TRIBAL AFFILIATIONS (WITHIN YOUR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN)

NB. This information is to help us identify members with specific cultural knowledge

MAIN PRACTICE INTERESTS

Sectors worked in (list up to five) - e.g. health, education, local authorities etc.

-
-
-
-
-

Areas of evaluation expertise - e.g. methodologies (including culturally specific, or cross-cultural approaches), subject matter areas, etc.

-
-
-
-
-

Areas of particular interest (in addition to the above)

-
-
-
-
-

Office use only:

Date received:

Cheque banked:

Receipt number:

Confirmation sent: