

# PPTA Curriculum Support Days 2009

## Newsletter #2

16 December 2008

This is the last Curriculum Support Days newsletter this year. The next issue in early February will include a registration form.

Please find a revised schedule attached. Some changes have been made at the request of local principals. They affect Nelson, Palmerston North, Cromwell, Dunedin, Gisborne, Hastings and Blenheim. Thames shows as 'to be confirmed', because the local cluster is still discussing venue details.



### Non-subject groupings

PPTA has been asked whether groups based on common interests other than subject specialisms, e.g. groups for senior managers leading curriculum change, groups for careers advisers, groups for guidance counsellors, or groups looking at integrated approaches to curriculum, could meet on the support days. Guidance counsellors have responded very enthusiastically to this idea, and their local groups are organising sessions. Would there be interest from senior managers or careers advisers? These sessions could be all day, or just in the afternoon so people could also participate in subject discussions in the morning. Please email Sarah Dalton, [sdalton@ppta.org.nz](mailto:sdalton@ppta.org.nz), with your views.

### Travel costs

PPTA has continued to discuss travel assistance for remote schools with the Ministry of Education, but their response has been that isolated schools receive extra funding in their operations grants to recognise the costs of remoteness, including for travel to professional development opportunities. The ministry expects such schools to fund teachers' travel to the Curriculum Support Days. We regret that in the current economic climate we are unlikely to make further progress on this matter.

### Inclusive professional development

In response to a number of requests, PPTA has agreed to include teachers from independent schools to the support days and accept them as local facilitators. Many independent school teachers are active members of their subject associations and local head of department groups, and will make a positive contribution to discussions.

### Venues and facilitators

We are grateful for the number of offers already received from principals willing to host support day groups. A number of principals have recommended members of their staff as local facilitators, and some teachers have volunteered themselves. However, we still need venues and facilitators in all subjects and areas. Please send suggestions to Sarah Dalton [sdalton@ppta.org.nz](mailto:sdalton@ppta.org.nz).

Robin Duff, PPTA president

Graeme Macann, chair, NZ Secondary Principals' Council

## 2009 Schedule

