

PACIFIC SCIENCE FOR HEALTH LITERACY PROJECT

Welcome to the December edition of the Pacific Science for Health Literacy Project Newsletter

The highlight of the second half of 2014 would have to be the Project Leaders development workshop that took place in Auckland from the 6 to 10 October. However, our team in the Cook Islands have been doing some amazing work collecting year-end data from the students there in the form of both questionnaires and verbal interviews, yielding some very rich evaluation evidence.

Lex Davis, Jane Taurarii and **Maui Joseph** have been busy coordinating this in cooperation



with **Tereora College**. We are both impressed and grateful for everyone's contributions!

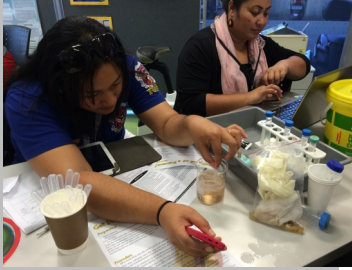
Meanwhile, the Tongan team have been setting up administrations systems, and have met with resounding success. They have initiated the consenting process across all three schools and will complete this in the first month of the new term of 2015. It will be great to see the patience of the team in Tonga pay off and student baseline data collection start! **Fehi Fehoko** has been the driver between both successes, and deserves the recognition – well done, Fehi!

The formal peer-review process for the Cook Islands teaching resources developed this year has begun. **Jacquie Bay** and **Delany Yaqona** will be working through the feedback and appreciate all those who have contributed ideas. Every time a resource is reviewed it has the additional benefit of providing the New Zealand team with fresh ideas and improved systems in which to adapt the Tongan and New Zealand editions. The work of the reviewers reaches far beyond the individual school or country!

Team Tonga has paved the way for the Cook Islanders in their **Action Research** plans and results, with the completed first stage providing a format from which the others can begin. The Tongan's have already started the implementation process for the next stage of their Action Research, with some of their teachers using the holidays to get posters prepared as they are investigating the impact of visual resources on student learning.

2014 saw both **Titikaveka** and **Nukutere** Colleges take part in an inter-country moderation exercise, with **Tamaki** and **Linwood** Colleges in New Zealand, for a Year 11 NCEA internal assessment.

As we all move into preparations for the holiday; we wish you all a relaxing break and safe travels, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Professional Learning and Development for Project Leaders Workshop

Auckland, New Zealand | October 6 – 10, 2014

Early in October, project teams from the Cook Islands and Tonga met with the New Zealand team in Auckland to further learning and communication strategies, participate in Professional Learning and Development and to explore preliminary data analysis. Over the period of five days, a series of goals were fulfilled. The purpose of the workshop was to enable development of leadership, to support progress in the second and third years of the project and examine the potential for increased collaboration between the Cook Islands and Tonga. I think everyone was in agreement at the end, that we achieved these aims!

It is wonderful for the distance of the moana that separates us to shrink for a week and to bring us here today. We are joined by eighteen colleagues from Tonga and the Cook Islands, as well as Deborah Shirley from the University of Sydney, and Matt Easterbrook from Linwood College in Christchurch.

– Jacquie Bay

It's a great pleasure to come to this multifaceted country where we learn from our differences, to make us very successful Pacific islanders.

–Cook Islands team

Leadership in the Tongan context, whether education or otherwise, is somewhere that all people must acquire and practice the core Tongan values. And that underpins the values in our society and our culture and although they may be universal, they do have a special and deeper meaning for Tongans. I as an education leader can support focussed learning: maybe it's collective, maybe it's relational, but this

might help Tonga and the future of Tonga. And maybe this could be a way forward for us. 'Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.' (William Butler Yeats)

–Amelia Foloumahina, Tonga team

Everybody in the world needs to be scientifically literate. Everything in the world that would affect our future depends on application of knowledge, the derivative of that knowledge, science and technology, and facing all the challenges - be it climate change, protecting diversity, living in more dense environments, dealing with food and water and security issues, or dealing with the issues in non-communicable diseases.



The challenge in science particularly in teenagers is to make it relevant. And what LENSscience was about was showing young people that even that science at the level they could understand, that relevance to them in the world was exciting, interesting and could effect on their lives. Whether someone chose to do science or not didn't matter to me, what mattered to me was whatever they did in their lives they could not ignore the future and the role of science.

– Sir Peter Gluckman

Partners

