

Welcome to the March edition of the Pacific Science for Health Literacy Partnership News

Professional Learning and Development Workshops (PLD)

PLD for teachers will be a major focus of the project throughout the three years. However at this early stage, this work is dominating the time of the project teams from Tonga, the Cook Islands and New Zealand.

The **Cook Islands and New Zealand** partners have been engaged in PLD workshops led by Jacquie Bay, Bali Haque, Mata Hetland and members of Cook Islands MoE during February. Over a period of two weeks eight workshops were held involving 58 educators and 434 hours of people time. Educators from Tereora College, Nukutere College, Titikaveka College and the Ministry of Education were involved. Principals and lead teachers are continuing the development process that will enable the teaching and evaluation of the initial Cook Islands learning modules in terms 2 and 3 of this year.

The learning modules currently under development include:

- **'Sustainable Energy Use in My Ngutuare Tangata or Kopu Tangata'** - a cross curricular module being developed by Tereora College and the Liggins Institute
- **Me Myself My Environment: Nutrition [Cook Islands Ed.]** - an adaptation of the New Zealand version of this module being developed by Nukutere College and the Liggins Institute
- **Diabetes: An Issue for My community [Cook Islands Ed.]** – an adaptation of the New Zealand version of this module being developed by the Cook Islands Ministries of Education and Health and the Liggins Institute for use in Titikaveka College, Nukutere College and Tereora College.
- And finally a cross-curricular module exploring nutrition and heart disease to be developed and piloted by Tereora College later this year.

The **Tongan and New Zealand** partners have been exploring issues of science and health literacy in their PLD workshops. During February Bill MacIntyre led three workshops for teachers developing understanding of context-embedded learning strategies. This is learning that develops understanding (in this case of science and health), through exploration of a socio-scientific issue.



In March, Jacquie Bay delivered two workshops for teachers in Tonga, exploring the science behind Non-Communicable Disease risk. Stories from the Ministry of Health's STEPS programme enable students to explore the issue of nutrition in the Tongan Edition of the learning

module - **Me Myself My Environment: Nutrition**. The module explores issues associated with nutrition and noncommunicable disease risk, in particular cardiovascular diseases such as high blood pressure and heart disease. Form 2 / Year 8 classes at Tonga College, Tonga High School and Tonga Side School will use the learning module in Term 3 of this year.



Cook Islands educators participating in a workshop exploring capabilities required for 21st Century citizenship

Blended E-Learning: Engaging with Scientists

Opportunities that allow students and teachers to engage with scientists, as well as with students and teachers from throughout the Pacific is a key goal for the Pacific Science for Health Literacy Project. Using stories of local and international scientists in our teaching is a key part of that. However it is even better when as well as the stories, we can facilitate real-time discussion between scientists, students and teachers. That will happen during the programme with local scientists – however we also want it to happen with international scientists – and it has!

LENScience Connect: TALKFEST 2014

LENScience Connect programmes utilise a blended e-learning model to support interactive communication between school and science communities. For schools these programmes support teachers to facilitate development of the multi-faceted capabilities required for scientific and

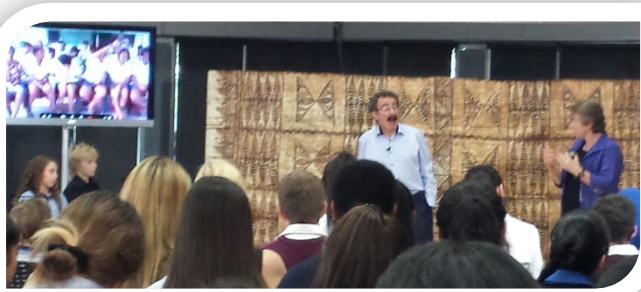


Photo by Carol Boyce

health literacy. For the science community, the programmes enable the expertise of teachers to be employed to facilitate the communication of science within society.

March 13 was a very special date in the LENSscience Connect calendar. Our 38th and 39th programmes were being broadcast, our guest scientist was Professor Robert Winston from Imperial College in London. **However what made March 13th significant for LENSscience Connect was that amongst the almost 7000 students taking part in our two interactive online audiences for the day were students from Titikaveka College in Rarotonga.**

Live streaming from the University of Auckland's Fale Pasifika, Professor Winston and the LENSscience team led discussion with a panel of four students, an audience of 150 students and an online community totalling 7000 students across the two programmes. Students at Titikaveka College were a key part of that audience. Using Skype to allow the New Zealand audience to see the Cook Islands audience, we had hoped to cross live to the Cook Islands for questions from Titikaveka College, however the sound was not quite good enough. However, using the Live Streaming via the LENSscience web site, the students from Titikaveka got a clear image and sound all the way through. They contributed their comments and questions via the LiveChat where they joined students from as far afield as Stewart Island, Christchurch, Gisborne and Northland in the online discussion.

Congratulations to Mrs Sharda Wati and Mrs Meta Hetland from Titikaveka College for driving this event in the Cook Islands. At the Ministry of Education Mrs Ina Hermann, Director of Learning and Teaching, was also taking part along with key staff members. *"The potential for students to connect with a scientist and with an international scientist at that, is huge"*

Both broadcasts: **'Puberty: Let's Talk about it with the Experts'** and **'Reproductive Technologies: An issue for our time'** are available from the TALKFEST button on the LENSscience website

www.lenscience.auckland.ac.nz

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