



WWSTA

# NEWSLETTER



WELLINGTON WAIRARAPA STA PO BOX 33-176 PETONE PH (04) 568 2970

TERM 2 — APRIL 2011

## FOCUS DAY 2011

ST BERNARD'S COLLEGE, 183 Waterloo Road, Lower Hutt

Saturday 14 MAY 2011

*Doors open for sign-in and refreshments at 9.00am. The day will finish by 4.00pm.*

### Focus Day Registration

A Registration form for attendance at the **Focus Day** is attached. The charge is a flat rate of \$25 per Board regardless of the number attending.

Please ensure that the Registration Form and a cheque is returned by post to WWSTA no later than 6 MAY 2011.

### AGM

We will be holding our AGM at St Bernard's College immediately after lunch on Focus Day. The meeting starts sharp at **1:00 pm** after a light lunch from 12:20 to 1:00

If your Board **will not be represented** please complete and FAX the enclosed Proxy Form to 04 568 2971 by 6 May 2011.

The Association's Annual accounts are currently in the final stage of being audited. When this is complete, the certificate will be placed on our website ([www.wwsta.org.nz](http://www.wwsta.org.nz)).

**The AGM Agenda, Annual Accounts and Proxy Form are available on our website.**

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## FOCUS DAY AGENDA

### *Welcome*

<b>Chris Toa</b>	Chairperson WWSTA	9:30 to 9:40
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### *Keynote Speaker*

<b>Paul Nichalls</b>	Civil Defence Controller Hutt City Council	9:40 to 11:00
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### *Morning Tea – 11:00 to 11:20*

<b>Phillip Carver</b>	Senior Financial Advisor MOE “School Funding and understanding Board Financial Reporting”	11:20 to 12:20
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### *Lunch – 12:20 to 1:00*

<b>WWSTA AGM</b>		<b>1:00 to 1:30</b>
	“Discussion Forum: Bullying and Disciplinary Procedures: the Issues and Responses	1:30 to 2:10

### *Afternoon Tea – 2:10 to 2:25*

Political Forum: Education 2011		2:25 to 3:55
National	Labour	Greens

### *Closing*

<b>Chris Toa</b>		3:55 to 4:00
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## TRAINING

### Professional Development for Board Chairs

The Ministry of Education has employed NZSTA to provide FREE training to support Board Chairs.

These sessions are designed for all: whether an experienced, newly appointed or potential Board chair. The content will equip you in your role as chair, giving you the knowledge you need to lead your Board effectively.

See the NZSTA website to register for the session near you:

<http://training.nzsta.org.nz/upcoming-courses>

### *T201 the Effective Chair*

Mon 9 May 2011	6:00pm Wairarapa <b>(Masterton).</b>
Weds 11 May 2011	6:00pm Wellington <b>(Paraparaumu)</b>
Thurs 12 May 2011	7:00pm Wellington <b>(Lower Hutt)</b>

## RETIREMENT

It was recently announced that Karen Sewell, Secretary of Education and Chief Executive of the NZ Ministry of Education, will retire from her position when her contract ends in July.

Karen was appointed to her current role in July 2006. Before then, for 5 years, she was the Chief Review Officer in the Education review Office.

Karen's background is in education, and she was Principal of Green Bay High School in Auckland among numerous other positions.

The Association is writing to Karen on your behalf, wishing her a long and happy retirement and thanking her for her service to education.

## BULLYING

School Trustees have received a letter from the Minister of Education, Anne Tolley, on the subject of bullying, in which Mrs Tolley states that the Prime Minister has called for a “national conversation” around bullying. We all know that the issues behind bullying are complex, to say the least, and Mrs Tolley acknowledges that these issues often have their origin outside the school gates.

Some of the worst cases reported recently in the media are not just bullying but are more correctly described as serious assault. As such they should also involve the Police.

Bullying is an age-old problem and often reflects a breakdown in society itself that allows and tolerates such behaviour. It's always easy to criticise and pass blame to others and parents do have a strong role to play in dealing with this issue.

Parents do however have an expectation that their children will enjoy a physically and emotionally safe environment at school, so

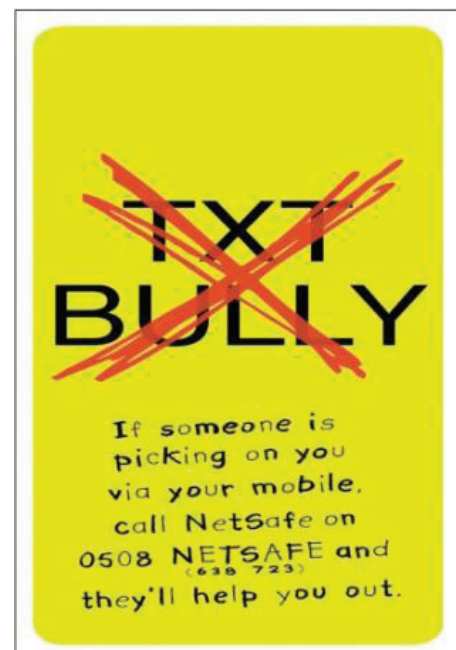
they have the opportunity to maximise their learning opportunities, as clearly set out in NAG 5 (i).

Are we confident that we can recognise bullying in all its forms? Are we aware of how students are using technology, such as cyber bullying and texting to bully others? How do schools monitor social media to become aware of the ways bullying is planned and talked about?

WWSTA has always had a strong focus of being about trustees supporting trustees. So we think it is timely to have our own “regional conversation” around bullying, to enable all of us to share lessons and discuss measures schools are taking. Reviewing policies and practices should naturally follow on from this exercise but it is more important to know and understand what issues we are really dealing with, how they are changing and what schools can most effectively focus on.

***“Bullying and disciplinary procedures: the issues and the responses”*** will be the subject of the afternoon discussion forum at the Focus day, on Saturday 14 May.

This is your opportunity to hear what others are doing, and contribute to the conversation around this important topic.



## NETWORK IDEAS

**What’s on your mind?**

**What are other schools doing?**

**Surely someone’s come across this before?**

If you ever sit there as a Trustee or Board Chairperson and ask these questions, then the chances are that you’re not alone!

One item on the minds of many Trustees of schools with Yr. 1 to 8 students is National Standards and the preparation of their school charters. What are the legal requirements around the preparation and submission of your charter? What targets do you need to include? Have you been concerned about the recent MoE correspondence on this subject?

WWSTA is all about trustees supporting other trustees. So, let’s have your ideas of what you would like to share with, or seek from, your fellow trustees. Let us know if you would like to talk about these issues or others.

## EQUAL STANDING, SAY, VOTE, and ACCOUNTABILITY

It’s a real catch-phrase for us: whether you are elected, appointed or co-opted, once you are on a school Board you are there on an equal footing with all other Trustees.

You need to be at the table.

It is every Trustee’s responsibility to bring their individual perspective to the Board table. Of course, there is a requirement that Trustees must declare any conflict of interest over an issue and, if necessary, excuse themselves from participation in the relevant discussion and voting.

Nevertheless, each Trustee shares the collective accountability for Board decisions. It is, therefore, imperative that all Trustees are present at meetings and participate fully in the business of the Board. This means that no Trustee can be directed to leave a Board meeting, and all must be told when one is to take place.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The topic on most of our minds over the past month or two has undoubtedly been the Christchurch earthquake and the Japanese earthquake and tsunami. Both incidents are vivid reminders of how well prepared we must be, at all times, to respond to an emergency.

This is why we have invited Paul Nichalls of the Hutt City Council to be our keynote speaker on Focus Day.

### Contact Numbers

Executive Officer  
Grant Kerr

(04) 568 2970 (WWSTA Office)  
(04) 568 2971 (WWSTA fax)

e-mail: [wwsta@wwsta.org.nz](mailto:wwsta@wwsta.org.nz)  
website: [www.wwsta.org.nz](http://www.wwsta.org.nz)

Regional Chairperson  
Chris Toa

home: (04) 236 8013

mobile: 027 733 9561