The year has finally ended for us all….we made it……

Now it’s time to sit back, take a big breath, reflect on the year that has been, take time to look at what didn’t go quite right and plan changes to make it better next year. It’s a time to recharge, reunite with family and friends that you were too busy to see term time, eat, celebrate and remember what is important in life.

May you all have a fabulous festive season and holiday (dare I say it as I know many of will us this time for planning as well). Drama NZ looks forward to another great year in 2016 with another National Conference, more National workshops, the PAT Project, and much much more…..

And as always remember Drama NZ is here for you…..if you have ideas or need support contact us now……

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**2015 DRAMA NZ NATIONAL EXECUTIVE:**

**President:** [emma.bishop@saintkentigern.com](mailto:emma.bishop@saintkentigern.com)
Emma Bishop -- Saint Kentigern College, AKLD

**Vice-President:** [charlesb@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:charlesb@kelburnnormal.school.nz)
Charles Bisley – Kelburn Normal Primary School, WGTN

**Secretary:** [dramednz@gmail.com](mailto:dramednz@gmail.com)
Jo Matheson – Newlands College, WGTN

**Treasurer:** [Teresa.Callaghan@greenbayhigh.school.nz](mailto:Teresa.Callaghan@greenbayhigh.school.nz)
Teresa Callaghan – Green Bay High School, AKLD

**Regional Rep Co-ordinator:** [danielbettynz@gmail.com](mailto:danielbettynz@gmail.com)
Daniel Betty – Havelock North Boys High, HAWKES BAY

**Primary Liaison:**
Mandy Taylor -- Pukekohe Intermediate, AKLD
Charles Bisley – Kelburn Normal Primary School, WGTN

**Tertiary Liaison:**
Tracey-Lynne Cody – Massey University PMR NORTH

**Committee:**
Gillian Towle - Craighead Diocesan School, TIMARU

Drama NZ website: [www.drama.org.nz](http://www.drama.org.nz)
Drama NZ email: [dramednz@gmail.com](mailto:dramednz@gmail.com)
Drama NZ Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/DramaNZ/182928978490756](https://www.facebook.com/pages/DramaNZ/182928978490756)
Drama NZ: the Primary Edition Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/818548034900707/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/818548034900707/)
DNZ Northland Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/331444900315666/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/331444900315666/)
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DNZ Waikato Branch: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/325395620958293/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/325395620958293/)
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DNZ Otago Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/dunedindramateachers/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/dunedindramateachers/)
Situation Vacant

DRAMA NZ needs a “Membership Secretary” for 2016
Do you have some time in your week to give back to your drama community? Drama NZ are currently looking for someone to come on board as the National Membership Secretary to ensure we have an up to date membership list and database.

This role is crucial to the effective running of the Association both at Branch and National level.

If you are a logistics type, who is good with a spreadsheet and can navigate the computer
WE WANT YOU.

This role includes:
- Managing the National Database
- Working with our online database
- Sending a monthly membership report to the National Executive
- Liaising with the Regional Rep Co-ordinator termly with updated database of members
- Liaising with the National Treasurer
- Attending National Executive Meetings (optional) – you could be co-opted to the National Executive if you want to learn how the Executive works

For more information or to express your interest contact Emma Bishop, President at emma.bishop@saintkentigern.com

AROUND THE REGIONS

AUCKLAND BRANCH TERM FOUR
The Branch did not plan a Term Four workshop as Drama NZ had run their Scholarship Workshop over the holiday break and then we were lucky enough to have the Auckland University Applied Theatre “Symposium of Hope” happening in Akld, for which we were able to organise a Drama NZ members discount for those who attended the first day of the three day symposium.

BEER AND BANTER, WINE AND WISDOM.
On the afternoon of Wednesday 2nd December we ran our annual end of year social at Galbraith's Alehouse. As per usual the occasion was spent in good humour and it was well attended by both new and old faces. Our subject is very lucky to have this exciting interaction between teachers at both ends of the 'experience' spectrum. Another positive outcome was that a couple of new members have expressed a genuine interest in attending future meetings, hopefully they realise that we only have a free drinks 'tab' in December.

A New Regional Representative
Auckland Branch has a new Regional Representative as Emma stepped down after five years in the role to focus more on her national duties and we thank her for all the work she has done in this role over this time. Emma will remain on the Akld Branch Committee. We welcome Cherise Stone from Glendowie College into the role. If you would like to contact her about ideas, thought or finding out what is happening in Auckland her contact email is sto@gdc.school.nz

TERM ONE 2016
At the end of February our branch will be running two simultaneous workshops for Primary and Secondary under the banner of 'Upskill'.
(See flyer later in this newsletter)
On December 11, Napier Girls High School hosted the first Drama New Zealand Junior Improv Battle. Thanks you to Amy Edwards (Napier Girls High School) and Emily Miller-Matcham (Woodford House) for organising the event and running a fantastic evening. The schools involved had the opportunity to participate in a variety of games and the audience selected topics, shared ideas and contexts to drive the games forward. Congratulations to Woodford House for winning on the night and taking home ‘Iggy the Improv Imp’.

As the year comes to an end I would like to thank all those teachers and students who have participated in events throughout Hawke’s Bay. The focus next year will be to consolidate relationships formed and start to break out into other areas throughout the Massey region by encouraging representatives from Palmerston North, Wanganui, New Plymouth and any others who wish to be involved to work with Daniel Betty to host Drama New Zealand events and assist in developing opportunities for teachers in their area.

In the New Year the Massey Branch will be sending information out to members to vote in a committee of people to drive forward ideas in the area. An Annual General Meeting will be hosted in Hawke’s Bay but all members can attend through Ventrillo (an online telephone system) to hear who is voted in and opportunities in the near future.

The Wellington Branch of DramaNZ have been having regular meetings regarding the planning for Conference 2016… which is well underway.

So keep an eye out at the beginning of February when registrations open for the Drama NZ National Conference 2016, which will be held at St Patrick’s College, Silverstream, from April 21st to 23rd. As Silverstream is situated on the banks of the Hutt River/Te Awakairangi, the theme is “Meet me at the river – tutakina mai ahau ki te awa”.

Our November meeting also included presentations from representatives of Capital E and the NZ Festival 2016 about exciting opportunities to view live performance next year.

The first meeting for 2016 will be on Friday 12th February at Wellington Girls’ College – so put the date in your diary and come along! We especially welcome new members...

And have a well-deserved break all!

Helen Jones – Wellington Regional Rep
The Canterbury region’s last meeting for the year was hosted at Villa Maria College. Many thanks to Linda Gordon.

At the meeting we acknowledged the work of the Court Theatre’s Education Officer, Rachel Sears. The resources that have been put together around shows, particularly the images, are marvellous. We also looked forward to what will be happening next year.

We looked at planning for 2016. Project based learning, teaching themes, How to develop cross-curricular to make learning authentic by actively looking for connections with other teachers. A junior unit based around environment using Gary Henderson’s *The Big Blue Planet Earth Show* was suggested.

Also for 2016 plans for the SGCNZ Otago University Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival in Christchurch were revealed after the committee conducted a survey. The results were compiled and we got some excellent feedback on running the festival - meaning there are some changes for 2016. Most notable is the offer by the Court Theatre to host the Showcase night in support of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death. See the dates below. There will also be a workshop for Student Directors will be held on Saturday 20th February to help students prepare for the Festival. This is being held in the Gloucester Room at the Isaac Theatre Royal thanks to the generosity of the Isaac Theatre Royal Trust. The festival heats are on the 29th, 30th, 31st March to be held at different venues and the Showcase night will be at the Court Theatre at 7pm - $10 for adults and $5 for students for all nights.

A Commedia workshop is in the planning stages for 24th February 2016 - with Lisa Brickell thank to Jay Versteeg for organising this. We want to hold more practical workshops and we hope to link with the Court Theatre, Free Theatre, and Isaac Theatre Royal to support our programmes and externals.

**Farewells**

We wish to thank Robert Gilbert for all he has done for Drama in Christchurch and wish him all the best in his new position in Tauranga! Congratulations to Peter Rutherford as he takes up the position at Rangi Ruru Girl’s School.

Thanks to Annette Searle for all her work at Papanui as Jay and Alys return from maternity leave.

Farewell for now and all the best to Annabel Renall (nee Meredith) who is expecting a special addition to her family in January 2016.

**2016 Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>18th Feb.</td>
<td>First DramaNZ Canterbury meeting the year. Time and venue TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th Feb.</td>
<td>Commedia Workshop with Lisa Brickell</td>
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<tr>
<td>30th Feb.</td>
<td>Directing workshop for student directors - specifically for Sheila Winn students</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th, 30th, 31st March 7pm</td>
<td>SGCNZ Otago University Sheila Winn Shakespeare festival heats.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd April 7pm</td>
<td>SGCNZ Otago University Sheila Winn Shakespeare festival Showcase at The Court Theatre.</td>
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**End of Year Dinner**

An end of year dinner was held at the Cuban on St Asaph St in which we reminisced over a great year for Drama in Canterbury - Looking forward to next year our first DramaNZ

**Finally**, if you are in the Canterbury region (from the top of the South Island to Timaru) please join our facebook group – meeting info, discussions, workshops and interesting articles etc are posted here. It is also a great place to advertise your productions etc too! This is the link to the page:  
https://www.facebook.com/groups/425374920934604/  
(Canterbury Drama Teachers)

The first Christchurch branch meeting for 2016 will be on Thursday February 18th.
It’s been another busy term for Otago and Southland drama teachers. The wonderful Emma Bishop flew down to Dunedin at the start of the term to hold two sessions for Scholarship students and teachers, both I hear were very successful and students and teachers alike found the sessions extremely helpful.

The Drama Department at Taieri College in Mosgiel suffered a big blow, losing their entire costume department in a recent hall fire. Kimberley Buchan (HOD of Drama at Taieri), put the word out on our Facebook group to ask for any period costume items which were spare and we would kindly loan her for senior assessment performances. If anyone has any costumes they would love to donate to Taieri, so they can build up their bank of costumes again, please email Kimberley on: kbuchan@taieri.school.nz. I am sure the Taieri Drama Department would be very grateful for anything they receive.

On Saturday night a few of us got together to celebrate the end of the school year by having a lovely Italian dinner at local favourite restaurant, Etrusco, before attending the 7.30pm showing of National Theatre Live’s Hamlet at Rialto cinema. It was a fun night out with a lovely bunch of ladies and a great chance to catch up, talk over recent external exams and how we felt students might have gone, and talk about planning for drama programmes in 2016. All in all, another fab catch up with a very social bunch.

I will be announcing via our Facebook page and by email when our next catch-up will be (during Term #1), and we are aiming to keep things fun by meeting at different local cafes and restaurants - so we are also well fed and watered while delving into drama matters.

Merry Christmas to all of our Otago/Southland members, and to everyone else in Drama NZ... have a lovely break over summer.

KIMBERLEY FRIDD – Otago/Southland Regional Rep

CONGRATULATIONS TOO.....

NZEI Te Riu Roa Associate Award

Each year NZEI recognises a number of teachers for their contributions to activism or teaching through the award of Associate.

This year 6 Associate awards were made to teachers for their outstanding contribution to the teaching profession, and we would like to congratulate Charles Bisley, our Vice President, a long term practitioner of, and advocate for drama and arts in schools, for being one of those honoured in this way.

Auckland University’s Newest PROFESSOR

The University of Auckland has recently recognised our field’s newest Professor, Peter O’Connor for his lifetime’s work and dedication to drama education, applied theatre and critical studies in education. Congratulations to Peter O’Connor on the amazing achievement.
I am passionate about all things Broadway. I grew up roller skating in the lounge room to our cast recording of "Starlight Express" with my sister; I would pour over souvenir programmes that my parents would bring home from overseas; and when I discovered the school production in Primary School I was hooked forever with the medium of musical theatre. My first role was as the Narrator in "Little Red Rocking Hood." Not all my peers have gone on to careers in the performing arts from their involvement in our school productions -and that is not the point of staging a show in an educational setting. There are so many desirable outcomes from being involved in theatre and the Primary School setting is the perfect opportunity to get young people engaged and involved. Children are more open to new experiences than older adolescents and more willing to take a risk.

It is a big job to stage a production -it takes a village and a whole lot of collaboration. Get people on board. I have worked in the setting where it has been just myself and one other teacher staging the whole show to productions with many people involved and from experience you want the support of other people. There are many resources out there to support teachers who might be staging their first or their fiftieth school production. A great resource are the show titles in the Broadway Junior Collection -30 and 60 minute adaptations of major Broadway and Disney musicals for young performers. Titles include shows such as Seussical the Musical, Once on this Island, The Little Mermaid, Aladdin, Shrek, Legally Blonde, Annie, and Fiddler on the Roof. There are also titles in the Getting to Know Collection -60 minute adaptations of Rodgers and Hammerstein shows including The Sound of Music, The King and I, Cinderella and Oklahoma. All these shows come with (non-returnable) director’s scripts, piano scores, student scripts and other supporting resources such as Choreography DVDs and backing tracks CDs. Then you are free to use live music or pre-recorded tracks according to the needs of your school. These shows are available for licensing through Hal Leonard Australia: http://licensing.halleonard.com.au/musicals/overview

Productions can be staged in many different ways. I am particularly fond of educationally-focused minimalist productions that employ young people in costumes but are more simple in regards to set design and technology. The focus is on the singing, acting and dancing of the students and their learning through musical theatre. I will be staging the junior edition of the musical "Annie" in this context with my senior Musical Theatre Club (Years 5 -8) in Term 1, 2016. There are just two of us teachers leading this production. Alternatively, you can be as elaborate as your budget allows and get sets built, hire lighting and sound requirements, purchase or have costumes made and create a big "show." I will be staging "Shrek Jr." in this context with a talented team of teaching staff all taking on different portfolios in Term 2 next year. The key is having students active in the creation process for greater ownership. You are only limited by imagination.

This January I will be attending the 2016 Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta, GA, USA -the largest theatre festival celebrating young people and musical theatre. I will be completing the professional development track and look forward to sharing with you what I learn through Drama New Zealand in the New Year. I will also be presenting workshops and forums at the Musical Theatre New Zealand (MTNZ) national conference in March and the Drama New Zealand national conference in April, Silverstream, Wellington -so I encourage you to come along!

Until next time!

Robert Dil is Director of Performing Arts at St. Mark's Church School in Wellington, New Zealand. An IB Music and Theatre trained teacher, he has previously taught performing arts in Auckland (NZ), Beijing, and Shanghai (China) after completing his studies in Christchurch (NZ). His professional development has taken him from New Zealand, to China, London and New York. He holds a performance degree in Music, a Graduate Diploma of Teaching and Learning (Primary) and recently completed a Master’s degree in Drama and Theatre for Young People with Distinction. Contact: robert.dil@st-marks.school.nz
National Conference 2016

to be held at St Patrick’s College, Silverstream, Upper Hutt, Wellington

April 21st - 23rd

Drama New Zealand welcomes you to meet us at the river. In planning conference, the Wellington Branch have had the following pools of thought. Every great civilisation is founded near rivers or a waters edge and so we invite you to return to the source. On its perpetual journey, river water crosses land, hills and plains and this is a journey best travelled with others. However, you cannot step in the same water twice; circumstances change and we invite you to grow with us.

Presenter Applications Open  Now
Presenter Applications Close  30th November 2015
Presenters Notified  15th December 2015

Accommodation
There are 60 beds available in the St Patrick’s College boarding house. These will cost approx $50 a night. Bookings will be open with registration and will be done via the conference committee

Registrations
Early Bird Registrations open 1st February 2016 and close 1st March 2016. All fees include conference dinner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Earlybird Presenter Registration</th>
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Drama NZ Auckland Branch
Term One Workshops
Wednesday 24 February 2016
Saint Kentigern College.

Workshop 1. Drama Survivor.
Workshop Presenters. Emma Bishop and Verity Davidson.
2pm Registration. 2:30-7pm Workshop.

Survivor Drama started in 2014 as a course to retain new teachers and help sole charge teachers survive. The workshop focuses on giving proven handy hints and advice to make the job manageable. The workshop will be catered to the attendees needs and will cover components such as programme planning, assessment, NZQA, and resourcing. This session is relevant to not only new teachers but it will also present relevant material to experienced staff.

Emma Bishop has been teaching drama in Auckland for a number of years and is currently the Head of Drama at Saint Kentigern College. Her teaching experienced began as a sole-charge Head of Dance and Drama in a low decile school which required her to learn fast and on her feet. She then took her learnings to St Kentigerns College where she has grown her department in student numbers, co-curricular opportunities and staff. Emma is currently the President of Drama NZ.

Verity Davidson is Head of Performing Arts at Baradene College in Auckland. She has been teaching drama since 1982 and can’t even calculate how many years that is but it’s a lot! She has taught at all levels from primary to tertiary and including community education. Verity completed her MA in Drama at Auckland University in 2015. She has worked for Drama NZ, the MoE and NZQA in various guises, and was one of the writers of the original Arts Curriculum back in the day. Verity was also one of the Drama writers of the Teaching and Learning Guidelines.

Workshop 2. Getting on Top of It: Drama in the Classroom.
Workshop Presenter: Dr. Elizabeth Anderson.
4pm Registration. 4:30-7pm workshop.

This workshop will take a journal story as a starting point and will shape a unit of work. This session will look at integrating links, curriculum requirements, ideas, values and assessment. The workshop will be tailored to teachers needs and it will look at ways in which the ideas might be applied for different age groups.

Dr. Elizabeth Anderson is a Senior Lecturer in Drama in the Faculty of Education at the University of Auckland. Her doctorate in education researched the characteristics of effective drama teaching in primary school settings, a project that will inform preservice teacher education and professional development. Research interests are in drama education particularly, and in preservice teacher education, and curriculum. In the wider field of arts education, she is interested in creativity in teaching and in collaborative projects between Arts disciplines. Her work has included curriculum development, and resource and materials development for drama.

Cost:
Workshop 1: $60 DNZ Members. $130 includes one year membership. $100 Non Members.
Workshop 2: $40 DNZ Members. $110 includes one year membership. $80 Non Members.

For more information and to register contact: Aucklanddnz@gmail.com
On the FIRST day of Xmas Drama New Zealand gave to me…a National Conference in Auckland City

On the SECOND day of Xmas Drama New Zealand gave to me…two successful conferences

On the THIRD day of Xmas Drama New Zealand gave to me…three termly newsletters

On the FOURTH day of Xmas Drama New Zealand gave to me…four hundred plus likes on facebook

On the FIFTH day of Xmas Drama New Zealand gave to me…five life members

On the SIXTH day of Xmas Drama New Zealand gave to me…six scholarship sessions

On the SEVENTH day of Xmas Drama New Zealand gave to me…seven active branches

On the EIGHTH day of Xmas Drama New Zealand gave to me…eight executive members

On the NINTH day of Xmas Drama New Zealand gave to me…nine facebook pages

On the TENTH day of Xmas Drama New Zealand gave to me…ten monthly meetings

On the ELEVENTH day of Xmas Drama New Zealand gave to me…eleven weeks of holidays

On the TWELTH day of Xmas Drama New Zealand gave to me…twelve months of planning, eleven weeks of holidays, ten monthly meetings, nine facebook pages, eight executive members, seven active branches, six scholarship sessions, five life members, four hundred plus likes on facebook, three termly newsletters, two successful conferences

And

National Conference in Auckland City
"The most valuable resource that all teachers have is each other. Without collaboration our growth is limited to our own perspectives."

ROBERT JOHN MEEHAN

Wishing you a Merry Christmas filled with lots of joy!