

CHAIR



Gretchen Stone, Harrison Stone, Auckland

Gretchen specialises in employment and education law, and works with secondary principals through the Secondary Principals' Association of New Zealand (SPANZ) and with primary principals as the Honorary Solicitor for Auckland Primary Principals' Association (APPA).

SPEAKERS



Whetu Cormick, New Zealand Principals' Federation (NZPF), Wellington

Whetu joined NZPF in 2011 and six years later took up the challenge to front NZPF as President, a role to which he has recently been re-elected for a third term for 2019. Whetu is a primary school principal and has over twenty years of school and sector leadership experience. During his tenure, Whetu has overseen the development of Te Ara Hou – The Māori Achievement Collaboratives (MACS). MACS is a unique leadership programme designed to grow the cultural competence and intelligence of New Zealand leaders to better support Māori students in mainstream New Zealand schools.



Sue Cotter, New Zealand School Trustees' Associations, Wellington

Sue has 18 years of governance experience on Boards of Trustees in the primary, secondary and early childhood education sectors. During that time, she held a range of positions within NZSTA. Currently, Sue is one of two Senior Advisors providing governance support and mentoring to advisers across the country. The team is also responsible for developing governance resources for NZSTA's professional development programme and for its website.



John Hannan, DLA Piper, Auckland

John specialises in employment law, education law and commercial litigation. He has appeared in leading employment law cases in the Employment Court and Court of Appeal. John has acted for many Boards of Trustees and their insurers on employment, governance, privacy, human rights and student discipline matters. He is a Council member of Manukau Institute of Technology. John is a sitting Member of the Disciplinary Tribunal.



Shirley Maihi QSM, Finlayson Park School, Manurewa

Shirley is the principal of Finlayson Park School Manurewa, a large multicultural primary school in South Auckland. She has experienced large roll growth in a school which nurtures First language. Shirley is passionate about bilingual learning and promotes achievement through several language immersion streams. She is the past President of the local Principals' Association, past part-time university lecturer in bilingualism, community leader, and chairperson of several community groups.

SPEAKERS



Julia McCook-Weir, Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand, Wellington

Julia works in the Professional Responsibility team at the Teaching Council. This is the section of the Council that responds to complaints and mandatory reports about teacher conduct and competence. It was previously called Teacher Practice.



Fiona McMillan, Anderson Lloyd, Dunedin

Fiona specialises in employment and education law. She advises governmental and private sector employers, and a number of local schools as well as members of the NZ Principals' Federation. Fiona has practical experience in schools as she previously worked as a primary school teacher, and completed a PG Dip in Child Advocacy before her law degree. Fiona is a Board member of Knox and Salmond Colleges in Dunedin.



Simon Mitchell, Hobson Chambers, Auckland

Simon is an experienced litigator specialising in family and employment law. He has a special interest in education law issues including dispute resolution and mediation.



Rachael Schmidt-McCleave, Barrister, Wellington

Rachael has worked in public and private practice in NZ and the UK since admission in 1996 and joined the Independent Bar in 2014. She has extensive expertise in public law and judicial review, and is an experienced investigator, mediator, and the co-author of *Health and Safety in NZ: Know the Law*. Rachael has advised both the Ministry of Education and schools on a range of issues including employment law, health and safety, contractual disputes and duty of care, as well as administrative law and process issues.



Patrick Walsh, John Paul College, Rotorua

In addition to being a principal, Patrick is also a qualified lawyer. He is the author of *Educational Management and the Law* and co-author of *Schools Go To Court* (Pearson Education). Patrick is also a former President of The Australia New Zealand Education Law Association (NZ Chapter) and the Secondary Principals' Association of New Zealand. He is a current member of the Disciplinary Tribunal of the Teaching Council and Board Chair of The Schools International Education Business Association.

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