

★ From the President's Laptop—December 2009

Hello colleagues,

It is hard to believe it is December! This time of year brings a variety of work situations, from the farewelling of students, to the mad 'let's get everything finished before Christmas' panic. Of course, we are also coming back to earth after an amazing amount of quality professional development in November. CDANZ was fortunate enough to host Gray Poehnell in Auckland, Hamilton and Dunedin before the Conference. Gray has proven to be a valuable and well-attended facilitator for CDANZ – he never fails to provoke thought and discussion, as well as provide practical tools for work with clients.

Many of you will have contributed to, and participated in the International Careers Conference 'Transforming careers, unleashing potential' 19-21 November 2009. This was an enriching experience and one that will provide plenty of reflective learning for many PD Diaries! The Keynote speakers were:



- Dr Ganesh Nana (Chief Economist, Editor, BERL Forecasts)
- Professor Jim Bright (BA, PhD, FAPS)
- Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith
- Lynne Bezanson and Sareena Hopkins

They engaged the delegates with stories and their perspectives on Careers, creating laughter and the odd tear. Another speaker who made an impression was the Hon. Bill English; in opening the conference he personally related to the role career development has in preparing us for what life brings. Many overseas delegates were amazed at the insight he demonstrated. He reflected on his own journey to Minister of Finance which includes a now unexpected degree in English Literature, along with that of his wife's "Japanese Popstar" nephew? I have written to the Minister on behalf of CDANZ congratulating him on his opening speech and informing him of the aims of our association. Immediate Past President Kathy Jones did CDANZ proud in her roles at the conference, launching CDANZ with style and professionalism to the gathered career community, as well as summing up the Lynne and Sareena's moving Keynote address.

Our 12th AGM was held during the conference. It was an opportunity to reflect on a very busy year for the Executive Committee – which has been involved in making a raft of visible, and not so visible, changes to the organisation as we changed our name to CDANZ. Most importantly it was an opportunity to publicly thank a number of hard-working individuals who have moved back to their jobs and families as their time on the Executive concludes. Thanks again to outgoing Executive members:

- Kathy Jones, President
- Karen Errikla, Membership Officer
- Margaret Hadfield, Treasurer
- Julie Crawley, Professional Development and Branch Liaison
- Arron Periam, Branch Liaison and Communication



The new Executive Committee draws from across the membership both geographically and professionally. Roles and responsibilities will be established in the coming months. It is made up as follows:

- Megan Smith, Hamilton – Private Practice
- Astrid van Holten, Auckland – Career Services
- Claire Pearce, Wellington – Private Practice
- Dave McKissock, Invercargill – Private Employer
- Vicki Summerfield, Christchurch – School & Private Practice
- Ruth Missen, Whakatane – Private Practice
- Pat Cody, Whangarei – Career Services
- Ivan Hodgetts, Invercargill – Career Consultant



The Fifth International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policy

Prior to the Conference I attended the Fifth International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policy. This involved representing CDANZ on the New Zealand Country team – the other team members were:

- Neil Cooper – Manager of Labour Market Skills, Department of Labour
- Doug Gorman – Principle Advisor, Ministry of Social Development
- Heker Robertson – Chief Advisor, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs
- Kim Shannon – Group Manager Schooling Policy Group, Ministry of Education
- Karen Vaughan – Senior Researcher, NZ Council for Educational Research
- Susan Kosmala – Deputy Chief Executive, Career Services

The symposium was challenging and rewarding, with all attendees committed to making practical aims for career development and public policy. The work was at country, regional and global level, and will continue until the next Symposium in 2011. At a country level it will involve the New Zealand team continuing to work towards the aims established during the Symposium. I felt very confident representing CDANZ after all the work that has gone on to create a strong professional organisation and we are well placed to continue this momentum into the future.

In addition to developing national relationships, I was able to meet with a number of representatives from other practitioner associations – such as:

- National Career Development Association – United States
- Career Development Association of Australia
- Canadian Career Development Foundation
- Institute of Career Guidance – United Kingdom



As awareness of the importance of career development in its various settings grows, it is important that practitioners have a voice with policy makers. Therefore, adding CDANZ to a global practitioner network is critical, and there are gains to be made by joining together and sharing our learning.



Image: Murray Douglas

<http://www.widescreenstuff.com/2008/11/pohutukawa-tree-new-zealand-xmas-tree.html>

I hope this holiday season brings with it the opportunity for you to reflect, relax and rejuvenate.

Merry Christmas!

Megan Smith

Megan Smith, CDANZ President