

FROM A LOFT



April 2011

THANK YOU



When I submitted my letter of resignation to the Academic Committee and Board in November last year one of the Academic Committee asked me “Are you going to regret this?” I replied “No. I have no regrets. I have loved every minute in this job and I will have nothing to regret when I look back – but I will miss it and I will miss the people.”

This then is my “farewell note” to you all. It is one of thanks and good wishes. My thanks to each one of you and my good wishes for the future work of EIDTS.

My thanks go to all who have served on the Board and the Academic Committee during my time as Director. I have enjoyed the interaction and engagement as we have sought to keep EIDTS courses and the provision of study relevant to the needs of our students and in line with the requirements of NZQA (the NZ Qualifications Authority) and TEC (Tertiary Education Commission) the two government bodies with oversight of our work. Meeting these dual aims has not always been easy or straightforward. As a distance provider with part-time adult students scattered around the country it wasn’t always easy to fit within regulations that were drawn up to meet the needs of younger full-time students sitting in classrooms. But it has been fun and it has been a challenge as we have “held our ground” and cared for our students.

I have also been extremely grateful to our Tutors and Moderators. I have often said that you wouldn’t be a tutor or moderator for EIDTS if you wanted to get rich. All of our tutors and moderators are highly qualified and have a passion for the subjects that they teach and a commitment to helping students with their study. That is the motivation that keeps them working with EIDTS and it has been a passion and commitment that has made my job “such a breeze”. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with such a dedicated and able group of people.

And then there are our students. All of EIDTS students undertake their study on top of a myriad of other commitments. I admire that dedication. It takes enormous commitment and application to stick with distance study. Every year I find myself quietly lifting my hat to our students.

It has also been a pleasure to work with Sue Haley as our Academic Registrar. Sue has been a central part of EIDTS since its inception in 1993. Her loyalty and commitment has been the basis for all that happens in EIDTS and I have appreciated her support and encouragement over the years.

Together you have all made my work both enjoyable and worthwhile. I leave this job with a very genuine feeling of gratitude. And I wish Linda and each one of you every success and blessing as you go forward in the years ahead.

Bruce Hansen

NEW DIRECTOR



The Board are pleased to announce the appointment of Linda Cowan as the new Director for EIDTS. Linda will commence in this role on 16 May this year.

Linda was born and grew up in Dunedin where her father was Professor of Accounting at the University of Otago. Her family was closely involved in the life of the Presbyterian Church and from a young age Linda attended Sunday School, Busy Bees and the Girls’ Brigade.

After attending Otago Girls High School Linda took a “year out” to work as a volunteer teacher with VSA on the island of Paama in Vanuatu. Linda describes that as a “formative experience”. Paama is a rugged isolated island measuring only 9km by 4km and at that time had little outside contact. At one stage no mail arrived for over 3 months.

Linda returned to Dunedin where she studied History at Otago University. In her final year she took a unit in Education and discovered that she had an aptitude for the subject and a passion for the work. After graduating she worked as a Youth Officer for CORSO before commencing her career in teaching.

Her first appointment was at Burnside High School in Christchurch teaching history and social studies. In a school with 2,500 students Linda was soon given added responsibilities and became a Divisional Tutor. This involved half-time teaching and a half-time pastoral role working with “troubled” students.

In 1981 Linda moved to the Waimate High School as HOD Social Studies. In Waimate she taught in the Sunday School and was a Girls’ Brigade leader. It was here that she was ordained as an elder in the Presbyterian Church and began her “career” as a Lay Preacher.

From Waimate Linda moved to the position of Assistant Principal of the Dunstan High School in Alexandra before being appointed as Principal of Waitaki Girls’ High School in Oamaru in 1994. This was the time of Tomorrow’s Schools, unit standards and the influx of “paying students” from overseas. Linda was involved in marketing the school in Asia and oversaw an expanding number of Pacifica students enrolling at the school.

During her time at Burnside High School Linda also held the role of Canterbury and West Coast Regional Commissioner for the Girls’ Brigade. Later when in Waimate and Alexandra she was Chairperson of the Asia and Pacific Committee of the Girls’ Brigade and in her holidays travelled to Malaysia, Singapore and the Cook Islands to train Girls’ Brigade leaders in those countries.

After 13 years as Principal of Waitaki Girls’ Linda resigned and moved to Christchurch where she has been involved in

part-time positions as a learning support tutor at the NZ College of Early Childhood Education and as the Children and Family Worker for the St Stephen's Presbyterian Parish.

Of her new position with EIDTS Linda says that having completed a Diploma in Theology from the University of Otago by distance learning during her time in Alexandra she is committed to the concept of adult learning and the opportunity to learn from home. She was grateful for the intellectual challenge and stimulation of her own learning and for the opportunities that that gave her. She is attracted by the ecumenical base of EIDTS and the diverse staff and student body. She believes that with the increasing role for lay people in the church it is important that they should be able to access theological education to equip them in that role. Further than that at a time when there is a growing interest in spirituality EIDTS allows people to explore their faith in a mature way and at a time in life when they are looking for that.

Linda says "That's what I did" and she is excited to be a part of making that possible for others.

STAFF NEWS



Kathleen Rushton, our Tutor in New Testament, is on sabbatical leave this year. Kath was appointed the 2011 Cardinal Hume Visiting Scholar at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology which is part of the Cambridge Theological Foundation in the U.K. This has allowed her to undertake three months study at

Cambridge. She will be combining this with a time at Leuven University in Belgium as a visiting scholar where she will be undertaking a research project. Along with these study opportunities Kath will be walking the Camino, a Spanish pilgrimage trail, and will spend some time at the International Mercy Centre in Dublin where she will be teaching several block courses. On her way home in November she will be attending the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature which this year is being held in San Francisco. We congratulate Kath on the award that she has received and wish her well for her varied experiences during her year away.



Our congratulations go to Douglas Pratt, Tutor for Church and Interfaith Engagement, who has been promoted to a full professorship at the University of Waikato where he is now Professor of Religious Studies. Doug is presently in Europe where he is undertaking a one-semester appointment as Visiting Professor in the Faculty

of Theology at the University of Bern in Switzerland. In Bern he is teaching in the area of Christian engagement with other faiths, religious pluralism and extremism, and a course in systematic theology that allows him to make use of his book 'Relational Deity'. Doug will be returning to his position at Waikato University in July prior to a brief return to Europe later in the year for conferences on theology and interfaith issues in both Switzerland and the UK. We wish Doug well in his peripatetic lifestyle.



Our congratulations go to Deborah Bower, Moderator for NT101 "Introduction to New Testament," who in December received her PhD from the University of Otago following the submission of her thesis *Isaiah, the Gospel of Luke and Peter in conversation with Cornelius: a narrative critical approach to Acts 10:1 – 11:18*. Deborah is currently providing supply

ministry in the Wakatipu Presbyterian parish which includes Queenstown, Frankton and Arrowtown and awaiting the verdict from potential publishers of her work. We wish her well in both ventures.



We were pleased to hear that Chris Caradus, EIDTS Tutor for Romans, had been conferred with his PhD from Otago University at the graduation ceremony on 4 December. Chris's thesis was entitled *Beyond a Sonderweg for Israel – An exploration of persistence of exile themes in relation to Romans 11.26*. Chris's

work looks at a reading of Romans 11:25-32 based on an understanding of the Jewish experience of exile and expectation for national restoration. Chris is now engaged in preparing his work for publication whilst also being employed by Otago University in its IT department and writing new course material for the EIDTS Romans course. We congratulate Chris on the successful completion of his doctorate and wish him well for the other tasks that he now has "on his plate".



Rangi Nicholson (Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Toa, Kai Tahu, Ngati Kahungunu) completed his doctorate from the University of Auckland and had that conferred in September last year. Rangi has been a good supporter of the work of EIDTS over a number of years and serves as an advisor in Te Reo and Tikanga

Maori. His thesis "*Ko te mea nui, ko te aroha*" *Theological Perspectives on Maori Language and Cultural Regeneration Policy and Practice of the Anglican Church* reviews Anglican Church Maori language and cultural policy and practice in terms of bicultural Treaty of Waitangi partnership and Maori theology. Rangi has had a lengthy involvement in teaching Maori language and culture at secondary and tertiary levels. He is currently the Acting Te Ahorangi/Dean (Tikanga Maori) at St John's Theological College in Auckland.

When the September earthquake hit Canterbury the town of Kaiapoi north of Christchurch was badly affected. Geoff Haworth was appointed to a full-time position to work in the Kaiapoi parish and to help people work through the physical and emotional devastation that followed the earthquake. Up until that time Geoff had been Chairperson of the EIDTS Academic Committee. With the new demands on his time Geoff tendered his resignation from the Academic Committee.

We thank Geoff for his contribution to our work. His integrity, insight and scholastic skills were all appreciated by those who worked with him. We wish him and the people of Kaiapoi well as they re-build their community.