

Presidents Report for ANZFSSA AGM 2011

Since the last AGM very little has changed regarding the growth of regional social studies associations. This is both frustrating and disappointing and felt by many at various levels. Frustrating in the sense that when emails are sent to people emails are not replied to. Disappointing in the sense that when people have tried to organise meetings people are not prepared to support these. It is realised that people are very busy but it does mean the workload is placed on a few dedicated people who are passionate about social studies. One consequence of this is the teleconference that was mooted at the last AGM has not taken place.

ANZFSSA has continued to have the financial statements reviewed and submitted to the Charities Commission and retained charitable status. Financial activity has been related to the website and income has been generated from copyright licensing. No membership fees have been charged for over 6 years now.

Regional associations.

Raylene Galvin has reported nothing has happened in the Otago region. Bridget Raymond from Christchurch was going to call a meeting to resurrect Christchurch Social Studies Association but the recent earthquakes have stopped this. Wellington and Manawatu are not operating but the people interested in social studies have been the driving force for Soc Con 2011 and we thank them for this. Jody Plummer from WSSA is the nominated member for ANZFSSA on the Soc Co committee and Rowena Taylor, Rose Atkins and Margaret Leamy from the Manawatu have attended on a rotating basis. Waikato and the Bay of Plenty are not operating. Auckland Social Studies Association has continued to operate with a small committee driving this. Last year ASSA developed a wiki. The annual professional development smorgasbord was held at MOTAT and three Current Events Quizzes were held. One for Years 5 & 6, Years 7 & 8, Years 9 & 10. At the recent ASSA AGM committee members reassessed what was being offered to teachers and decided to offer half day workshops for primary teachers, Years 7 to 10 teachers in term 3 and a full day workshop for teachers of senior social studies in term 4. ASSA are also offering free membership in 2011 and are intending to migrate the resources that are currently on their wiki over to the ANZFSSA website. At this stage I need to note there is a strong group of teachers of senior social studies in the Auckland region. This has grown through me identifying a need to support these teachers. The local association were not aware of these teachers needs and the teachers did not think the local association were meeting their needs. I was able to support these teachers in my role as social science advisor for the Auckland/Northland region. For the last three years as advisor I have held cluster workshops each term at Team Solutions and in December free full day workshops focussing on implementing the New Zealand Curriculum in senior social studies. This group has a contact list of over 40 and growing. I notify this group of any items from NZQA and the Gazette etc that relate to them. This group of teachers share amongst themselves. When the ASSA AGM was advertised I encouraged this group to become involved. The response was silence and only one member of this contact list attended the AGM. I am concerned that this group will not be sustainable when School Support Services ceases at the end of the year but am still optimistic that this group will realise the benefits of supporting their local social studies association.

The ANZFSSA website

www.socialstudies.org.nz

This website was launched at the start of 2010. Sandra Chandler and I worked on this and Sandra notified all regional contact when this was launched.

Last year the teachers of senior social studies in the Auckland area expressed a need for teachers of senior social studies to have an online area to share resources and ideas. A page was set up for senior social studies on the website and two teachers of senior social studies have been given administer rights to add resources. Even though teachers wanted a forum to share resources only one teacher and myself have added resources. It is hoped this will be used more in the future.

As I have mentioned before this year at the ASSA (Auckland Social Studies Association) AGM it was decided to migrate the resources that are on the ASSA wiki over to the ANZFSSA website for teachers across New Zealand can access. ASSA is in a financial position to appoint an administrator to do this.

The future of ANZFSSA

There are a number of issues that the people at this meeting need to consider.

1. Do you want the ANZFSSA to continue? If it does not any currently held by ANZFSSA goes to subject associations at a similar level e.g. NZBGT. If you want this structure to continue how would you like it to be organised and who is going to do it?
2. Sandra and I would like to stand down from our present positions but are both prepared to be supportive of the next exec. I feel as though I should move on as I have held the position as Chair for 4 years and people may not like Auckland continuing to dominate.