



**Out
&
proud**

at the senior ball p4

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PPTA NEWS

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Comings and goings

Clarence Beeby is a name that should, by rights, be as familiar to New Zealanders as that of Richie McCaw but it isn't. Beeby was the architect of our comprehensive education system that (in spite of the constant sledging) has served New Zealanders well. As director of education, he, along with education minister Peter Fraser, oversaw the transformation of an elitist system where secondary education was the preserve of the wealthy to a structure that provided free and compulsory education for all children from ages 5 to 15. As the man himself put it, far more eloquently than I could: "The government's objective, broadly expressed, is that all persons, whatever their level of ability, whether they live in town or country, have a right as citizens to a free education of the kind for which they are best fitted and to the fullest extent of their powers".

In practice the idea that everyone in New Zealand should get a fair go at school might have been more mythical than real, but at least the nation agreed that it was an idea worth having. Now of course it has been replaced with the narrow and unlovely idea that we should strive for equity, which means investing the same amount in everyone.

Beeby benefited from a political regime which trusted public servants and the advice they gave. That was before the public service became a wing of the government's PR machine, adept at putting out soundbites that glorify government policies regardless of the ugly reality. And because the destructive portrayal of public servants as lazy, stupid and incompetent (in contrast to their political masters) did not yet roam abroad, talented and intelligent individuals were happy to direct their abilities to the service of the public.

But today it seems it is not even possible to find an appointee for the position of secretary for education from within the New Zealand education service or the wider public service. The replacement for Karen Sewell has had to be recruited from

England – a country whose education service is probably closer to what schooling was like in New Zealand pre-Beeby.

This is not to question the abilities of Lesley Longstone, the "Sheffield lass" as her local paper called her, who is to take charge of the New Zealand education system from November this year. I assume that Ms Longstone hasn't got where she is today without being clever and a quick learner, which is good because she will have much to learn about our history and culture, including the bicultural part of it.

I am less sure that she will readily understand the commitment New Zealanders have to their public education system given that in England public actually means private (and selective and elitist and privileged to boot). Nor am I reassured by the leadership role she has played in the establishment of English, quasi-private schools called variously specialist schools and academies.

These schools were notable because they were set up under the auspices of business sponsors who, in return for contributing money, goods or services, got to experiment with running a school. To make sure the experience was satisfying and successful, they were given extra taxpayer funding, the ability to select students and the capacity to vary teachers' terms and conditions. Although these schools were supposed to lift achievement they have done no better than what would be expected from any school that is able to manipulate its student intake.

Longstone has also played a role in helping organisations to set up "free schools," an initiative of the Conservative-led government. These schools are "for profit". One of the trusts that received £500,000 pounds (without a public tender) to establish "free" schools turned out to have very close links with the same Conservative Party that introduced the policy – so it certainly has been free for them!

Nothing is free though. The profits generated by these schools



by Robin Duff

will come from the employment of unqualified staff and reductions in wages and conditions. The cost will be borne by children in low socio-economic communities where the schools have been encouraged to set up. There will be no risks taken with the education of the children of the well heeled.

This is public information and would have been known to the State Services Panel that made the appointment. What were they thinking? There are three possibilities: one, Lesley Longstone impressed as being an experienced career civil servant who would competently adapt to the different environment in New Zealand; two, the job is difficult and challenging so there were few suitable applicants; or three, Treasury and the State Services Commission are looking to repeat the putsch of 1987 when they collaborated on a pre-election agenda, to be pushed through after the election regardless of public wishes. In that case, experience in establishing "free schools" would be invaluable. It will all be revealed in the fullness of time.

On the subject of comings and goings, I want to record PPTA's thanks for the work Karen Sewell has done for education, in the ministry, NZQA, the Education Review Office and the classroom. She has always been one to act with integrity, principle, good humour and dignity. We wish her well in her retirement. •

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Preferred partner

The school ball is a big deal for many senior secondary school students. Dressing up and taking a partner are all part of the allure, but some queer youth say they've become sidelined by their school dictating what gender their ball partner of choice should be.

The issue of schools refusing same-sex couples at school balls has been thrown around in the media since 2009.

This year St Patrick's College told student Malcolm Pimentel he had to bring a girl and could not bring a male to his school ball.

Malcolm said he wanted to take a stance against discrimination and homophobia so took his grievance to the media, the Human Rights Commission and set up a Facebook page to convince the college to let him attend the ball with his male date.

The Facebook "event" originally called "Get Malcolm Pimentel and Keith Labad to the St Pat's Ball" attracted 12,000 supporters in 48 hours.

A spokesperson for Malcolm told the media he'd been overwhelmed by the media attention and decided not to continue with his quest. He was reluctant to see the debate turned into an attack on his school and religion.

Other schools say students who want to bring a partner from outside the school have to go through an application process.

Students at Fairfield College in Hamilton go through an application process if they want to take a partner

from outside their school to the ball but they can take a partner of the same sex.

It's not only about being able to safely bring your preferred partner to the ball, but being able to wear what you want, said Fairfield College student Stevie Ransfield, 17.

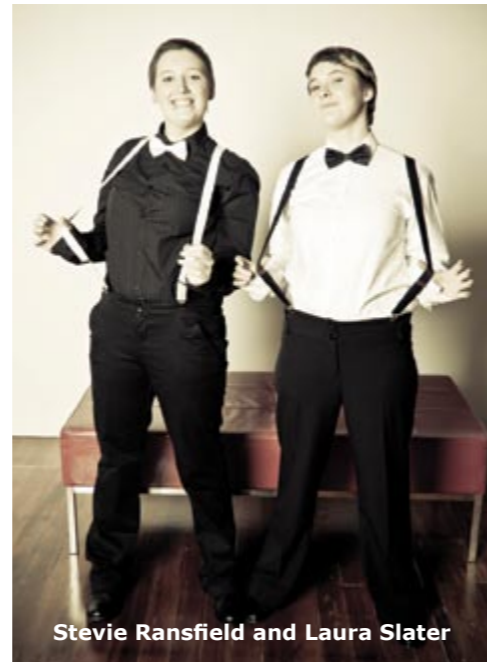
"We didn't get a second look wearing suits to the ball, but got so many compliments," said Stevie.

"We wear baggy jeans at school so turning up in a ball dress wouldn't have felt right," she said.

Erana Crump, 16, said her school could do more to support queer students but Fairfield College were supportive of same-sex couples attending the ball.

"I opted to go by myself. My girlfriend went to the ball but we didn't go as partners, just as a group," said Erana.

Erana said it was ridiculous that other schools don't allow same-sex couples to the ball. She understood why schools have an application process as a safety measure, but said other schools banning same-sex couples was going too far.



Stevie Ransfield and Laura Slater

She said the ball was a success and she had the chance to be herself.

"The suits definitely got a lot of attention, I felt proud to be out in public," she says.

Rainbow Youth, a queer youth support group, has organised a same-sex ball this month for 13- to 20-year-old non-heterosexual youth in Auckland. The event is drug, alcohol and smoke free.

A spokesperson for Rainbow Youth said former minister of education Trevor Mallard was against schools barring students attending their balls with their same-sex partners.

The issue has been raised with the Human Rights Commission because the Human Rights Act (1993) makes it unlawful to discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation.

The commission said it would seek to mediate the matter through its free disputes resolutions process. If a resolution was not reached the parties would have the right to take the complaint to the Human Rights Review Tribunal. •



Stevie Ransfield, Eden Hilliam, Melissa Attwood and Laura Slater

Support for schools with quake-risk buildings

PPTA has issued a set of guidelines for members as the number of buildings assessed as being unsafe in the event of an earthquake grows across New Zealand.

The three large earthquakes that have devastated Canterbury have focused the Ministry of Education's attention on the risks posed by its buildings everywhere. Ministry figures show that around 23 primary and secondary schools in the Wellington region alone are identified as having buildings assessed as unsafe in an earthquake.

President Robin Duff said the PPTA's national office had received questions from members and branches asking how to handle the extra workload, health and safety, and stress pressures associated with school building closures.

"This is why the PPTA Earthquake Taskforce prepared a set of guidelines," said Duff.

"The guidelines assist members in schools where one or more buildings have been deemed an earthquake risk and incorporate the experiences of Christchurch members."

The guidelines outline what a branch/member should do when advised to shift from a building assessed as an earthquake risk.

"The first priority must be the health and safety of the staff and students," it says.

The guidelines recommend that branches/members respect any assessment

by a registered engineer and work actively with management to source alternative classroom space and ensure that any new classrooms are fit for their purpose.

"The school's health and safety representative has an important role in assessing new classroom space for current and potential hazards, such as ensuring a temporary classroom for chemistry lessons had appropriate ventilation and equipment."

Trained health and safety representatives have the ability to issue formal notices if an employer fails to take all practical steps to isolate and minimise hazards.

The guidelines draw on Clause 5.1A of the Secondary Teachers' Collective Agreement (STCA) which requires consultation around a school's timetable policy. They say this will be useful if management propose members move into unsuitable teaching space.

PPTA came across examples of teachers carrying out lessons in unsuitable spaces in Christchurch. This included teaching hard and soft materials subjects in a prefabricated classroom with carpet and limited power points.

Clause 5.1A is a reminder that boards and management must consult with teachers over timetable matters.

One of the key findings is that teachers are being used to move furniture between classrooms.

Robin Duff said members were employed as teachers to deliver the national curriculum and undertake

pastoral care duties.

"They are not employed as removal specialists for furniture, equipment and resources," he said.

PPTA have created a checklist for members to use when faced with classroom closure or relocation that board and school management can also use to assess decision making processes.

The checklist recommends that boards inform the branch and community at the time they become aware of buildings which are an assessment risk.

It says the branch should be shown a copy of the engineer's report on the school buildings.

Boards and management should provide the branch with an opportunity for consultation over related timetable decisions and policy changes under the STCA.

Appropriate external assistance should be provided to move student and teacher equipment and resources between classrooms.

The elected health and safety representative should meet with the branch to discuss potential and existing hazards and to hear branch concerns with the aim of creating a plan to manage hazards.

It is expected that more schools will be identified as these assessments continue.

For a copy of the guidelines visit www.ppta.org.nz and go to Issues in education/Canterbury earthquake or google the keyword: "PPTA earthquake guidelines".

PPTA branches/members should email details of new school building earthquake assessments or related concerns to earthquake@ppta.org.nz. •



Your voice, your vote, your union

The PPTA team in your region is now selecting delegates to the PPTA Annual Conference 2011.

Let them know that you are interested.

Information for conference delegates and an online registration form can also be found on the PPTA website at:

www.ppta.org.nz/index.php/annual-conference.



As a PPTA member, Annual Conference is your opportunity to participate in developing PPTA policy.

Each year PPTA members put forward a number of papers with recommendations that are debated and put to the vote among conference delegates. This year's papers include:

- **Class Size – The Struggle Continues** – Updates ongoing work on tackling the inequities of class size in schools across New Zealand.
- **There Is Always A Reasonable Alternative** – Examines the impact government economic policies have had on education in the last 30 years and offers an alternative economic model that promotes the production of equitable wealth and educational opportunities.
- **Nāu Te Rourou, Nāku Te Rourou – Educative Mentoring** – Broadly discusses the gradual shift toward educative mentoring for all types of teachers. Led by trained mentors using processes that mesh with a school's existing practices and grounded in a collaborative approach to professional development, educative mentoring offers a powerful lever to develop and support quality teaching in secondary and area schools.
- **Accelerated Change In The Senior Secondary School** – Reports on what has been achieved in making NCEA workload more manageable. It summarises the efforts made to date to reduce workload and a list of the proposals made by the NZQA Workload group for reducing workload, as well as the response from NZQA and the Ministry of Education to the proposals. Reducing the amount of moderation, reducing the number of credits per course and providing more Teacher Only Days are all seen as critical to a long-term solution. The paper also looks at other initiatives that could be taking funds and focus away from dealing with NCEA workload issues.
- **Supporting Teachers To Do Their Jobs** – Considers the reasons why the collective bargaining process for secondary teachers and principals has become so fractious and adversarial. The paper examines the reasons why the notion of collaborative educational change with unions as active partners has proved so elusive in New Zealand, except for in a brief period between 2003 and 2010.

Catch your union live

Workload pressures mean that keeping up with your union's activities is always going to be a challenge.

We hope that by providing ready access to the dialogue, debate and decisions that make up PPTA's Annual Conference we can keep you better informed.

Between 18 - 20 October look for the live video streaming on the homepage of www.ppta.org.nz. Unable to see it live? That's ok. Clips of key speeches, debates and decisions will be available on the website. Give it a click. •



Downloading rough justice

At its last meeting (19 August) the PPTA ICT advisory committee heard from Green Party MP Gareth Hughes, the unofficial leader of the opposition to the Copyright (Infringing File Sharing) Amendment Act 2011.

The act is supposed to prevent illegal file sharing by internet users but it does this in a very ham-fisted way. Copyright holders alert Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to possible breaches and, after three alleged breaches, guilt is assumed. The act has established a tribunal that has the power to order internet access to be cut off and/or can impose fines of up to \$15,000 – which go to the copyright holder. A screen shot is considered sufficient evidence of guilt though US courts have apparently not found this to be a sufficiently high standard of evidence.

The committee noted what problems this raises for schools (and universities and libraries) who do their best to monitor student internet activity but cannot be certain that students will never indulge in illegal file sharing from a school address. As committee member Michael Peterson, who represents low-decile schools, said, “the only thing saving schools at the moment is slow broadband and with the UFB roll-out that is all set to change”.

While schools may block “torrenting sites” which enable fast downloading of very large files, students have ways of getting round that, including using their cell-phones.

Hughes didn't think the Copyright Tribunal would fine schools but there is so little guidance being



“Adding to the sense of conspiracy is the evidence from the Wikileaks cables that there had been significant lobbying of the New Zealand government by the entertainment industry via the US government.”

provided to boards on how to avoid liability that no assurances can be given. The ministry has asked Netsafe to provide guidance to schools which it has done (www.netsafe.org.nz) but only in a technical sense – it doesn't explain how schools are supposed to stop breaches occurring and what defences they might be able to use if charged. Hughes is helping refine the law by “torrenting” in the House presuming that after three breaches the account holder, who is the speaker, will be denied access by Parliament's ISP.

Opponents of the law have objected to the undemocratic way the act was rushed through Parliament under urgency, misusing the emergency

powers the government had taken for the management of the Christchurch earthquake. A popular protest in 2009 online and outside Parliament against amending the law may have still been fresh in the government's collective memory prompting this piece of opportunism. Adding to the sense of conspiracy is the evidence from the Wikileaks cables that there had been significant lobbying of the New Zealand government by the entertainment industry via the US government. Hughes noted that this issue has occasioned the most intensive lobbying he has encountered in his time as an MP.

He also endorsed the committee's view that, at base, the problem is largely caused by the tardiness of the entertainment industry in not making international material available to New Zealanders. Hughes said that when he asked the minister of communications Steven Joyce what he was doing to make Netflix available for legal movie downloading in New Zealand, Joyce replied he did not know what Netflix was.

Internet NZ has established a website www.3strikes.net.nz

to encourage New Zealanders to oppose the law and to provide advice on the application of the law. One of their objections is that punishment – denial of internet access to the account holder who may not be the guilty party – is disproportionate to the “crime”. The website also contains alarming links to the parliamentary discussion of the bill which show that some MPs have very little grasp of the legislation they have passed.

Hughes told the taskforce the law came into effect on 1 September 2011, but copyright holders could collect data from August and issue retrospective infringement notices.

The provision will not become operational until next year. •

Grin and beard it

The male staff at Forest View High School in Tokoroa have joined forces to grow beards to raise funds for child cancer.

PPTA branch chair Andy Gray said the mid-winter “Beard Fest” was an idea of a PPTA member at the school who has a child relative diagnosed with cancer.

His relative was treated for the cancer and had an adverse reaction to chemotherapy.

“He decided to grow a beard to shave off instead off having his head shaved to raise funds for the Child Cancer Foundation,” said Andy

“The men at the school asked if they could join his efforts,” he said.

“After a brief couple of meetings we had a number of staff who didn't mind if their heads were shaved.”

The school have been raising funds and the results of their

efforts will be clear later this month – the “cut-off date” when all hair, beards or otherwise are removed.

“They had to endure taunting comments like ‘caveman,’ ‘homeless guy,’ ‘santa’ and ‘grizzly’.”

Many staff were involved in addition to the five pictured right.

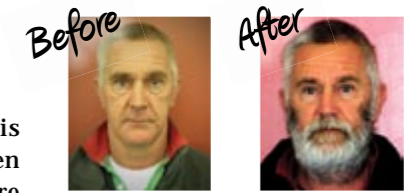
“Our female staff will wear fake beards and facial hair,” he said.

The male staff at Forest View High School said sporting a beard was no easy task.

They had to endure taunting comments like “caveman,” “homeless guy,” “santa” and “grizzly”.

They all agreed it was worthwhile enduring a little bit of hassle to raise money for a good cause.

“I think that it has raised student and staff awareness and this is always a good thing. Several participants for various reasons have already shaved their efforts off but have made donations to the cause,” said Andy. •



Andy Gray



Bruce Dowdle



Doug Clark



Norm Treasurer



Tommy Knight

Sister suburbs for Christchurch

Labour list MP Jacinda Ardern met with the PPTA's earthquake taskforce to promote a website designed to match suburbs and community organisations around New Zealand with individuals and groups in need in Christchurch city suburbs.

It is based on the international sister city scheme that matches like-cities worldwide. One of Christchurch's sister cities is Adelaide in Australia.

Ardern told PPTA she and many others felt a sense of helplessness after the Christchurch earthquakes.

She said she wanted to learn from other assistance programs used in recent natural disasters such as the tsunami that struck

Samoa in September 2009. Ardern's parents were living in Samoa at the time and witnessed first-hand how valuable some donations could be, but also how others were inappropriate for island life.

This was the key reason Ardern and her Sister Suburbs colleagues decided to use a demand style website to assist needy Cantabrians.

Community organisations, schools and other groups can make postings on the Sister Suburbs website if they are in need of a specific resource or service.



Jacinda Ardern

One posting on the website is from Manning Intermediate School who are requesting design ideas for a new school sculpture to honour earthquake survivors.

Another is from the Bexley Residents' Association requesting help to organise goodwill packs for children and the elderly. Bexley was hit hard by the earthquakes and the overwhelming majority of Bexley homes fall in the red zone.

If your PPTA branch or suburb can help, take a peek at the Sister Suburbs website:

www.sistersuburbs.org.nz. •

Out in the field

Long service may be longer than you think

Information and advice from PPTA's intrepid field officers.

Jeremy knew he suffered from depressive symptoms meaning he should leave teaching before it overwhelmed him. He saw an opportunity to leave with dignity when his school needed to reduce staff under the surplus staffing processes.

Jeremy's offer to leave was accepted but he did not consult his field officer before making the offer.

He chose the "long service pay" option only to discover that he did not have an entitlement to this option because he only had 24 years' service.

The field officer intervened with the assistance of the Ministry of Education and managed to resolve the issue on Jeremy's behalf and to his satisfaction.

If Jeremy had not sought advice from the field office the outcome may have been difficult.

PPTA suggests that members establish what their rights are before a voluntary offer is made. Opting for the "long service payment" when you do not have 25 years' service in schools is not advisable.

Making a judgement that you



have 25 years' service because the pay advice notice says that you have 25 years' service for sick leave purposes is also dangerous. Teachers who were on studentships before 1981 had those years credited as sick leave service but that does not count as service in a school for surplus staffing options.

The retraining option may seem like a good opportunity for making a career change but that is not the intent. The study must be to enhance or upgrade the teacher's skills as a secondary teacher so courses that are

obviously designed to establish the teacher in a new career are unlikely to find favour with the Ministry of Education. That is not to say that a secondary teacher might not apply to do a retraining course in viticulture, lion-taming or astrology, but simply that the link with the secondary curriculum needs to be clear.

No single option suits all teachers – there are advantages and disadvantages with each option.

The ministry also prefers that the retraining courses selected are level 7 or above in the NZQA framework. •

New field officer hits the ground skating

PPTA branches in the Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa have the services of a new field officer.

Sarah Dalton was appointed to the position based in the Palmerston North PPTA office at the start of term three.

Sarah is known for her sense of style and for knitting her own Blackberry cover.

But above all else she aspires to be a "derby girl" when she grows up – currently attending "ladies bring a skate," to learn how to join the official Richter City roller derby league.



Sarah Dalton

"Believe it or not there is a skills test before you join the league," she said. Her proposed derby name is Hebe G Bees.

For the last three years Sarah worked as a PPTA advisory officer in Wellington. Her main responsibility was for professional issues,

where she worked extensively with the association's senior positions advisory committee and also in the development of educational mentoring.

Prior to that, her career as a teacher culminated in a position as assistant principal at Aotea College.



The Richter City roller derby.

Sarah's breadth of experience means she has been able to move quickly into the demanding role of a field officer and has hit the ground running/skating visiting many of the branches in her area.

Sarah can be contacted at sdalton@ppta.org.nz. •

Workers protest outside Fiji High Commission

Around 80 people gathered outside the Fiji High Commission in Wellington on 2 September to protest its military regime's harassment of trade unionists.

The harassment followed the regime's introduction of the "essential national industries decree", which restricts union activity and led to the arrest of Fiji Trade Union Congress president Daniel Urai for holding an "illegal" meeting.

At its last meeting, the PPTA executive passed two resolutions: the first supporting the international trade union campaign to draw attention to the regime's undemocratic practices, and the second calling on the regime to rescind regulations that severely restrict basic human rights such as freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and the freedom to organise collectively.

Executive members Jill Gray and Hazel MacIntosh (pictured left, and second-left) represented the associa-



tion at the rally which was addressed by the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions president Helen Kelly.

Kelly told those assembled that New Zealanders should think again about holidaying in a country whose government denied its workers basic rights.

She said holiday makers there "are being served now by hotel workers who

have had all their rights removed, being transported there by transport workers who've had all their rights removed.

"People need to decide whether that's the sort of country they want to support when they visit."

The protest was part of internationally coordinated action which saw simultaneous union rallies in Sydney, Canberra, Brussels and London. •

Limping little crabs



Fiji's media seem more interested in pro-Bainimarama regime propaganda than reporting accurate news according to the country's unions and Pacific media.

The Fiji Trade Union Congress (FTUC) have accused state media outlets of "shutting out" their views with unbalanced reporting.

Speaking to Radio Australia's Pacific Beat FTUC general secretary Felix Anthony said "...if they are not allowed to report the trade union perspective on issues, then they should either mention that or try their level best not to give misleading news and programmes to the public."

Also on the programme was Stanley Simpson, Fiji Broadcasting's news director, who said that despite the regime's censorship laws, outlets still tried to report important public information.

But he admitted censorship was not always easy to accept.

"We tell them (trade unionists)

there's no guarantee that their interview will go on air. I mean censors come in to the newsroom and check this story, or if it does manage to go online, we may get a call for it to be removed."

However, the most fiery criticism of the Fijian media and its dealings with unions came from Tupuola Terry Tavita, editor of Samoa's *Savali News*.

"It has been known in regional media circles for some years now that there are many so-called journalists in Fiji who willingly ... promote the military regime there," he said.

"They come to regional media workshops and bad-mouth the regime then go back home and voluntarily write and promote regime propaganda. They're hypocrites ... too busy kissing up and looking for favours from the Bainimarama regime," he said.

"You know, when the big crab crawls with a limp, the little crabs limp after him."



Trade Aid is sponsoring an essay competition with cash prizes for secondary school students in the Auckland region.

The competition marks the "UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty" in October and closes on 3 October 2011.

Further details are available from HoDs of English and Social Science or the Trade Aid contacts: Secretary of Trade Aid Trust Auckland: helenmels@gmail.com or Trade Aid Education Unit in Christchurch: marinda.matthew@tradeaid.org.nz

See also www.tradeaid.org.nz.



Too much like hard work

New Zealand Herald columnist Debrorah Hill Cone recently adopted a put-words-in-their-mouth then-dump-on-them approach to journalism.

In a passage about fast-track teacher training schemes that leapt over facts with all the eagerness of an Olympic hurdler, Hill Cone claimed PPTA president Robin Duff was “against” untrained volunteer help in schools. Given that her quote-mangling came despite Duff clearly communicating to her PPTA’s support for school volunteers, we can only conclude that the truth simply didn’t align with the trajectory her near-completed article was already taking.

Had she undertaken that bothersome part of journalism known as “a little research” Hill Cone might have acquired some necessary insights into her subject matter. Her readers would have been better served if she had known the difference between the Teach For All fast-track training scheme developed in the US and the one actually being developed here called Teach First NZ.

The *New Zealand Herald* kindly printed corrections for us, but a request to Hill Cone for an apology was met with silence. That too might have seemed like too much hard work for her.

Yesterday’s news

Seat-less ACT leader Dr Don Brash’s recent attempt to rally the media around his vexed views of public education fell a little flat.

His continuing prods at both PPTA and NZEI through late August were met with a muted response after he practically pleaded with us to react to his tired rhetoric trumped up as education policy.

After receiving a third media release in as many days, PPTA president Robin Duff was scratching his head wondering why Dr Brash’s “less

is more” ideology didn’t apply to his media strategy.

Clearly out of touch on how to launch his message, Brash rolled off hysterical speeches replete with worn-out, alarmist teacher-bashing phrases and hand-me-down calls for “choice” in education from the ‘90s.

His grand announcements barely featured on the 6pm news. The story needed someone prepared to throw punches back but no one felt aggrieved enough to bother.

Someone obviously forgot to inform him that teachers are the last people to indulge attention-seeking bullies bent on disruption for disruption’s sake.

Gender doublestandard?

A male teacher in London who moonlighted as a stripper and appeared in pornographic films was recently found guilty of unacceptable professional conduct but allowed to continue teaching.

The Independent reported that Benedict Garrett, 31, was given a reprimand after a two-day disciplinary hearing in front of the General Teaching Council for England.

The council heard that Mr Garrett had been stripping in clubs and working as a naked butler while employed as a secondary teacher in east London.

Derek Johns, chairman of the council’s disciplinary committee, told Mr Garrett: “The committee is content that you have sufficient insight and would not repeat this behaviour should you resume teaching”.

However, Mr Johns stressed the committee’s judgment that the “prevailing view of society” was that involvement in the adult industry while working as a teacher fell below the standard expected of the profession.

“The committee therefore finds that you are guilty of unacceptable professional conduct,” he said.

The decision contrasts a case where the New Zealand Teachers Council deregistered primary teacher Rachel Whitwell in May for posing for *Penthouse* magazine.

Taxpayers to foot PPP bill, Bill?

The case for public private partnerships (PPPs) for building national infrastructure has received another heavy blow this time from no lesser body than the UK Treasury Select Committee.

After an extensive review, the select committee concluded that the English equivalent of PPPs, PFIs (public finance initiative), did not provide value to the taxpayer. And it will get worse before it gets better, according to the committee, because higher borrowing costs since the credit crisis mean that PFI is now an “extremely inefficient” method of financing projects.

The chairman of the committee, Andrew Tyrie MP, was also concerned that government agencies would end up making poor financial decisions because they did not have to find the money up front.

“PFI means getting something now and paying later. Any Whitehall department could be excused for becoming addicted to that. We can’t carry on as we are, expecting the next generation of taxpayers to pick up the tab,” he said.

The committee reiterated the advice our government received from the New Zealand Treasury that it is unlikely that efficiencies claimed for PFI arrangements could offset the higher cost of private borrowing. The committee noted that it would actually be possible to increase the spend on infrastructure if government capital were used.

“The average cost of capital for a low risk PFI project is over 8%, double that of government gilts. Analysis commissioned by the committee suggests that paying off a PFI debt of £1bn may cost taxpayers the same as paying off a direct government debt of £1.7bn.”

In the light of this latest nail in the coffin for PPPs, the claims from the finance minister Bill English that, “(b)uilding and maintaining two new schools through a PPP is likely to result in a range of benefits,” and that it will help the public sector to “improve its procurement and management of infrastructure,” have a decidedly hollow ring. ■