

Presidents Report to AGM of WILNZ Inc: 29 April 2021

I am pleased as the inaugural President of WILNZ to present this report that covers the activities over the last year

The last year has been a significant year in our organisation, with the renaming of NZACE to become Work-integrated Learning, New Zealand at our AGM held this time last year. This change better reflects a more inclusive terminology for a wider variety of models that integrated learning in the higher education institution with learning in the workplace. The new name has received positive feedback, from those in NZ as well as our international colleagues.

As I mentioned in the opening address of the conference this morning, as part of the name change process, we had to design a new logo. Just briefly, WILNZ Board was able to offer a WIL opportunity to two design students, Laura Thresher from University of Waikato, and Libby Hare from WINTEC, who had had their placements cancelled due to Covid. Laura and Libby came up with the concept of the learner being represented as the black dot, and the institution and the employer as the two upward lines cradling the learner, reflecting the importance of the tripartite relationship of the three stakeholders. Congratulations and thanks to Laura and Libby on the great logo that they have produced. A big thanks to Karsten and Klaus for being the workplace supervisors. We certainly were pleased to be able to be 'a real client' for their WIL experience, during such a difficult time.

As part of the logo development we were also gifted a Te Reo interpretation to acknowledge our Maori heritage, and this forms part of the logo; *Tuia te ako, tuia te mahi, tuia te ara whaihua e*, And this means, weave together the learning, weave together the work, weave together the productive pathways ahead. We think this really captures the essence of WIL really well. The weaving is also captured in the intersection created in the logo.

We are keen to have some feedback on our new logo and I will be asking for comments later in this meeting.

WILNZ Board also worked together over the last year, to establish our strategic direction, vision, mission values and strategic aims. I have shared these in the opening address and in the tertiary update. These are also posted on the WILNZ website. A big thanks to Karen Vaughan for leading us through the strategic process.

One of our strategic aims is to Advocate for WIL. Six members of WILNZ, Andy Martin, Karsten Zegwaard, Carine Stewart, Kath Hay, Eva K and myself continue to advocate for WIL through their appointments to the University NZ WIL advisory group. Our activities over the last year, have been shared this morning by Andy in the tertiary WIL update. We have also had some opportunities to advocate for WIL in the ITP sector. Regan Cotter, from the WILNZ board represented us on the work-based learning working group that submitted a report as part of the Reform of Vocational Education. Thank you to all of you, who are working to advocate for WIL and create some influence at political and government level or within your institution.

Sponsorship is an important part of our income to enable us to keep membership fees at a reasonably low level. In 2020 we continued our significant sponsorship from Massey University and we thank Massey for this ongoing support. Other sponsors for 2020 were Catalyst, who provide the software Mahara. University of Waikato and Wintec have been sponsors for the conference. I would like to provide our sponsors with a special acknowledgement at this meeting and thank them for their support. We are always looking for new sponsorship opportunities so we can expand our activities, so if any members have contacts that they would like to share please get in touch with one of the executive.

Communication is vital to our profile and our website is an essential communication tool. Thanks to Chantal and Matt for doing some rearranging this year to make it more user friendly and for keeping our website up to date. Recently we have engaged a student Kate Smith, from EIT to help us with social media, particularly Linked In. Thanks Kate for helping profile WILNZ and also thanks Yvonne for supporting Kate in this role. To our members, please make a note to follow #WILNZ and to post about your WIL activities. Other communication strategies include our newsletter, and thanks Katharine for collating the news and sending it out. We are always looking for news that we can highlight, so if you have some exciting WIL activities in your institution, or have published any research outside of IJWIL we are keen to hear about this.

WILNZ provides the financial support for the International Journal of Work-integrated Learning. A special thank you to Karsten as editor in chief, for his ongoing hard work, and thanks to the associate editors Anna Rowe and Judene Pretti, the editorial board, reviewers and copy editor Diane for all their efforts to ensure that the journal remains a high quality publication. Karsten shared some great statistics with us earlier today and it is clear that IJWIL is the go-to journal in this area.

Fostering good practice is one of our key strategic aims. We continue to combine with ACEN in Australia for webinars, on both research and practice topics. Last year, these were held regularly to help share innovative solutions to help us navigate the disruptions to students WIL experiences due to Covid. A big thanks to ACEN for their collaboration and welcoming us to be part of

their events. If you have any topics that you would like to include in the webinar series, please let us know. Some of our WILNZ executive are also involved in the delivery of the Global WIL modules which offer online professional development courses. If you are interested, see the website for further details of modules that will be starting later in the year.

At our annual general meeting held online last year, we appointed our first two Fellows of WILNZ, and it was a pleasure to be able to present the awards in person to Professor Richard Coll and Dr Karsten Zegwaard prior to this meeting today. We also awarded Katharine Hoskyn with Honary Life Member for her significant contribution to NZACE over more than 20 years. Congratulations to you all for these highly deserved awards.

I would also like to make a special mention and congratulate our executive board member, Professor Andy Martin, who was recently awarded a Principal Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. This is a great recognition of Andy's contribution to both WIL and Sport Education over many years. Well deserved, Andy!

Finally, a big thanks to the Executive board for all their hard work this year, in particular in the way they have come together to determine our strategic direction and undertake initiatives, to provide support and guidance for our members, during such a challenging time in the higher education sector. I would like to give a special thanks to Eva as she steps down from the Board to take maternity leave. All the best from us. A big thanks to Regan for his contributions over many years on the board. Regan has changed career direction, but we hope he is able to stay connected with us in his new industry role. A big thanks also to all the members that make WILNZ a great organisation to be part of.

This concludes my report on the activities of WILNZ for 2020

Dr Jenny Fleming

29 April 2021