

TANZ Today



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MANUKAU INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSAL COLLEGE OF LEARNING
THE OPEN POLYTECHNIC OF NEW ZEALAND

September 2003

From the Convenor

Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself!

It is now five years since the concept of developing TANZ was discussed and just over three years since the formal agreement was signed. The development of projects and the building of the cooperative infrastructure involving hundreds of staff in a wide raft of activities has been remarkable.



The decision to appoint a National Development Director has been more than vindicated and now Pamela Simpson coordinates the activities of teams of staff from throughout the TANZ institutes.

The bulk of the work of TANZ still occurs within member Institutions, and recently the TANZ Management Group made up of key senior personnel was formed to oversee the implementation of the projects, advise on future initiatives and to assist in the more active involvement of staff at all levels. TANZ is committed to adding value for both staff and students. The success of TANZ will best be ensured and measured by the active support and ownership by the widest possible range of staff.

Where to in the Future?

The activities register outlines a staggering number and range of TANZ activities, such that it raises the question, "where to now?"

Councils and CEOs of the TANZ institutions are all committed to the long-term success and sustainability of TANZ.

It is clear we must work to improve the perceived responsiveness of the sector, broaden our influence with business and industry, and increase our engagement with key national influencers.

At all times we have considered these issues in the wider context of the whole sector. TEC has made it clear that they are keen to assist sound leadership and institutions who are striving to meet national goals.

TANZ is pursuing structural and procedural changes which will enable us to take advantage of the skills and the innovation of our staff and to facilitate greater responsiveness to business and industry needs.

Opportunities abound!

John Scott
Convenor

Networking

One of the strengths of TANZ is the opportunity it provides for collegial support, sharing of ideas and networking. This has major benefits, not only for the staff involved, but for TANZ as a whole.

Over the last few months there have been meetings of the TANZ eLearning Managers, International Managers, Engineers, Business to Business Managers, CAPL Coordinators, Academic Managers and HR Managers.

Each has provided both wide variety of actions and initiatives as well as sharing knowledge, support, expertise and guidance which has assisted greatly in the continuous development of best practice.

Industry & Community Focus

A key focus for TANZ is to develop relationships with industry and with the community.

TANZ sees one of the best ways of meeting industry training needs is through developing relationships with ITOs.

TANZ is currently working with the Public Sector Training Organisation to address their training needs in the management area.

The geographical spread of the TANZ partners ensures nationwide coverage and the ability to respond to community requirements. An example is the success of Key4free run in Warehouse Stationery Ltd stores throughout the country, an initiative led by the Manukau Institute of Technology.

Meat Inspection Supervisors evaluate the first module of National Certificate in First Line Management (online)

Previous newsletters have reported on the development of the NCFLM (online) – being run for Asure New Zealand for their Meat Inspection Supervisors.

With the first module ('Time Management') completed, Keith Tyler-Smith, Project Manager, Wendy Fountain, Instructional Designer, and Chris Matthews, Facilitator, attended Asure's North and South Island annual meetings to facilitate evaluations and assess progress to date, gain feedback and look at areas for improvement.

Positive feedback was received – learners particularly liked the fact that they could study at their own pace – and there was constructive comment on improvements

that could be made for future delivery of the programme. Keith Tyler-Smith reported that one of the most significant pieces of feedback from the supervisors was the value they found in using Blackboard's Discussion Board.

What the supervisors reported back was that they suddenly became aware that their individual issues were shared by others and that being able to share ideas, tips and issues with their colleagues was very powerful and was an important form of communication and networking. Once they had caught onto it the Discussion Board became one of the most important tools in Blackboard.

Meat Inspection Supervisors are now nearing completion of the second module, 'Business Writing Skills' and are underway with the 'Plan and Monitor Performance' and 'Problem Solving' modules.

Continued evaluation will take place to ensure on-going improvement.

ITOs see National Certificate in First Line Management (online) in action

In response to the interest shown in the National Certificate in First Line Management (online), a presentation to ITOs and TEC was held in Wellington on 11 August. Participants at the presentation were given a demonstration of the product, an indication of pricing for new developments of unit standards and contextualisation for new workplaces, and there was opportunity for questions from the floor.

There was enthusiasm for the idea of collaborative development of generic products which could then be tailored to meet the needs of individual industries. Because of the positive response it was agreed that further research into industry needs be undertaken by TANZ.

Curriculum Alignment

Curriculum alignment is being supported by TANZ. The aim of curriculum alignment are to establish barrier-free pathways from vocation programmes in secondary schools to relevant programmes in the neighbouring polytechnic. The focus is on collaborative work between polytechnics and secondary schools to ensure that there are no overlaps or gaps in the curriculum as students move from secondary school to tertiary study. Manukau Institute of Technology initiated this project and it is now into its third year of operation. MIT has been working with polytechnics around New Zealand to assist in the transfer of the model and with the support of TANZ is offering a curriculum alignment seminar to all polytechnics in November. Helen Anderson, Project Manager for Curriculum Alignment at MIT says that, "this will be a great opportunity for polytechnics to share their experiences of the project and for those wanting to make a start to tap into the knowledge already developed."

Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology has begun work on curriculum alignment in the last year "Our aim is to improve the training, education and job prospects of young people and provide them with a number of pathways and options," said Richard Belton, Project Director - Curriculum Alignment CPIT.

This project provides an opportunity for the polytechnics to work together towards the goal of expanding opportunity for school leavers and particularly those who are in groups under represented in tertiary education.

For inquiries about the Curriculum Alignment Seminar contact Helen Anderson:

Helen.Anderson@Manukau.ac.nz

Amanda's Dream Comes True

Receiving a \$40,000 scholarship from TANZ and The London Institute is a "dream come true", says Amanda Elsley, from Waiuku.



Jack MacDonald, CE, MIT, Amanda Elsley and John Scott, CE, CPIT & TANZ Convenor.

The scholarship enables Amanda to study her Masters in Fine Arts at the Chelsea College of Art and Design in London. TANZ will pay Amanda's tuition fees while The London Institute will pay for her accommodation.

"I am thrilled," says Amanda. "It is a great honour and I am looking forward to expanding my skills."

Amanda recently completed the University of Auckland Bachelor of Visual Arts, taught at Manukau Institute of Technology as part of the University of Auckland at Manukau programme.

She majored in painting and her primary subject matter was the horse.

"The lecturers at Manukau were really encouraging," she says.

Head of Manukau School of Visual Arts, Geoff Tune, says Amanda is a very talented artist and it has been interesting to see the development of her work.

MIT chief executive Jack MacDonald says Amanda's high standard of work is testimony to the high calibre of MIT students as well as staff.

The scholarship was presented to Amanda on Friday, 25 July. This is the first time the scholarship has been awarded.

Applications were invited from students at TANZ institutes art and design schools and the selection panel were impressed with the very high standard of entries.

Amanda left in September.

For Further Information

Pamela Simpson, TANZ National Development Director, TANZ, PO Box 540, Christchurch
Tel: 03-940 8715 Mobile: 029-940 8715
Fax: 03-940 8615 Email: simpsonp@cpit.ac.nz