

# Editorial

This special issue of *Kairaranga* celebrates the meeting place between research and practice in the autism spectrum disorder participatory action research (ASD PAR) project. The article *With Hindsight* introduces readers to this project.

Participatory action research is described in an article of the same name, which also introduces some challenges to working in this way, including ethics. *Ethical Principles in Practice* picks up on this and describes the complexities of ethical processes and considerations for the ASD PAR project. Ethical reasoning often raises more questions than answers, yet the requirement to act ethically is something all professionals grapple with whether doing research or engaged in practice. This article stresses the importance of ethical behaviour regardless of ethical approval process used.

In our fast paced world, change as much as new knowledge seem to be constants. A thread running through this issue is the application of newly acquired knowledge to the frontline of service. Both *Building Communities of Support around a Child with Special Education Needs* and *Learning from Each Other* clearly illustrate the value of learning in a team, and celebrate the strength of hearing a range of voices when working together. *Teaming from Three Perspectives* captures diverse voices with excerpts from interviews with participants. *Making Assumptions vs. Building Relationships* effectively challenges readers to carefully examine their own “taken for granted” beliefs and practices. While these articles go deep into the work of specific teams who took part in the ASD PAR project, *What We Did* and *What Works for One* provide a synthesis of the work carried out across the project as a whole.

In this issue of *Kairaranga*, the twine of practice and research has met to provide a contribution to practice-based autism spectrum disorder research. The ASD PAR project is neither the beginning, nor the end of the Ministry of Education’s commitment to help support children and young people with ASD as well as their families, whānau and education settings. Exciting evidence of this ongoing commitment is the recent publication of the *New Zealand Autism Spectrum Disorder Guideline*, a summary of which is included with this issue of *Kairaranga*.

## Anna, Daphne, Jill, Joanna, Valerie, Vanesse and Paul

Kia titiro anganui tonu atu  
Ki te ao kei mua

Engari, kia mohiotia ai e anga pehia ana tatou  
Kia mahara i ahu mai tatou i hea

*Live not in the past*

*Look forward instead towards the future*

*But in order to know where we are going*

*It is well to look back to see where we have been*

# Kairaranga

## Editorial Board

Alison Kearney	Senior Lecturer, Massey University
Carol Watts	RTL, Ngaruawahia Cluster
Cath Steeghs	RTL, Fairfield Cluster
Graeme Nobilo	RTL, Fairfield Cluster
Dr Jean Annan	Senior Lecturer, Massey University
Dr Jill Bevan-Brown	Associate Professor, Massey University
Jo Cunningham	Educational Psychologist, Wellington GSE
Jo Davies	Practice Leader, Early Intervention, GSE
Mere Berryman	Manager, Poutama Pounamu Research Centre, GSE
Merrolee Penman	Principal Lecturer, Otago Polytechnic
Michael Gaffney	Deputy Director, Children’s Issues Centre, Otago University
Paul Mitchell	Special Education Advisor, Waikato GSE
Dr Roseanna Bourke	Director, Centre for Educational Development, Massey University
Sonja Bateman	Practice Leader, Services to Māori, GSE
Dr Valerie Margrain	Lecturer, Massey University
Vanesse Geel	Lead Practitioner, Pakuranga GSE
Warwick Phillips	Professional Practice Manager, GSE

## Editing Team

Anna Kelly	Project Manger, Professional Practice Unit, GSE and <i>Kairaranga</i> Co-coordinator
Daphne Rickson	Music Therapy Lecturer and Clinical Placement Coordinator, New Zealand School of Music
Dr Jill Bevan-Brown*	Associate Professor, Massey University
Joanna Curzon	Team Leader: Research, GSE
Paul Mitchell*	Special Education Advisor, Waikato GSE
Dr Valerie Margrain*	<i>Kairaranga</i> Co-coordinator
Vanesse Geel*	Lead Practitioner, Pakuranga GSE

\* Denotes current Editorial Board member

## Cultural Advisor

Dr Angus Macfarlane	Associate Professor, University of Waikato
---------------------	---

## Typesetting and Design

Typeface, Wellington

## Printing

Geon Group, Wellington

## Kairaranga

Two issues per year

## Subscription Information

- For RTL: Kairaranga  
PO Box 12-383, Chartwell,  
Hamilton  
Email: gnobilo@xtra.co.nz
- For all others: kairaranga.journal@minedu.govt.nz

Copyright © *Kairaranga* Editorial Board, 2008

## ISSN 1175-9232

*The Kairaranga Editorial Board has made every effort to ensure that all items in this journal are accurate and culturally appropriate. Views expressed or implied in this journal are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Board, Ministry of Education or the New Zealand RTL Association.*