

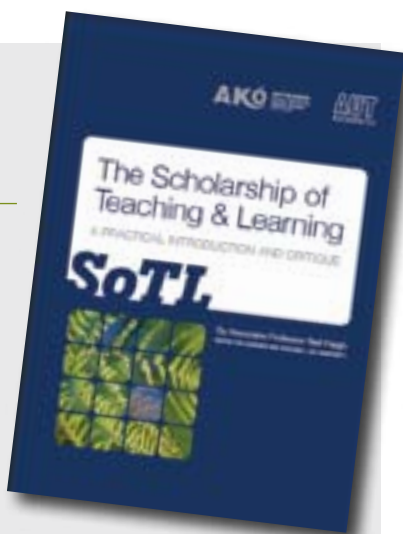
New Ako Aotearoa publication

We are pleased to announce the latest addition to our growing range of freely available publications relating to teaching and learning. *The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: A practical introduction*

and *critique* is written by Associate Professor Neil Haigh from the Centre for Learning and Teaching at AUT University. We intend the publication to encourage practitioners to consider the concept of the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) and how it might benefit their learners.

The scholarship of teaching and learning is a term that has become familiar to a growing number of teachers across the tertiary sector, as many engage with it through their own professional development and interactions with staff developers. Neil's introduction to the topic explores the concept and its relevance and value to teachers and learners. The publication covers a range of discussions about SoTL, including its relationship with other pedagogical research, examination of the concept in the context of current government and institutional policy, its relationship to the Performance-Based Research Fund, and external evaluation and review.

Co-sponsored and published by Ako Aotearoa, the publication is available free online in PDF format at: www.akoatearora.ac.nz/sotl, or by emailing Jill Tanner-Lloyd, our communications coordinator, for a print copy at: J.Tanner-Lloyd@massey.ac.nz



Welcome

It's close to the end of the year (and this seems to me to have happened with even less warning this year than usual), so welcome to the final edition of *Ako Aotearoa Alert* for 2010.

In this issue we announce the recipients of our 2010 National Project Fund and also the completion of Phase 3 of the development of our website which has been designed to improve the ease of use of our site for our users. We also invite institutions to consider their nominations for the 2011 Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards.

These awards are, deservedly, gaining an increasing national profile with the media, not least with the inauguration of a new category specifically recognising teaching excellence in a kaupapa Māori context. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that these awards are open to nominations from all parts of the tertiary sector. It is our express intention to make these nominations as inclusive as possible for educators who have demonstrated sustained excellence in tertiary teaching from anywhere in the sector. Three quick reminders: firstly, we welcome nominations of teams as well as individuals; secondly, evidence portfolios may be assembled by nominees themselves or by others on their behalf; and thirdly, we are happy to support nominees or their organisations (or both) in portfolio development.

As we near the end of the year, it's a good time to remind ourselves that successful tertiary teaching and learning is a complex and many-faceted business. It's a pleasure, therefore, to be able to announce the release of our latest publication on the scholarship of teaching and learning by Associate Professor Neil Haigh from AUT University. This highly readable introduction to the topic explores the dimensions of this concept and the challenges it offers: food for thought for 2011 and beyond.

Best wishes to everyone for the holiday season from me and all the Ako Aotearoa team.

Dr Peter Coolbear
Director, Ako Aotearoa