



Keynote speakers: 2010 conference, Christchurch

Hana O'Regan, Dean of Te Puna Wānaka, Faculty of Māori Studies, Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology.



Hana O'Regan was raised in Wellington in a family immersed in Māori Treaty and identity politics. She received her secondary schooling at Queen Victoria Māori Girls Boarding School in Auckland before becoming an American Field Scholar in Thailand for one year. Hana returned to pursue an undergraduate degree with a double major in Māori Studies and Political Sciences at Victoria University of Wellington. Upon graduating, Hana took up a lecturing position at University of Otago where she lectured for four years in the areas of Māori language, creative writing and the Treaty.

During this time Hana undertook post-graduate study and graduated with her Master of Arts in 1997. The topic of her thesis, Māori tribal identity development, became the basis of her book, 'Ko Tahu Ko Au – Kāi Tahu Tribal Identity,' which was published in 2000.

Hana left Otago in 1997 to take up a position at CPIT (Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology) where she headed the Māori language programme before taking up the position of Head of School in 2000. After four years at CPIT Hana took up the position of Manager of the Māori Language Unit of the Ngāi Tahu tribal organisation where she helped develop and lead the tribal language strategy for a further four years. She returned to CPIT as Dean of Te Puna Wānaka, the new Faculty of Māori Studies, in 2006.

Hana has been a member of The Māori Language Commission - Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori – since 2003. The bulk of Hana's recent publications has been centred on Kāi Tahu tribal stories and histories for rakatahi, and most recently published an anthology of Maori poetry, 'Kupu,' with co-author Charisma Rangipunga.

Hana is the proud mum of two beautiful children.

Sue Roberts, University Librarian at Victoria University of Wellington



Prior to coming to New Zealand in early 2007, Sue was Dean of Learning Services at Edge Hill University in Lancashire (UK) and the Director of SOLSTICE, a Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching with a focus on supported online learning. Sue has a wide interest in, and experience of, academic library and learning services, having previously been Head of Information and Media Services at Edge Hill, and has worked in a variety of learning support roles within the higher education sector.

Sue has also researched and published in the fields of learner support roles and teams, continuing professional development, digital library development and e-learning, and is the co-author of *Managing Information Services* (Facet Publishing, 2004) and *Developing the New Learning Environment* (Facet Publishing, 2005). She was a member of the SCONUL Executive Board in the UK and the Chair of the SCONUL E-learning Group.

Becka Currant (via video conference), University of Bradford, UK.



Becka joined the University of Bradford in 1998. Appointed as the Student Development Coordinator, Becka contributed to the work of a DfEE funded key skills project along with leading on providing extra-curricular training activities for students on campus. These activities included training for course representatives, Student Union sabbatical offices and the Student Union Forum representatives. She was a key contributor to the University's Excellence Plus skills initiative and developed an accredited extra curricular skills programme called ESP.

In 2001 Becka became a Career Development Adviser, supporting students in making career choices and teaching on career skills modules. In 2005 she became the Professional Skills Development Co-ordinator supporting staff in developing blended and distance learning materials for work based learners. During this period she was seconded to establish a business case for a new University wide skills support unit. This was approved in 2006 and Becka was appointed to lead and manage this new initiative. The Learner Development Unit has gone from strength to strength during its launch in October 2006 and now consists of five core staff along with a Royal Literary Fund Fellow to support students in their Academic Writing skills.

Becka has created an innovative approach to supporting skills development at Bradford which includes the creation of the SaPRA (Skills and Personal Reflective Activity) tool and the Develop Me! approach to skills activities. She has a keen interest in student engagement and is active in researching the student experience of e-learning, transition to University and initial engagement with Higher Education. Her current research is focusing on digital literacy and she has developed a typology of digital learners in conjunction with colleagues at Bradford.

In recognition of her contribution to the University she was awarded the Baroness Lockwood Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2007 and was also nominated for a National Teaching Fellowship. In 2010 Becka was awarded a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship.