

Mantle of the Expert

Dr Viv Aitken

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Institute of
Professional Learning
Te Whai Toi Tangata
THE UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO



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Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

Kia Ora! Allow me to introduce myself...

My name is Viv and I have twenty five years' experience in education as a classroom teacher, teacher educator, lecturer, researcher and now professional learning facilitator / consultant. I'm a fully registered teacher with the Education Council of NZ, an accredited facilitator with the Ministry of Education and an Examiner with Trinity College London. I've also worked as a theatre practitioner and have a Masters and a PhD in theatre studies.

I've produced over [60 research publications](#) including chapters in *Connecting Curriculum, Linking Learning* (NZCER, 2013) and *Facing the Big Questions in Teaching* (Cengage, 2014). I really enjoy facilitating networks to bring teachers together and I have convened a number of conferences and symposia as well as setting up the Mantle of the Expert Aotearoa community and website www.mantleoftheexpert.co.nz

As a senior consultant with Waikato University's Institute of Professional learning, it's my privilege to support teachers and school leaders to implement creative programmes for learning at every level from early years to secondary settings.

My real passion is dramatic inquiry. This term embraces a number of approaches including imaginative play, process drama and [Mantle of the Expert](#), a teaching approach developed by Dorothy Heathcote (1926-2012) in which learners are positioned as an expert team and drama is used to create sustained, meaningful, authentic and engaging learning experiences across the curriculum. It's exciting to see growing numbers of schools around New Zealand embracing dramatic inquiry with positive impacts on engagement and achievement levels:

"In 10 years of teaching, this was the most worthwhile professional development I've done. Mantle of the Expert is now an integral part of my classroom program and one which has had an extremely positive impact on student learning and engagement ... Viv's enthusiasm for and knowledge of Mantle of the Expert needs to be taken advantage of by more teachers!"

Renee Downey Classroom teacher / Curriculum Development Leader, Otaika Valley Primary School

I would love to work with your school or organisation to provide tailored professional development, mentoring and ongoing support in the following areas:

- Socio-dramatic and imaginative play
- Process drama
- Mantle of the Expert
- Drama and literacy
- Performing arts
- Presentation skills and vocal confidence
- Research and teacher inquiry

As an accredited facilitator, I can also assist your school to apply for Ministry funding to cover costs. Please get in touch. Ngā mihi,

Dr Viv Aitken

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