

Welcome to the second edition of the *Journal of Distance Learning*. There was widespread acclaim when the first edition was published last year, and the same thoughtful and considered approach from editor Terry Hearn and the editorial board will see this edition further establish the journal as a significant contributor to worldwide academic debate in open and distance learning. The growing number of international subscribers reflects this trend already.

The growth of the journal corresponds with a time of reflection and change within DEANZ itself. Once, membership was virtually restricted to the Big Three – Massey University, the Correspondence School and the Open Polytechnic. Now there is a diverse membership which moves beyond tertiary educational institutions to embrace Industry Training Organisations, schools, government organisations and private firms. The DEANZ membership directory, to be published later this year, will offer an insight into a growingly diverse membership.

As the DEANZ executive deals with the issue of growing diversity, reflected in the number of

employment changes of executive members since the time of the last election, the need for finding new ways of working is being constantly reinforced. The theme for next year's DEANZ conference is already clearly emerging, though not yet defined – the words from which the theme will be drawn are convergence, networking, partnerships, working together. The fact that a joint conference organising committee is being drawn from both the Open Polytechnic and the Correspondence School merely reflects the realities of the new environment in which we work – going it alone is only one option, and not always the most effective!

Meeting the needs of a membership, spread nationwide, is a challenge. If you feel you belong to a group with particular needs in open learning, please feel free to contact me at the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand with your suggestions. The address is Glenise Dreaver, President, DEANZ, The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand, Private Bag 31.914, Lower Hutt. E mail: dregle@topnz.ac.nz

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