

Editorial

We've taken a longer time than usual to prepare this issue of *set: Research Information for Teachers* because we have been working on updating its look so that the articles are more accessible and readable. We hope you think it has been worth the effort. Key information now appears at the beginning of each article for readers who like to do a quick skim over a cup of tea or those who like to get an overview before they do a "deep" read.

set has been reinvented several times over the years, as has the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER). NZCER is celebrating its first 75 years during 2009 and this affords a good opportunity to look both back and forward. NZCER has always seen the publishing and dissemination of research as an important part of its activities. Along with this has been the vision to make quality research accessible to teachers. When *set* was introduced 35 years ago, in 1974, it was a world leader that has since been mirrored in other countries.

This issue is no exception: it contains quality research, much of it of a leading-edge nature, with articles selected on the basis of what will be relevant to teachers. The feature section this time is on using technology for a variety of purposes: as a teaching aid, as a means of engaging students with learning and as a means of communicating with parents.

Along with this, the articles in the general section cover a diverse range of topics including a report on a major study of abusive and inappropriate sexual behaviour among Years 7 and 8 students. Sarah Martin's article on how Red Beach School is developing a Powerful Learning Process with its students on their journey towards lifelong learning provides challenging ideas for staff discussion. Amid calls for a greater emphasis on the teaching of science, we have included a *set* supplement, *Seeing Yourself in Science*, which summarises a Royal Society research report on the importance of the middle school years in determining attitudes towards science in later years.

As this issue goes to print we are already planning the next one and can see that there is plenty to look forward to.

Bev Webber
Managing Editor