The Educational Theory, Policy and Practice Research Hub in conjunction with the School of Educational Studies and Leadership are delighted to invite you to

Public Seminar: Reflections on the Canterbury Education Renewal Strategy

Speakers:
- Prof Gregory Lee, School of Educational Studies and Leadership, The College of Education, The University of Canterbury
- Tony Simpson, Principal of Phillipstown School, Christchurch
- Richard Edmundson, Principal of Hornby High School, Christchurch

12 noon to 1.30 pm, Tuesday 4 November 2014, College of Education, Wheki 101

Over the last two years there has been considerable debate within Canterbury communities about the perceived merits and deficiencies of the National Government’s Education Renewal Strategy. Although the legacies of the 2010-2012 Canterbury earthquakes have been used by the Government as the main justification for ushering in a variety of schooling and educational ‘reforms’, Gregory Lee will suggest that there are additional reasons for the Government’s unapologetic advocacy of this Strategy. One of these relates to the creation of a twenty-first century approach to learning and to teaching, which has significant implications for schools’ physical environments and for teaching and learning processes. Other reasons will be identified and considered in Gregory’s overview of the Renewal Strategy and of its antecedents.

Tony Simpson will describe some of his experiences relating to the Ministry and the Minister of Education’s proposal to close Phillipstown School. Many Canterbury residents will recall that the School’s Board of Trustees and other parties associated with the School were critical of the consultation process adopted for the change proposal, and sought independent legal advice to clarify their position. Tony will comment on some issues that he deems significant, educationally, in relation to what has become known in some quarters as ‘the Phillipstown School case’. He will share with the audience his impressions of events and of problems that arose for him as a school leader and for his school community.

As Hornby High School Principal, Richard Edmundson has led his staff and school community through the complex process of reconfiguring a Year 9 to Year 13 secondary school into a Year 7 to 13 institution. This has not been accomplished easily, because it involved far more than merely creating additional space for younger students in an existing school. Richard will describe his experiences in leading this development, and will reflect on other policies and practices he considers to be important.