

TENZ Writers' Retreat in Queenstown

With the organizational wizardry of Technology Education New Zealand, an enthusiastic team of educators from throughout New Zealand met in Queenstown during the second week of the October school holidays. In between breath-taking views of the Remarkables, we brain-stormed how information could be best conveyed via our TENZ website. Each participant was paired with a fellow specialist to research and plan pre-selected topics of technological and local interest...

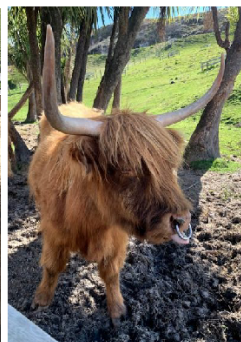
Brenda Brook and Katriona Main were given the generic topic of wool to dissect into a myriad of on-line teaching/learning concepts and resources. This partnership culminated in a *Wild and Wacky Wool* theme that was disseminated into three separate levels via the Indicators of Progression: Levels 1-3, 4-5 and 6-8.

With so much information available on-line, we were able to put this all into perspective with a memorable trip on the TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Station (unfortunately, Mt Nicholas Station was not open to tourists in October). However, we were handsomely rewarded with a small farm tour and a sheep dog handling demonstration, followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea in the Station homestead.

The benefits of such an experience gave us further ideas about the provenance of wool from the fibre stage right through to manufacturing a variety of natural woollen products. Areas of interest that could be replicated in the classroom were carefully channelled into subtopics: Fibre Facts, Sustainability, Innovation, and the End Product (what could be made in a classroom situation).

This writing process is still under development - where a teaching and learning model for years 1 to 13 will continue to be refined for classroom adaption.

Overall, it was an amazing experience to spend a concentrated period with like-minded professionals who all have a passion for Technology education; alongside appreciating good food and wine from the Queenstown region.



Brenda Brooke (Soft Materials, ex-Taieri High School, Mosgiel) & Katriona Main (HOLA Technology, Kaipara College, Helensville).

Are you interested in developing a unit of work? Please make contact through the TENZ website.

<https://tenz.org.nz/contact/>

We would love to hear your ideas!