

no one talks like us

a student guide to NZ English AS 3.4, 3.5, & 3.8

Jenny McClure, St Mary's College Wellington, was awarded the Ian Gordon Teacher Fellowship for 2014, a bold initiative that has led to a new free resource for schools

How well are we preparing our Level 3 students?

The current raft of Level 3 Achievement Standards lends itself to endless possibilities when selecting topics and tasks for courses. This is one of the strengths of the current system. Endless possibilities can however have a downside; they can result in a narrowing of the content students work with. Students can double-dip by using External Achievement Standard texts as content for research focused standards (3.8, 3.4, and 3.5). It is possible that by the end of their Level 3 course some students may have worked intensively with only one written text and one film.

It was a concern with the narrowing of focus in Level 3 programmes that rang alarm bells for Associate Professor Paul Warren and Dr John Macalister in the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. As Paul says "our academic staff working in the area of New Zealand English used to regularly field enquiries about the position of this variety in New Zealand society, and we used to get good attendance at half-day workshops that we would put on in this area. This has fallen away over recent years, and we became concerned that there was little space in the

curriculum for something as vital to our society as the forms of language that we use, and which define us as New Zealanders."

Paul and John decided to take some action. They wanted to support teachers to broaden their programmes and thereby better prepare students for tertiary study. Paul and John worked to develop a Fellowship for an English teacher to create Level 3 resources which support the study of New Zealand English. Funding for the Fellowship was provided by the Ian A Gordon Trust Fund. The Fellowship financed a teacher's secondment for one term to develop resources.

Jenny McClure was awarded the Fellowship and spent Term 2 working at Victoria University, Wellington. Her brief was to take the huge wealth of research work on NZE and make it accessible to secondary school students.

The task was not without challenges. Finding articles and books for students which weren't protected by pay walls was one challenge. Another was to find resources students could work with, which weren't dominated by highly technical language. The final product, a resource entitled "No one talks like us," took these challenges on board.

Level 3 English - Research Student Resource

munted, kindy, codswallop, have one for us Bro, hogwash, full on, yeah nah, whatever, kai, big have, whanau, sweet as, knockback, straggler, wharfie, okay bye, rellies, bach, kia ora, Mainland, I'd like to but..., postie, bush, dairy, hui, eh? yous fellas, fizzy drink, choice, chippies, pakeha, No 8 wire attitude, turn to custard, Ear New Zealand, no-hopers, scarfie, crook, greasies, skite, gutted, palagi, beneficiary-bashing, paua, gummies, big OE, jandal,

"No one talks like us" has two parts: a Student Workbook and Teachers' Tips.

The Student Workbook focuses on the research-based Achievement Standards 3.8, 3.4 and 3.5. It includes a bank of resources which covers each major issue in NZE. All bank items can be easily accessed by following links.

The 'Teachers' Tips' booklet provides background information on each research bank plus a Unit Plan for 3.8.

The resource is free to schools and in PDF format for electronic sharing. It has been emailed to HOD's and can be found on 'English Online.'

Further copies can be obtained from:

Department of Linguistics, Victoria University
Wellington lals@vuw.ac.nz

Jenny.mcclure@stmary'swellington.school.nz



Dr. John Macalister, Jenny McClure, Assoc. Professor Paul Warren.