

# NZATD CONFERENCE

The biennial New Zealand Association for Training and Development (NZATD) conference was held on 12-13 October 2016 in Auckland. The conference aimed to address the following questions: How in touch is Learning and Development with the business?; What are the latest trends that will take Learning and Development to the next level?; and, What does the future hold for Learning and Development?

The event started with a Powhiri, a traditional Maori welcome ceremony which involved lively dancing and singing. Keynote speakers were Dr Anne Bartlett-Bragg; Colin Cox; Roger Dennis; Phil Garing; Warren Mara and Helen McPhun.

Ideas discussed by keynote speakers included: the impact of technology

on the workforce and our lives more broadly, for example Facebook algorithms impacting the news and information that is presented to you; the emergence of the role of Chief Learning Officer and connecting learning with games. Other topics of discussion included: how coaching, benchmarking and activities can assist in the transfer of learning; innovation in adult learning; learning landscapes; the impact of digital workplaces on people; and, the state of digital transformation.

Apart from keynote presentations on the main stage there were numerous concurrent workshops to choose from. Many interesting case studies and presentations were held throughout the two days. Delegates also had the opportunity to provide feedback on the NZATD draft competency framework.

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## NZATD CONFERENCE DELEGATE DIGEST

The 2016 NZATD conference welcomed everyone with David Bowie music. The conference theme was Ground control to L&D, a tribute to an amazing artist who reinvented himself time and time again, but never lost sight of the 'ground control': high quality performance and design, and attention for his audience.

The presentations at the conference reflected this theme perfectly. For me there was an ideal mix of speakers reinforcing learning and development values that have stood for a long time, but with a contemporary twist, and those who showed us new approaches, never losing sight of the primary focus: the learner.

Phil Garing gave us a great summary of the key trends in today's L&D environment, showing how learning has become a strategic tool for many businesses. His key trends were

reflected in further presentations: Warren Mara showed his great "on the floor" game learning solutions using minimal resources, and Anna Wilton demonstrated a simple card game she designed to spark conversations around cybersecurity.

The rise of non-LMS-locked learning was one of the other trends. Jacinta Penn discussed the situations where tracking is not your primary focus, such as just-in-time learning. She also let us play with a wonderful do-it-yourself augmented reality app, Aurasma. And that was another stand-out at the conference: interactivity. Most speakers asked for participation from the audience, and everyone learned from each other. A true reflection of where today's learning should be.

**Miranda Verswijvelen**

# 2016 NZATD EDUCATION TRUST LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT AWARD WINNERS



<b>AWARD</b>	<b>On the Job Trainer/Coach</b>
<b>WINNER</b>	Matthew Knight, Ports of Auckland

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>Researcher of the Year</b>
<b>COMMENDATION</b>	Susan Shoemark

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>Learning and Development Practitioner of the Year</b>
<b>WINNER</b>	Sussan Ockwell
<b>RUNNER UP</b>	Anand Naidu
<b>HIGHLY COMMENDED</b>	Helen McPhun

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>Learning and Development Innovation of the Year</b>
<b>WINNER</b>	Sysdoc Limited and Fonterra
<b>RUNNER UP</b>	Warehouse Stationery
<b>HIGHLY COMMENDED</b>	Escapade

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>Learning and Development Technology of the Year</b>
<b>WINNER</b>	New Zealand Transport Agency
<b>RUNNER UP</b>	Wavelength, HITO and Touchtech

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>Learning and Development Program of the Year</b>
<b>WINNER</b>	The Warehouse Group
<b>RUNNER UP</b>	Ports of Auckland and Optimism
<b>HIGHLY COMMENDED</b>	Auckland Council

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>Supreme Learning and Development Person of the Year</b>
<b>WINNER</b>	Sussan Ockwell

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>Supreme Learning and Development Initiative of the Year</b>
<b>WINNER</b>	New Zealand Transport Agency