



## **SPELD NZ Life Members**

**endorsed by Board and announced at 2021 AGM**



**Luci Carter**

### **Western Bay of Plenty LLG**

Trained by Erica Walpole in March 1996, Luci moved to Bay of Plenty and joined the SPELD BoP in 1997 when she began working as a SPELD NZ Teacher. Luci joined the committee a year later, becoming Secretary and then President of the Association.

As President of SPELD WBoP, Luci ably led her team of 21 teachers, together organising the professional development for the region, parent information evenings and a student art competition. In 2005 SPELD WBoP hosted conference. Luci has been an active appraiser and mentor in the LLG.

SPELD WBoP merged with SPELD Auckland around 2010. Luci was a stabilising influence within the LLG at the time and was the liaison link during the merger. In 2016, Luci retired after 25 years as a SPELD NZ Teacher. She continues to support her LLG as convenor. She has nurtured the new SPELD NZ Teachers coming on stream in the last few years and has also provided financial support through a training scholarship to help increase local teaching capacity, and to pay the LLG premises rental when a grant was unsuccessful.

Luci is a pillar of strength in her LLG and greatly respected by all staff/kaimahi who deal with her.



**Lynne Ashman**

### **Manukau LLG**

Lynne began the Level 5 Certificate Course in Specific Learning Disabilities in 2007, registered as a probationary SPELD NZ Teacher in 2013 and received her full SPELD NZ Teaching Certificate in 2014.

Lynne continues to work as a SPELD NZ Teacher in the Manukau LLG, is the Student Placement Coordinator and a mentor in her LLG.

Lynne joined the SPELD NZ Board in May 2017. That year we were under pressure, needing to redesign our expiring L5 CCSLD qualification and obtain NZQA's approval to the new L5 programme NZ Certificate in Teaching Individuals with SLD. This task seemed beyond the capabilities and expertise of the PSC who were time poor. We were fortunate that Lynne, Susan Michell and Barbara Wilton accepted the appointment to the Programme Review Sub-Committee of the PSC. Once NZQA had approved our L5 Programme, Lynne and Susan then wrote the course material. This was a stressful exercise due to the time constraints, but Lynne and Susan put in long hours each week for months on end, to meet the deadline.

Lynne's expertise in the academic world as course designer and lecturer came into full use. At the time of her Level 5 training, Lynne's peers talked about her ability to design and plan innovative learning experiences, and they praised her excellent pedagogical and assessment knowledge. Her one flaw was described as being that "she works too hard".

Lynne retired from the Board in January 2021 but continues her work as a SPELD NZ professional.

*Please note that **Susan Michell** has also made a significant contribution to SPELD NZ: She wrote the L5 CCSLD programme in 2004. She has been a member of the PSC in the past, is currently a L5 Kaiarahi Matua and was made a life member some years ago.*



**Lois Wells**

**Canterbury LLG**

**Lois Wells:** M.A. (Hons), LTCL Music, IOM, a Certificate in the Theory & Practice of Social Work (from N.Z. Association of Social Workers), Naturopathic Diploma (from the Queensland Institute of Natural Science, Australia), and has a background in language, music and teaching.

Lois was a secondary school teacher for 12 years. She realised that some of the students in her School Certificate (now NCEA 1) class struggled because their reading ages were so low. Their resulting low self-esteem motivated her to search for answers. In her work she came across a SPELD course, one of the last taken by Jean Seabrook who consistently took the time to support teachers and answer questions.

Lois then trained under Jean Seabrook becoming a SPELD teacher in 1983 (known then as SPELD without the NZ), completing the refresher course in 1992.

She also worked with Plains Radio – she had a slot and one time talked about children with specific learning disabilities.

In 1991 Peggy Buchanan was looking for someone to write articles about SPELD for the 'Parent and School' magazine. Lois produced an article for them every two months for two years. Later, editor Diane Grant, co-founder with her husband of Fraser Books, suggested putting some of the articles into a book form, so 'I'm Not STUPID, Lazy or Dumb: Aspects of Specific Learning Disabilities' in which she explains how some children, especially dyslexics, learn differently and need to be taught differently. This book was published in time to be launched at the 2003 National Conference in Dunedin.

Christchurch-based, in 2002 Lois received a Civic Award for her work with the learning disabled.

Recognition of dyslexia by the Ministry of Education in 2007 was seen as a step forward, and now the introduction of reader/writers for examinations gives students with dyslexia the

opportunity to show their real strengths and compete fairly. Lois considers that the learners whose parents realise the problem and seek assistance for them are the fortunate ones.

She was always keen to search out more ways to help students, so she attended conferences, workshops, and teacher discussion groups. She discovered that once their reading problem was overcome, they were able to show their real ability and often it was phenomenal.

She was great with students, particularly adult students and very dedicated to the cause. Several of her pupils have received the Jean Seabrook Scholarship after her excellent tuition.

Lois has also created her own website [www.englishvocab.co.nz](http://www.englishvocab.co.nz) which is well worth exploring.

She has a strong interest in words – aided by her previous study of Latin and present studying of Hebrew and Greek. She highly values learning and considers teaching the best way to learn oneself.

Lois believes that with the centralisation of SPELD NZ, the organisation is a more united and professional unit which has led to an excellent standing in the community. She believes we can be very proud of the way SPELD NZ has developed.