



## Education Leaders Forum 2015

**Brain Changing & Mind Shifting**  
25&26 August Auckland  
Summary of Feedback



E = Excellent   VG = Very Good   G = Good   F = Fair   D = Disappointing

	E	VG	G	F	D
Quality of speakers overall	61%	38%			
Opportunities for networking	40%	47%	5%		
Scheduling and timing	40%	53%	5%		
Communication with registrants	43%	49%	5%		
How would you rate the venue?	56%	40%			
Overall, how would you rate the event?	69%	27%	3%		

### The ELF15 theme and strands were relevant to me.

YES = 91%

#### Comments:

As a teacher all strands were relevant

Looking at how the brain can be retrained/enhanced has always been an area of interest

Very informative

Plenty of follow up action points

Relevant to anyone seeking to develop a future that offers young people access to a fuller education and quality of life

Clarity of plasticity of brain. Understanding of neuroscience research. Excellent go hear of collaboration between researchers, community and clinicians.

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### The balance of input and discussion at ELF15 was appropriate.

YES = 87%

#### Comments:

So good +++ great balance for me

I enjoyed the balance between research practitioners and parents and the opportunity to question

The hosted drinks/nibbles allowed time for extended discussion in a more relaxed head space (ie after an intense, full on day ) thank you

No = 5%

More breaks during speaker's presentations 2 or 3 minutes to stand, share ideas before listening again.

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### Which Workshop did you attend on Day 1:

**Education and Neuroscience: Myth Busting and Knowledge Building** = 43%

#### **Comments:**

Interesting discussion on what is now considered as neuroscience myths,  
Great that workshop provided Q/A and feedback – personalised content to the group  
Very informative and clearly presented  
Stimulating – learnt about what constitutes ‘evidence’ and to be cautious of the use of ‘brain” to try to sell expensive programmes....  
Eye opening  
Excellent. Some challenging participants and Anna politely and firmly related back to the research. Well done.  
Informative, Challenging, fun and engaging. Responded to challenging questions with support from the research.  
This workshop made the audience “think” and challenge their current thinking  
Good discussion encouraged

#### **Exploring Cognitive Development Programmes = 42%**

#### **Comments**

Interesting to hear about other programmes  
Excellent having the opportunity to ask questions and get answers from different perspectives  
Great question and discussion session – I valued the opportunity to delve deeper with each presenter  
Panel very knowledgeable and good discussion with group  
Very thought provoking – thank you  
Panel time beneficial. The opportunity to ask questions and clarify our learning’s for the day was needed  
Open forum worked well ie questions from participants were freely answered by the panel and generated discussion both in and outside of the workshop  
I really enjoyed the ‘panel’ type set up of this workshop and the fact that the questions came from and highlighted the diverse nature of the participants. Great to focus on how different stakeholders see things. Gave a broader view.  
This was worthwhile – thanks.

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#### **On day 2 did you attend the workshop: *How to Lead Effective Change*: Presented by Anne Riches**

YES = 76%  
NO = 7%

#### **Comments:**

Very Helpful. I feel inspired and more aware  
Loved listening /learning from her GREAT  
Great ideas and food for thought about most important aspects of successful change  
An outstanding presenter, relevant, vibrant  
Obviously excellent and readily applicable to work situations  
Fantastic  
Excellent – Dynamic with a good balance of information/participation well paced  
Loved this, have been able to take away a lot for myself and how to continue to work to bring the best leader of change I can be  
Great – very fun and engaging  
Great added to her first excellent presentation from this morning  
Absolutely fascinating – so motivating  
AWESOME!! Great speaker, engaging and needed more time  
Fantastic thought provoking workshop – very inspiring  
Excellent such a simple STARS approach to try and reflect on in my own practice  
Great networking interesting challenging content  
Excellent – Anne covered a lot of information very successfully in reasonably short space of time. Great follow-up references too thank you.  
High energy presentation – good stuff to take away  
Excellent and insightful  
Inspiring and Fantastic  
Invaluable information (that applies in all areas of life) presented in a fun, interactive manner  
THE most powerful and useful session I think I have attended  
Engaging, interactive, informative workshop. Anne was very prepared and drawing out tangible examples from the audience.

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## **What were the highlights for you at ELF15?**

### **Comments:**

*This is the best PD I have attended. I was unsure of the relevance it would have for me, but it was fabulous. There was not one moment where I lost concentration or felt that I didn't understand the content. I have been really stimulated and feel I am so much better informed.*

*Understanding change*

*Fantastic and knowledgeable speakers. Found it fascinating and will guide a lot*

*Anne Riches – outstanding*

*Anne Riches*

*Link between neuroscience and education hearing from scientists , teachers and parents.*

*Barbara Arrowsmith-Young, Anne Riches. Hearing from parents/school about primary suitable interventions and efficacy.*

*Anne Riches – loved her “realness” and relevance to leading change*

*David Moreau and Peter Thorne did a great job – thought they got across good messages in an accessible way.*

*Loved Anne Riches talk – so well delivered, very thought provoking and well based in neuroscience.*

*Anne Riches on leading change – very relevant to many aspects of education. Great presenter – real highlight.*

*Anna Wilson – interesting presentation on neuroscience – easy to understand and see relevance*

*Anne Riches – talking with others- having a fabulous array of skilled and knowledgeable speakers*

*Shirley Maihi and the Arrowsmith Programme, Dr Anna Wilson and neuromyths, Anne Riches and effective change*

*Barbara and Carla*

*It has raised a lot of questions for me regarding “what next at my school”*

*Anne Riches*

*Hearing Barbara Arrowsmith-Young in person and Carla McNeil*

*Anne Riches – very engaging presentation with immediate strategies to try*

*Anne's plenary and workshop – inspiring presentations by Vaughan and Carla*

*Peter Thorne*

*The stimulus to our ongoing thinking and planning towards changes in practice (for better outcomes)*

*An insight into the NZ research and its application in the classroom*

*Barbara Arrowsmith-Young – Carla NcNeil's work*

*Guest speaker Anne – Vaughan “just real life school”!*

*I have really enjoyed the whole forum*

*Barbara – discussion with other attendees – Jan and Rachel*

*Hearing Barbara Arrowsmith-Young speak in person and share her testimony and passion*

*Hearing so many passionate speakers in the neuroscience and education connection*

*Hearing from other parents*

*Learning about the brain and the potential to enhance the learning through Neuroplastisity*

*Talk from Barbara Arrowsmith-Yound and neuroscientists*

*Anne Riches – neuroscience of change leadership*

*Vaughan – very refreshing and honest*

*The relevance of the Neuroscience Presentations to all behaviour*

*Anne Riches*

*The calibre of the speakers and the cross section of perspectives. Networking opportunities. Well planned and executed forum Thank you to everyone who made ELF15 happen.*

*Prof Peter Thorne. Spoke with clarity, engaged us. Opened the conversation between scientist and educators.*

*Rachel Calcinai had the wisdom to throw away her notes as it had all been covered and spoke from the heart. Peter Thorne, David Moreau, Anna Wilson, Anne Riches – all informative, forward thinking, challenging and responsive to the audience*

*The range of participants – good to have parents fully involved and not just ‘token’ appearance. Broadened my understanding of neuroplasticity. Still a gap around how a school without access to resources can support whanau – what do they want/need us to do to help??*

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## **What topics and speakers would you like to see at ELF16?**

### **Comments:**

*WOW! I would listen to the same again*

*Further info on the brain Gain research and how I rate all the different programs mentioned at ELF15*

*Hard Conversations*

*More about innovative leadership that goes outside the “norms”*

*Educational Psychology in NZ – Connecting schools and practitioners*

*Effective Leadership module*

*HR – staff appraisal – Change – Leadership/ Governance*

*Speakers from education community overseas to see what they are doing  
Learning/teaching – utilising technology/innovations – speakers from different sections EC/primary/sec/tertiary  
Education learners into The Real World (or future)  
Students the only group would have liked to hear from about what a ‘regular’ school has done to help and support them*

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### **I am interested in attending ELF16:**

YES = 82%  
No = 2%

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### **Other comments:**

*Thanks for including digital package. Looking forward to receiving that – Great idea!  
Definitely – Yes please  
Congratulations on the balance and the way you chose speakers. It has been great to be challenged and motivated.  
Thanks again I will promote your forum with the Principals I work with in my role.  
Wish senior management came  
Inspirational and well worth attending  
Professional – wide ranging  
Articulate, friendly and well-organised. Thank you all  
Congratulations on keeping time so well  
Great to attend a conference with attendees from varied workplaces thanks  
Plentiful in breaks, lunch and stretch time  
Best conference I have been to for networking, Great Group  
Great flow -all lead on!  
Easy to listen to, incredibly good communicators – relevant*

*Just a quick note to say a hearty thank you for a thoroughly inspiring conference and networking opportunity. I was absolutely elated by the enthusiasm of speakers/participants and the warmth and generosity of facilitators (including yourself). I feel greatly privileged to have been able to attend such a pioneering and thought provoking forum. Libby Brookbanks, PHD Candidate, University of Auckland*

*Hi Lyall, many thanks. I enjoyed my day at the meeting and hearing the other presentations, but also talking with many of the delegates. Prof Peter Thorne, Deputy Director, Centre for Brain Research, University of Auckland*

*...if you can give me 2016 ELF dates early I will plan my school requirements so that I can bring all my Senior Leadership team. Thanks for inviting me and our Arrowsmith topic as it certainly generated much interest.  
Shirley Maihi, Principal, Finlayson Park School*

*Thanks so much for the wonderful day on Tuesday. A great opportunity to get some good ideas together....Thanks once again, it was a really enjoyable experience for me. Jan Wigmore*

*I just wanted to drop you an email to thank you and your team for an excellent conference. I thoroughly enjoyed the networking opportunities and all the speakers and their topics especially: Dr Anna Wilson, Prof Peter Thorne and Anne Riches....Alan Yardley, National Manager Strategic Accounts & Projects, Schneider Electric NZ*

*Thank you for everything for ELF – it was good to meet you. I really enjoyed it and got a lot out of it. Martin Fowler, Director, Eduvac*

*Just wanted to say thank you for including parents in the ELF 2015 conference. I really enjoyed the day and learned a lot. I am sharing some of the ideas with my family and friends, and am hoping that the information gained will help my husband and I make a good decision about how best to help our son with his learning issues. Val Robb*