How Mike’s News works

Currently, this project involves 2-3 h prep per week from late Jan to early Dec.

I compile info on a master Word document during the week and select the best 2 items for as many categories as possible on Friday (1.5-2h), that way if I need to contact anyone about an item there is the chance of a reply before Sunday. Then on Sunday I upload & distribute the newsletter (30 mins), so it’s in teacher inboxes when they start work Mon morning. There are often new subscribers to approve and bounced emails to deal with – I keep a record of bounces and after several repeats delete them from the subscriber list – (maybe 10 minutes a week). I would expect a new writer may take longer than this to start with.

Over Dec/Jan each year I compile the calendar of Science events, taking maybe 5 h. For the dates that change every year, most will already be online, but some organisations need to be emailed. And the language week dates do not come out til the end of term 1.

I have signed up for email newsletters from relevant organisations that provide ammunition for Mike’s News eg Science Learning Hub, Teach Engineering, Chem Ed etc. I also keep an eye on FaceBook, especially for Ag/Hort and Primary.

There are two organisations that support me.

1. Warp Computers designed the package on Word Press and help me with any glitches. These generous people have offered their services for free.
2. There is a cost for the platform that sends the emails out to 1100 teachers (SendGrid). Since I retired that cost has been met by NZASE. I send a copy of the invoice (in USD) and proof of payment (in NZD) to NZASE and am reimbursed.

NB: While they support me, NZASE does not in any way determine what I write, I have total editorial control. Having said that, they are keen to see this service continue.

While I have written Mike’s News by myself, it may be that a small group of people might like to take this on and that should be feasible.

This is voluntary work, a way of giving back to the community.

It would make sense that anyone who took on this responsibility would want to change the name.

If you have any questions or are interested in applying to be the new writer please get in touch.

Cheers,

Mike

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