

Board Newsletter

Napier Kindergarten Association

June 2019

The joy of teaching, the love of learning

From The President

“Be willing to be a beginner every morning”

Meister Eckhart



Kia ora tatou te whānau

It is a privilege to be appointed by the Board as President for the next two years and I'd like to begin by acknowledging all of the work Jessica Uri has done on our behalf as President for the past seven years – a monumental commitment for which we are all grateful!



We were pleased to host Jill Bond, the new CEO of New Zealand Kindergartens (NZK) at the end of May. She attended our Board meeting and was able to share some information about herself and the direction of New Zealand Kindergartens, as well as visit four of our kindergartens.

Rob and Rachel were able to attend the NZK Hui in Wellington on the 17th and 18th May and heard speakers talking about authentic leadership, the future rushing towards us, and when cultures collide. The NZK board shared their strategic plans to grow and strengthen the kindergarten movement through sustainability, diversity and leading practice.

Additional resources have been provided to support further conversation around the proposal that we rescind and replace our constitution.

We issued an open invitation to any parents interested in meeting with us on the 6th June to discuss the proposed new constitution, the need for change and answer questions about the proposal. Nine parents took up the offer. Their feedback was greatly appreciated, has been listened to and taken into account by our Board. Our Board are considering reducing the minimum percentage of Voting members required to call a Special meeting (Rule 3.4 (b)) and reducing the membership fee to a minimal amount (although the amount payable is to be decided outside of the Constitution, not stipulated in the Constitution itself).

The proposed changes to membership were introduced in the Heretaunga Kindergarten Association over a year ago. Our parents wanted to know how that was working for them. The following day we were able to advise our parent members that Heretaunga's Manager is very happy with it, they've had no problem recruiting voting members and it gives communities an equitable voice.

We are genuinely interested in hearing and responding to feedback about our proposal to change the Constitution and warmly invite anyone interested to provide this to Helen (gm@napierkindergartens.co.nz) by the 17th June.

Mā te wā

Sarah Nash,
President

Our Board Members Are:



Jessica Uri



Ingrid Squire



Rachel Murray



Alison Donovan



Rob Barzey



Sarah Nash

What Our Board Does:

Board members are volunteers elected by our members to govern the Association and our primary responsibilities are:

- * Development of the Association's Strategic Plan (our visions & long term plans for the Association)
- * Employment & monitoring of the General Manager
- * Monitoring of strategic outcomes
- * Management of risk
- * Monitoring of legal compliance
- * Setting and reviewing of policies

Our Board can have up to 9 members in total, one of whom is elected by employees. The employee elected Board member is Rachel Murray and she has the same rights as other Board members.



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Extraordinary General Meeting – 19th June

We invite our members to attend an Extraordinary General Meeting on Wednesday 19th June, at 6pm. The venue for the meeting is Pirimai Kindergarten, 17 Allen Berry Ave, Pirimai.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote on a motion to rescind and replace our Constitution (as submitted to our members) and that such change shall take effect from the 14 October 2019.

We would like as many kindergarten communities as possible to be represented at the meeting to vote on this important matter.

Information about the proposed Constitution can be located on our website (www.napierkindergartens.co.nz).

Board communications with parents

We are really interested in knowing if our communications with parents and members are being delivered to you in a way that suits you and that we cover topics you want to know about.

At present we are producing a monthly newsletter which is distributed via your kindergarten, facebook, website and our mobile phone app.

If you have any thoughts about additional ways we could make it easier to communicate with you regularly, we'd love to hear about it – please contact us via Helen (gm@napierkindergartens.co.nz).

Winter ailments

With the arrival of winter we're experiencing a number of winter ailments doing the rounds in our kindergartens. We'd like to remind parents not to send sick children to kindergarten, to ensure the kindergarten has your contact information and that you have arrangements in place for your child to be collected promptly if they become unwell during the day and you are called to uplift them.

What is the Te Whāriki Curriculum?

Te Whāriki is a bicultural curriculum (programme of studies) designed specifically for children from birth to school age in the New Zealand setting. It has strong links to the school curriculum.

Children enjoy the freedom of access to both indoor and outdoor environments. We believe that as part of the NZ heritage children should enjoy the natural wonders of trees, grass and gardens. Our programmes provide equitable learning opportunities irrespective of gender, ability, age, ethnicity or background.

Who Are Members Of Our Association?



Our Association Members are:

- Parents and caregivers with children enrolled in our services or on our waiting lists
- Board Members
- Life Members

Members have voting rights at all General Meetings.

Our staff are employees of the Association and have no voting rights at these meetings.

Our affiliation to New Zealand Kindergartens (NZK)

As an affiliated member of NZK we are linked with 24 other kindergarten associations that share a common history, philosophy, values and challenges.

We recognise that together we have more in common than we have differences. We are able to more successfully advocate for the advancement of kindergarten as a group, than we could do as individual associations.

NZK provides procurement options for us, and advice on a wide range of matters.

