

Board Newsletter

Napier Kindergarten Association

August 2018

The joy of teaching, the love of learning



“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning.” Mr Rogers

From The President

It continues to be an exceptionally busy time for our Board and our kindergartens. On behalf of the Board I would like to say thank you to all of our talented and hard working employees.

National Kindergarten Proposal

Our April AGM report followed by our May and July Board newsletters notified parents that as a member of New Zealand Kindergartens we are engaged in a conversation about whether a new national kindergarten organisation should be set up.

The new organisation would provide the support framework for kindergarten services. At the moment, that support framework for your kindergarten is provided by the Napier Free Kindergarten Association.

As your elected representatives we have been taking an interest in all of the information available to us regarding the proposal, we have actively participated in conversations about it in a variety of forums including national and regional meetings, one on one meetings with management staff and we have invited kindergarten employee feedback.

We will soon be considering the very weighty question of whether we think that setting up a national organisation would ultimately benefit and strengthen the kindergarten movement.

If the majority of New Zealand Kindergarten members do not vote in favour of establishing a new national kindergarten organisation, or it is not a viable proposition even with a majority vote, then the whole discussion stops.

If however the majority of New Zealand Kindergarten members agree that a new organisation should be set up and it is deemed to be viable to do so, then we expect to be consulting with you, our parents, over the coming months about whether Napier Kindergartens should join the new organisation. Further information about that process, should it go ahead, will be communicated to you in due course along with our recommendation as a Board.

Our Board Members Are:



Standing left to right: Sarah Beckett, Sarah Nash (Vice President), Jo Coffin, Janelle Hutchings, Jessica Uri (President)

Seated: Ingrid Squire, Rachel Murray
and below are :



Rob Barzey



Alison Donovan

What our Board does:

Board members 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



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Following the parent consultation process, our parent members will be asked to vote on the question of whether Napier Kindergartens joins the new organisation.

As Board members who are parents of kindergarten children (current and past) we have an intense interest in the wellbeing and future of kindergarten provision in Napier and Wairoa and will continue to do so whatever the outcome of the national organisation proposal is.

Aside from the question of the national organisation proposal, what's on top of our agenda at the moment is our financial position and its long term implications. We're closely monitoring enrolment levels which are sitting at lower levels than desired across nine of our kindergartens and are likely to generate a significant year end loss situation. We're contemplating strategies to mitigate this for the future.

Jessica Uri, President

Introducing our board member Sarah Nash



I was elected to the NKA Board in 2016 and have greatly enjoyed my time as a member. I am passionate about children, education and our community.

With four children (two of whom are step-children) I am very aware of the importance of nurturing inquisitive and enquiring minds and the important role early childcare plays.

I'm a huge advocate for Kindergartens, I went to Taradale Kindergarten, my children have attended both Bette Christie and Carlyle (our youngest still attends), and I want to ensure that future generations get to experience this amazing foundation that sets children on a path to 'love learning'!

Many studies show that our children are 'shaped' between the ages of 2 - 5 years of age so therefore quality pre-school education is paramount to us forming self-assured, happy kids which then leads to vibrant and successful communities.

I have worked in Public Relations (PR) for over 20 years (including six years in London) and for the past 12 years have run my own consultancy. Like all working Mothers, I'm a juggler, but I love my work and feel incredibly blessed to be raising four fabulous children.



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 employees are not Members of our Association and have no voting rights at General meetings.

Frequent absences

We know that from time to time children will be absent from kindergarten for a variety of reasons. Usually we continue to receive funding when they are absent.

Did you know however that if children are regularly absent for a period of 3 months or more our funding for them is removed every time they are absent?

From January to June of this year we have lost nearly \$33,000 of income due to frequent absences.

All it takes to stop this funding being removed is for the child to attend sessions as enrolled for 2 consecutive weeks.