

Board Newsletter

Napier Kindergarten Association

February 2018

The joy of teaching, the love of learning

From The President

Welcome to the first Board newsletter for 2018. What a fabulous Art Deco celebration we enjoyed in Napier this year. So much fun for the children too with all of the fantastic art deco activities that were organized by our hard working teachers and parents.



At our upcoming 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) we have two Board Member positions up for election. The current Board Members intend standing for another term, but this does not prevent other nominees from standing.

Anyone with an interest in standing for a Board position is most welcome to join us at our next Board meeting, 6pm on the 28 March 2018, at 66 Kennedy Rd, Napier. This will give you an opportunity to meet other Board Members and to observe the Board in its governance role.

Being a Board Member is a fantastic opportunity to:

- Learn about governance
- Influence policy and decision making
- Meet and work with new people
- Gain an understanding of how the Association runs
- Learn about issues facing early childhood education

Board Members do not need to have prior governance experience to be on the Board. We have a great induction process with information and support available to guide new Board Members into their roles. We are looking for people who are enthusiastic, committed and willing to contribute their views for their 2 year term.

Board membership is great preparation for those considering joining school Boards of Trustees. We are much larger than most schools, with 16 kindergartens, just under 100 employees and a gross income in excess of \$6 million per annum.

Board Members are not required to actually run the Association – that responsibility has been delegated to the General Manager. We do decide however what we want to see happening in our kindergartens and what we want our children, staff and families to experience from their time at kindergarten.

Although Board Members are volunteers we are paid fees for attending meetings and any participation on the Appointments or Staffing Committees.

We ask Board Members to be prepared to attend at least 6 Board meetings per annum of approximately 2 hours duration, as well as the Association AGM, some of the Kindergarten AGM's and a Strategic Planning Day of approximately 6 hours duration.

Board Members are given the opportunity, if they wish, to attend conferences. The cost of attendance is covered by the Association. An attendance fee is payable to the Board Member for their participation. These conferences are thought provoking, informative and fun.

Further information about Board nominations is provided over page.

Jessica Uri, President

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

Association AGM

Our Association AGM is being held on Wednesday 11 April 2018 at 7pm, venue to be advised.

Kindergarten AGM's

Kindergarten AGM's will be held in March. We really encourage you to support your kindergarten by attending their AGM.

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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Call for Board Nominations

Nominations for the Napier Kindergarten Association Board are now called. Nomination forms are required to be forwarded to the General Manager no later than **Wednesday 21 March 2018**.

We have a 3 stage process for electing Board Members:

1. Nominations are received by the Board
2. Nominations received must be seconded by a member of the Board
3. Association Members vote to elect nominees

Who may be a nominee?

Any person, excluding Association employees, may be a nominee as long as they have consented to being nominated. Another person has to nominate you. Nominees can include people who are not Members of our Association.

Who can make a nomination?

- Any Member of the Association, excluding employees, may make a nomination. (eg a kindergarten parent or Life Member may make a nomination)

How is a nomination made?

- Nominations are submitted to the General Manager **on a nomination form** (which can be obtained from your kindergarten, the General Manager or our website).
- The nominee must agree to being nominated and provide a letter about why they are interested, plus a **brief** resume, references, referee details and a completed Criminal Disclosure authority (the General Manager can help nominees with this part of the process).

Why do nominees need to have their nomination seconded by a Board Member?

Our constitution requires nominations to be seconded by a Board Member. Before deciding if a nomination should be supported the Board is keen to know that the nominee understands what the role involves, that they are genuinely interested in joining the Board, that they share the values of the Board and are prepared to be an actively contributing member. We will ascertain this by arranging a meeting for you with a Board Member at your convenience prior to the 28th March 2018.

What happens after my nomination is submitted and seconded by the Board?

- Your letter of interest will be distributed to Association Members at least a week before the AGM, which will be held on the 11th April, 2018.
- At the AGM nominees will be introduced to the Members present, who are given the opportunity to ask nominees any questions they may have about their standing for a Board position.
- Voting will occur at the meeting. Nominees must receive 50% or more of the votes of those Members in attendance to be elected to the Board for a 2 year term.
- Nominees who are elected to the Board will commence an induction process and will attend the next Board meeting on 30th May 2018.

Our General Manager is available to provide any assistance required to prospective nominees. She will be available to discuss what the role involves, help you to complete the forms needed and arrange a meeting with a Board Member.

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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, rather than Members, so they have no voting rights at these meetings.

Changing our voting

We want to introduce changes to how we vote for Board members at our AGMs. We're proposing that:

1. the method of voting for Board Members will be by written poll
2. the announcement of the outcome of the votes is deferred until the following business day
3. Members who live 50km or more from the place where the AGM is held are able to cast a written vote at their local kindergarten.

More information about these proposals and why we are recommending them will be issued before our AGM.

