

# Board Newsletter

Napier Kindergarten Association

March 2019

The joy of teaching, the love of learning

## From The President

Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.

*Neil Postman*



Kia ora tatou te whanau

We're recommending to our Members that we change our Constitution. As a board we want to 'future proof' the Constitution for subsequent boards by providing them not only a legally valid Constitution but also one which provides greater clarity and is in step with accepted 'best practice'.

Our Constitution sets out the rules by which we must govern and operate our Association. It sets out who our members are, how they get to be members, and what they can do as members. It also says who has what authority to make decisions in order to manage the Association and how those people must act.

Our Association operates under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, which is expected to be amended in 2019. The proposed amendments will require us to do some things differently in our Constitution, and there are some other changes we need to make to ensure we comply with current legislation.

Following on from our February newsletter we are ready to present a new Constitution, which we will be asking members at our AGM to vote in favour that we adopt with effect from the 30 June 2019.

We have consulted with a lawyer, Mark Von Dadelszen, about the changes we propose to make. Mark will be attending our AGM in case there are any questions on the night about the proposed new Constitution.

At your kindergarten, and on our website, we have available a copy of our current Constitution, the proposed new Constitution and a brief analysis of key changes between the current and new versions. The analysis will help you quickly identify the main changes, and give you brief information about what the change means, or why we're introducing it.

The core changes concern:

- Membership
- Requirement to maintain a register of Members
- Having a process for dealing with grievances, disputes, complaints and discipline in respect of any Member

In the meantime we invite you to have a look at the new Constitution and the analysis of changes and if possible, by the **28<sup>th</sup> March 2019** to raise any questions or concerns about it via our General Manager (Helen, 027 442 3163 or [gm@napierkindergartens.co.nz](mailto:gm@napierkindergartens.co.nz)).

We warmly invite you to attend our Association AGM on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

## 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

## Association AGM

Our Association AGM is being held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 at 7pm, venue is at Pirimai Kindergarten, 17 Allen Berry Avenue, Pirimai.

Jessica Uri, President



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## How is parent voice exercised in our Association?

Parents and caregivers are able to:

- Stand for positions on the Board
- Choose who they elect onto our Board
- Decide who is involved with kindergarten committees or who become 'friends of the kindergarten' and what they do in those forums
- Question the reports presented at AGM's
- Vote on major decisions such as changes to our Constitution
- Participate in parent forums, parent surveys or provide feedback from time to time

## How Does Our Board Operate?

We are authorised by our Constitution and governance policies to operate as a Board of up to nine members, including one who is an employee that is elected by other employees.

We schedule time to meet regularly and discuss matters such as how we will govern and what we need to achieve. We also make a number of decisions that ensure our General Manager is authorised to do what is required to keep our Association operating.

We prepare for meetings by reading Board papers which outline the discussions and decisions we are expected to cover at the next meeting. We take advice and guidance from our General Manager, and other management staff. Where necessary we have access to other resources and people to provide us with support, advice and guidance, such as New Zealand Kindergartens.

We are required to pass a Criminal Records check and to agree to behave appropriately in accordance with a Board Code of Conduct.

Every two years we elect a President and every year we elect a Vice President. Occasionally some of our Board members are required to participate in standing committees which have been formed to address matters such as investigating concerns or complaints.

During our time on the Board we are expected to develop an understanding of how our Association operates, and of the issues and challenges that arise.

Our goal is to always make decisions that are in the best interests of preserving a kindergarten service in Napier and Wairoa and which are congruent with our values and principles, our kindergarten philosophy and our Constitutional objectives.

We volunteer our services because we value the opportunity to keep such an important and worthy organisation going.

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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 and have no voting rights at these meetings.

## Why Is Our AGM Important?

We are required to report annually to our Members what we have achieved during the year, how we are doing financially, present Board nominees to be elected on to the Board and present any other matters to our Members that require our Members vote (such as changes to our Constitution).

The election of Board members that you believe have the right skills, experience and attitude to oversee and govern the Association is critical to its future success.

We need to have a minimum number of 20 Members attend the AGM. If that number is not present on the night, we have to postpone the meeting to another date, within a fortnight.