

Board Newsletter

Napier Kindergarten Association

May 2018

The joy of teaching, the love of learning



For children, play is as natural as breathing - and as necessary

Mimi Brodski Chenfeld

From The President

I am pleased to announce that at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 11 April, Board nominees Sarah Nash and Alison Donovan were elected by members to a 2 year term on the Board and Rachel Murray was elected by employees to a 2 year term on the Board. On behalf of the Board I extend warm congratulations to you all.

At our Association AGM we present a series of reports outlining key achievements in governance, teaching and financial performance. We celebrate what happens in our kindergartens every day, and also talk about what we will be focussing on in 2018.

A full copy of our AGM report can be viewed at your kindergarten or requested from our offices.

Over the past two years our Board has been preparing for situations which require us to demonstrate good leadership and be forward thinking. We're prepared to have courageous conversations and make bold decisions, to be willing to explore different ways of working, or increasing the range of services we provide.

We've decided when and how we would go about doing these things, what values and principles we would apply. We've thought about the attitude, mind set and behaviours that should guide us. First and foremost, we've thought about our commitment to ensuring an enduring kindergarten provision will be available to our Napier and Wairoa communities, one that meets the needs of our communities, reflects local flavour and diversity and promotes excellent teaching practices. We want our kindergartens to be well supported and parents to actively connect and engage with them.

We have before us now a proposition that by combining the resources of up to 25 kindergarten associations (fellow members of New Zealand Kindergartens) to form a new national kindergarten entity, we could between us achieve more than we currently do as standalone associations.

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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As elected board members we have an obligation to be open minded to exploring this idea, examining information as it comes to hand, preparing to question, debate, consult and evaluate the proposition.

We'll be sharing information with our employees together with a communications plan for disseminating and obtaining information.

We'll arrive at a position based on quality information and having considered the potential impacts on Napier Kindergartens. We'll be looking to establish and separate facts from assumptions, preconceptions and bias.

If we form the view that we endorse the proposition we will begin a process of genuine consultation with our communities recommending the proposal, sharing the information on which we have formed our view and explaining what it would mean for our kindergartens, employees and Association.

It should be noted that our Board cannot commit our Association to join a new national entity without the majority consent of our members.

We appreciate that this proposition may cause concern and be unsettling. As parents and former parents of kindergarten we assure you that we cherish and value our kindergartens as much as you do and will focus on what is in the best interests of our kindergartens and how to ensure we maintain everything we have come to love about it.

Although we are considering this proposition it does not mean that we are taking our focus off planning for the future under our present structure. We'll continue to govern well, monitor the performance of our organisation and prudently manage our finances on the expectation we need to do so for the foreseeable future.

Jessica Uri, President



Our new Parent Information Booklet has been published and will be distributed to you shortly.

The booklet contains information that is applicable to all kindergartens. Each kindergarten has other information they share with parents which is specific to their kindergarten.

If there is additional information you think would be helpful to include in future reprints of the booklet, please let your kindergarten know and they will pass it along to our General Manager.

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 have no voting rights at General meetings.

Changing our voting

We confirm that the proposed changes to our process for electing Board members was approved at our AGM.

Next year, Wairoa parents will be able to cast votes for Board nominees.

Thank you

Our Board thanks all of those who braved such a cold night to attend our AGM and Onekawa Kindergarten for hosting the meeting.

