

Board Newsletter



Napier Kindergarten Association

September 2018

The joy of teaching, the love of learning



"Only children believe they are capable of everything."

Paulo Coelho

From The President

I'm pleased to say that six Board members were able to attend the recent New Zealand Kindergartens' AGM and conference in Wellington. In addition to the AGM, we participated in workshops and sessions aimed at growing our knowledge and understanding of kindergarten and our governance role.

National Kindergarten Proposal

For the past 2 years New Zealand Kindergartens' members have been exploring the merits of setting up a new kindergarten organisation to grow and sustain the kindergarten movement across New Zealand, lift teaching and practice, honour the kindergarten philosophy and obligations to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to provide high quality kindergarten support services. Its principles included placing children and whanau at the centre, celebrating diversity and being at the forefront of education practice and advocacy for children.

Our Board decided there was sufficient merit in exploring the idea further and agreed that the next step of undertaking a full due diligence phase of work should proceed, so that we could have all of the information necessary to complete a detailed and final evaluation of the proposal.

At the New Zealand Kindergartens' AGM on 31 August twelve association members, representing between them the majority of kindergarten services across New Zealand, voted in favour of taking this next step. Thirteen association members voted against this however and therefore the remit to proceed to the next stage failed at the AGM.

New Zealand Kindergartens has asked its members what they believe should be taken as 'next steps' to address the issues and concerns still facing the kindergarten movement and association members.

A range of suggestions have been given to New Zealand Kindergartens; they have undertaken to report back to us with some urgency.



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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Enrolments

As I mentioned in our August newsletter we have ongoing concerns regarding enrolment levels across nine of our sixteen kindergartens.

Our general manager is meeting with kindergarten teams to discuss ideas and strategies for restoring our enrolments.

We think it's important to take the time to develop the right solutions, rather than rush into temporary solutions or downsize kindergartens with direct flow on effects to our employees.

We anticipate a large loss by the end of this year, which is clearly not sustainable for the future survival of our kindergartens if it were to continue.

The payment of fees and family donations is more critical than ever, and we deeply appreciate the payments we receive. We are further helped when children attend regularly, and by families applying for WINZ childcare subsidies when they are eligible to do so.

We know a big percentage of our enrolments come from referrals by parents so please, help us spread the word if you can.

Jessica Uri, President

Introducing our board member Sarah Beckett



I have been a member of the Napier Kindergarten Association Board for three years. During this time I have learned much about our organisation and early childhood education.

I enjoy learning about the Kindergartens in our Association and being involved in the strategic direction of our Association.

I am passionate about ensuring kindergarten is accessible to as many children as possible in our communities, today and in the future.

My two children previously attended Te Awanga Kindergarten and are now at primary school. I am a Partner at Willis Legal, a Hawke's Bay law firm, where I have worked for nearly 15 years. Outside the office I enjoy spending time with my family, walking and biking along our walkways in Clive, playing tennis and supporting my children in their various activities.

Napier Kindergarten Association

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

Survey

We've begun work on developing a survey to help us understand parents needs and expectations for early childhood education.

We propose to hold a couple of small forum group meetings with interested kindergarten parents and teachers and conduct an on line survey of non kindergarten parents

Home Based care review

The government is undertaking a significant review of home based care services. The consultation period finishes 24 September 2018. You can have your say on the Education Conversation website, available at <https://conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/review-of-home-based-early-childhood-education/>

