

Board Newsletter

Napier Kindergarten Association

December 2020

The joy of teaching, the love of learning

From The President

"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

~Hamilton Wright Mabie



Kia ora tatou te whānau

In some ways it is hard to believe we are in December already but it also seems like such a long year! From pandemics, to elections and most recently the Napier floods – to say it has been a testing year is an understatement! But I do feel it has brought communities closer together. Our amazing staff have rallied together and ensured the children have felt safe, secure and loved throughout this year. They've continued to ensure that the children are learning through play and providing them with a strong sense of self and good old Kiwi 'resilience'.

As a board it has been a very busy year with our monthly meetings and throughout Lockdown we had bi-weekly zoom meetings, association AGM, and community meetings. Most recently, our board members attended a strategic planning day in November to review the vision and approach of the Association for the next 3 years. Our new board members also attended an invaluable two-hour governing professional development session.

Looking to the future

Our Board has been thinking about how to meet the challenges of lower enrolment levels across our network (which directly affect our funding levels) and how to ensure we are able to offer a kindergarten service that meets its community's needs, well into the future.

Over the past 4 years a number of strategies have been put in place to address these issues; significant reductions of expenditure, introducing fees and donations, increased marketing activities, four kindergartens now offering an extended year service (open for up to 50 weeks) and one offering extended day sessions (8.30 – 4.00 pm) to name a few.

The reintroduction by Labour of the 100% funding band for next year brings in much needed additional funds, but with our current enrolment levels is not sufficient to put us back into a strong financial position.

Early in the New Year Board members will be visiting a number of kindergartens to talk to parents about the challenges ahead and opportunities to lift enrolment levels. We'll let communities know when we intend to visit; we hope interested parents will be available to meet with us.

Changes in our Board

It is with sadness that we have farewelled Ingrid Squire and Alison Donovan from our Board. Both of these members have been such assets to the Board with their commitment and insights; we count ourselves lucky to have had them for as long as we did. I will also be stepping down from the Board at the end of this year after 4½ years service.

Our Board Members Are:



Sarah Nash



Kelly O'Leary



Rachel Murray



Casey Hucker



Karl Wairama



Lydia Johnston

What Our Board Does:

Board members are volunteers elected by our members to 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

Our Board can have up to 9 members in total, one of whom is elected by employees. The employee elected Board member is Rachel Murray and she has the same rights as other Board members.



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I've thoroughly enjoyed my time on the board. The Kindergarten offering is so unique and special and something we want to ensure is around for many generations to come .

We warmly welcome new Board members Kelly O'Leary, who was elected at the AGM in June, and Lydia Johnston who was co-opted end of September. I have been working closely with Kelly over the last few months and she will be taking over the baton of President when I leave. The board is a very strong, capable and hugely passionate team and it has been such a privilege to be involved.

Mā te wā,
Sarah Nash,
President

Napier Kindergartens Phone App

If you have not yet done so, please download our phone app so that we can keep you updated with important information:

- Download our Napier Kindergartens phone app via <http://napierkindergarten.apps.school.nz/install/> and when prompted, select 'parent'

Fees and donations

We are not requesting fees for kindergartens on days they were closed due to flooding. If you have already paid these, we'll arrange a credit against future payments due. If your child is due to leave kindergarten before the 21 January 2021 please contact your Head Teacher.

Fees and donations help fund your kindergarten. These funds are used for all sorts of purposes such as replacing resources, equipment, books, music, playgrounds, and excursions. We are immensely grateful for the payments we receive, no matter how large or small – thank you!!

A donation is voluntary, and eligible for a tax rebate. When kindergarten resumes service tax receipts for donations will be prepared and available to collect from your kindergarten. We are not allowed to email these.

There are no limits to how much you may donate. Any additional donations recieved would be most welcome.

Thank You

We'd like to thank all of our amazing employees who have worked through some pretty difficult situations this year, and you, our parents and caregivers who have chosen kindergarten for your tamariki. Some of our tamaiki will be leaving to attend school next year – go well and go strong!

May you all have a wonderful Christmas with loved ones.

Who Are Members Of Our Association?



Association Members are:

- Ordinary Members
- Voting Members
- Board Members
- Life Members

Membership Application Forms are available from your local kindergarten, or our website.

Process for becoming a Member

Complete an Ordinary Membership application form, sign the declaration and submit to gm@napierkindergartens.co.nz

We're seeking new Board Members

Our Board has vacancies and we'd love to have parents who really care about kindergarten and its future join us.

Our Board is a mix of people from diverse backgrounds and communities. We enjoy working together for such a worthy cause.

If you'd like to find out more about the role, please contact Helen on an obligation free basis via gm@napierkindergartens.co.nz

