

Board Newsletter

Napier Kindergarten Association

September 2019

The joy of teaching, the love of learning

From The President

"Making the decision to have a child— it's momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body."

Elizabeth Stone



Kia ora tatou te whānau



I am saddened to announce that due to a change in her family's circumstances, Jessica Uri has resigned her Board Member position. We would like to acknowledge her considerable contribution to our Board over the last 9 years, of which 8 were served as our President.

We'd also like to thank her husband James and her family for sharing her with us over this time, as she attended numerous meetings and travelled away to various hui and other forums.

Jessica has children enrolled at kindergarten, so we're delighted her involvement with the kindergarten world continues. Kia kaha.

Association membership

We've made good progress with developing resources about membership of Napier Kindergartens, as per our new Constitution.

Early next term we will invite interested parents and employees to review the information we have put together, and meet with us to provide feedback. We are planning two meetings: one on the morning of Tuesday 19 November and the other on the evening of Wednesday 20 November. Further details about the meetings will be given next term.

NZK governance hui and AGM

Three board members attended the New Zealand Kindergartens' governance hui and AGM in Wellington on 6 September. Three amazing keynote speakers inspired, challenged and moved us.

Call for Board Members

We currently have four vacant board positions and are seeking people with a passion for kindergarten to join our board. Our personal experiences of being on the board have been amazing and we'd love to share these opportunities with others. We're keen to expand the diversity within our board and representation across our kindergartens. If you're interested in having an obligation free conversation about co-option to the board, please contact Helen (027 442 3163 or gm@napierkindergartens.co.nz).

Mā te wā,
Sarah Nash,
President

Our Board Members Are:



Sarah Nash



Ingrid Squire



Rachel Murray



Alison Donovan



Rob Barzey

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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Session times

We're only licenced to have children at kindergarten during the times stipulated on their licences. Our teachers greatly appreciate it if you arrive to drop off or collect your child as close as possible to the session times.

ERO reviews

By the end of this term all of our kindergartens will have been reviewed by ERO. We'd like to acknowledge the additional work this has generated for our kindergartens and the support provided by our Education Managers, Eileen and Beth. We're incredibly proud of the amazing work that is undertaken in our kindergartens and the impact this has for tamariki and their whānau.

Kindergartens Aotearoa

The almost year long discussion amongst eight kindergarten associations who are exploring the formation of a new kindergarten association, to be known as Kindergartens Aotearoa, continues. The eight kindergarten associations involved are:

- Auckland Kindergarten Association (Auckland)
- Napier Kindergarten Association (Napier)
- He Whanau Manaaki Association (Wellington, Whanganui)
- Kidsfirst Association (Canterbury)
- Inspired Kindergartens (Tauranga)
- Kaitiaki Kindergartens (North Auckland)
- Kindergarten Taranaki (Taranaki)
- South Otago Kindergarten Association (South Otago)

The conversation to date has identified that it is not just sufficient to 'scale up' size and operations but rather to create an association that is capable of withstanding the shifts and changes of government funding and policies, delivering a sustainable and enduring kindergarten provision, and plan for growth and strengthening of the kindergarten service.

Participants in the conversation are focussed on what is important to kindergarten – children, teaching and learning, values and principles, culture, membership voice, governance, influence and advocacy, relationships and history, to name a few.

For those of you new to this concept our Board is considering the information being presented to us, as it is developed. At some point in the future we will share with you the details of the proposal and our recommendations, and outline what our consultation process with our members and employees will be.

Who Are Members Of Our Association?



Currently 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 rather than members of the Association, and have no voting rights at these meetings.

From the 14 October, under our new Constitution, people will need to apply to become members.

Before they do so, they need to know what membership entails and how to apply.

We'll be consulting with interested parents and employees in Term 4 about the resources we've developed to inform you about membership of Napier Kindergartens. Following that we can then invite people to apply to be members.

