

Glynne Mackey

(24.11.2022 Glynne's University of Canterbury retirement presentation)

Kia ora koutou, kia ora tātou katoa; kia ora koe, Glynne....

I have known Glynne for just over 10 years, through my involvement in OMEP, through academic circles and writing together, and through attending several years of OMEP conferences together. As a result of the contact over the years, I have been able to stay in her home in West Moreland when in Christchurch, meeting Oscar and at least one daughter and a few of the grandchildren!

Glynne started with OMEP in Canterbury in 2011 or 2012 when she moved to the University of Canterbury as a lecturer in early childhood. From the Rangiruru School for ECE?

**In 2013** Margaret Nicholls was the National President of OMEP Aotearoa NZ and I was the Vice President. I was still working fulltime at the University of AK at that time. Lia and Glynne were both at Canterbury University. Few OMEP members had attended world conferences to this point in time. It was the beginning of a time when Aotearoa NZ was finally visible at the world level. Apart from individual OMEP members attending an Assembly and Conference every now and then -Val Burns, Dors Launder, Tanya Batt in Thailand in the 1990's, and myself in 1999 (Singapore) come to mind. Really, it was the group of Lia, Glynne and myself that provided the consistency of attendance internationally over the past 8 years. This also drew us together for publications, involvement in global activities and a general enthusiasm for and commitment to regional and world ECE events.

In the northern summer of that year we were together with a handful of other NZers in Shanghai, China. The Assembly and Conference in Shanghai was a Congress - that is, almost all the OMEP countries were present for what was then a 3-yearly event. In fact we have never had such a Congress again and certainly not as large as that one! Lyn Foote, Ann Pairman, Jing Zhou (Jane Zhou) and I had already been a week or 2 in Guangzhou in the west, facilitating PLD. I was standing in for Margaret as National President at the Assembly. If I recall, the only other NZers at the Congress were Fiona Ellis and Margaret Carr, who was invited as a keynote speaker. Glynne sent me a photo of all the NZers, including Margaret Carr, singing Te Aroha on stage. Glynne and I met mostly during the sumptuous dinners and excellent entertainment. Oscar was also in Shanghai and Glynne and Oscar did quite a bit of sightseeing on their own.

**In 2014**, I was National President and represented NZ at the Assembly table. Glynne, Lia and I travelled to Cork in Ireland, for the OMEP Assembly and Conference. Lia and Glynne presented together and were observers at the Assembly.

**In 2015**, apart from the fact that OMEP Aotearoa NZ hosted the Regional Asia-Pacific Conference in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland a year after I retired from the Uni of AK, Glynne and I attended the OMEP Assembly and Conference in Washington DC for OMEP, along with Jumena Jalal from Wellington. Here Glynne, who was already engaged generally in ECE Education for Sustainability through writing and conferences, accepted the chance to become part of the World OMEP ESD team.

**In 2016**, my 3rd year as National President, we (Glynne, Lia and I) found ourselves, once again, at that year's Assembly and Conference in Seoul, Korea. This time Margaret Nicholls, now International Co-ordinator, Kerrie Duncan (WN) and Sally, a kindergarten teacher from South Auckland, joined us. This was one of the best organised and most productive conferences I have attended. We got to spend a day in the mountains and enjoyed exploring Seoul, with Lia and Glynne doing quite a bit of shopping for clothes! (I bought a sunhat....)

**In 2017 and 2018** it was only Glynne and Lia who travelled to the Assemblies and Conferences in Croatia and then Prague. Glynne, of course, had to be present as part of the world OMEP ESD team and was, now, helping to oversee the annual ESD awards.

**In 2019**, I was National President again for just a year! Glynne and I travelled to Panama City together. Whereas previously Glynne had travelled and stayed in conference accommodation with her husband, Oscar, this time we shared a room together in a rather unusual hotel. Very little was operational in the room. The bedside light fitting was broken, the cupboards were open shelves and minus hangers. The room was hot and stuffy. This was where I came to really appreciate Glynne's adaptability and good humour. And her sense of adventure, as we stepped out one afternoon to catch the metro to the Old City only to be told later that we had walked through one of the most dangerous parts of Panama City and ought to have taken a taxi! We certainly appreciated seeing, with our own eyes, the two very contrasting sides of this money-laundering and, on the surface, super-wealthy, Central American city. I will never forget going with Glynne to the Miraflores Locks and the Panama Canal Museum. The history of abuse in making the canal led to a lot of sobering discussion about indigenous peoples in the area. There was so much we didn't know about! We talked for a long time about the injustices that we were unaware of. The conference was situated in a building that had been built by a previous President - in his honour. 5 or 6 conferences could have been housed in this building with its miles of corridors and floors, but it was empty except for the 300 or so OMEP participants. As at previous conferences Glynne was an active part of the ESD team and awards. Seven years after joining the ESD committee in 2015, she is still an active part of that team in 2022, having completed many trips to Sweden and back! Glynne is to be part of awarding the annual World OMEP ESD awards online in 2023.

In Panama City Glynne also worked late into the night and at odd hours with Ingrid Engdahl on adapting the Environmental Rating Scale for all the countries belonging to World OMEP. Glynne had already worked on the rating scale for Aotearoa.

### **Writing:**

Glynne, Lia and I have all written together and facilitated presentations together at various points in time over the past 10 years. Co-authoring is not always easy but, somehow, we were able to 'to and fro' with our writing in a way that flowed and was very satisfying. We shared the editing of the articles we wrote and always seemed to meet deadlines without the stress that writing together can often cause. Writing was pleasurable. Much of this was down to Glynne's unflappable and even temperament. Glynne is always cautious about over-commitment, but I cannot recall her being negative or ever saying 'no' to a request.

She has always been willing to negotiate and discuss possibilities. And she's always been there to submit final copies, submissions, reports ... on time!

**The Mitigating Climate Change as a Child's Right Project:**

We have both, this year, been very involved in the *Mitigating Climate Change as a Child's Right* project with ARNEC and with funding from the Bernard van Leer Foundation. This took up a lot of our time in terms of organisation, templates etc between May and October. The timeframe was only 5 months. But we had 8 successful meetings with our OMEP colleagues in Aotearoa and Fiji over that time. It was a very satisfying, productive and exciting experience, resulting in two reports from Fiji and Aotearoa NZ and a 'reach and dissemination' report for ARNEC. As a collective and collaborative group we learnt so much about the impact of climate change on the futures of children under 5-8 years- our own mokopuna. The next stage -pro-active responses - are part of the 2023 project. As always, I appreciated Glynne's even temper and willingness to engage flexibly over this past year on this project.

Glynne, this special evening marks your retirement from University work. You have committed to carrying on with OMEP Aotearoa as international co-ordinator, and have agreed to take the Mitigating Climate Change as a Child's Right project through into 2023, if not write together from this project. You also have other commitments that you enjoy, like the choir you sing in, your grandchildren and your garden. As we all know, other things have suddenly taken over your life, with an uncertain future in front of you. Life will, no doubt, be a bit different, but I know that you will keep going, doing the things you love.

No reira, aroha nui, and kia kaha, e hoa!  
Diti Hill-Denee