



Organisation Mondiale pour L'Éducation Préscolaire
World Organization for Early Childhood Education
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar
Te Rūnanga ā-ao mō te Mātauranga Kōhungahunga

Newsletter April 2022

Kia ora koutou,

President note

As the impact of Covid continues to affect us all every day I hope that you are able to have fun outdoors enjoying the warm weather.

For National Exec. these last couple of months have involved continuing to update our policies. A special thanks to Marianne Kayes for her time and effort. We also sent an annual report to World OMEP on our work this year.

Surprise surprise, after years of various people working on our website we have Amanda Higgins, a National Exec. member to thank for working diligently to reformat our site and making it more user-friendly.

Our most recent Asia Pacific zoom meeting was on 31st March with Mercedes Mayol Lassalle OMEP World President present. Timing of these events can be late for us; however, it is valuable to make connections. OMEP World is looking at ways to alternate online and face-to-face meetings in the future. They are still looking for a host country for 2023 as it is the 75th anniversary of OMEP. The position of OMEP World Treasurer is open if anyone is interested? For more details, see Glynne's report below.

Members of National Exec have been negotiating with Sandie Wong, OMEP Australia and Mercedes re hosting the next Asia Pacific Regional Conference and/or the World Assembly and Conference. We declined a request to host the World Assembly/Conference in 2023 however, we offered support to Australia if they host. No firm decisions have been made yet.

We are still waiting to view the Theory to Practice OMEP journal Issue No 5 with an article by Marina Bachmann and Nola Harvey, which is due in April so keep an eye out for it.

We are wanting to strengthen our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and would love your input and suggestions. Thanks to Kerrie Duncan for sharing a link looking at anti-Māori themes in the news media. <https://trc.org.nz/sites/trc.org.nz/files/AlternativesA4-booklet.pdf>

We have had correspondence from OMEP China re the NZ China Early Education Symposium, an online event scheduled for 2022. Presenters from both countries contribute. If you are interested in presenting, please contact Diti Hill Denee or Glynne Mackay.

Our resource for For Each and Every Child is still a work in progress.

You may be interested in:

CRAANZ - There have been delays in the reporting process for the nongovernmental response to the United Nations Committee on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The current time frame for the Child Rights Alliance report is 15th August 2022. CRAANZ are holding Zoom meetings on the last Wednesday of every month if you would like to contribute. If this time is inconvenient for you and you would still like to contribute the contact is info@childrensrightsalliance.org.nz

You may also be interested in joining online for Child Poverty Action Group post budget online panel discussion on Friday 20th May 2022.

I wish you all good health. Your contributions and ideas are always welcome.

Ngā mihi nui
Charlotte

News from OMEP World & OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand

World OMEP Survey and Right to Education Initiative: Survey on trends in privatization in ECE

The World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) and the Right to Education Initiative (RTE) are launching a survey to map trends in privatization in ECCE and analyse the challenges it poses in protecting the rights of young children to early childhood care and education.

The information collected will be used:

- for the creation of awareness and knowledge about the role of private actors in education
- to further identify the research areas in ECCE and Privatization
- and, more importantly, for collective action towards promoting adequate public investment in ECCE

We appreciate you taking 30 minutes or less of your valuable time to complete this survey at the link below by May 15, 2022: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LF3LHM7>

Please share with anyone you think would be interested in completing. You may choose to respond to the survey either in [English](#), [Spanish](#) or [French](#).

OMEP World Joint Statement on Early Childhood Development and the Ukraine Crisis

OMEP World has contributed to this plea to protect the human rights of the millions of Ukrainian children affected by this war. The statement is signed together with other civil society organisations and networks. For the full statement see the following link:

<https://omepworld.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Ukraine-Joint-Statement-ENG.pdf>

OMEP World has also appealed for donations to Ukraine.



The OMEP World website is packed with information and links to articles, including this recent blog from Mexico on grief in preschool children: <https://omepworld.org/grief-in-preschool-children-gabriela-navarro-gallegos/>. They also have their own YouTube channel where you can find recordings of webinars etc. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=omep+world+tv

ARNEC Conference - "Children in Crisis": new date announced. It's now 5-8 July.

In addition to conference information, there's heaps of interesting information on the ARNEC website, including various forthcoming and/or recorded webinars, see <https://amec.net/>

There is also a link on the OMEP website to the ARNEC statement on the recent IPCC report, which makes for sobering reading. To quote in part:

Key takeaways:

1. Climate change worsens inequalities and adversely affects the most vulnerable populations, including young children, of the Asia-Pacific region.
2. Adaptation measures and accelerated action are urgently needed - our actions today shape our children's future.
3. Human development measures are key in promoting sustainable resilience and adaptation.

Summary

- a) Climate change is a global challenge that requires collective action. The effort to pursue climate-resilient development is at risk, especially if global warming exceeds 1.5°C (2.7°F), and at even greater risk in some regions if global warming exceeds 2°C (3.6°F). This key finding underlines the urgency for climate action, focusing on equity and justice. ECD is inextricably linked to environmental issues and sustainable development policies in two ways: (1) young children urgently need support to be able to absorb the risk and damage caused by environmental degradation; and (2) promoting the well-being and rights of young children is key to building a sustainable future.

- b) We support the [interagency call to action](#) from the world's leading child focused agencies to governments and the IPCC, such as World Vision, UNICEF, and Save the Children, that asks for future IPCC reports to give greater emphasis to children, reflecting the depth of available science as well as the needs of children (Tanner et al. 2022). We reinforce the ask for Governments and the IPCC to demonstrate the importance of children and future generations by commissioning an IPCC Special Report on Children and Climate Change, including the youngest children aged 0-8. The disproportionate burden that young children aged 0-8 will suffer due to a changing climate and the power of investing in young children's development need to be recognized as part of climate change mitigation, adaptation, resilience, and the movement towards sustainable development.
- c) We stand with the youngest children and urge for their voices to be heard. The evidence in the IPCC Report shows that young children must be at the forefront of the collective action against climate change and be included in the preparations for COP27 and in all environmental and climate actions thereafter. Urgent action is needed now to realise the rights of the youngest children and protect their future against the climate crisis that they will so unfairly have to face.



Our actions today shape our children's future. Read [ARNEC's full statement](#) on the recent IPCC report or click on the download icon for a copy.

Act now against climate change! Secure the future of young children.

OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand

Don't forget to keep an eye on our Facebook page, OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand, for links and for news of events. At the moment it's not getting a lot of views, so please 'like' us to increase our visibility and outreach and keep OMEP in mind to share articles that could be of interest to members. We'd love to see this being more actively used as a source of discussion and sharing of ideas.

You can also share to the OMEP World FB page of course, if there are items of international interest. <https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP>

OMEP Aotearoa Rōpū

- [Waitaha \(Canterbury\) Rōpū](#)

On the 30th of March Waitaha Rōpū visited the Te Puna Waiora: The Distinguished Weavers of Te Kāhui Whiritoi. This was an exhibition of Māori weaving at the Christchurch Art Gallery. The purpose behind the visit was kaiako well-being, a focus for Waitaha Rōpū this year.

We had 8 Rōpū members and kaiako join us (unfortunately COVID meant that not all who registered were able to attend). We had a tour of the exhibition led by the education officer from the Art Gallery. We were given an insight into the vision behind the exhibition and an insight into some of the pieces on display. Following the tour, we had time to visit the exhibition at our own pace and read the stories of the weavers and their pieces. Of great interest was the cloak woven in plastic bags that was created in protest of the passing of the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004.

The display offered all who attended the opportunity to enjoy and reflect on the stunning examples of weaving.

To continue on the intent of supporting kaiako well-being, Waitaha Rōpū will be meeting on Thursday 12th May over dinner for discussion, support, and reflection and to plan our next event.



- *Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) Rōpū*

The last face to face meeting of the previous Auckland Chapter was on December 8th at the Mt Albert Research Centre Early Learning Centre (MARC Early Learning Centre). Thanks to OMEP member and manager, Meg Moss! It was a relaxing and enjoyable get-together. We arranged to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and 'end of year' thank you gifts were shared by Charlotte as departing chapter president. It was the last meeting for Charlotte, Marianne and Kristy as office holders at the local level; they are now National President, National Secretary and National Treasurer. This has

left 32 current members to reorganise and regroup, a process that is taking time. Our only 2022 online rōpū meeting took place via Zoom on February 22nd. Six people attended.

In April 2022, the Tāmaki Makaurau rōpū has a national executive representative – me. The MOU was signed by me, Meg Moss, Nola Harvey, Linda Petrenko, Helen Bernstone, and Fiona He. All the Auckland Chapter funds have been shifted to the National accounts and will be accessible by the rōpū via a claim form, as and when money is needed. On March 15th, Charlotte, Meg and I facilitated online professional development for a small group of Auckland OMEP members and Auckland-based ECE teachers as a result of a decision to offer PLD at the last meeting.

The topic was planning with a 'thinking lens' (Pelo, A. & Carter, M. 2018 From Teaching to Thinking): "A THINKING LENS directs us to articulate the values and intentions we want to foreground. This takes into account our hope for children's and our own learning. The aim is to move consciously, intentionally but always with children's thoughts and actions in mind." With this focus on planning in mind, Charlotte shared a PPT on children's rights. In small groups those participating discussed how planning with children, keeping teacher-focused topics (e.g., children's rights) in mind, might work in practice by using a 'thinking lens'. The 1-hour session was greeted with enthusiasm and will be repeated on April 19th, 7-8pm via Zoom. The invitation will be extended to all rōpū and will continue the theme of children's rights from a practice point of view.

We hope to hold a kanohi ki te kanohi meeting for members very soon.

Ngā mihi nui,
Diti Hill-Denee

- *Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington) Rōpū*

Kia ora koutou. As noted in February, Wellington has begun kanohi-te-kanohi professional learning sessions. People are happy to be able to engage with each other and not a computer screen! A wonderful network of centres enjoy the opportunity of learning together, getting to know each other and exploring professional discussion.

In March Elise Anderson introduced how strengths and dispositional learning are related as dominant patterns in children's play. We had an involved discussion about assessment which left most of us excited and invigorated with our learning.

Anne Meade and Amanda Higgins presented in April Children's Environmental Kinship Guide. This has been designed by an international team to support teachers in their teaching and learning about, with, in and for nature. The resource is available currently at www.environmentalkinship.org



The developers are looking for and welcoming feedback from around the world. The resource is really useful and inviting, looking at outcomes through the child's lens.

In May, Bronwen Olds and Kerrie Duncan will extend a previous presentation "Talking about Difference" by Bronwen with practical strategies to support teachers to talk about difference, supporting the Unteach Racism programme of the Teacher's Council. Strategies will include, using a Persona Doll to influence children's social and emotional learning and changes in the environment to generate team discussion.

OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand – International discussions

There are a few points to share this month, to keep members up to date with what has been going on internationally.

- ARNEC Project – ARNEC (Asia Pacific Network for Early Childhood). OMEP has long had a close association through membership of this network. Recently, the opportunity arose for us to apply for funds to carry out a climate change project to raise awareness and understanding for communities who might have limited or no resources for teachers to engage in further learning. If successful, we plan to focus on PIN OMEP, Pacific Island Nations. Funds will come from the Bernard van Leer foundation, based in the Netherlands. We await the decision, so will keep members informed.
- New Zealand has offered to support OMEP Australia to hold the Regional Asia Pacific conference in Sydney November 2023.
- World OMEP Projects identify international issues and encourage countries to reflect and improve on the everyday practices and learning in centres through these projects. We would love to hear about what you have been doing, and recommend the OMEP Journal 'Theory to Practice' <https://omepworld.org/omep-theory-into-practice-tip/> that encourages practitioners to tell their stories and share with others. World OMEP Projects: ESD, Play & Resilience, WASH, Colour your rights. <https://omepworld.org/> Click on EDUCATION for more information.

- World President, Mercedes Mayol Lasselle met with the Asia Pacific group last week. She is urging people to attend the World conference in Athens, Greece. WWW.omep2022.org July 12-15. It is possible that some keynote speakers will be recorded.
- Mercedes strongly emphasised the need for dialogues on peace in our countries. She also stressed that education must be protected in times of conflict.
- Ukraine conflict - it is felt that our best support can be through individual donations of money through Save the Children NZ or UNICEF NZ.

News of the interest

Call for papers: The NZ-International Research in Early Childhood Education Journal publishes peer-reviewed local and international research and theory relating to young children in the early years.

For this 2022 special issue of the NZIRECE Journal, high quality papers from a range of disciplines relating to partnership and learning with parents and educators in early childhood education settings are invited. This also extends to the wider family or whānau. Research on the effect of any aspect of the early childhood environment, pedagogy, policies, communication and practices on partnership is in scope. Papers from different perspectives are welcomed, including but not limited to topics of:

See further information on: <https://oecnz.org/members/research/about-the-journal/call-for-papers-parents-and-families/>

Guest Editor: Dr Chris Jenkin is the guest editor of the 2022 NZIRECE Special Issue 'Partnership and Learning with Parents and Families in Early Childhood Education Settings'.

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