



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 June 2022

Kia ora koutou,

### *President note*

Ngā mihi a Matariki, te tau hou Māori: Here's hoping that on our first public holiday for Matariki the skies will be clear so that we can view the stars.

Did you know that each star is linked to an aspect of our lives or environment. ([www.massey.ac.nz](http://www.massey.ac.nz))

- Matariki – health and wellbeing.
- Pōhutukawa – those who have died.
- Tupuārangi – connected to everything in the trees, fruits and birds.
- Tupuānuku – food grown from the soil.
- Waipuna-ā-Rangi – rain.
- Ururangi – the winds.
- Waitī – fresh water and fresh water kai.
- Waitā - the ocean and kai moana.
- Hiwa-i-te-Rangi – aspirations for the coming year.

Chelsea Ritchie ([natlib.govt.nz](http://natlib.govt.nz)) states Matariki is “underpinned by key values, most significantly:

- aroha — love and respect for one another
- whakamaharatanga — remembrance
- kotahitanga — unity
- manaakitanga — caring
- tohatoha — sharing
- mana taiao — environmental awareness
- hākari — feasting
- wānanga — discussion
- noho tahi — coming together
- atawhaitanga — kindness
- whakanui — celebrations
- tuakiritanga — identity.” Well

So I hope you enjoyed Matariki.

### **Other happenings:**

- These last two months have continued to be busy. We are trialling our National Executive meetings alternating between being structured one month and an open discussion the next. During our recent meeting a discussion evolved around promoting OMEP, involving our honorary and life members, recognising new/student teachers often just 'doing a job', acknowledging the stress and tension many teachers are feeling, and having practical workshops.
- Our decisions were to do short video clips with treasured life members asking: Where did your passion for early childhood come from? How did you keep it alive? What part did OMEP play? So look out for these hopefully starting in a few weeks.
- We also discussed doing short practical play videos with a focus on children's rights but made no firm decisions about who would do them. If anyone is interested we would appreciate your contributions.
- We discussed focussing on a new energy in Spring with workshops using heart, hand, brain. Please share any ideas, resources or possible facilitators. We welcome all members participating in these discussions. Our National Exec. meetings are open meetings.

### **Website:**

Have you looked at our new website? Have you any comments that would help make it useful for you?

### **Ministry of Education:**

Marianne and I responded to the Ministry of Education consultation re Network Management. It is always a challenge to respond to consultation when there is limited information about the ways ideas raised are going to be implemented.

### **Climate Change Project:**

Glynne and Diti have had their application to ARNEC for the Climate Change Project accepted. More information below.

### **For Each and Every Child:**

We (Marianne, Diti, Nola Harvey and me) are currently discussing details For Each and Every Child Digital resource being designed by Tessa Baty.

### **Webinars:**

ARNEC held a webinar around 'Demystifying the science of climate change and its relationship with early childhood development emphasising how our actions today shape our children's future. These workshops lead into the Climate Change Project.

Our World President, invited us to participate in a UN webinar on "The leadership of the new generations: children and adolescents with disabilities and their voices", on 16 June, under the framework of the 15th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Once again the timing can be off putting and this time the notice came late however it is valuable to obtain a global perspective on concerns and initiatives.

Oranga Tamariki Submission:

Jan Logie asked all organisations who were part of the Joint child sector submission to the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki. submission to meet on the 20th June. We were part of the CRAANZ submission. Concerns were raised around children's voices and concerns being ignored, around trust and the independence of the monitor, the place of ERO who have a compliance rather than a rights focus and what is seen as a reduced role of the Office for the Children's Commissioner and a lack of Te Tiriti partnership. Plans are underway for further joint sector action. A Child Rights Alliance Aotearoa NZ (CRAANZ) meeting followed.

Our OMEP World Assembly and Conference is coming up on 11, 12, 13 July. For many reasons we have chosen to participate virtually. If any member would like to observe the World Assembly please email me through [omepaotearoa@gmail.com](mailto:omepaotearoa@gmail.com). We only have one connection so we will all gather hopefully at my house on the North Shore.

We welcome feedback through your Rōpū reps or directly.

*Mānawatia. a Matariki.*  
*Charlotte*

## ***News from OMEP World & OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand***

### ***OMEP/ARNEC Climate Change Project***

#### ***Mitigating Impact of Climate Change on Young Children***

We invite the early childhood community to be participants in a project that focuses on climate change and ways to mitigate its effect on children in early childhood, now and in the future. OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ) has recently been approved to carry out this project by the Bernard van Leer foundation in conjunction with ARNEC (Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood). The Bernard van Leer journal [Early Childhood Matters 2021](#) is dedicated to examining the many ways that climate change and early childhood intersect. We are excited to have early childhood organisations and communities in Aotearoa NZ, Fiji and Tuvalu on board with this important project. Would you be a project leader?

#### **What does the task involve for project leaders?**

We ask that those who are leading their networks compose a covering letter and/or email and pass on this information to early childhood communities so that individuals can be reached and groups can be formed to meet over July and August 2022. Select **Clark** plus 1 other reading from the four to form the basis for discussion.

#### **Articles selected:**

1. Helen Clark. Governments of the world must prioritise children, amid climate change.
2. Kelly Ann Naylor. Climate change – induced water insecurity endangers children.
3. Richard Louv. There are huge risks in raising children under what amounts to house arrest.
4. Jantirar Abay. In Addis Ababa learning through outdoor play.



Governments of the world must prioritise



03\_ECM21\_evidence\_Climat



14\_ECM21\_new\_aproaches\_In-Addis-



18\_ECM21\_new\_aproaches\_There-are-

**The focus of the project** is for issues, possible solutions, actions and questions to arise from discussion of the readings and for the discussion to be carefully written on the attached template.

- How are we, right now, going to mitigate the impact of climate change on our children?
- How do we sensitively pass climate change information onto young children?
- How do we help children move into the future, given what we know about climate change?

Reading should be completed before a meeting. Excerpts can also be read aloud at the meeting. A template is provided to guide the discussion, along with a short Power-point to inform individuals and the participants of groups. The notes recorded on the templates are to be returned to the project leaders in each region, who will then pass them to OMEP Aotearoa and the Project Committee for responses to be collated. If there are costs associated with these activities, OMEP Aotearoa has funds from the Bernard van Leer Foundation via ARNEC to support the discussion and feedback process.



Readings  
template.docx

We plan to reach as many communities as possible in Aotearoa NZ (especially Māori and Pasifika early childhood communities) and Moana Nui a Kiwa/the wider Pacific region through OMEP Pacific Island Nations (PIN). There is no limit to the number of responses but, unfortunately, our project timeline is short. We will require the template data to be returned on time – **August 31<sup>st</sup> 2022**.

We suggest you adjust the letter use your own languages, photographs and logos on the letter.

We note, with some sadness, that the world map that comes with *Early Childhood Matters 2021*, does not show Moana Nui a Kiwa - the Pacific Ocean and Aotearoa New Zealand is almost hidden in a corner. This merely reinforces the invisibility of Moana Nui a Kiwa and is a poor reflection on the world commitment to the Pacific region. For example, COP 26 in 2021 attempted to make the plight of Pacific peoples more visible. We must all work on this discrepancy and strongly suggest a review of maps used in early childhood settings so that all children and all nations can see that they belong to a truly global community.



ECM2021\_world-map.jpg.pdf

Contact details: Glynne Mackey and Diti Hill-Denee ([glynne.mackey@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:glynne.mackey@canterbury.ac.nz) [dhill@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:dhill@auckland.ac.nz) ).

On behalf of the OMEP Aotearoa/OMEP Pacific Island Nations - ARNEC Project Committee




**Climate change  
is especially  
dangerous for  
young children**



**Yet discussions  
about climate  
seldom refer  
to the fate of  
young children**



**They should**



**Early Childhood  
Matters 2021...**



**examines the  
many ways  
that climate  
change and  
early childhood  
intersect**



**Leaders,  
experts and  
activists from  
around  
the world  
share...**



**Worrying data  
and evidence  
to create  
awareness**



**Inspiring  
examples  
of cities  
prioritizing  
climate action  
and young  
children**



**Tips and  
personal stories  
from activists  
ensuring climate  
justice for the  
next generations**



**The  
Climate  
Issue**

**Out now!**

**Early  
Childhood  
Matters**

**2021**

Read the full journal at

[earlychildhoodmatters.online/2021](http://earlychildhoodmatters.online/2021)

## **OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand**

### **OMEP Aotearoa Rōpū**

- *Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) Rōpū*

The Tamaki Makaurau rōpū has not met since the end of 2021, other than to share the first part of a Zoom PLD session via Zoom. The second part of this PLD has also not happened. There is a core group of 5 members, all of whom have been very busy over the past 6 months and have yet to meet as a group. Six Tamaki Makaurau OMEP members are on the National Committee and/or associated with national business and activities. The rōpū itself is in good health in terms of the membership - we currently have around 30 paid members. Covid-19 has certainly not helped....We really do hope to hold a face to face social event very soon!

*Diti Hill-Denee*

*(Tamaki Makaurau rep at National Cttee meetings)*

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

We had a successful workshop 'Exploring ways to ensure the mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi through our teaching practice' And while we had a small group there was lively discussion and unpacking of what each of the articles could like in ECE settings. We also connected these to the various guiding documents we have in early childhood.

We have decided to take a midwinter break in July and not run a PD session, as teachers are still grappling with staffing issues and illness around covid and the flu.

*Ngā mihi nui*

*Amanda*

## **News of the interest**

### **Possibilities for EC Practice across the Globe**

Share with us an evening to celebrate the research and work by a group of scholars across Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, Finland, Scotland and USA. Presentations will be made, followed by the launch of their book.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 5.30-8pm at University of Canterbury

This will be a hybrid event, so you can attend in person or online.

<https://events.humanitix.com/early-transitions-possibilities-for-practice-across-the-globe>

VISIT OMEP's New Webpage: <https://omeworld.org/>

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