



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

## *Kia ora koutou; kia ora tatou katoa!*

### *President Note*

Kia ora koutou

What a difference a year makes yet there are still many families waiting for decisions on their homes damaged in last year's floods. This week I was invited to the closure of a Playcentre on the North Shore due to the flooding - a fact I was totally unaware of. I recall that after the Christchurch earthquakes OMEP donated rubbish bins to ten centres to support their request for storage for emergency equipment. While we are a year on if you do know of any early childhood centres badly affected by flooding please consider what ways you, or we, could help.

Over many years OMEP Aotearoa has reiterated their commitment to upholding implementation of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. One of our aims is "to promote an approach to early childhood education that commits to implementation of the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi" which we realised was about Te Tiriti in terms of early childhood education without giving us guidance for how we work as National Exec. Our workshop run by Andi Delaune last year set wheels in motion so as an executive we are considering how we implement a stronger commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi within OMEP and how this might influence the way we work. Over this coming year we will consult with members and look forward to hearing your views on what this might look like in practice and in any documentation. As an interim step we have co-opted Ngaroma Williams. (Te Arawa, Ngati Raukawa ki Wharepūhanga, Ngāti Awa) in a co-leadership role on National Exec this year. This opportunity arose from Andi gently prodding Ngaroma to join us while at the OMEP Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Sydney where Ngaroma was presenting with Jayne White on the Wai Project. Many of you may know Ngaroma from her advocacy for indigenous languages, her presentations, workshops, articles and her practical resources for teachers or you may have worked with her.

National Exec had their first face to face hui since Covid on the 24th February in Auckland. What a pleasure it is to get together and meet those we have only seen online. We started the day with Ngaroma leading us with an informative reminder of the differences between the two versions of Te Tiriti and the emphasis on four articles and then into provocations that we will continue to discuss in the coming months.

### *Notices*



OMEP Aotearoa  
*Instagram*  
*account*

*@omepaotearoa*

*Find and follow*  
*us!*



*We were demonstrating what we value as OMEP.*

We then moved on to focussing on formulating a vision, a mission statement and then discussing a possible addition to our rules re Te Tiriti. These suggestions were made within a tight time frame knowing we will be seeking your feedback soon. Do you use the word 'visibilising'? It was a new word to me but came up in our discussions. One reason we formulated a vision was that at a workshop by Board Pro it was suggested that a vision is recorded at the top of every agenda so that it informs all decisions.

More information from the hui will be available soon. We focussed on how we move forward and our concerns about early childhood in Aotearoa NZ and what we could advocate for. Any thoughts you have are always welcome.

On the 26th we had an Asia Pacific Regional Zoom meeting. There Andi and Ngaroma, on behalf of OMEP Aotearoa NZ and Waitaha rōpū and with the support of University of Canterbury, offered to host the 2025 Asia Pacific regional meeting. We are waiting to see if any other countries offer - we will keep you posted. We were asked to present a small slot on play at the World Conference in Bangkok in July! Any suggestions and photos would be most welcome. Who is going to represent us has yet to be finalised.



As well as the Asia Pacific Regional zoom in February we had a face to face at the Asia Pacific Conference in December. There we made a decision as a region to focus on water / WASH but for the next few months this has now changed to build up to the World Conference in Bangkok so the focus is on play. The Conference was an opportunity to network across the region. Andi Delaune, (Vice President), Fiona He (our International Rep) Jayne White (Life Member), and Ngāroma Williams (University of Canterbury) and a University of Canterbury student (and me) attended the Conference and Robyn Houlker (Life Member) came for the first day.



Networking at the APR social night out on a cruise on the harbour with singing and dancing!!! I hope you all find joyful moments to play each and every day.

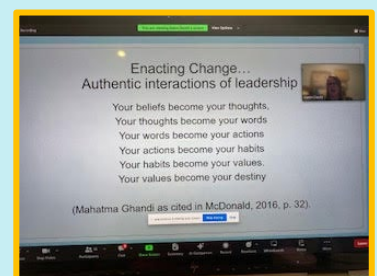
Ngā mihi nui i tō pānui mai!. Ka kite  
Charlotte

## Workshop

**Presenter: Gwen Davitt**

### **Moving Beyond Leadership Styles to Authentic Leadership Intentions**

Gwen Davitt is an active researcher and lifelong learner with an extensive background in early childhood education and adult teaching and learning methodologies. Furthermore, Gwen has been a member of OMEP for over twenty years. Involvement in a long-standing leadership research project evolved into the delivery of professional development which in turn has underpinned this presentation. The content of this presentation brings together Gwen's passion for and commitment to reflective practice, authentic intentions, and leading change for best practice. Through this presentation Gwen endeavours to inspire you to reflect on your own leadership as an educator and as a member of OMEP blending current theory with practical application.



## News from OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand & OMEP World

### Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) Rōpū Report

A small group of members from our rōpū met as planned on the 8th February at the MARC ELC Mt Albert -thank you to Meg Moss for hosting us again. Our goal was to identify the issues and concerns arising for children and their whānau, and/or teachers in the ECE sector, and from the policy changes of the Coalition Government.

Coalition GOVT. Policy changes

Funding: The 4.6% increase to 20-Hours ECE funding rates announced as part of Budget 2023 is going ahead, the 20-Hours ECE funding for 2-year-olds is not going ahead and the new conditions announced by the former government to improve service provider transparency in fee charges related to 20-Hours ECE funding provider will not go ahead.

Government-politicians control over the curriculum and pedagogical approaches and practices Bench marks for achievements e.g. progress benchmarks used for Primary school sector -Reading Writing and Maths and the push down effect . "Change the B4 School Checks which assess health at age 4 to also check they can read their name, know the alphabet, hold a pencil, pick up a book, identify things that are the same, different and group them, match items in a shape box, communicate thoughts and ideas; a centralised collection of that data and that ECEs that consistently fail on those tests lose their funding."(David Seymour during election campaign.)

We need rōpū members to be educating ministers to acknowledge ECE as an education sector and the equity issues involved and to keep in touch with the EDFed network, through the OMEP rep.

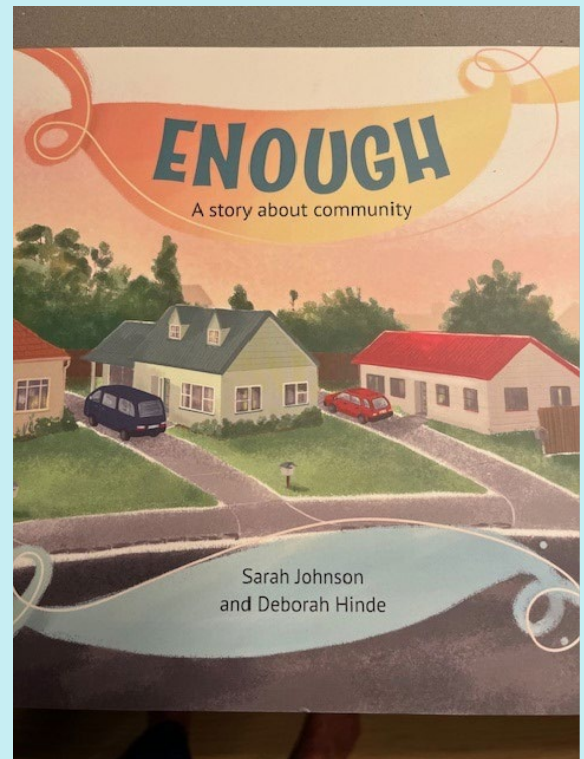
Education as a right- Birth – 18yrs (part of OMEP Aotearoa Vision + Aims ). Currently there is a shortage of teachers as well as fewer places for tamariki as centres are closing. We all agreed there is a crisis in attracting students into ITE and a challenge for centres to keep ECE teachers. Is it the status of ECE teaching and/or the pay scale ?

Further, several asked just when and how Initial Teacher Education introduces UNCRC and children's rights into their education programme ? We all agreed that all student teachers and new migrant teachers need to know about UNCRC and children's rights AND that teachers have a right to belong to a union. It was such a valuable korero that it was hard for us to close the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Do check out the OMEP TM Rōpū notes sent on the 28th Feb. for further details and the actions planned. I do hope that we can hear from more members at our next gathering later in March when we can report on actions taken and also hear about the current OMEP Aotearoa Child Rights Research Project from Parisa. Do bring along a colleague.

Acting Co-ordinator, Nola

### Note from Tāmaki Makaurau



Do have a look and listen to this picture book story about Hana, a member of a family and community who shows agency and creativity in her endeavour to ensure families and children in her community have "Enough" . Written by Sarah Johnson and thoughtfully illustrated by Deborah Hinde, this book as Sarah shares on her website , shows how kindness and the model of " helping hands " initiated by Hana can awaken the power of a community . The author's website is a very useful link to comment about the book. There is a reading of the book by Suzy Cato included.

children's author and freelance writer  
sarahjohnson.co.nz



**Workshop: Tuesday 12 March, 7-8 pm, by Zoom**

***Moving Beyond Leadership Styles to Authentic Leadership Intentions***  
**Presenter: Gwen Davitt**

Consider leadership and the interplay between the philosophy of espoused leadership and actual leadership actions or behaviours, often referred to as theories-in-use. In this presentation we will explore the dichotomy between espoused and theories-in-use leadership within organisational contexts. We will delve into a theoretical framework emphasising the significance of understanding discrepancies between stated leadership values and beliefs and observable leadership practices.

Leaders articulate their visions and values through their espoused theories however the translation of these ideals into daily practice is shaped by contextual factors, organisational culture, and individual traits which often results in variations between leadership actions and behaviours.

Engaging in reflective practice and robust collegial dialogue enables alignment between intentions and actions to foster authentic leadership practices and a culture of effective and authentic leadership.

**For more information feel free to contact us!**



**WAITAHA RŌPŪ EVENTS 2024**



**Children worrying about water**

Prof. E. Jayne White and Dr Ngaroma Williams  
Report from the Wai Project, an international collaboration on children and water.

**18 April**



**A right to be loved? Love in infant teachers' practices**

Dr Andrea (Andi) Delaune  
Report and discussion on a local research project investigating love in pedagogy with infants.

**25 July**



**Te Reo Māori in Practice: Rights for Children**

Dr Ngaroma Williams  
A workshop designed to support te reo Māori in pedagogical practice from a position of the rights of the child.

**24 October**



Hosted by  
**Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha**  
**University of Canterbury**

To register, contact  
rikke.betts@canterbury.ac.nz

🌟 Exciting News Alert! 🌟

We are thrilled to announce that a series of presentations, workshops, and professional development opportunities have been thoroughly arranged and crafted for the entire year!

For more detailed information, please explore our website, Instagram, FB and this space.

But wait, there's more!  
Mark your calendars for the upcoming Waitaha Rōpū events

*NELPs and The Rights of the Child*

Food for thought for kaiako working in ECE:

Making Visible a commitment to The Rights of the Child in ECE

When reflecting on how you implement The National Education Learning Priorities (NELPs) in your practice could you be weaving in The rights of children into your documentation?

For example: NELPs priority 1 Ensure places of learning are safe, inclusive and free from racism, discrimination and bullying. This priority honours a child's right to be kept safe from harm, including protection from child abuse, bullying, and risks to health which relates to Article 2 of Convention on the Rights of the Child UNCROC

Evidence of an environment where a child's right to be kept safe from harm may look in practice like children being actively supported by kaiako to develop strategies to resolve conflicts with their peers in a positive way. It may sound like children using kind words with each other while developing empathy and compassion "I will help" "try again" and being empowered to know what to say when they hear unkind words from their peers. "Those words make me feel angry/sad/yuck." It may sound like children being able to notice and describe how things make them feel "my tummy wriggly." It may sound like a child supporting their peers in co-regulation by breathing with them "Hā ki roto, hā ki waho" because breathing and co-regulation is woven into your everyday practice and is intentionally taught.

Kristy Austin  
Treasurer



*ARNEC (Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood) news:*

<https://ar nec.net/>

[ARNEC paper on climate change education for young children](#)

*ARNEC Conference - May 27-30, Penang, Malaysia*

<https://web-eur.cvent.com/event/b3df84a2-67e9-4df4-9854-8939512f3c23/summary?locale=en>



**Bangkok, Thailand:  
July 15–19, 2024**

2024  
OMEF  
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# 76° OMEP World Assembly And Conference

“Right from the Start for ECCE:  
Step Beyond All Together”

[www.omepworld2024.com](http://www.omepworld2024.com)



[omepwac2024@omepworld.org](mailto:omepwac2024@omepworld.org)



Deadline for applications: **April 15 2024**



Early bird registration: **January 1 2024**



## 3rd ANNUAL OMEP NEW SCHOLAR AWARD COMPETITION

The OMEP New Scholar Award is a world project initiative of OMEP in order to promote study and research related to early childhood education and care to facilitate broad understanding of the needs of early childhood worldwide. This is the third year that OMEP will present a research award for outstanding new scholars around the world. We invite all OMEP members and non-members to submit their proposals for the 2024 award. The OMEP New Scholar Award Committee will review all abstracts. Up to two applications will be selected for award, one for a postgraduate student (during masters or doctoral degree) and one for an early career researcher (within 5 years from gaining doctoral degree). Winners will be notified by May, 1, 2024.

Winners will receive their award at OMEP’s 2024 World Conference. The amount of award is USD 500 for a postgraduate student winner and US\$1,000 for an early career researcher winner.

### COMPETITION GUIDELINES FOR OMEP NEW SCHOLAR AWARD

Research paper must be submitted in English.

Research paper must be received via email ([omepnewscholar@gmail.com](mailto:omepnewscholar@gmail.com) & [omepkorea2803@daum.net](mailto:omepkorea2803@daum.net)) by April 15, 2024.

***Contact us to find further information if you are interested in.***

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