



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

Mālō e lelei.

When I started writing this it was Tongan language week.

Often the inequalities in this world unsettle my equilibrium. Recently, when I spent a week in Tonga visiting my family who are living there, I was confronted by the contrast between the housing with patches of tents for doorways, and the plastic bottles and household appliances intertwined among the mangroves or just dumped anywhere and everywhere, which contrasted with the immaculately dressed children and adults and the pristine churches and foreigners' residences. An early childhood centre I visited had lost its only qualified teacher. Their request was for equipment to engage the older boys. Any ideas of how to help? What to send and how? I am volunteering next week with Books4Tonga who are collecting good quality adult and children's books to ship there.

Our hosting Fijian Teachers:

After months of discussions with Ufemia Camaitoga in Fiji, we were privileged to host 26 Fijian teachers in Auckland, Whanganui and Gisborne from 25 August to 8 September. While this was an OMEP Aotearoa initiative the planning and execution fell to Tamaki Makaurau members. A humungous thank you to Marianne Kayes, Diti Hill-Denee, Ulu Nawagavanua, Nola Harvey, Kristy Austin and Fiona He for the months of preparation and for your positive responses to the stream of changes.

Ulu picked up teachers at the airport after 1.00am!!! She had organised for everyone to be housed in Parnell at the beginning and end of their trip, thanks to Rev. Rogo who did not charge them. Ulu also organised a copy of Te Whāriki for each teacher. In between, those based in Auckland mostly stayed with family and some were billeted thanks to Meg Moss and Kristy Austin (and me). Ten teachers were based in Whanganui and two in Gisborne.

Each Auckland-based teacher had a week working in an early childhood centre and then returned to Parnell for workshops and discussions. We are grateful to all the centres who hosted the teachers and Kids Count for their use of vans for the whole stay. Hellen Puhipuhi transported teachers to and from Whanganui and hosted them. The teachers were buzzing with their experiences.

Tamaki Makaurau Exec members and Ulu took responsibility for liaising with Fiji, arranging accommodation, centre placements (some with our members - thanks Fiona He and Meg), food, bedding and transport. Thanks to Tamaki Makaurau members, Robin Houlker, Helen Bernstone, Justine O'Hara-Gregan, Jan Beatson, Sue Stover, Elise Donovan

Notices

Save the Date!

OMEP
AOTEAROA
2023 AGM

Tuesday 14
November, 8
pm, by Zoom
preceded by
Guest
Speaker at 7
pm

More details
coming
shortly!

and Chris Jenkin, who helped with food and bedding. We provided all the food for the teachers when at Parnell and extra bedding to alleviate the cold they felt.



The hiccups were endless, and my heartfelt thanks go to Marianne who was an unflappable pillar of energy and solutions as she not only cleaned toilets (along with Nola), sorted out locked doors, brought and cooked food and collected bedding but also answered numerous texts, phone calls and emails and was on the spot to help, and then created certificates!

Thanks to Kristy for two fun and informative workshops on play and for taking Mere Krishna to her son's Kura and her kindergarten, to Parisa Tadi for the interesting discussion at AUT and sumptuous morning tea, and to Nola for cooking a delicious curry and the opportunity for Mere to visit Playcentre where she was blown away by the use of real tools for carpentry.

Thanks to Diti for introducing *Te Whāriki* and to Fiona for her overview of what to expect in centres and for helping at Parnell.

It was a massive learning for us all and while we heard what our visitors enjoyed, learned, felt uncomfortable with, and any changes we could make in the future, we are in the process of doing that for ourselves. Before the visit, we had not realised that the teachers who came only worked for four hours a day with five year olds, were totally funded by their government, and only earned the equivalent of \$7 an hour. We have many recommendations for any future visits.

For me personally having Mere to stay two nights and visiting teachers over two days re-awakened my awareness of the impact of different philosophies, values, and understandings around instilling our curriculum into practice. With Mere's focus on child protection/sexual abuse, we also visited a women and child trust, went to a Raising the Bar presentation with Mark Henaghan on family courts, and of course shared experiences and resources.



Glynne's legacy:

We are still reeling from losing our esteemed colleague Glynne and frequently she is mentioned especially as we consider how to honour the work she started. We now have permission to use the funding from the Bernard Van Leer Foundation to continue our focus on climate change. If you are interested or have any suggestions, please let us know.

We welcome Fiona He, a Tamaki Makaurau member, as our new International Co-ordinator. Fiona is travelling to China to present at the NZ China Early Childhood Education Symposium which you are all invited to join online - 21 September 1.00 - 7.00pm. It is free.

<https://educationnewzealand.mailchimpsites.com>

Asia Pacific Region:

Our next Asia Pacific Regional Zoom meeting is on 25 September at 8.00 pm. All welcome. Our final get together for the year will be in Sydney, 6 - 8 December for a meeting and Conference. Again, all are welcome to attend the Conference. Fiona and I will attend our APR meeting.

Mercedes Mayol Lassalle, our OMEP World President, asked more wealthy nations to financially support those whose resources are limited so OMEP Aotearoa has paid the fees for Pacific Island Nations.

Tick4kids:

The scorecards are out. They identify the main political parties' attitudes to key policies that affect children and can help guide your decisions for the upcoming election. I usually attend their fortnightly meetings or Nola does. The scorecards have had input from OMEP members. OMEP World website states "The human rights of children must be placed at the centre of the political agendas of all countries to assume, face and overcome the risks, suffering, and injustices that the youngest are living at the founding stage of their lives." How do you decide which party to support?

<https://tick4kids.flt.nz/scorecard%20maker%20page?src=nav>

<https://tick4kids.flt.nz/Social-Media-Cards-2023>

<https://tick4kids.flt.nz/get%20involved?src=nav>

CRAANZ:

Contact info@childrensrightsalliance.org.nz if you would like to attend the Children's Rights Alliance Aotearoa NZ AGM at 12.30 - 1.30 on 27 September. We are a financial member of CRAANZ so OMEP will be represented.

Play Aotearoa (IPA):

You can register now for the online conference, Play Connect, starting 7 November.

Māori Language week:

When I finished adding to this newsletter it was Te Wiki o te Reō Māori with a theme of Kia Kaha Te Reo Māori - making the language stronger. One recommendation I saw was to view these five films: Whina, Cousins, Muru, Boy, and Coco Reo Māori. Have you seen them?

A request:

* Please think about how to strengthen the work of OMEP Aotearoa in your rōpū nationally or globally. How do we encourage young people to be involved? Would you be able to contribute through standing for National Exec, through facilitating or organising workshops or research, sharing your ideas, contributing to the newsletter, advocating for children, or supporting others?

I saw a quote that said 'despite the forecast live like it's spring.' So may you embrace warmer weather and witness daffodils blooming, lambs frolicking and lime-green leaves sprouting.

*Kia haere tika tatou ki te ara whakamana mo atatou tamariki.
Let us travel the path to empowerment for our children.*

Keep safe, Charlotte

News from OMEP World & OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand

Message from Mercedes Mayol Lassalle, OMEP World President

Dear colleagues,

OMEP members are deeply saddened by the catastrophic rains and floods of the past week. Many lives have been lost and the survival and well-being of countless children and communities in different countries around the world, especially in Bulgaria, Spain, Turkey, Greece, Hong Kong, and Brazil, have been profoundly affected in recent days.

OMEP will continue to act tirelessly, based on global solidarity, for a transformative change in education and the world, with a clear and urgent message: we must act now to educate from the cradle forming citizens capable of protecting people, all living beings, and saving our planet from the most serious effects of the climate crisis and the consequences of human action based on greed, economic accumulation, increasing inequalities and the excessive exploitation of nature.

We must educate with energy and courage to build an inclusive and just world, based on human rights, peace, and sustainable development so that all societies are able to face with creativity and resilience the global climate, pandemics, and other foreseeable calamities.

As United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged a few days ago, "Let us work to promote the power of universal action, the imperative of justice, and the promise of a better future."

Our love and solidarity for the affected nations.

Mercedes Mayol Lassalle
OMEP World President

Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) Rōpū Report

Tēnā tatou katoa,

It has been sometime since our rōpū has gathered together but for many of us, our August and September commitments as an OMEP Rōpū have been significant.

We were disappointed to have to postpone our June 30th Celebration of Seasons-Winter gathering at MARC Early Learning Centre due to ill health. Our possible replacement date of 29th September is no longer possible so Kerri and Jo hope to have their Celebration of Seasons -presentation around the last week of October post-elections- Spring /Summer?

The last week of August and the first 10 days of September were very busy times for several of our Rōpū members who were involved in the Fiji Early Childhood Teacher Association (FECTA) -

OMEP Fiji – member of the Pacific Islands Nations (PIN) - OMEP Aotearoa Teachers Tour. Many of you were able to answer the call for 20 warm blankets/duvets, baking for the welcome and farewell, as well as for the three or four that stayed over in the Parnell hostel. Special thank you to Meg Moss who was not only able to provide a placement for



two teachers at MARC ELC but also billeted two teachers; thanks to Fiona He who provided centre placements for four teachers at the Lincoln Rd and Browns Rd centres and Kristy and her whanau for the opportunity for Merersiana, Tour Leader to visit a Koru in Ranui. She also provided a play experience workshop. Our rōpū were able to play their part as OMEP Aotearoa members in the success of the Teachers Tour. See the President's Report for full details.

Congratulations

Marina Bachman, whanau and tamariki at Collectively Kids have now published their *Te Tiriti o Waitangi* book for ECE children. Illustrated and 'written' by the tamariki this book is an example of the growing knowledge and commitment to 'live' the Collectively Kids philosophy-

Tamariki has the right to:

- *a peaceful, safe, secure, healthy, socially just, environmentally sustainable present and future*
- *respect, unconditional love/aroha, and an early childhood education that recognises them as active citizens and as active participants with rights and responsibilities.*
- *understand their own heritage and culture within the bicultural heritage of Aotearoa/Nu Tirenī/New Zealand.*

The book is available now from Collectively Kids- \$28.00.

We are looking forward to a social gathering at the end of September to catch-up with members, share photos/experiences from the Fiji OMEP PIN OMEP Aotearoa Tour, and finalise useful advocacy for ECE prior to the elections.

Ngā mihi nui

Nola, Acting Co-ordinator Tamaki Makaurau

Otakāu (Otago) Rōpū Report



On the first of September Otakāu Rōpū met to share dinner and conversation about all things ECE at Emerson's Dunedin. As well as welcoming the first day of spring, there was much for us to celebrate.

Kate McAnelly (front left) has been appointed to CEGAP which stands for Centre design, Environmental factors, and Group size Advisory Panel. CEGAP has been convened as part of the current Early Learning Regulatory Review, in a commitment to enacting Action 1.3 of the Early Learning Action Plan. The purpose of the advisory panel is to "develop guidance for early learning services about centre design, environmental factors, and group size, and how to improve quality standards in this area". Panel members will bring complementary experience and expertise in/across these areas and will

be expected to lead work in their domains of expertise as appropriate. Kate recently completed a PhD which explored how the early childhood learning environment supports the active participation and learning of autistic children. Kate will contribute to CEGAP in the areas of disability, children's rights, and inclusive early childhood education. Work will start soon and is likely to go through until the end of next year. This appointment puts Kate in a position to have a real influence on the learning environments provided for mokopuna.

We were also celebrating the announcement of pay parity for ECE teachers with the provision of funding to match the pay increases won by Kaiako in kindergartens and school. A fantastic win for NZEI Te Riu Roa. While a long-term commitment to pay equity is still needed, this is a step in the right direction. Paula Reynolds (NZEI Te Riu Roa, 3rd back

on the right) also shared that Evolve union members have now begun meetings to vote on their collective agreement offer. This is the first time EVER that a large private ECE provider has entered into bargaining for a collective agreement under NZEI Te Riu Roa.

A great evening was had by all. We will be meeting again in November to discuss our planning and direction for 2024.

*Ngā mihi mahana,
Lianne*

Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington) Rōpū Report

Our Te Whanganui-a-Tara Rōpū contribution is as follows:

We have not had any professional development meetings since June however on Monday 19 September we will be hosting a face to face event with Dr. Sue Cherrington who will be talking about the Ministry of Education-Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga Kōwhiri Whakapae Early Learning Practice and Progress Tools project.

*Thanks
Louise Cole*

News of interest

Mitigating Climate Change as a Child's Right

In 2022 OMEP Aotearoa and OMEP Fiji worked together on an Asia and Pacific Regional Network for EC (ARNEC) project funded by the Bernard van Leer (BvL) Foundation. The amount of funding received into our OMEP Aotearoa bank account was around \$6,500. This project took place between May and October 2022 with a final report sent to both ARNEC and BvL. Glynne Mackey and Diti Hill-Denee led this initiative together with Ufemia Camaitoga from OMEP Fiji and the Fiji Early Childhood Teachers Association (FECTA). Marianne Kayes, Charlotte Robertson, Fiona He, Ulu Nawaqavana plus a large group of early childhood teachers and teacher educators from Fiji were also part of the monthly meetings and discussions. A survey of practising teachers involved even more people in both Fiji and Aotearoa New Zealand. In Fiji a 'Summit Conference', focused on the findings of the climate change project, was organised with about 60 early childhood teachers attending.

Since OMEP is an organisation of volunteers, very little money was spent and, consequently, we have just over \$6,000 in the bank. After asking repeatedly about the use of the funded money following the conclusion of the project, OMEP has finally received permission to spend this money on a climate change video/film focused on the future of our tamariki and their right to have a voice in climate change decision-making. Mitigation, adaptation, resilience, coping with loss and damage are all responses to climate change that require the voice of the tamariki.

While those world leaders who attended the last United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt decided that it was too late for the world to respond with mitigation, OMEP Aotearoa NZ still believes that the hope of mitigation is essential for the future of tamariki now aged under 5 years of age. However, realistically, we must also look deeply at what resilience, adaptation and 'coping with loss and damage' mean for our tamariki who will be the leaders of our society in 30-40 years time. Adapt to what? Is there a limit to human resilience? What will a future of 'coping with loss and damage' look like? What do climate change and the important issue of sustainability mean for early childhood education and early childhood development into 2024 and beyond?

The next step: OMEP Aotearoa NZ would like to continue the focus on **mitigating climate change as a child's right** into 2024, by creating a video documentary that champions the voices and actions of our youngest citizens. We are looking for early childhood teachers with an active knowledge of climate change, sustainability, and the technical skills to create a video costing around \$5,000. We realise we may have to pay for someone to collate the final product. However, in the first instance, we need to korero/talanoa/hold discussions with passionate and committed people who have an interest in promoting climate change as a central issue in the present and future lives of our youngest tamariki.

The next UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28) takes place between November 30 and December 12, 2023 in Dubai.

*Nāku noa nā,
Diti Hill-Denee
(ditihd@gmail.com)*

Make Your Vote a Vote for Children - SCF campaign:

[Vote for Children 2023](#)

Our five for children this Election 2023

The issues for tamariki, young people and their whānau are numerous and have serious impacts on their lives. Many are issues children themselves have told us about – such as the need for affordable and healthy homes or greater food security – while others, such as a lack of income adequacy particularly for specific groups of children, are systemic and wide-reaching.

By listening to and responding to the voices of children and young people and in recognition of the challenges facing children in Aotearoa, we've developed five key asks to all political parties that directly uphold children's rights and support their wellbeing now and in the future.

Click on the link if you'd like to read more details about these key asks!

1. Climate Action now for **[Sustainable Future](#)**
2. An **[Affordable and Healthy Home](#)** for Every Child
3. Lift the rate of the **[Child Disability Allowance](#)**
4. Continued and sustained funding for Ka Ora Ka Ako – **[Healthy School Lunches Programme](#)**
5. Access to quality and affordable early childhood education **[SCF campaign for children](#)** for all children up to 6 years of age.

DOWNLOAD ALL FIVE ASKS

New! UN CRC General Comment No. 26 on children's rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change

Links to share:

Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/PeaceMovementAotearoa/posts/704127785077690> Tweet, <https://twitter.com/PeaceMovementA/status/1698844889331765462>

Last week, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child released the new General Comment No. 26 on children's rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change. General Comment 26 (CRC/C/GC/26) elaborates the rights in the Convention on the Rights of the Child that are already breached or under threat due to climate change. It confirms that children have a right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. It clarifies the obligations of States and the role of the business sector. It also makes child-specific recommendations for mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and climate finance.

"The extent and magnitude of the triple planetary crisis, comprising the climate emergency, the collapse of biodiversity and pervasive pollution, is an urgent and systemic threat to children's rights globally. The unsustainable extraction and use of natural resources, combined with widespread contamination through pollution and waste, have had a profound impact on the natural environment, fuelling climate change, intensifying the toxic pollution of water, air and soil, causing ocean acidification and devastating biodiversity and the very ecosystems that sustain all life.

The efforts of children to draw attention to these environmental crises created the motivation and were the momentum behind the present general comment. The Committee benefited immeasurably from the contributions of children at its 2016 day of general discussion on children's rights and the environment. A diverse and dedicated children's advisory team, comprising 12 advisors of between 11 and 17 years of age, supported the consultation process undertaken for the general comment, with 16,331 contributions from children, from 121 countries, through online surveys, focus groups and in-person national and regional consultations.

The children consulted reported on the negative effects of environmental degradation and climate change on their lives and communities. They asserted their right to live in a clean, healthy and sustainable environment: "The environment is our life." "Adults [should] stop making decisions for the future they won't experience. [We] are the key means [of] solving climate change, as it is [our] lives at stake." "I would like to tell [adults] that we are the future generations and, if you destroy the planet, where will we live?!"

Child human rights defenders, as agents of change, have made historic contributions to human rights and environmental protection. Their status should be recognized, and their demands for urgent and decisive measures to tackle global environmental harm should be realized." - from the General Comment 26 (CRC/C/GC/26) Introduction, you can read the full document at [MailScanner has detected a possible fraud attempt from "i.facebook.com" claiming to be http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/crc.htm](http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/crc.htm)

Peace Movement Aotearoa's submission on the draft General Comment, which focused on the impacts of armed conflict and military activities on children's rights and the environment, and on climate change, is available at [MailScanner has detected a possible fraud attempt from "i.facebook.com" claiming to be http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/crc.htm](http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/crc.htm) along with the links to all the submissions.

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Peace Movement Aotearoa

the national networking peace organisation

PO Box 9314, Wellington 6141, Aotearoa New Zealand

Tel +64 4 382 8129, email icanz@xtra.co.nz

[@PeaceMovementA http://www.converge.org.nz/pma](http://www.converge.org.nz/pma)

<https://www.facebook.com/PeaceMovementAotearoa>

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Elections 2023

See link below for the various political parties' responses to questions put to them by CRAANZ (the Children's Rights Alliance Aotearoa NZ) of which OMEP is a member:

[Tick4Kids scorecard 2023 Elections](#)

The Margaret Blackwell Fellowship has returned for 2023

The Margaret M Blackwell Travel Fellowship is for people working in early childhood education. The Fellowship is awarded annually to the value of \$20,000 and is intended to enable the recipient to travel overseas to gain further experience and subsequently to disseminate that information for the benefit of early childhood education in New Zealand.

NZCER, administrator of the Fellowship, is now welcoming applications for 2023. To apply, please send the below items (full details on what to include are in the documents at the bottom of this page) to comms@nzcer.org.nz.

- A covering letter or email with your personal information
- A statement about how you would use the Fellowship
- A brief curriculum vitae
- A reference
- Signed agreement

Applications must be received by 5pm on Thursday, October 12.

Please note that travel undertaken with the Fellowship should occur within 12 months of the awarding date. **Read about [past holders](#) of the Fellowship** to get an idea of the research that has been supported in the past.

The Fellowship is available to early childhood education practitioners in New Zealand

The Fellowship is awarded annually. It is for a travel period of up to three months but for not less than six weeks. The award is for up to \$20,000 and is for travel and accommodation. The Fellowship is open to current practitioners in the broad field of early childhood education in New Zealand. Those eligible to apply are:

1. Teachers, supervisors and workers from all sectors of early childhood education
2. Lecturers in appropriate disciplines in tertiary institutions.
3. Ministry of Education personnel and those in an education agency, working in early childhood education.

The travel study Fellowship is offered for the purposes of:

1. Preserving the memory of Margaret May Blackwell as an early childhood educator of note.

Notices

Congratulations!

Newly elected candidates for the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER) editorial board: The link to OMEP is that 3 members from the Early Education Federation were able to cast a vote. One of these was Diti Hill-Denee an OMEP member of EEF. The other two members of EEF came from Te Rito Maioha and NZEI. Bronwen Cowie and Mere Skerrett have a strong foundation of early childhood research experience.

2. Promoting ongoing study and research of the development, practice, organisation, and philosophy of early childhood education;
3. Providing opportunity to study in other countries, in areas of interest with relevance, national significance and benefit to New Zealand;
4. Permitting people of calibre and expertise in the area of early childhood education to have the opportunity to travel and to study overseas.

The criteria for selection will include:

1. Extent to which the area of interest is relevant to early childhood education in New Zealand. The applicant needs to provide a clear rationale for the choice of topic and country or countries.
2. Extent to which the activities to be undertaken while overseas are worthwhile and relevant.
3. Potential for benefit to the early childhood education sector in New Zealand, including quality of plans for dissemination.
4. Applicant has relevant experience in the topic area and demonstrated ability to gain professional benefit from the Fellowship.

Please submit inquiries via email to: comms@nzcer.org.nz

Margaret Blackwell Fellowship - Application Documents

See:

<https://www.nzcer.org.nz/fellowships/blackwell>

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

Follow us on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/omepaotearoanewzealand>

Website: <http://omepaotearoa.org.nz>

Email: omepaotearoa@gmail.com