Connecting Children to the Atelier of Nature:
Tuho no ana tamariki ki te taiao

When NATURE is seen as an atelier, rich in resources, it comes alive as a physical reality; a place for people—children and adults—to ‘be’ in nature.

This conference invites participants to appreciate the realm of possibilities that nature in the wild offers and to experience its seasonal rituals.

Venue: Te Anau, Fiordland Community Events Centre and Ivon Wilson Park

Dates: 9th—12th April 2015

Speakers: Claire Maley-Shaw and an Atelierista and Pedagogista from Reggio Emilia

Cost: $545—Early bird before 1st February 2015

$630—Full price after 1st February 2015

Transport available from Queenstown airport to Te Anau

Conference Dinner Saturday 11th April

Accommodation available with many price related options

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For more information and to register visit:

www.reanz.org

In an age of concern for the environment many questions are being asked. Are children losing touch with nature? Are children seeing and hearing about important aspects and issues of life on a screen or from a vehicle in abstracted ways, rather than experiencing them directly in a ‘green space’? Rebuilding children’s relationships with nature is a crucial step in fostering an ethos of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) for our environment. Kaitiakitanga is the foundation of an ‘education for survival’ (Moss 2010). Pelo (2013) suggests that a pedagogy of looking and listening requires the disposition to see. She says that, to see with an open heart, a curious mind and a humble spirit reflects and sustains a particular way of understanding one’s relationship to the natural world and one’s role in it.

“When we strengthen in children the disposition to participate fully in the majesty and the delicacy of the natural world, we strengthen such a capacity in ourselves, and we learn alongside children how to be ecologically literate” (p.47).