



## Karakia Timatanga - REANZ Opening Incantation

E te whānau

Whāia te mātauranga kia mārama

Kia whai take ngā mahi tatou katoa

Tū māia, tū kaha

Aroha atu, aroha mai

Tātou ia tātou katoa

To the family

Seek knowledge for understanding

Have purpose in all that we do

Stand tall, be strong

Let us show love and respect

For each other

Haumi e, hui e: tāike e!

## A Timely Reminder

In our May newsletter we opened with comments about how we are not out of the woods yet with Covid. Well that has certainly proved true hasn't it! It's been a wake up call and reminded us of how precious and precarious our freedom is in these troubled times. We have so much to be grateful for and stopping and pausing everyday to think about our lives, our precious family and friends and others around us that might need a smile or helping hand, supports us to have a positive outlook.

Suspending judgement is critical in our work and especially at these times that we find ourselves in.

## As we move forward...

The REANZ Trustees want to make a positive difference to the lives of teachers and children. In this newsletter you can read more about

- REANZ Zoom Learning Community: Inviting encounters, transforming thought. Conversations online with Dr Anne Meade; 14th October.
- The online Study Group
- Unpacking The ToolBox. A resource from Reggio Children available for a very reasonable price of \$110 by contacting [reanztreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:reanztreasurer@gmail.com)
- The Courage to Listen Differently; Kirsty Liljegren and Fiona Zinn. [www.reanz.org/events](http://www.reanz.org/events) An online 2 part Encounter
- Wendy Larmer Memorial Award - closing 31 August 2021
- News from REAIE - "Landscapes of relationships: Inspiration, exchange and dialogue for the future of childhood". Notes from their recent online research symposium

And More ....

## Ariadne's Thread

(Rinaldi,C.(2006) Dialogue with Reggio Emilia, p54-55)

Ariadne's Thread' is a metaphor for the great and fundamental role played by the teacher- by teachers in general and by the teachers in Reggio in particular; a metaphor for the teacher's task of giving orientation, meaning and value to the experience of schools and children (a way out of the 'labyrinth').

Teachers are seen as those who hold the thread, who construct and constitute the interweavings and connections, the web of relationship, to transform them into significant experiences of interaction and communication".

## REANZ Learning Community ...

**"REANZ Zoom Learning Community: Inviting Encounters, Transforming Thought." Conversations online with Dr Anne Meade and Rachel Dennee,**

Anne and Rachel are hosting the REANZ zoom learning community, free, once every two months (approximately) on Thursday night. We send out a reading by email the week before, and then host an hour-long reflective conversation over zoom. We have had a rich mix in the group, including experienced and less experienced primary and ECE teachers, academics, REANZ Trustees, REANZ Network committee members and other readers of Reggio material who want to participate. The conversation has been lively and interesting, and we encourage any interested people to join!

**Register free** for a lively dialogue on Zoom for an hour at **7.00pm on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> October**. New and continuing participants? Email your expression of interest to: [Racheldennee@gmail.com](mailto:Racheldennee@gmail.com) by 5.00pm, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

We will reply with a Zoom invitation *and* a copy of the reading for the month. Please make time to read it before the zoom conversation. Note, the October conversation will be the last for this year, we will take a summer break and start again in February 2022.

### Kirsty Liljegren and Fiona Zinn 'The Courage to Listen Differently'

**This series of two webinars and follow up conversations** is an opportunity to reflect on the critical role of listening and how this permeates the everyday choices we make when we work with children. Kirsty and Fiona will draw on the thinking of the Reggio Emilia Approach alongside their personal perspectives which hold listening at the heart of practice.

Fiona and Kirsty are long standing committee members of Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange and have experience in teaching in early childhood and primary schools. Their expertise as professional development facilitators of the pedagogy of Reggio Emilia, is known both internationally and here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

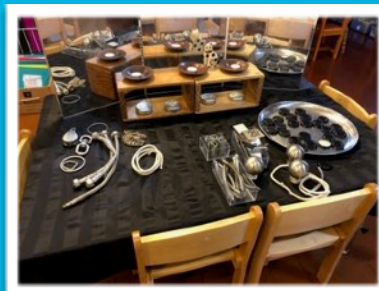
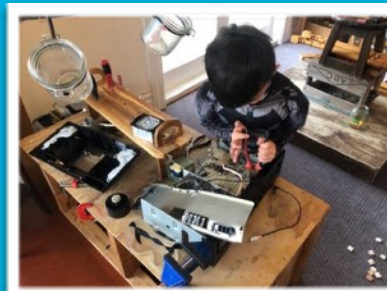
#### Calendar of Events:

The first of two webinars is still **now available** online at [www.reanz.org](http://www.reanz.org) for your viewing, **until October**. The first online conversation we had was a great success and we encourage you to join the next one!

**Monday 30th August:** The second webinar will be available online here for viewing, **available for four months after this date**.

**Tuesday 21st September:** Second live conversation to conclude the series, 7pm to 8pm NZ time. If you have registered, you will be sent details.

To participate in the live, online conversations, you must register by emailing [reanztrust@gmail.com](mailto:reanztrust@gmail.com). The webinars are available on the website for anyone to view free of charge - a gift from REANZ to you: [reanz.org/events](http://reanz.org/events). The REANZ Trustees look forward to seeing you 'online'.





## Wendy Larmer Memorial Award

Details: \$1,000 will be awarded to the recipient, to be used within a year from the date it is awarded. The money is to be used for Reggio-inspired professional learning and development either in Aotearoa or overseas. The amount applied for should be identifiable (e.g. registration fees, travel costs, etc.) Remember applications close on August 31st. Follow the link to find out more; <https://www.reanz.org/wendy-larmer-award>

## News from the International Network: Reggio Children

The Reggio Children International Network has held two meetings this year via Zoom; firstly in February and again in June. These virtual meetings make it possible for more Networks to participate, although the time difference from country to country is challenging for many. During the February meeting Claudia Giudici -President of Reggio Children, Cristian Fabbi - President of the Istituto Infanzia and preschools, Nando Rinaldi- Director of the Istituto, and Lucca Vecchi - Mayor of Reggio Emilia, all spoke sharing the numerous and onerous challenges and responsibilities they face as leaders and citizens coming into 2021. They stressed it was time to move forward, to be creative, to be lateral in thinking and to find new foundations of hope!

Claudia opened the June meeting by reinforcing the importance of working together and the significance of the close relationship that exists between Reggio Children and members of the Network. She stressed their need for the Networks to work in collaboration with Reggio Children to disseminate information and professional learning. She spoke of the impact the global pandemic had on suspending all their plans and the 'stunning, numbing' effect this had on them. Coming from this was a digital ecosystem that gave way to the processes of innovation ie, online activities and possibilities. Claudia stressed one of their objectives was to maintain the quality of the Municipality preschools and infant toddler centres and to continue to hold the values of the educational project as a reference point. Reggio Children must retain its mission, to defend, promote and disseminate the Reggio Emilia Approach - a producer of culture and learning, connected to social transformation.

For wonderful professional learning opportunities visit [reggiochildren.org](http://reggiochildren.org). There are live webinars and other events that you can watch at your convenience on your own or with teaching colleagues. 'Making Learning Visible - children as individual and group learners (2004)' is an excellent book and a great read. Each chapter is written by a different author and coupled with photos that discusses the teaching and learning processes of children and teachers.

**Lorraine Manuela. REANZ International Network Representative**

## International Digital Study Group - Reggio Children

Lis Lewis, a REANZ Trustee joined the online Study Group from Reggio Children over June - July this year and shares her encounter on the REANZ website; <https://www.reanz.org/blog> Lis explains that the Study Group began by focussing on the history, in order to put context on the 'when' and 'why' the pedagogical pathway was laid in this town in Italy, Reggio Emilia. She shares that this approach belongs to the city, to the people of the city. It is not the Loris Malguzzi Approach but was born out of and grew from the city's experiences, values, political views and ethics, particularly with respect to women and children of the city. Read more from Lis' insights at

<https://www.reanz.org/blog>



## A Special Relationship with our Sister Group - REAIE

We value our friendship and relationship with Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange. REAIE is also an International member of Reggio Children, as is REANZ. We encourage friends of REANZ to become a member of REAIE as there are many opportunities for excellent web based professional learning encounters and newsletters. You will also receive their high quality publication called The Challenge. Great articles for thinking about practice.

**Here is a report from Dr Anne Meade who attended the REAIE July '21 Research Symposium**

### **“Landscapes of relationships: Inspiration, exchange and dialogue for the future of childhood”**

The online research symposium celebrated the 25-year relationship between Australia and Reggio Emilia. The Keynote Speaker was Claudia Giudici, President of Reggio Children, who first spoke about them trying to imagine new ways “to hold the world together” in the pandemic and about feeling responsible for being a reference point for people “to have a vision for a different way for children’s education, to think better for children.”

Claudia’s keynote was *The right to research in education*. Her address was in two parts:

- 1.How research is foundational for what adults do in Reggio infant toddler centres and preschools; not in the sense of doing or using academic research to prove something, but rather educators’ pedagogy involves researching along with children’s research.
- 2.Sharing insights from joint research by Reggio Children and the University of Modena, where she is a professor. Their premise: children work with visual and oral metaphors in constructing knowledge. They found that children often see humour in creating metaphors; they’re multiplying knowledges; and they choose metaphors to get others to listen to them, e.g., “Look, the tree hairdressers have come!” (An arborist had arrived to trim the trees.)

I loved the way the Symposium breakout ‘rooms’ were true to the three themes:

- Inspiration* (drawing inspiration and insights from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders);
- Exchange* (drew inspiration from Malaguzzi’s words that “learning and teaching should not stand on opposite banks ...but should embark together through active, reciprocal exchange”. Our Australian visitors to NZ, Stefania Giamminuti, on ateliers, and Chris Celada and Margo Hobba, on material experiences, were some of the presenters;
- Dialogue* (shaped by Paola Cagliari’s words, “As educators, our role is to see dialogue not only as an exchange but a process of transformation”). Sessions focused on infants and toddlers, a parent’s perspective and a primary school’s research.

Symposium registrants had six weeks to view ‘room’ sessions on-line. The creative approaches taken by presenters was engaging – visuals were foregrounded, and ‘talking heads’ and text slides were the exception, resulting in memorable professional learning. Congratulations REAIE.



## Around The Regions

**In this segment we spotlight one of our Regional Networks**

### **REANZ South**

On Saturday 7 August we had the privilege of hosting Lisa Terreni from Wellington and her inspiring workshop **“Enriching your Curriculum using construction, drawing and animation.”** Kaiako came from all over our REANZ South area including Stewart Island, Invercargill, Kaitangata, Dunedin and Arrowtown.

This was so much fun involving creativity, imagination and collaboration to construct a city made up of iconic structures from a place that had special significance to each person. This resulted in a very interesting construction of a city with structures made from cardboard boxes from all of these places.

Then the city came alive! Using the app Stop Motion Studio participants were able to use animation as a tool to bring alive their constructions. Kaiako went home buzzing with enthusiasm for their new learning and with many ideas for where to next.

**We thoroughly recommend this workshop to other networks.**



**From your town to ours, we send you blessings of all the things that you need to get through these troubled times.**

**Stay Calm and Carry On!**

**Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui - REANZ Trustees**