



REANZ: Reggio Emilia Aotearoa New Zealand

The Beginning of a New Year

‘Titiro whakamuri. Kōkiri whakamua’.

‘Look back and reflect so you can move forward’.

The REANZ Trustees wish you all the very best for the year ahead. We hope you have had time to think about the past year and to identify what you would like to achieve in 2024. For some it will be a time of change and consolidation, and for others new beginnings.

Many early childhood centres, and a growing number of schools in Aotearoa New Zealand, base their philosophy on the pedagogy of Reggio Emilia. The New Year is a good opportunity to undertake a ‘stocktake’ of whether your philosophy and the ‘local curriculum’ that you weave around this philosophy, is a living and vibrant entity. It is essential that the teachers in an educational setting have a collective knowledge of what the values and beliefs that underpin the pedagogy are. Professional development is the key to creating a collective knowledge base that can open up rich dialogue that brings commitment and enthusiasm to the ‘everyday’ of teachers’ lives.

Each time we undertake professional learning, we layer our knowledge and this enables us to go deeper. Having a plan in place ensures teachers have a clear vision, with steps set out to achieve the vision.

Early in the New Year, the REANZ Trustees met online to re visit the REANZ Strategic direction and also prepare Annual plans for 2024. This newsletter will highlight the Professional learning opportunities we are planning for 2024.

“Transformative change happens when it is explicit - it’s a change of a mindset that is achieved by challenging assumptions. Surfacing ideas and misconceptions... and discussing the undiscussable.”

Niho Taniwha: Improving Teaching and Learning for Ākonga Māori.

Dr Melanie Riwai-Couch

Looking Ahead: 2024 Professional Learning Opportunities

Unpacking an Inquiry - Coronavirus. A global Pandemic explored by 4 and 5 year olds. A wonderful example of teachers and children as researchers.

Saturday 23 March. 9.30 - 12pm. Option 1: \$55.pp (incl gst). Option 2:\$75. With book.

Peacocks Stonefield. 31 Purchase Hill Drive. Stonefields. Auckland.

Laura Magnavacchi, Atelierista and Prue Crarer, Pedagogista from Peacocks ELC, will step us through this inquiry, sharing the children's theories and the decisions made by the teachers as they created shared meaning. Participants will also have the opportunity to visit the centre. Click [HERE](#) to register

Introduction to the pedagogy of Reggio Emilia. A 2 part Webinar Series - 7th March and Thursday 28th March. 7 - 8.30pm. \$25 per person or \$100 for 5 teachers from one centre.

The webinar will include presentations, stories and some shared discussion and will be facilitated by, Diti Hill-Denee, Lorraine Manuela and Dr Rachel Denee. To begin your journey into gaining an understanding of the Principles of Reggio pedagogy please click [HERE](#).

Online Learning Community Conversation

These three online conversations through the year are **free to join**. A reading is sent to you a week before the conversation and used as the catalyst for the discussion. These conversations have been very popular and we are looking forward to you joining us. To register, email reanztrust@gmail.com

Thursday 30 May. 7 - 8pm

Thursday 25 July. 7 - 8pm

Thursday 26th September. 7 - 8pm

Collectively Creative - Presenter: Kirsty Liljegren

Kirsty is well know to us here in Aotearoa New Zealand. She comes with a wealth of knowledge and her seminars are always engaging and informative. The May dates for the full day and evening workshops are below and a full flyer is at the end of this newsletter. The workshops are based on a series of booklets that have been created by Kirsty and Kelly Goodsir of the **'Creative Collective'**.

This hands on workshop will combine theory and practice to inspire and engage hearts and minds.

Christchurch - Saturday 4th May. 9.00am - 3.00pm. Bromley School. 33 Keighleys Rd, Bromley. \$190.pp incl gst

Wellington - Tuesday 7th May. 5.30 - 9.00pm. Northland School. Corner Harbourview Rd Northland.
\$90.pp (incl gst).

Palmerston North - Thursday 9th May. 5.30 - 9.00pm. \$90.pp (incl gst). Venue TBC.

Auckland - Saturday 11th May. 9.00am - 3.00pm. Hauraki Primary School. 82 Jutland Rd, Takapuna.
\$190.pp (incl gst)

The flyer that is also attached to this email, provides further information. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Professional Learning Opportunities

The Many Faces of the Assembly - Created by Reggio Children Facilitated Exploration of the Digital Toolbox



Come and explore the digital toolbox with explanations and stories from Lorraine Manuela and other Trustees, sharing ways the resources in the Toolbox can be used to spark stimulating professional reflection and learning in your centre or school.

As workshop participants delve into the resources in the Toolbox, we will share and support reflections and discussions about the potential for the Reggio Emilia Approach to enrich our practice in Aotearoa.

Workshops are being offered to all REANZ Networks in March, April and September.

Keep a lookout for more detailed information on dates and times.

Or, uniquely designed sessions can be negotiated for your teaching team.

Contact Lorraine at lorrainemanuela7@gmail.com

Reggio Emilia Italy Study Tour 11th - 20th, April 2024

Last chance to register but you need to be in quick. VERY limited spaces available.

Please contact Helen Aitken; hmaitken@gmail.com for further information.

More Information at www.reanz.org.

Melbourne Study Tour 2024 Tuesday 3rd - Saturday 7th September

This study tour will be led by Lorraine Manuela and Kerri Fallon. It combines centre visits and presentations to make it a positive way of seeing Reggio pedagogy that has been interpreted in educational spaces in another cultural setting. You will find further details in the flier attached to this email. Click [HERE](#) or use the link **in the flier attached**, to register or go to www.reanz.org for further information.

The Wendy Larmer Memorial Award

It is with pleasure that we announce that the Janine Lovegrove is the recipient of the Wendy Larmer memorial award. Janine is a pedagogical leader and teacher at two centres in Hamilton. Janine intends using her award to engage in professional learning opportunities in Aotearoa. Congratulations!

Thank you to all those who applied. It wasn't an easy decision!



Reggio Emilia Aotearoa New Zealand (REANZ) has created the Wendy Larmer Memorial Award in memory of Wendy's strong passion for the Reggio Approach and her many years of commitment to the REANZ Trust. Wendy passed away in December 2020 after a distinguished career in early childhood education; teacher, centre owner, Ministry of Education Senior Advisor, REANZ Trustee and Chairperson.

Interesting Blog Sites to Visit

Diane Kashin has long been a positive influence in the early childhood world. Her blog '**Technology Rich Inquiry Based Research**' has many valuable articles that are short and sharp and full of deep thinking.

Sadly, Diana passed away at the end of last year and we pay tribute to her contributions to early childhood education, over many years of her life. We pass on our thoughts to her family and friends. Her blog and the articles are available here; <https://tecribresearch.blog/>

The blog '**Constant Conversations - Unpacking Pedagogy**' has lots of short readings to dip into. The article entitled 'Discovering Depth; Planning with Children's Interests, Concepts and their Theories', is well worth a read. It suggests that there exists a risk in this approach that may lead to a lack of focus, clarity and depth. Check this blog here ... <https://unpackingourpedagogy.blogspot.com>

Books from the REANZ Library

The REANZ library has a number of fabulous books for you to borrow: Check the books available and the instructions about how to order them, from the website; www.reanz.org

REANZ Trustees

Chairperson - Helen Aitken

Secretary - Chris Bayes

Treasurer - Karen Liley

Kaiarahi - Brenda Soutar

Patron - Dr Anne Meade

Reggio Children International Network Representative - Lorraine Manuela

Trustees; Diti Hill, Rachel Dennee, Kerri Fallon, Michelle Doherty, Logan Burson, Chrissy Lepper, Lindi Newth.

Wishing you all a positive start to the New Year. From the REANZ Trustees

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui

The REANZ Trustees

Check out our website; www.reanz.org Be in touch; reanz@gmail.com