



REANZ: Reggio Emilia Aotearoa New Zealand

*Au ana ko te noho tahitanga
O nga whānau, o ngā tuakana
Me ngā teina I roto I te whāriki
ngahere
Ara, ka puawai ngā tamariki a
Matariki*

*Māhia ngā mahi o ngā tamariki
Hei āpōpō ka tū
Hei rangatira*

*Peaceful earthy colours from the forest weave a mat
For the koru frond to rest upon,
smaller koreu are securely nestled.
From this embrace stars burst forth to realize their
potential. Fulfill the needs of our children and
tomorrow
they stand strong.*

(International Children's Day)

Trying times...

As the Covid journey continues across Aotearoa New Zealand; in the towns, the cities, in centres and schools that you are teaching in, we extend to you our positive thoughts that we will be able to look forward with hope and more certainty in the not too distant future.

The war in the Ukraine has added to our feelings of uncertainty as we have watched the scenes of horror every night on television and on our online feeds. These have left us unsettled with feelings of hopelessness and questions of how we can make a positive contribution.

Our work with children using the Principles of Te Whāriki and the pedagogy of Reggio Emilia as our compass, encourages us to work in ways that support children to think, feel and show respect to others.

Words from Malaguzzi that
are so pertinent today

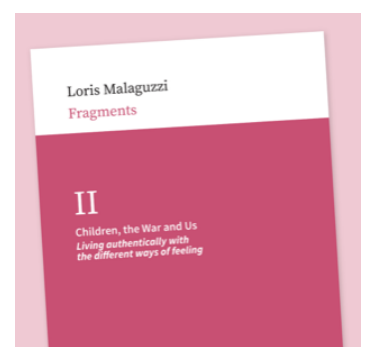
*“Children are at the
window with adults. And
the world and this human
adventure and all it
contains flows past in the
street. War is occupying all
our streets. The humanities
greatest profanity, this
ordeal with no return...
Children are watching and
watching us.”*

. Children, The War and us.
Ebook. Fragments Vol II



Take care of
our children.
Take care of
what they
hear, take care
of what they
see, take care
of what they
feel. For how
the children
grow, so will be
the shape of
Aotearoa.

Dame Whina Cooper
Photographer: Michael
Tubberty



A Message for Loris Malaguzzi on the occasion of his birthday

Our sister group, Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange, asked REANZ to share thoughts about the impact that Loris Malaguzzi has had on New Zealand Teachers.

This is what we shared

Loris, I hope you don't mind us calling you that, but it's just that you seem like such a close friend to us all, here in Aotearoa, New Zealand, a place so far away from Italy. It's hard to comprehend the huge impact your presence in Reggio Emilia has had on our lives and given us hope for the future of children throughout the world.

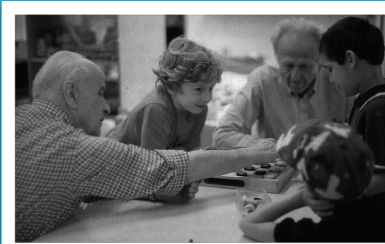
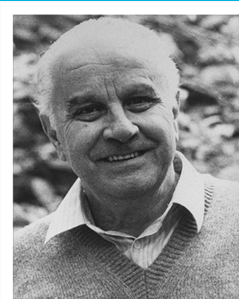
One of the impacts has been the friendship that we have nurtured with colleagues in Australia, and in particular the impact of your teachings on the work we have come to value and learn from the schools in Melbourne. The relationships we have enjoyed with others in Reggio Emilia and around the world through your teachings has taught us that the world is a small place and the impact each of us has on our world to make positive change, is big.

You have changed our perspective on how children learn, their capacity for understanding and creating knowledge. You have changed our understanding of ourselves as teachers, friends and colleagues who know the importance of working with children and teaching in connected ways.

You helped us discover that listening to children gives us a real feeling of responsibility and solidarity. The head, the heart, the soul, the body. A hundred worlds to invent, a hundred dreams, a hundred joys. You have given us this. Hope for a better world.

We have learnt the positive power of change, reciprocity, relationship that comes together in a pedagogy of care and respect.

*Images of Loris
Malaguzzi
1920 - 1964*



An excerpt from the book *Children, the War and Us*. Loris Malaguzzi, *Fragments II*. Pg 21.

One of the worst thing we can do faced with an event of this kind is to try and look for a way out or suppress it in an opportunist or pragmatic way, silence the event for ourselves and the children.

The biggest mistake we can make is to grit our teeth in silence to save the children. We need to speak with children, talk to them, and above all give responses to the questions they ask, and questions they probably will *not* ask but will feel, and which will emerge in their play-acting, non-conventional languages, and their verbal languages etc.

REANZ online Learning Community 2022 Children Connecting with Nature

In 1988, Loris Malaguzzi wrote about **the rights of all children to an ecological identity**, the right to become “a human being who is no longer separated, no longer opposed, no longer divided, but fused with the dimensions and meaning of nature.”

**REANZ's first online learning community conversation is on
Thursday 31 March; 7 - 8.00pm**

Anne Meade, Rachel Dennee and Diti Hill-Dennee will facilitate this reflective conversation on Zoom. Full details on the flier attached to this email.



On NOT Being a Reggio Centre

REANZ is an International member of Reggio Children, and this brings with it privileges and responsibilities. One of those responsibilities lies in ensuring that the brand 'Reggio Emilia' is used by centres who portray the principles of Reggio pedagogy in authentic and respectful ways.

So many early childhood centres promote their curriculum as being informed and inspired by Reggio pedagogy. They use this as a marketing tool, and yet so often there is no evidence of this in the teachers' practice.

Some centres state that they are a 'Reggio centre', although this cannot be, as Reggio centres only exist in Reggio Emilia, Italy. There are other centres who state that 'we do Reggio at certain times during the day', or 'in the morning or afternoon'. These statements show how little is understood about the pedagogy of Reggio Emilia.

What would a person coming into your centre using a 'Reggio Lens' see as evidence that the philosophy of the centre reflects the practice?

A question that needs to be asked is; 'what does 'being inspired by the pedagogy of Reggio Emilia' mean in practice? How will it be evident if a centre culture and curriculum is informed by Reggio pedagogy?

For starters, most of the teachers will have an understanding of what the principles of the Reggio pedagogy are and these values will be evident in their everyday interactions with children. Teachers will be actively engaged in professional learning that supports them alongside their colleagues to delve deeper into this way of thinking. There will be a clear pathway in the professional learning programme of the centre, that sets out a map to ensure teachers are working to 'make meaning' of this way of working together.

There will be a culture of research and documenting children's and teachers' learning through listening, observation and dialogue.

To delve deeply into Reggio pedagogy will need a financial and time commitment from management and teachers. Reggio Children (reggiochildren.it) offer excellent online professional learning opportunities and REANZ is looking forward to being able to participate in study tours to Reggio Emilia next year.

REANZ (reanz.org) has online professional learning that we offer and Reggio Emilia Australia International Exchange (reggioaustralia.org.au), our sister group is another excellent source of professional learning.

We invite management and teachers to undertake a review of the centre philosophy statement and the content of the curriculum that is provided to ensure that the marketing material used to attract parents and teachers to the centre, accurately reflects the reality of the curriculum being provided.

We would love to hear how this progresses and, as always, a review such as this, is a great starting point for planning a robust professional development programme.

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

Reggio Children International Network Meeting

Lorraine Manuela is the Representative for REANZ on the Reggio Children International Network. She recently attended a meeting with other representatives online. Here are some notes from this meeting.

The Mayor of Reggio Emilia, Lucca Vecchi, opened the meeting highlighting the 60 year investment the Municipality of Reggio Emilia has made in the Infant Toddler Centres and Preschools. Emphasising the need to be creative, just as children like to explore and investigate new areas so too must the RC International Network. He said, “ we hope to work in synergy in an innovative way, and in a more effective way with more effective collaboration and synthesis.”

He stressed the importance of working for the culture of childhood, for the rights of children, in solidarity with children and this can only be done in a world based on peace.

The European Unions Declaration on child rights has initiated a new role in the region of Emilia Romana, The Guarantor, the Safeguardador of children rights and young peoples rights. Claudia Giudici has been appointed to this new role, with Cristian Fabbi taking over her role as President of Reggio Children.

Fabbi concluded his speech saying, “we know pedagogy and education are political and at times of great anguish and angst throughout our various communities. We feel that our city and the community that is connected with our city, the world feels the need for a message, a strong message of reassurance, a message of peace, a message of safeguarding, and protecting the rights of children. And of human beings. And so to send a strong message using all our strengths together from the city and from Reggio Children and the Network to the world.

The right for children to be citizens and have citizenship. The right of children to citizenship means that they have the right to knowledge, the right to participation, the right to have words.”.

Together we are capable of going beyond borders beyond the confines of where we live. And this dialogue, these dialogues that we have had, the dialogues that we will continue to have will take us across borders to meet each other.

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Professional Learning opportunities online at
<https://www.reggiochildren.it/en/>

Reggio Emilia Exhibitions

You can also take a walk through and browse these exhibitions on the Reggio Children website here

<https://www.reggiochildren.it/en/exhibitions/>

Some days there seems like too many unsurmountable obstacles standing in front of us. The only way forward is to keep our relationships with each other strong and to reach out to pedagogy that is uplifting and gives us joy. Nothing without joy!

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui. The REANZ Trustees