

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



OAMARU KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION
209-211 THAMES STREET
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Oamaru Kindergarten Association Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2020

If you have any questions or need some more information feel free to contact the OKA:

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**Want more
info?**

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GENERAL DETAILS

OFFICERS

President	Rosalie Hyslop
Vice President	Jill Henderson
Board Member - Finance	Stacey Hayes
Board Member	Jo Wilson
Board Member	Sarah Cromwell
Board Member - Co-opted	Sarah Maindonald
Board Member - Teaching and Learning	Mel Read
General Manager	Julie Craig
Senior Teacher - 2020	Sarah Bryce



LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs L Divers	Mrs H Gardiner	Mrs L Gilchrist	Mrs V Laney
Mesdames L Lawrence	Mrs J Moffatt	Mrs M Selman	

RECOGNITION OF LONG SERVICE

OKA acknowledge the following staff for their involvement in OKA for 5 years or more.

5 years or more			10 years or more		20 years or more
Ann Matthews	Mel Read	Shona Familton	Jan Bell	Sue McCone	Fiona Hewett
Fran Downing	Michele Fellows	Sue Mareta-Ria	Julie Craig		
Gillian Rossiter	Sarah Gordon	Tessa Fifita	Lenore Fraser		
Kelly Jones	Sarah Hunter		Sarah Newlands		

KINDERGARTENS

- [Casa Nova Kindergarten](#) - 2 Raglan Street, Oamaru
- [Edna McCulloch Kindergarten](#) - 12 Arun Street, Oamaru
- [Glen Warren – Te Ana a Raki Kindergarten](#) - 38a Torridge Street, Oamaru
- [Holmes Kindergarten](#) - 34a Stuart Street, Oamaru
- [Maheno Kindergarten](#) - 13 Gifford Street, Maheno

AUDITOR

Audit Professionals Limited – Phillip Trounson

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The Association, Board, Kindergarten staff, children, families/whānau and extended communities gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following Grants and Donations:

- Donald and Neylle Malcom Trust
- Inner Wheel Club of Oamaru
- Ministry of Education – Urgent Response Fund
- Network Waitaki
- Oamaru Licensing Trust - for their weekly donations of food
- Rotary Club of Oamaru Trust Inc
- Waitaki District Council – Waste Minimisation Fund
- Waitaki District Council – Community Resilience Fund

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tēnā koutou katoa

And that's a wrap! As I sit here and type this on March 15 2021 and reflect on the year that has been - I can only hope that I will be presenting this report in-person at our AGM and not via Zoom in lockdown conditions like I did last year! What a year 2020 was for everyone; some people loved the opportunity to slow down and stay home, while others found it really challenging and scary. There were no set procedures or plans for a global pandemic at the beginning of last year but there most certainly are now. Our General Manager was kept exceptionally busy from her home-office at this time trying to keep up with the constant changes restricting what we could (and could not) do to function safely. Julie would have just wrapped her head around one set of directives, to have another pop into her inbox – she was a superstar through all of it and I really don't know how Julie managed it physically or mentally but we are extremely grateful she did - she continues to blow us away with what she manages to constantly achieve for the association!

Likewise, I feel extremely proud of the extraordinary teachers in our association who adapted to the ever-changing situations and expectations that 2020 presented them - it was evident how much their amazing connections with ngā tamariki and whanau continued to grow, even in a pandemic - it was awesome seeing the OKA Facebook page fill with kindy-pack deliveries and families learning adventures at home. Thank you to all our incredible OKA staff for their super-human efforts and care in the most extraordinary of times! You are AMAZING!!

Another group of amazing people in our OKA community are the volunteers on our fundraising teams - as a Board, we just wanted to take the time to say a massive thank you for being part of the fundraising team at your kindergarten. We recognise the time and effort that you have put in this year with various fundraising projects and we just wanted to let you know how much it is appreciated! This volunteer work is often 'behind the scenes' and can be a very time consuming and thankless job. We know that the true value of this work, for you, is likely to be the smiles on the kids' faces as they get the cool extras provided for with the funds you have raised. However, we just wanted to let you know that we truly recognise, appreciate and value all the work that you do. The restricted Ministry funding is often hard to spread across all areas and there are often things that we would like to support but funding doesn't quite stretch that far. But, with your support, these extras are often provided and really benefit ngā tamariki.

This year we welcomed Sarah Maindonald onto the OKA board and she has quickly picked up the education acronyms and



lingo and is a very valued part of the team - joining Jill Henderson (Vice-President), Stacey Hayes (Finance Delegate), Mel Read (Teaching and Learning Delegate), Jo Wilson (Board Member) and Sarah Cromwell (Board Member). The OKA board is constantly looking for ways to best service our community. One such initiative is the new kindy bus service which is proving a bit too popular for our original van purchased last year. Due to the popularity and the current restrictions of a smaller bus, obviously this limits the time some children are spending at kindy. So, we are currently working towards securing a bigger bus to ensure that more children are able to be in kindergarten longer as at the moment, Joy our lovely bus driver, is only getting enough time for a quick cuppa between the last of her morning drops offs before afternoon



Rosalie Hyslop
President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

pick-ups begin.

A massive win for the OKA board, and our OKA community, was the securing of funding to employ a Family Support Worker in our association. This has been a passion for us for MANY years as we have watched more families struggle in our OKA community - there seemed like there was a gap for some families that we really wanted to fill. We are thrilled to welcome back Shirley McVie to our Association in this very special role. Shirley has been teaching in our kindy's on-and-off for over 30 years. This new role allows her to provide and facilitate support and parenting education to families whose children are attending any of the OKA kindergartens.

A more personal accomplishment for the OKA board has been our successful transition to going paperless to support the environment. We are now using an online system named Stellar to view our board papers and all our documents. This has been more challenging for some of us, while others took to it with ease, but I bet we have managed to save a tree or two already! With board packs sometimes being 150 pages and there being 8 copies made – so 1200 sheets of paper per meeting just for board papers alone! The new system also means we can access all of our documents such as the strategic plan, policies, procedures, NZK communications, meeting minutes (to name a few) at any time on our phones or our laptops.

Sadly, we farewell Jo Wilson this year. Jo has been on the board for 3 years and she will be sadly missed. Jo is always smiling and bursting into song, yet she is also someone who contemplates information before she speaks and is a voice of compassion and reason. Jo, we will really miss you round the board table and thank you so much for your service in the OKA. We wish you all the best Jo.

On a national level, the new direction of NZK (New Zealand Kindergartens) is exciting for our Association. NZK CEO Jill Bond has proven herself an excellent leader and is very giving of her time and expertise, she joins us in Oamaru for training with our staff and board members regularly and we are grateful for her honesty, integrity, knowledge and her inspiring growth-mindset. James Patea, NZK President, and the NZK Board have worked exceptionally hard for the growth and kotahitanga (unity and collective action) that they have achieved in this organisation. From stormy waters a few years ago, the seas have settled and the team are powering ahead in forging a united national body of kindergartens who will share resources and knowledge and lobby for our kids in Wellington ensuring the voice of the kindergarten child, their whanau and kaiako are heard.

We are extremely lucky here in OKA to have our GM Julie on this national board and it has been awesome to see Julie flourish in this dynamic and driven space – she has stepped up to every challenge and grows every step of the way. We would like to thank Julie for the time that she gives up for this important role, often away in Wellington away from her family. We know that it has pushed her beyond her comfort zones but definitely not beyond her capabilities, they are lucky to have her on their team!

2020 was one for the books, I will be quite okay with 2021 being far more uneventful thank you very much. But if I am looking for positives among our association - there are many!!!! We have all learnt to use zoom and other technology to stay connected, we have all learnt how amazing kaiako are to be teaching 30+ kids daily (I struggled with 2), we have been reminded that kindness and people matter above 'things' and all else, we have adapted and grown together...

He waka eke noa

We are all in this together

Kia ora! It is an honour to serve the OKA community.

Rosalie Hyslop
OKA President

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Tēnā koutou katoa

2020 was without a doubt a year that just kept on throwing a wide range of challenges at us both personally and professionally. COVID-19 certainly derailed and consumed so much of 2020 and when I went to write this report it felt like 2020, had covered two years not just one.

However, what I have realised is how lucky we were to be in such a privileged position as we continued to be fully funded which allowed us to fully pay our staff, contractors and suppliers. We were able to support our community by buying local, and we were able to put resources in to support kindergarten families in a wide range of ways as we were not having to worry about funding.

I really believe that at Oamaru Kindergarten Association (OKA) we need to stop and be very grateful for this as we are among a small few from the team of 5 million who were not financially impacted during 2020.

GROWING YOUNG LEARNERS

2020, started off with each kindergarten identifying a planned review area. Once again, these were wide ranging and all focused towards meeting a need of their kindergarten and community. These reviews create an opportunity for reflection, learning and if necessary, change. I continue to be inspired by the areas that teams' review and the fact that our teams continue to strengthen and grow their practise to ensure they are offering the best possible learning outcomes for tamariki.

2020, was the beginning of a new way of providing Senior Teacher support across OKA. The focus is about growing teaching and professional practice across the individual kindergartens as well as the Association. Because of this new way of working, we have opened up many opportunities for our teams including working with a wider network of teaching teams. We welcomed Sarah Bryce as our Senior Teacher for 2020, and 2021, and we look forward to seeing where this new and exciting way of working will take us in the future.

STRENGTHEN KINDERGARTEN

With all the challenges COVID-19 presented it was refreshing to still be able to provide some new and exciting initiatives in 2020 which further strengthened Kindergarten and the Association.

The first was the change in the license numbers at Glen Warren Kindergarten. This change was due to the increase in demand for our all-year kindergarten. So, following the suggestion and support of the innovative team at Glen Warren, we increased the number of children per day from 30 to 40. This has allowed OKA to support more families to engage with Kindergarten and has reduced the barrier for a number of families due to the Kindergarten being open all year. Thank you to the Glen Warren team for identifying a need in their community and being the solution.

With the support of the Rotary Club of Oamaru Trust Inc, we were able to purchase a van and provide much needed transport to a number of OKA families. We were unaware just how much transport has been a barrier for families, and once this was offered it has been very well supported by a wide range of families for all five Kindergartens. A big thank you is extended to the Rotary Club of Oamaru for their ongoing support.

At the end of 2020, we received a grant from the Waitaki District Council Community Resilience Fund to support the trial of a Family Support Worker for 2021. For me, this was very rewarding as it has been a dream of mine for a number of years, so to be able to make it reality was incredible. A big thank you to Helen Algar from Safer Waitaki for supporting me with this grant application and to the Waitaki District Council for supporting the trial with the funding. This will add a new level of support for our OKA families, and I cannot wait to see how this develops during 2021.

DYNAMIC ORGANISATION

The OKA Board started 2020, like they do many other years looking at ways they can strengthen and grow OKA. The first focus in 2020, was to revise the Strategic Plan to ensure it was meeting the needs of the Association. Early in 2020 they signed off the revised Strategic Plan 2020 – 2030. It was important to the Board that the revised document would support and challenge the Association going forward. This was achieved, however, if there is one thing, I know about the current OKA Board, it is that they will push and challenge to ensure we continue to deliver into the future, and they will not be scared to revise it again if needed to support our ever-changing environment and communities.

Just as we got the Strategic Plan completed COVID-19 pushed us into lockdown. However, this gave us the chance to look at

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT CONT...

different ways of working. One of the focus areas for the Association last year was to make all our governance requirements including board meetings paperless. So, during lockdown we explored and trialed an online platform that allowed us to achieve this. This has changed the way our governance works, and meetings are undertaken, and I am looking forward to developing this further.

To finish the year the Board decided to develop an annual survey to be sent to our communities to gain information to support decision making. We received a great response to the survey and the feedback received was uplifting, enlightening and hugely beneficial to the work that the board will undertake in 2021. Thank you to all the people who took the time to complete the survey - your feedback has been reviewed, actions have been undertaken on many things and the rest will be used for decision making going forward.

Despite the interruption caused by Covid-19 we have continued to focus on strengthening OKA. During the year we have provided leadership development sessions for our Head Teachers. They have worked together as a cohort learning about leadership and management frameworks to help them excel in their role.

We have ensured that our systems, policies and processes are reviewed, up to date, and fit-for-purpose. This has required us to introduce new approaches to our ways of working to incorporate changes to legislation and regulations. At the forefront of our work is ensuring that we provide a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

A focus on our administrative and management practices has ensured that we have managed our resources and finances prudently, meeting today's needs while looking to the future. I am confident that we deliver leading practice in this area which supports our teaching teams on a day-to-day basis. We have also excelled in the use of technology to meet and engage with others and this has improved efficiency and reduced costs.

Over the past 12 months the New Zealand Kindergartens (NZK) network has gone from strength to strength. Managers from across 14 local Kindergarten Associations meet on a regular basis to share information, problem solve and debate new opportunities. This has provided me with an extended network and access to a wide range of information and knowledge.

My contribution to NZK has grown through my appointment to the NZK Board in September 2019, last year was a for me to learn and open my mind to a world outside of OKA. I have learnt so much and have had my thinking challenged on so many different levels. I would like to thank the OKA Board for supporting me to jump (or was it be pushed) off that cliff and give it a go. I would also like to thank Jill Bond – CE of NZK for her guidance, support, and patience. I have so much to learn from Jill and I am so grateful to Jill for taking the time to share her wisdom not just with me but with the OKA Board and Leaders as well.

NZK has changed under Jill's leadership and I am excited to see where we go this year as we develop consistent policy and procedure frameworks that will be rolled out nationally and investigate a qual mark. All of these changes are about strengthening and growing governance, management, and teaching teams to be the best they can be therefore ensuring the best learning outcomes for ngā tamariki.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who put so much into supporting the OKA community during 2020. What makes OKA great is the people. Without each and every one of you OKA would not be the place it is. We all know that there are going to be challenges ahead but if we can all work together as a collective for a common goal, we will ensure that we support and grow each other, and that OKA remains a strong and respected part of the North Otago Community that it serves..

**Titiro whakamuri
Kokiri whakamua**

Look back and reflect so you can move forward.

Ngā Mihi Nui
Julie Craig
General Manager



CASA NOVA HIGHLIGHTS



Kia ora Tatou, a year full of many highs and lows was that of 2020 – one definitely we will remember. We successfully kept in contact with our whānau over Rahui and relationships were built upon using technology – how lucky we are to have this! Everyone was excited and keen to catch up when we returned for Level 2. The team worked well together during Level 3 as well as everyone that was part of the small group programme we offered. We found that this gave some of our quieter tamariki attending time to shine and grow in confidence. The different levels did have its challenges – For tamariki not being able to set up and serve their own kai and go on regular hiko were two things they really missed, there was great excitement when this became all go again. The constant cleaning and bleaching became an ingrained practice but added another aspect to our busy workload, this was pretty hard on some of our resources so we played around with what we had available to tamariki on a daily basis.

Our Teaching Team continued to grow their strategies and practice to support the ever-growing diversity of our community – this has been a really consistent team effort and I truly believe this has supported all tamariki to make wonderful progress with their individual learning requirements. This couldn't have been done without wider OKA support and coaching from other agencies. We are proud to share that we do get a number of enrolments from other services because of this consistent learning programme and growing practice. As proud as we are about this it can be very challenging, as many of these tamariki moving into our programme bring with them some unique learning requirements.

This year we had two huge losses within our programme Kaiako Jo and Fran resigned from their positions within the OKA. We have been lucky enough to keep Fran on as a reliever and we love having her return to us regularly. Jo after many years with the OKA followed her husband to Auckland and is now teaching in a Centre up there. Nga tamariki have enjoyed keeping in contact with Jo through good old-fashioned letters – sharing their learning and finding out more about her life in Auckland.

Some of the real highlights from the year were the arrival of our new heihei – many mornings we enjoyed scrambled eggs made together using the BBQ – what a great way to start the day and for some a journey learning to eat eggs – we have

2 RAGLAN STREET

changed many opinions! Kelly won us a playhouse made from tech students at Waitaki Boys – the visits from these boys as they planned and delivered their mahi were some of our best days, they were eager to engage with everyone and quickly became super stars. As a way of thanking them we made them some kai and took a hikoi to their Kura – even the girls on the trip think they might want to attend there – the tour of the Hall of Memories and the Farm were highlights. Tongan Language Week was led by Jo and with the help of some of our Tongan famili we were able to watch and hear some traditional dance and songs – The beautiful outfits were a real focus and throughout the day nearly every child took the opportunity to wear one of these. This was a magnificent way to connect further to this culture within our community. Throughout the year much imaginary play was centred around shops that sell kai and cafés. Some of our tamariki talked a lot about how they had never been to a café or restaurant. With this idea in mind, we began to think about a different way to celebrate the year and end it with a party. We planned and carried out a trip to the Galleon for a shared buffet. This is something totally different and was a lot of fun. It was a big hikoi, but the stop over at Sandringham House gave us time for a wee rest and some fun entertaining the residents with some of our favourite songs and Christmas carols. They loved having us – their faces all lit up as they joined in with some of the singing, held our hands and even gave a few hugs out. We were joined by more whānau and e hoa at the Galleon and had a great feast from the buffet – what a great time to re-connect and for families to meet each other in a relaxed way. Santa made an appearance and was as popular as ever. We were pretty happy to have our old Santa back on duty after a break the year before. John really continues to be a big part of our community. During the year we had a surprise afternoon tea for him and his wife Val to celebrate his OKA award – Volunteer of the Year. He was thrilled, we even saw a wee tear or two in his eye. Thanks to Julie, Shona and the Board for supporting this award and allowing it to happen.

And as quick as it all started, the year ended! A big thanks to all involved in some way in what we do and how we do it at Casa Nova – it couldn't and wouldn't be the place it is without you.

“E raka te maui, e raka te katau – A community can use all the skills of its people.”

Sarah Newlands
Head Teacher



EDNA MCCULLOCH HIGHLIGHTS



Kia ora, Malo e lelei, SveikiNī hǎo, āyubōvan, Salammat pagi, and welcome to Edna McCulloch's report for the AGM 2021

2020 was probably Edna McCulloch's most challenging year yet – with of course Covid 19 rearing its head and then as a result – Tessa and Ella's resignations. We welcomed Mel Haywood who filled in for us until Kendall Smith started in Term Four. Another challenge as a result of Covid was the subsequent increase in 4 year old tamariki and their whanau relocating to Oamaru - with many of them having spent long periods of strict lock down restrictions in other countries and we were amazed at how easily they slotted into our programme and how supportive and kind our existing tamariki were – proving that manaakitanga and whanaungatanga are at the forefront of Edna McCulloch's community of learners with visitors and relievers alike commenting on how settled and inclusive our tamariki were. Whilst the Kindergarten building stood empty for much of April and May, Kaiako were very busy continuing to work at home ensuring our professional knowledge kept growing by undertaking many zoom courses either individually or as a team as well as making regular posts on Educa, a zoom mat time, individual phone calls to all our whanau and of course our famous goodie bag drop-offs. We learnt a lot about our individual families during this time and strengthened already existing relationships between home and kindergarten.

As a result of feedback, we received from our community about what they felt was important for our tamariki to learn at Kindergarten, we have identified our new learning priorities for Edna McCulloch Kindergarten as being Whanaungatanga/ Relationships, Māia/ Confidence, Manaakitanga/Respect and Diversity. We are excited about our new vision or Moemoea and the journey it will take us on over the coming year. Our complex review asked: "How effectively are our tamariki transitioning into and out of Edna McCulloch Kindergarten?" This was a significant piece of work and as a result some changes were made to our processes when tamaiti begin their learning journey at Edna McCulloch Kindergarten. On the whole, our whanau and school kaiako identified that tamariki from our Kindergarten are transitioning extremely well into kura although whānau did indicate that individual schools could tweak their systems to support the transition better.

In term four, we were incredibly grateful for the support of Julie Craig and the Association, when Suzanne Aston joined our

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team above ratio to support our younger age group and individual tamariki toileting needs for 4 hours a day. This ensured that our kaiako were able to provide sustained, child-led interactions in the kindergarten and tamariki benefited from forming strong relationships with one primary person for toileting. The arrival of the Kindergarten van was another bonus for our kindergarten, ensuring that at times up to 6 extra families were able to be transported to or from our kindergarten. As mentioned earlier – 2020 may have been a challenging year, however Edna McCulloch Kindergarten continued to ensure that the programme and individual learning priorities reflected the strengths, needs and interests of our community of learners. Alongside our team, the General Manager and the Association Board, there were many other people who contributed to our programme - Thank you to our Senior Teacher, Sarah Bryce who has worked hard to build whanaungatanga whilst still encouraging the team to be innovative, responsive and reflective teachers. Thank you to Shona Familton for creating order and making sense of my filing system. Thank you to our Fundraising team whose hard work ensures Edna McCulloch Kindergarten continues to provide extra learning opportunities and resources for all our tamariki e.g. the wonderful dinosaur display area. As I continued my secondment to the Ministry of Education for 1 and a half days per week, until the end of 2020, I must thank my incredibly hard-working and dedicated team of Gillian, Sacha, Joy, and Kendall as well as our excellent relievers for continuing to provide an amazing programme without the support of a Head Teacher on those days.

Nā tō rourou, Nā taku rourou, ka ora ai te iwi
With your food basket and my food basket the people
will thrive

Sarah Gordon
Head Teacher



GLEN WARREN - TE ANA A RAKI HIGHLIGHTS



Kia ora, Malo 'e' lelei and a warm greeting to everyone from Glen Warren—Te Ana a Raki

Every year I sit down to share our previous year I can never believe how each is so different from the last. This year saw our rolls increase and we welcomed Shannon to complete our team; We are pleased to be working with such a collaborative Senior teacher team from this year which has left feeling supported to grow our practice which has a direct positive impact for our tamariki; we continue to support teachers in training and students and volunteers at Glen Warren.

Notably the biggest impact on Glen Warren in 2020 was the same as others, Rahui – our lockdown which saw us suddenly asked to stay home and think on our feet to stay connected. It makes me smile to reflect on the resilience, growth and strength shown by all through this time and how as a community everyone came together with a positive attitude. As we began returning to the Kindergarten, we experienced excited tamariki and how quickly they adapted to some new routines and rituals around health and wellbeing which enabled us to continue to provide a safe place for all.

Another notable occurrence for Glen Warren was the high number of farewells to Kura we experienced. A somewhat emotional year as a high number of tamariki who came to us as two-year-olds in 2018 made the transition to their next chapter in their learning journey. As each tamiti had their king or queen of Kindergarten celebration we could reflect on the growth and development we had noticed and been such a part of over the last two to three years and the appreciation each whanau has is what cements why we work so hard together. The other side of this coin is we welcomed many new tamariki; a blend of existing families with siblings which holds strong our connection and relationships and new families which influences the way we connect and build relationships.

Over 2020 Kaiako embarked on a journey to consider how effectively we uphold the mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi; this was an empowering journey driving us to develop knowledge and understanding of the dual heritage of New Zealand and how we are a pivotal point for partnership and meeting our obligations as treaty partners. As we ourselves sought knowledge our tamariki strengthened this as they drove projects around Atua which saw us embedding Te Ao Maori throughout our programme and ways of being with Māori values being lived in our place such as manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga, aroha, whanaungatanga

38A TORRIDGE STREET

kotahitanga, rangatiratanga.

I would like to extend a thank you to our fundraising team for the time they commit to our Kindergarten, including our Easter raffle, bake sale, and calendars to name a few; it is with your support that this year we added a trampoline to our outdoor environment which tamariki have found so much enjoyment in.

I would like to extend warm gratitude & thank you to all stakeholders and contributors in Glen Warren Te Ana a Raki Kindergartens community. Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi. Engari, he toa takitini. Success is not the work of one but the work of many.

Mā mua ka kite a muri

Mā muri ka ora a mua

Those who lead give sight to those who follow
Those who follow give life to those who lead

Karen Hailes
Head Teacher



HOLMES HIGHLIGHTS



Malo e lelei ... tena koutou... talofa lava ... 你好... ආයුබෝවන්

2020 was a year of reflection on the world around us in disarray. We were excited to be able to get back into the kindergarten with our tamariki and whanau after the rāhui.

We thank Jill Bond, very much for the amazing book she put out, showcasing the children's learning at home, in a creative story book.

With changes in place to ensure the safety of all, we are resilient, confident, and proud that our children display such strong mana and a sense of belonging on returning to kindergarten.

As we think about the year that was, we remember the positive learning outcomes for our tamariki and thank our whanau for the ongoing collaboration and aspirations, learning priorities were acknowledged to enhance the progress and growth of learners. Conversations are at the foreground of children's strengths and learning dispositions.

In 2020 we changed our philosophy to a Moemoea, a more succinct statement the way we looked in the kindergarten philosophy. Kaiako unpacked their current philosophy and reflected on what was most important to the teaching team. There was one statement that we felt stood out at Holmes kindergarten and was visual and felt within the environment.

It was that "laughter and fun feeds the body mind and spirit".

This was important because Kaiako know/believe the importance of children having fun and laughing while they are learning, children are not going to want to try new things or take risks if they are not fun!!!

"Ko te koa, te kata me te ngahau ka whangai i te tinana, hinengaro me te wairua".

Our moemoea is then underpinned by curriculum priorities. At Holmes Kindergarten our priorities currently are Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga and Whakakata.

34A STUART STREET

These priorities are visible on our walls, in our planning, our narrative assessment, and in Kaiako curriculum design. Kaiako are proud of their moemoea and how it is reflected in our environment.

Educa continues to share children's learning both at home through stories and pictures from whanau sharing, and the learning and growth Kaiako document at the Kindergarten.

Each week Kaiako collaboratively document emerging interests through our tamariki Mahi and Kaiako korero takes care of the notices for whanau information.

We bid a sad farewell to our outgoing committee president Kylie Burnett and thank her very much for all the support time and Aroha she shared with us over the past 8 years, and we will miss Kylie and her whānau very much and appreciate all the time that she and her family have given to the kindergarten community.

To my committed Kaiako team Fiona, Sue and Katalina I thank you for all your dedication, extra time and the passion you bring into your role as Kaiako. The collaborative discussions and professional conversations we share ... and sometimes disagree!!!!

To Robyn who joined our community as we celebrated the safe arrival of Katalina's beautiful baby girl. Robyn, the smiles and kindness you shared with Kaiako, tamariki and whanau, are remembered fondly as you grew your relationships built new ones, in collaboration with the teaching team.

Shona, thanks for all the pickups, the emails and extra time you give each week. You have no idea how much this is appreciated.

A big 'Thank You' to our board of management, your time and advocacy for Kaiako in your supportive role to ensuring that every child in North Otago can access five amazing kindergartens.

Developing a strategic plan for the success of the Oamaru Kindergarten Association and providing quality care and education for children to be confident and competent as they transition.

Finally, thanks to Julie Craig, our General Manager who ensures that the voice of the child is heard in North Otago and that our children have the opportunity to grow as learners. We are fortunate to have a General Manager so committed to facilitating the continued growth of the Oamaru Kindergarten Association.

Waiho i te toipoto,

Kaua i te toiroa

**Let us keep close together, not wide
apart**

**Lenore Fraser
Head Teacher
Holmes Kindergarten**



MAHENO HIGHLIGHTS



Kia ora koutou

The first point from 2020...we got through the Covid 19 lockdown! It was a very unexpected time, but we learnt a lot. The key thing was that we can get things done very efficiently and quickly when it is a time of high stress.

Our parents and children loved the Facebook posts that were put on to keep in touch with all our whānau. We also popped some "find the teddy/animals hidden in our gardens" mahi for our tamariki on Educa. We received very positive feedback from our whānau. As a team we upped our skill at using digital technology and became remarkably good at zoom meetings and team video meetings. And, we have kept the new entrance to kindergarten routine we put in place during "level three" as it works much better for flow and door security.

Our Enviroschools journey continues apace. Last year we had one of our old trees taken out. We had it cut and chipped. We used the cut logs as stepping stones and the wood chips in the garden. At the same time, we had the back fence moved back to increase the size of the outdoor area. This now incorporates the native plant area. We had a whare built for this area- gratefully funded by the Committee, and we have created a fruit tree growing zone area behind the whare.

Our four year old hens retired in 2020. They had stopped laying and so went to a wonderful retirement home, where they met an old rooster. They all became proud mothers at the end of 2020! Our four new "precious princesses arrived at the start of 2021 named appropriately, by the tamariki, as Elsa, Jasmin, Bella and Ariel.

Inspired by the way our community came together to help each other out during the Covid-19 lockdown and it's economic aftermath, we enlisted the aid of one of our amazing builder parents to make us a Community Pantry. This was paid for by the Inner Wheel Club of Oamaru. Parents pop clothing, books and excess produce from their home gardens in here for others to take and use. "Give what you can, take what you need" is the motto.

13 GIFFORD STREET

Term three saw us install a rainwater catchment system that diverts some rooftop runoff into a tank. The tamariki are able to use this tank, with Kaiako supervision, (due to water health reasons), to water the garden.

We got a worm farm up and running last year too. The children are very involved in caring for this increasingly large population of garden workers. Now that the worms are well settled, the children are making up bottles of the precious "worm juice" and once a month, set up tables to sell these to parents for gold coin donations. All coins received go into the children's own "toy fund". When they have made enough money, they will vote on which farm set from the John Deer Toy collection they want to purchase.

Last year we also got our composting cycle in place, providing much goodness for the vegetable gardens. We also had our first group of leaf cutter bees and the Hive put in place.

In line with our Enviroschools commitment, we are beginning to use Educa for more of our learning and assessment. During 2020 we all began upskilling ourselves so that now, in 2021, we can use forms on Educa for all of our meetings, Reviews and Profession Growth Cycles. We are also continuing with our work on growing parent engagement in children's learning. In 2020 we started using video for recording learning and assessment. This has resulted in increased parent feedback and therefore, engagement in children's learning and assessment.

Last year we joined in with the Oamaru Licencing Trust/ Brydone food donation scheme that provides healthy extras for children's morning kai. This includes fruit, bread, cereals, yogurt and baking ingredients. The provision of this food to compliment lunch boxes is most welcome.

The roll at Maheno has steadily Increased and is very stable with very good attendance. This meant that last year we were able to employ Mel Hayward as our third, permanent teacher. She is currently employed part time and it is amazing! We are getting new enrolments on a regular basis and are in the stressful, but good, position of not being able to fit all the children on the Waiting List in until 2022.

All in all, 2020 was a year of much and varied learning for all. Our community, as always, were amazing and extremely supportive. Big thanks to our Fundraising Committee who carried on despite one big effort being a casualty of the Lockdown. Much thanks also to OKA and Julie- who, as always, is wonderfully supportive and always available.

Ko te ahueri o te tamaiti

Arahia o tatou mahi

**Let the uniqueness of the child guide
our work**

**Ngā mihi nui
Karen McCutcheon
Head Teacher
Maheno Kindergarten**



THANK YOU!

At Oamaru Kindergarten Association (OKA) we are here for children - not for profit. This means we believe every child should have access to quality education that is affordable.

So, we put our money on the line, reinvesting in our kindergartens and our people, not shareholders or private owners. That's important because it means our youngest learners have the support of an association who has been committed to the North Otago community for over 50 years. OKA nurtures talent, fulfills potential, feeds ambition, offers excellent transition to local schools and most importantly we know how to have FUN in a meaningful way for all our tamariki.

Remember OKA is far more than ok we are proud to offer:

- Committed to North Otago since 1950 – we are local – run by locals.
- You become part of the OKA family – supportive and respectful of what works for your child and the needs of your individual whānau.
- Environments that are welcoming, stimulating, challenging and FUN.
- 30 hours free per week all year round.
- Fully qualified passionate teachers highly trained to understand your child and how they learn.
- OKA is not for profit which means all funding goes to the success of your child

“What happens in early childhood matters for a lifetime.”



