



Oamaru Kindergarten Association Pānui

Kia ora and welcome to our last Association Newsletter for 2021

I wanted to start the newsletter with a great big thank you to all our amazing children and families that have supported the kindergartens and staff during unprecedented times. What a year 2021 has been but what has made it bearable is the support we have received from our families and community. You are all truly amazing and we could not have done it without you.

Christmas is just about here and if you are like me and love Christmas, I am sure you have your tree up and are ready to spend time with people that are special to you and celebrate your own family traditions.

We started Christmas early at the office and had our windows decorated by Luzette Crossan it has been such a joy to hear comments from children as they are passing and there has been lots of photos taken with the gingerbread house in the background.

2021 has been a similar year to 2020 but as always, I am always proud of what we achieved even during challenging times. The Association moved offices this year and we have opened up a family hub for the community to use. This has been well supported and for December we will have the hub open for families to use from 9am to 1pm on the following Saturdays **04.12.2021, 11.12.2021 and 18.12.2021**.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas no matter what you are doing and just know that OKA will be here in 2022 waiting to welcome you and your children back to an action-packed year with our passionate teachers who know how to have fun in a meaningful way for all our tamariki.

Kia kaha

Julie



Thank you to the OKA contractors and supporters

Quietly giving support and assistance "behind the scenes" at the Oamaru Kindergarten are a group of supporters and contractors, who should be acknowledged says OKA General Manager Julie Craig.

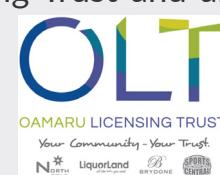
"We have an outstanding group of supporters and contractors who quietly offer assistance, without question, and OKA would like to say a big "Thank You".

One of the supporters is the Oamaru Licensing Trust, whose general manager Cathy Maaka commented about the role the Licensing Trust plays.

"The Oamaru Licensing Trust has been involved with Oamaru Kindergartens for the last 3 years, providing food to the kindergartens weekly for morning teas, and lunches when required," said Cathy.

"We are proud that our community-owned organisation can assist the younger members of our community in this way, and we value the collaboration between the 2 groups".

"It is a valued partnership," Julie Craig said. "OKA is very grateful to the Oamaru Licensing Trust and all our supporters and contractors. Many thanks.



Term Dates 2022

Maheno, Holmes & Glen Warren:

Start back on the 10.01.2022.

Edna McCulloch & Casa Nova:

Start back on the 20.01.2022.

Grants and Donations

OKA is a non-profit organisation and because of this we rely on the donations and grants from within our community.

This year we have been supported by Network Waitaki to purchase outdoor clothing for the children at Maheno Kindergarten and the Oamaru Club towards the running of the van.

At the end of November funding was received from the Oamaru Licensing Trust working alongside the Lion Foundation to support the installation of heat pumps at Casa Nova and Edna McCulloch Kindergarten. These will be installed and ready to go at the start of 2022.

I am currently working with a local organisation who is going to support the family hub and the Whānau Support Coordinator role. More will come on this in 2022.

I want to say a big thank you to these groups for their commitment to us during 2021 but also to their ongoing commitment to us. Without these groups we would be unable to achieve what we do. Thank you so much.

