



Pānui

OKA AGM

Julie Craig, OKA General Manager acknowledged at the recent annual general meeting of the Oamaru Kindergarten Association that “2021 had been the year when kindness mattered more than anything.”

“It was a year of many challenges and some of those truly tested my resolve not just professional but personally as well,” said Julie.

As part of her report, Julie said that the AGM, which was held at the Brydone Hotel on May 30, was “a time to celebrate our successes and reflect on the challenges.”

“This year, I want to celebrate an area that is the strength of OKA – its people.”

During her report, Julie said that the OKA Board continued to invest heavily in quality staff and this made the difference for the tamariki. She also acknowledged with thanks, her OKA board members, the five OKA head teachers and the many others, including fundraising teams, contractors, volunteers and agencies, for their support in the learning journey of the tamariki.

“We could not be OKA without them all doing their bit to ensure the best for the Association,” Julie said.

What's On at The Family Hub? - Brainwave Trust

The OKA Family Hub will host speakers from the Brainwave Trust on Tuesday July 5 and parents, whānau and caregivers are invited to this free event.

Brainwave Trust – “early years last forever”, aims to share some key things that can help your child reach their potential. You will leave with a clear understanding about what they can do to give your child the best start in life.

Topics will include how the brain grows and develops; why children need to feel loved; (to) help children handle stress and feel safe; and, how experiences shape healthy development. *Why not join a Brainwave Kaiako on Tuesday July 5 at the OKA offices, 209-211 Thames Street, Oamaru. Workshop start times 10am, 12.30pm and 6.30pm. Admission is free, light refreshments will be served.*

Please RSVP to info@oamarukindergarten.co.nz

Brainwave – nurture the seed so it will blossom.

Congratulations and thank you

Congratulations to those OKA staff who were acknowledged for their service to OKA at the recent annual general meeting. Sue Mareta-Ria long service, 10 years in June 2021; Sam Growcott, Postgraduate Diploma in Education in Early Years – end of 2021; Joy Sheehan – gained her full registration in May 2021, and Katalina Veituna – gained full registration in October 2021.



There was a special acknowledgement to Fiona Hewett who recently resigned after 32 years as a teacher at Holmes Kindergarten. Fiona said it had been a privilege to have touched the lives of so many children and their families over the years.



“Through the many changes, it has been the consistent teaching team and colleagues that I have experienced giving their friendship, support, empathy, fun and comradery that will remain with me forever,” she said.

Holmes Kindergarten has a new staff member. Mandy So has joined the staff at Holmes and she has been warmly welcomed.

Hong Kong-born Mandy arrived in New Zealand in early 2019 after time spent in Australia. In 2021, she spent six months as a teacher aide, at both Holmes and Edna McCulloch Kindergartens and after completing her study in March 2021, Mandy joined Holmes Kindergarten. Married with two children, a daughter seven years and a son aged five-and-a-half years Mandy says she loves living in Oamaru. “The community is very caring, and it is very special watching the children grow and learn and then leave to start their school careers”.

Welcome to OKA and Holmes Kindergarten Mandy.

Special acknowledgement

OKA lost two of its “special people” during 2022. Bob Houliston was the recipient of the second ever volunteer award in 2021 and was well known for the many roles he undertook within the Association from Santa to the fix-anything man. Bob passed away in early 2022.

Jan Wedge, a teacher at Edna McCullough (then known as McCulloch Kindergarten), from 1958 to 1961. Jan had a wealth of knowledge which she shared when the OKA Anniversary Book was being written. Jan passed away in late May this year.

Board member resignation

OKA Board member Jo Wilson has resigned (effective May 2021). Jo had been an OKA Board member since 2018. Her resignation was accepted with regret by GM Julie Craig and other board members.

ALL KINDERGARTENS WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY 24TH JUNE 2022 TO CELEBRATE MATARIKI

Ngā mihi o Matariki, te tau hou Māori

WHAT'S ON AT THE FAMILY HUB

209 THAMES STREET, OAMARU



PARENTS & CHILDREN PLAYGROUP AND COFFEE MORNING

0-3 YEARS

PLEASE MESSAGE THE FAMILY
HUB TO REGISTER YOUR
INTEREST ON

021 191 4059

EVERY LAST TUESDAY

OF THE MONTH

10AM - 11AM

OKA FAMILY HUB

209 THAMES STREET, OAMARU

GRANDPARENTS
COFFEE
MORNING
AT
THE BRYDONE
HOTEL

SECOND
TUESDAY OF
EVERY MONTH

10AM TO
11AM

(approximately)



We invite
Grandparents
who are
caring for their
Grandchildren
aged under 5
years old to join
us for a time of
chatting over a
coffee and a bite to
eat. Coffee & cake
provided.