



Pānui

2024 AGM REPORT

The 2024 OKA Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Oamaru on May 16, 2024. It was the first under the new structure which was approved at the 2023 AGM when the OKA Board voted to disband the current local Kindergarten Association Board that was elected in May 2021 and 2022, and join the New Zealand Kindergartens Network Board and to have strategic governance and related legal compliance services provided by that board.

OKA General Manager Julie Craig acknowledged the smooth transition and welcomed those attending the AGM including NZK CEO Jill Bond, NZK Board members (via electronic screen), past OKA board members, teachers, family and OKA friends and supporters.

Julie advised that OKA was in a good financial position and that a constitutional change was required to ratify the Society's financial year commencing on 1 January of each year and end on 31 December, which is the Society's balance date. This change was approved.

A number of presentations were made at the AGM acknowledging Association achievements for 2023 with awards made to recipients by Jill Bond and Julie. Those receiving long service awards were: Mel Read, 10 years of service to OKA – Mel started in a part time role on October



29, 2023; Kelly Jones, started her service to OKA on June 27, 2011; and Michele Fellows, OKA's longest serving reliever who started with OKA on August 28,

2014. Presentations were also made to Rebecca Travaglia; Belinda Smith; Shannon McDonald; Euan Scrivener; and, Anna Waite. Congratulations to all award recipients.



Fundraising committee members for all OKA kindergartens were also confirmed.

The meeting closed with a Karakia and Waiata.

SENIOR TEACHER REPORT

For the first time in the history of OKA we have employed our very own Senior Teacher. This role has always been contracted into OKA and after a five-year journey, we are in the position to trial our own local Senior Teacher role for 2024.

The Senior Teacher works with each kindergarten team to support, grow and strengthen the teaching and learning provided to your tamariki, ensuring we are keeping up to date with the most current theories.

From January, Karen Hailes stepped up into this role three days per week and will remain in her Head Teacher role at Glen Warren on the other two days per week.

Commenting on her new role, Karen said: "I am very excited to work with the kindergarten teams and get to know all the OKA communities.

"Term one has been about whanaungatanga, making and maintaining relationships, and working with the teams has been such a privilege as I grow my understanding of our kindergartens and their communities.

"I look forward to further collaboration with groups and individuals as we strive to provide quality teaching and learning for our tamariki upholding the values of our association," Karen said.



BECOME A FRIEND OF OKA

Want to become a Friend of OKA? Applications are open now and will close on Friday July 5, 2024. Full details are available on the website, OKA Office in Thames Street, Oamaru and OKA Kindergartens. Become a Friend of OKA and enjoy the advantages of membership. Download the application form on our website, pick one up from the office or fill one out below.

OAMARU KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION Application Form – Association Member 2024

Name: **Cellphone No:**

Address: **Telephone No:**

..... **Occupation:**

Email address: **Kindergarten affiliation (if any):**

Signature: **Date:**

MATARIKI ACROSS THE OKA KINDERGARTENS

CASA NOVA

We create a space for Pohutukawa, the second star of Matariki, this is a place where Tamariki and Whānau can share pictures and stories of special people who have passed. Another Casa Nova tradition started several years ago; our Hapori made vegetable soup to share and celebrate Matariki – Tamariki helped harvest vegetables we had grown and Whānau also contributed more kai to make a delicious pot of vegetable soup and bread. We had plenty and decided to offer some to our neighbours at Pembroke School. Each year we make the soup and set up a stall at Pembroke School to share and each year it grows more popular and we now make two pots - and bring lots of bread!



EDNA MCCULLOCH

At Edna McCulloch Kindergarten, we'll celebrate Matariki with a shared breakfast, where our whānau will gather to share kai, and embody mannakitanga, whanaungatanga. Afterward, we'll write messages of aroha on stars, reflecting on the adventures and growth of the past year, with the essence of kotahitanga and whakapapa, filling our space with the warmth of memories and hopes for the future.

MAHENO

We spend time during the time of Matariki making stars and decorating the kindergarten. We all learn the names of the stars in the Matariki cluster. The day before Matariki is officially celebrated, we have a Matariki afternoon tea. Parents bring plates of fruit, sandwiches, etc to share. We welcome everyone with a brief Matariki korero and the tamariki sing the waiata they are learning for the Kapa Haka. Everyone has a korero, something to eat and drink.



GLEN WARREN

We will be celebrating in our usual way of a shared kai with tamariki and their whanau at an evening when we can all come together. There may also be some planting, gather tamariki aspirations and plant these to grow alongside tamariki with the tree.



HOLMES

Holmes will celebrate with their community coming together in the evening for shared kai with tamariki and their whanau. Tamariki will learn and share the waiata; aspirations will be gathered from whanau and then these will be planted with a tree to commemorate Matariki 2024.



MATARIKI – THE STORY OF THE STARS

Mānawatia a Matariki – we welcome Matariki!

Matariki is the Māori name for the star cluster most commonly known as Pleiades

Matariki follows a lunar calendar system which is different to our modern solar calendar, so the matariki dates change each year, just like Easter.

KARAKIA

Matariki ahunga nui

Matariki tapuapua

Matariki hunga nui

Nga kai a matariki

Nana I ao ake ki runga

When Pleiades

The gatherer

Is bright in the sky

The year begins.

This is the story of the stars of Matariki; when Ranginui and Papatuanuku separated, one God tawhirimatea, God of the winds and the weather, was so angry, he whipped out his eyes and threw them into the sky. They became a part of a star cluster called Matariki. Mata, meaning eyes, and Ariki meaning from the god tawhirimatea.

Matariki is the mother of the other stars in the constellation. She leads and looks after them, who each had their individual and unique gifts and skills. There is Pohutukawa who connects Matariki to our loved ones who have passed on. Tupuanuku which is tied to the food that comes from the ground. Tupuarangi is tied to the food from above, like fruits and birds. Waiti is tied to food that comes from freshwater. And Waita is tied to food that comes from Salt Water, Waiapunarangi is tied to the rain and Ururangi to the wind. And then there is Hiwa; Hiwa is the smallest star the star you send your wishes to.

Each year Matariki brings the stars down to the earth to Papatuanuku to look after her and to take care of her. Then they fly back into the heavens and watch over her from afar. This marks our Maori New year, new beginnings.

REMINDER >>>>

ALL KINDERGARTENS WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, 28 JUNE FOR MATARIKI.