

Annual General Meeting Minutes 2017

A summary of 2016

Teaching team

Toward the beginning of 2016 we sustained thirty children on our roll securing the three teacher team with another part time teacher to relieve teacher's lunch breaks and release time.

Josh's hours went from part time to full time from February. He is such a great male role model for our tamariki.

Mandy Thomas has started as our lunch time and release time reliever in term one.

Moana Te Waaka worked as a part time teacher from term 2.

Beth Casey worked 2hrs each day as our teacher support providing kindergarten lunches.

Sharon McGrath worked part time, or twenty hours per week as the office administrator until March and then her hours decreased to 15hrs due to some changes made by Kindergarten Taranaki to support financial sustainability.

Sharon started working an extra hour per day as a teacher support over the kindergarten lunch time in March as teachers needed an extra hand to manage and tidy up the busy lunch session.

Thank you for all the support to promote our kindergarten. We appreciate that many of you have been talking to friends and family about us as well as dropping flyers off in our neighbourhood.

To all those working here,

Nga mihi mo to manaakitanga mai

Students

Taylor Murphy Peters, Erin Taite, Alex Sheehan, Laurie Edwin, Salote Lea, Shania Ratahia-Smith, Tristan, Shania Ratahia-Smith, Brad, Karen Dixon, Stephanie.

Having students at Kindergarten enriches the learning opportunities for tamariki as every student brings a fresh perspective and their own interests and strengths that they share with the tamariki.

Visitors

Lizzy Browers (Enviroschools facilitator), Donna Ertel (Yellow Castle Manager), Mark Wilson (Rotary Club), Karen Jackson (NZEI Rep), Helen Handley (GSE), Kim Thompson (Education Psychologist), Sue and Charles (Tui Ora), Rowan Chivers (Unicyclist),

Volunteer firefighters to support our fire safety programme. One of the fire fighters was Lydia's Dad Jeremy as well as firefighter Jennifer. Jeremy and Jennifer brought a safety castle and taught the tamariki how to get out and stay out if there were to be a fire in the house.

Kora (Lyns dog) and Laddie, two dogs came to visit the kindergarten on 16th June. The tamariki were so excited to pat them and walk them around the grass. Many of our tamariki like to act out cats and dogs in their family role play and some of the tamariki have pets of their own at home so this was a lovely way to celebrate and extend on this interest. We also had the opportunity to discuss how to care for dogs and we read a few books about different types of dogs and cats.

CJ the clown on the 2nd August, Dennis Wills (our property manager), Hilda Colgan and Liz Clegg- Both women are senior teachers from Kindergarten Taranaki.

Lynley and Rebecca (librarians from Puke Ariki) they came to read books to the tamariki and celebrate the love for books.

Wayne (kaumatua at Ratapihipihi), Rachel the ex new entrant teacher at Moturoa School and a group of tamariki and whanau,

A reporter from the Midweek came to Kindergarten on 2nd June to photograph Mark Wilson and Vicki Ingles and Bella wearing one of our new Kindergarten raincoats. This was an opportunity to acknowledge the New Plymouth West Rotary Club for their generous gift of 20 children's raincoats and 2 teachers.

3 new entrant classes from Spotswood primary and their teachers and parents came to visit on three different days during September,

Andrew from Betts and Bishop who came to the kindergarten to assess the concrete project and discuss our options.

Zappo who came on the 16th September to do a magic show. His educational focus this time was the importance of caring for the earth and recycling our rubbish.

Sue Maxwell (Kindergarten photographer) and a group photo on 20th September.

On the 8th November we had a visit from Lisa, Jill Power and Elana Moriti three ERO reviewers who came to observe the teaching practice and read through documentation as a way to review the kindergarten practice, strengths and weaknesses and offer advice and guidance to the team followed by a ERO report that will be available to whanau at the beginning of 2017.

We had a visit from Moturoa School Kowhai class, Native planting group and Bill Clarkson to plant the driveway in Natives that Moturoa School kindly gifted to our Kindergarten. The Kindergarten tamariki also had an opportunity to be involved with the watering of the plants. This was a wonderful opportunity for some tamariki who had been at the kindergarten and started at Moturoa School as they could see their Kindergarten friends.

Excursions and special events

- On the 5th April we went on an excursion to Lions Club trains and Pukekura park playground.
- On the 6th May we went on an excursion to The Val Deakon Dance theatre to see 'Alice in Wonderland'.
- On the 22nd June we had a boil up to acknowledge Puanga the Maori new year in Taranaki. Due to the fact that our session ends at 2.30 we offered the boil up to whanau to take home in takeaway containers. We also invited whanau to come and share kai(boil up) at lunch time although this doesn't always suit Whanau to come early, A big thanks to Tony from TLC meats who donated a huge portion of fresh, quality meat to support this event. Ka Ora Moana who was the chief cook and the tamariki for helping to make the dough boys.
- On the 7th September we went on an excursion to Brooklands Zoo and Pukekura Park.
- On the 20th September we went on an excursion to Moturoa School to watch their bicultural music and dance production.



- To encourage and inspire the love for emergency services we went on an excursion to the New Plymouth Fire Station and we invited Nelson Puloto(police officer) to visit the Kindergarten.
- On Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th the tamariki were each given a very special gift from The Shoebox Christmas foundation. The tamariki were all delighted by their wonderful presents that were given by some very kind and thoughtful people.

Professional Development

- Enviroschools -to extend on our learning around sustainable practice, environmental awareness and supporting community minded supportive relationships. Tammy attended a three day workshop in Raglan.
- Tui Ora to support health and nutrition at kindergarten.
- Facebook page - Advice and guidance from Dawn Osman
- Keryn Davis in Hawera on the 20th July to learn about children's working theories in action. We were inspired to really take the time to listen to children and let them develop their own theories through their play and problem solving. It is sometimes easy to offer the answers and focus on the facts although at kindergarten our focus is to encourage children to develop ways to think, to figure things out and even reflect on their own thinking. (Metacognition).
- Tammy attended a workshop on blogging so that we can add Ngamotu kindergarten to the Enviro schools blog site and contribute blogs regarding our Enviro schools focus.
- Lyn attended a paid union meeting on the 12th September
- Sharon Mcgrath attended an administrators meeting on the 14th September
- The teaching team all attended a meeting with an asthma nurse (Caroline) on the 20th September to ensure we are all up able to administer asthma medication, recognise the signs of asthma and use spacers properly.
- Tammy attended a head teacher hui to discuss governance and share ideas to support Kindergarten Taranaki strategic planning and how this is realised within the various kindergartens.
- The teachers went to visit Laine Phillips to view his sustainable back yard on 23rd November
- The teaching team have had a meeting with Mary Elizabeth a speech and language therapist who works at General Special Education. Mary has organised a few professional development opportunities for the team in December so that we can all feel confident to tamariki with speech and language. Working with two year olds is still fairly new for the team so we are also seeking guidance working with this age range.

Operations and Administration

Appraisal goals, children's individual assessment, planning discussions and documentation, narrative assessments for the children's pukapuka mahi/portfolios, Organising the Kindergarten events and excursions, creating the pukapuka mahi for the tamariki transitioning to school, Strategic Planning meetings with teachers and whanau,

- Making contact with Mark Fisher and Delwyn - the principals at both Spotswood and Moturoa Schools to discuss special events or visit.
- Working with Anne Berry came to visit the teachers after session one day to support us to upload the information required for a Healthy Heart Award
- Organising our documentation to ensure we had all the important documents and publications to fulfil ERO and MOE regulatory requirements,
- We replaced our old filing cabinet with one that was gifted to us by Kindergarten Taranaki,
- Continued emails with Mark Fisher and Delwyn - the principals at both Spotswood and Moturoa Schools to discuss special events or visits.
- Finding out about the online assessment programmes (Story Park vs EDUCA).
- Working with Josh's partner Hannah to support the teaching team to extend our haka pōwhiri and learn a new waiata
- Practicing using EDUCA a tool to more easily share learning stories with whanau online. Teachers have decided that EDUCA is easier to use than Storypark and the Formatting is better and prints out well.
- Organising the haka pōwhiri for our new tamariki/whanau
- Wa kai treasure hunt - to gather information about how whanau feel about the provision of kai

Curriculum

Well-being Mana Atua

The first few weeks of 2016 were fairly quiet with low numbers of tamariki back at kindergarten. It was a great time for teachers and children to settle back into kindergarten experiences and routines.

We have been exploring some new foods at wa kai. Melana brought in some Yacon that are a crunchy moist slightly sweet root vegetable a bit like a kumara. Ginni brought in some grains and we have been making natural yoghurt with the tamariki.

Lyn kindly picked up 5 fruit trees from a woman selling one year old fruit trees in Waitara to plant at the kindergarten. Thanks Delwyn for this contact. Alana (Alyssas mother) kindly planted them at kindergarten with the help of Kayleigh and Alyssa. Our tamariki love forridding in the garden and finding tasty treats from our cranberry, mandarin, apple and guava trees/bushes so it is wonderful that we have almost doubled our fruit trees as they will be appreciated in years to come and it provides learning opportunities for all of us regarding caring for our environment, sustainability and healthy eating.

We have had a variety of healthy food options at wa kai that children have helped to make/cook and this includes fresh fruit and vegetables, hummus, dahl, tortillas, pasta bake, bean dip, sushi and egg and vegetable fried rice. The children have been learning about where their food comes from as children often harvest fresh vegetables from the garden to add to the morning tea.

We really appreciate the selection of fruit donated by our whanau, the support from foodbank our local Countdown and the tortillas, soup and cheese bread as well as homemade pasta sauce made by Ginni.

I am proud to say that every day our tamariki are eating fruit, vegetables and something protein such as lentils, chickpeas, beans, yoghurt and cheese.

Te Maara or gardening is always a popular activity at kindergarten. The children love to use the watering cans to nurture our gardens to grow. An exciting happening in the garden was the monarch caterpillars creating cocoons and then emerging into butterfly's before they take flight. Thank you Delwyn for planting the swan plants and the sunflowers. They were a source of inspiration and delight for us all.

Belonging- Mana Whenua



We had a stream of two year olds throughout 2016 and it has been fabulous to have the support of whanau to support their transition into kindergarten. Whanau are always welcome to stay and spend time interacting with the tamariki. This is so enriching for the tamariki and teachers and really supports positive relationships to develop and a sense of mana whenua or belonging.

Parents /whanau were taking the time to spend with their child to support them with their transition into kindergarten. Teachers noticed that a gradual transition in to kindergarten with whanau support is beneficial in relation to establishing a sense of belonging for the child.

Our through random acts of kindness. Also enhancing a sense of Tuakena /Teina where older children support the younger ones to settle and learn knowledge and skills that will enhance their experiences and enjoyment at kindergarten.

We continued to integrate our center philosophy and values of aroha, ako and turangawaewae into both planned and spontaneous experiences at kindergarten all of which deepen our sense of mana whenua for all tamariki and whanau.

The powhiri at wā whariki to introduce the new children continued. We were also encouraging older children who have been at kindergarten longer to express their aroha to support new tamariki.

Contribution - Mana Tangata



Music and movement on the whāriki enable tamariki to engage in gross motor activities and exercise. Many of our tamariki have been asking for and participating in kapa haka as well as poi. We also love group games and structures songs such as; duck duck goose, the cat and mouse game, statues, and the parachute games. Structured games support the tamariki with social skills such as turn taking and following rules to support small group play.

Teachers and tamariki have been practicing the earthquake drill and watched an educational DVD entitled Tucker Turtle to support their understanding of Earthquakes and earthquake safety. Later teachers noticed tamariki were integrating the drop, cover and hold earthquake safety strategy in their play.

Family role play is a popular play experience at Kindergarten. The themes that teachers have noticed are picnics, caring for babies, shops and emergency services. Teachers become involved to extend the language use and support childrens social skills.

Communication/Mana Reo

The interest in babies as well as manaakitanga and tuakana /teina is particularly strong in relation to the imaginative play and interactions that tamariki have been engaged in. Kaiako celebrate this aroha through interactions, resources, activities and books that extend on the interest and support tamariki to develop working theories about the world and their place within the kindergarten. The new and younger tamariki are quickly establishing mana whenua/ belonging in this nurturing environment.

The children enjoyed practicing the art of Maori haka. For anyone interested in learning who does not have the experience or knowledge of haka we recommend a DVD resource entitled 'The art of Maori haka' www.gotuatara.co.nz.

Exploration/ Mana Aotūroa

Sensory play such as gloop, ice, warm water, bubbles, uku, playdough and finger painting supports emotional regulation and provides a relaxed way to explore science concepts, to socialise with friends and teachers and to practice their life skills of pouring, mixing, and beating.

With the cold Winter weather we were finding time to appreciate te ua, the rain and tawhirimatea the wind. Tamariki can show us the simple pleasure of feeling the rain on our face or the wind in our hair. They seem to find fun in the simple and beautiful natural things. Even walking through the puddles with gumboots or dare I say it... splashing. We do have to put some limits and boundaries around these joyful experiences to ensure children don't get too cold although it is important to value their connection to nature and ensure they have some time to be in the elements. Our raincoats that were donated by The Rotary Club are certainly a great asset at this time. Also thanks to Josh for fencing off the muddiest section of the grass. We may need to consider better drainage if the water keeps puddling so close to the building/verandah.

The Physical environment

The concrete was laid at the beginning of 2016 By Betts and Bishop over the term break at a total cost of \$16,248. The grant that we received from the TSB was \$13,800. All we had to pay for the \$2600 for the entire project. We are really pleased with the concrete as it enhances the look of the kindergarten. People from Spark have been working at the kindergarten to install new fibre Optic cables which will enable our kindergarten to run effective broad band and to be equipped for future technical advancement. This an Association wide move that has been organised through Kindergarten Taranaki Association.

A big thanks to Ross from Tree Services who kindly donated a large load of leaf mulch. Thanks also to Delwyn, Alana, the teachers and tamariki who helped to disperse it through our gardens.

At the beginning of term 3, Bill Clarkson the environmental education coordinator at Moturoa School came to visit the teachers and have a look at the planting they did with Moturoa School students a few years ago. The native planting by the whare is growing well and looking healthy.

On the 13th August we had the community workers at kindergarten and they finished digging the Agapanthus from the sides of the drive and loaded it into a skip.

Mark Wilson from the Rotary Club has kindly offered to supply a trailer and organise to pick up the soil and compost for the planting project.

Bill Clarkson and a group of tamariki from Moturoa School come to the Kindergarten to plant the drive with endangered plants and shrubs that are Native to this area. It is very generous that Bill and Moturoa School are donating the plants to Ngamotu Kindergarten. **Nga mihi mo to manaakitanga mai Bill!**

Josh began the planning work on the race track with tamariki. The tamariki were involved in the whole process.

We planted a further 4 fruit trees including a lemon, passionfruit, red currant and feijoa and they are all looking healthy after having plenty of rain. The tamariki often enjoy using the watering cans to give the trees the hydration they need to survive. We often talk about how we can nurture our garden and fruit trees to support them to be healthy. Some tamariki delight when it has been raining as they know our water tank will be filling and our plants are getting a drink. They also love the puddles and feeling the rain on their face.

Communication/ Consultation

Equity Expenses

Beth's hours and five hours per week for Sharon are funded through our equity budget.

To ensure that all children are able to attend excursions we cover excursion costs with our equity funding.

When we have an excess in our equity budget we also purchase educational equipment to enhance the learning opportunities for our tamariki.

Resources

We have purchased a steering wheel for imaginative role play, some new balls, a dizzy spinner, and art supplies.

We received a new printer this term. This was an initiative organised by the Kindergarten Association to support teachers with a printer with a higher level of functions to support efficiency of communication and a higher quality of prints. All kindergartens received one and the olds ones were given back to the Fuji.

Nga mihi mo to manaakitanga mai

Thank you to the Committee for all your hard work organising and managing the kindergarten fundraising accounts and activities

Thank you to Denis, Steve, Liz, Hilda, Dawn and Cherie from Kindergarten Taranaki who have all contributed to reviewing safety and education issues at our kindergarten to ensure that we are creating a safe and happy environment and quality teaching practices for our tamariki.

Thank you to the teaching team, Josh, Lyn, Tammy, Moana, Beth and Sharon as well as the family/whanau and students who all enable us to create a fabulous learning environment.

