



Nga mihi mahana kia tatou katoa...

Dear Friends of REANZ

Winter 2013

It is hard to believe we have already past the Winter Solstice and Spring will be upon us before we know it! REANZ has over 1300 registered friends from all over the world and we continue to be in contact with a number of other people through our Facebook page.

This newsletter brings you news of some of the activities that we have been undertaking and others that are planned for the next half of the year.

Regional Networks:

We are enthusiastic about the progress of setting up REANZ Networks in regional settings. As each Network forms, we invite the people involved to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that forms an agreement between us for our future relationships. We have entered into this formal arrangement with a group of people from Wellington and are currently in discussions with people from Christchurch and Southland. Cheryl Kingi in Kerikeri is interested in forming a group in Northland. People interested in more information about joining a Network or forming a Network can make contact with us via our website. We will then put you in touch with others in your area. Contact people for our Regional Networks will be placed on our website in the near future. We have held two Regional Network meetings for regional representatives in Auckland and have a third planned in September

Website: www.reanz.org

We have been working on our new website and would welcome your input. Do you have photos of interesting environments, articles that you may have written or websites that you think others would find useful? Anything you have to share would be appreciated by our 'Web Mistress' Wendy Larmer. She can be contacted on larmers@xtra.co.nz

New books:

Ann Pelo's new book '*The Goodness of Rain*' has been published by Exchange Press and is available from Pademelon Press and The Book Garden. Ann made a great impact on the Friends of REANZ when she visited various parts of New Zealand last year. We look forward to sharing a book review soon.

Stefania Giamminuti has also just published her book '*Dancing with Reggio Emilia: Metaphors for Quality*'. Jerome Bruner, Howard Gardener, Alma Fleet and Peter Moss have written glowing reviews. A copy is available in our library and the book can be purchased from Pademelon Press and The Book Garden.

Talking about the library... On our website you will find the names of the books we have for borrowing. Please note, the charge of \$5 covers the cost of mailing the books out to you. Contact Bronwen at tots@totscorner.co.nz **Attention: Bronwen Stephenson** to order a book.

Sharing the Summer School Experience; Diti Hill

From the 3rd to the 15th of June 2012 I was fortunate enough to attend the two week long Second International Summer School which took place in both Reggio Emilia and Ligonchio. The Summer School was funded by REANZ and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Trustees for enabling an amazing experience. The topic, 'The dimension of research and the hundred languages of children', gave rise to many new ideas and to new ways of approaching old ideas. A highlight for me was Claudia Giudici explaining the inextricable link between epistemology (ways of knowing) and aesthetics (harmony and balance through the senses), a link that is made meaningful through 'the hundred languages', the *atelier* and research. Claudia challenged us to consider the term 'anaesthetic' in educational terms! Through carefully chosen activities and discussion the Summer School participants came to see clearly how an integrated approach to 'the arts' and 'the sciences' is essential to early years education. We explored the connections between disciplines and the dimensions of our experience rather than separating these out into educational 'pigeon holes'. Another highlight was gaining a greater understanding of the *atelier* and the *urban atelier* in a context of citizenship and democracy.

From November 2012 to June 2013 I shared my Summer School experience with early years teachers in Auckland, Invercargill, Whangarei, Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington. Each presentation enriched my own learning. An anecdote I would like to share from my presentation experience begins with my sharing of the *progettazione* (project) called 'The young girl of the perfume', in which 5-6 year olds are asked to consider what a bleak, damp wall in an industrial part of Reggio Emilia might desire, as part of a wider focus on citizenship and empathy. A teacher approached me after a presentation with a commitment to the ideas of democracy, citizenship and empathy in her centre. She wished to return to her centre and the current rebuilding of the centre sandpit and ask the children to empathise with the sandpit and consider what the sandpit might want from the people who spend time there. This connection between children's play and the deeper ideas of democracy, social justice, empathy, freedom and citizenship lies at the heart of the Reggio Emilia pedagogy.

Study Tour to Reggio Emilia 2013:

The April 2013 study tour to Reggio Emilia was attended by 17 people from all parts of New Zealand. We met up in Milan where we enjoyed a fabulous day together before setting off by train to Reggio Emilia. We settled into Hotel Posta, right in the heart of the historical town, in the centre of Reggio Emilia. Being connected to the cultural heart of the city is very powerful and gave us a sense of the history that is integral to the lives of the families who attend the infant and toddler centres and preschools of Reggio Emilia.

Some of the highlights of the week were visits by train to Florence and Venice, exploring Reggio Emilia at leisure both formally with Reggio Children and informally on foot or bicycle during the week. Of course the wonderful sessions presented at the Loris Malaguzzi Centre and visits to the Infant Toddler Centres and Pre Schools led to great discussions and reflections among the participants on the Study Tour. Hearing directly and in depth from the pedagogistas about several projects was a real highlight for many of the teachers in our group who have returned to their centres awakened to the possibilities for children and teachers inquiring together.

We ate in the new Atelier of Taste within the Loris Malaguzzi centre with an arrival Pizza and Gelato feast and several of our group travelled into the mountains to Ligonchio to experience the 'Wave to Wave' atelier which involved participating in making the invisible (energy forces) visible.

This was a week to be remembered for the friendships formed, the experience of living in an Italian town rich in culture and the inspiration of the passionate educators in Reggio Emilia.

Future Events...

Saturday 10th August - Primary Seminar

In collaboration with Rolleston and Bromley Primary Schools in Christchurch, we are delighted to host **'Engaging with the Pedagogy of Reggio Emilia in the Primary School Sector'**. This is being held in Auckland at Kohia Education Centre, Epsom on August 10th. Cost \$80. Please see the website for more details and registration www.reanz.org

Saturday 31st August - Dialogues with nature: air, earth, water, fire

Pam Wilson, Senior Teacher at Southland Kindergarten Association, Invercargill and Claire Maley-Shaw, Head Teacher of Fiordland Kindergarten will present their **stories of children learning in and with nature** and also about the impact that 'nature deficit disorder' has on children's social competencies. Claire was recently interviewed about this by TV One's 'Sunday' programme which will be broadcast at 7.30pm on the 28th July.

This will be held at St Cuthbert's College Auditorium on **Saturday 31st August 2013 from 9am to 1pm**. \$80 (including morning tea). Please see the website for more details and registration www.reanz.org or email reanz@inspire.net.nz

Chris Celada and Margo Hobba are coming to New Zealand in October:

Chris and Margo are returning to present in Auckland, Wellington, Queenstown and Invercargill. Their interest lies in exploring pedagogical documentation and the unpacking of progetazione from Reggio Emilia. Information will be on the website and also emailed out to you.

Introductory Conversation Evenings:

In October (dates to be finalized) we will be offering three introductory level evening sessions facilitated by Chris Bayes and Diti Hill. **'What it means to be provoked by the pedagogy of Reggio Emilia'**. Numbers will be limited. Cost \$45. Please only register if you can commit to the three evenings. More details will be circulated nearer the time.

Melbourne Study Tour April/May 2014:

The October study tour to Melbourne is full and we are now accepting registrations of interest for the April/May tour. Currently the cost is \$2,200. Which covers flights, insurance, transfers in Melbourne, accommodation and costs of the Monday – Friday study tour including lunches. Please register your interest with Chris Bayes: chris.bayes@extra.co.nz

Reggio Emilia Study Tour 2014

We are taking registrations of interest for the **2014 study tour**. Please email Denise Heald: reanz@inspire.net.nz for information and the registration flyer.

Warm Regards to you all

The REANZ Trustees

Wendy Larmer, Glenys Waller, Diti Hill, Chris Bayes, Denise Heald, Lorraine Manuela, Lesley Pohio, Helen Aitken, Prue Crarer, Therese Visser and Julianne Exton