



Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar
World Organisation for Early Childhood Education
Te rōpū a Ao mō te Mātauranga o ngā Kōhungahunga

Newsletter March 2020

**Kia ora koutou,
Welcome to our March 2020 newsletter!**

What's on top for us at OMEP Aotearoa

Canterbury members have trialled the ESD project, which was designed by OMEP World, to support kaiako in early childhood settings towards a culture of sustainability. The overall purpose of this project is to support kaiako in early childhood settings towards a culture of sustainability. Leaders of the project Glynne Mackey and Anita Croft are now preparing the document for a national release. Watch this spot!

You will see a reminder about our art project elsewhere in this newsletter. Please feel free to forward to anyone who might be interested. We are looking forward to receive your children's expressions of children's rights in visual arts. The deadline is 8 May.

Following a workshop with excellent facilitation by Katherine Peet from Waitangi networks, OMEP Aotearoa have formed a subcommittee to support our local chapters and OMEP Aotearoa to reflect on our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Following the workshop with Katherine Peet, we agreed to change the title of our focus from bicultural strategy to a Te Tiriti and values based strategy. Our next step is to prepare a document for chapters to support them in their reviews.

As I speak, the news media are full of the coronavirus. I hope that it will not spread widely in Aotearoa and that you will all stay well. See below communication from World President on how OMEP members can protect the health and wellbeing of all children. Kerrie Duncan and Wellington chapter led the WASH project in Aotearoa. Wellington chapter are happy to share their resources about hand washing for young children. You will find an email address where they can be contacted in the section from Wellington chapter.

Some children will be fearful and anxious because of all the attention in the media and the anxiety of adults around them. They will experience changes in their routines. Here is a link how to talk to young children from Unicef: <https://www.unicef.org.au/blog/news-and-insights/march-2020/how-to-talk-to-your-children-about-coronavirus>.

Please see page 6 for the latest message from ARNEC re Covid-19.

*Best wishes
Lia de Vocht,
President OMEP Aotearoa*

OMEP WORLD



Meet the new World President of OMEP. On January 1st 2020 Mercedes Mayol Lassalle, Argentine pedagogue, assumed the World Presidency elected in OMEP World Assembly, held in Panama in July 2019. Mercedes has a Degree in Primary Education, with a BA in Educational Sciences, from the University of Buenos Aires. In the area of government, she is ex- Director of the Early Childhood Education Area of the City of Buenos Aires. Ex-senior consultant for the United Nations Development Program. Nowadays Professor in the Master Early Childhood Education at the University of Buenos Aires and the Regional Training Program in Educational Policy Planning and Management, IPE-UNESCO Buenos Aires, Office for Latin America. Her field of interest is early childhood education policies in relation to children's rights, and management of educational institutions for children aged 0 to 3 years. She coordinates training and teacher update programs in poverty contexts and assess public policies and programs on early childhood education and care. Member of OMEP (World Organization for Early Childhood Education) since 1999 and member of the Coordination Group of the Collective Consultation of NGOs for Education 2030 (CCNGO-Education 2030).

WPCOM (World Presidency Communication)_04 - CORONAVIRUS

RELEASE: ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

How can OMEP act to protect and promote the right to health of early childhood against Coronavirus?

Today the world faces a big challenge: fight against the spread of the virus. ECCE Institutions and educators have much to do to face the progression of this disease. We do not need to create new strategies, but to recover our experience, valuing and re-signifying what we have learned and taught through WASH FROM THE START program.

Wash from the start, started in OMEP in 2011 in alliance with UNICEF/WASH (water/sanitation/hygiene), its goals were that young children develop knowledge, attitudes and habits that promote and protect their health, as the creation of safe, healthy and quality environments.

Among other actions, every year OMEP joins the celebration of October 15th: **Global Handwashing Day (GHD)** with worldwide promotional activities on the **importance of handwashing with soap and water** as an easy and effective way to prevent diseases and save lives.

WHO has clearly stated that, since there are no vaccines or medications that can attack the coronavirus, the only possible measure is to emphasize **PREVENTION**, and this will be possible through education.

OMEP must insist on its commitment to protect human rights, including health, relying on education as the tool, for young children, to enjoy all their rights.

Considering this situation, it will be necessary to adopt the measures recommended by WHO:

- ✓ Wash your hands thoroughly and often, using an alcohol-based disinfectant or soap and water to kill the viruses that may be in your hands.
- ✓ Maintain a minimum distance of 1 meter (3 feet) between you and anyone who coughs or sneezes.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, hands touch many surfaces and can catch viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to the eyes, nose or mouth.
- ✓ Ensure good respiratory hygiene, cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.
- ✓ Stay home if you are not feeling well. If you have a fever, cough and shortness of breath, seek medical attention. Follow the instructions of the local health authorities.
- ✓ Stay informed about the latest news and follow the advice of the authorities at national and local level.

Check out the latest news from OMEP world at <https://worldomep.org>.

Auckland: The first committee meeting of the year took place on February 10th; this was followed on March 9th by an evening for members: 'Quality in NZ ECE services: slip-sliding away?'. 18 people attended with much heated discussion around the Strategic Plan/Action Plan, the Regulations (and pending regulatory review) and individual teacher responsibility and passion. The discussion was recorded and key points will inform questions for MPs at our Political Evening to be held prior to the election. In an effort to attract more members to our member evenings, we have activated a phone tree that complements the online emails, Facebook posts and flyers. This will hopefully increase attendance and enable members' voices to be heard and their concerns acted upon.

Membership stands at 46 with 3 student members. Sadly, one of the Auckland Chapter life members (Barbara Hale) and our honorary member, Beverley Morris, passed away in 2019. This leaves two life members (Robin Houliker and Hilary Alach). 5 of our memberships were paid for by the Auckland Associate Teacher Symposium and gifted to individual Associate Teachers for the 2020 year as part of the 2019 AT Symposium. A further 3 memberships were gifted by the Auckland Chapter to those centres/managers, head teachers that hosted Tuvaluan teachers in the latter part of 2019: Mahurangi Kindergarten in Warkworth, the Leata'ata Samoan Preschool in Massey and the Fetufa Tokelau Akoga Kamata EC Centre in Te Atatu Peninsula.

The following issues and projects will be worked on throughout the year: the OMEP ESD Rating Scale, the WASH (handwashing) Project for which a resource has been developed by the Wellington Chapter (see below), and the development of a values and Te Tiriti-based approach to the chapter's organisational structure. Tuvalu and Fiji are hoping to continue the teacher exchange during 2020, as a continuation of the national teacher exchange. The Education Leadership Project donated \$250.00 to the chapter's 'Pasifika' fund following the screening of 'Vai' in December which raised several hundred dollars towards an OMEP member's travel to Tuvalu. We will also show the movie 'Vai' in South Auckland around May.

Wellington: Wellington has started to put together a great professional development programme for our members and friends. The first session saw Bronwen Olds presenting on seeing te Tiriti in our tamariki everyday and knowing how each article of te Tiriti can be seen through our interactions with children. The session attracted over 40 participants. Our next session is just as interesting as we move to expanding the what, why and how of working theories in our centres.

OMEP Wellington continues to develop its Te Tiriti based journey and as such is asking presenters to connect the topic of their presentation to one of the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We believe this honours te Tiriti and will support our members to expand and engage their own Te Tiriti based journey.

Handwashing has been on top of late with the information we are receiving about the Novel CoronaVirus. Wellington, is putting together a set of resources that can help centres improve handwashing techniques in centres and an information sheet to support parents to implement good technique at home. If you are interested in the resources, contact OMEPWellington@gmail.com and the information package will be made available.

Canterbury: In our February meeting Penny Neilson and Annie Gordon both Professional Services Manager for Beststart were voted in as our new Chapter co-Presidents. We thanked Jo Knudsen for her leadership for the past three years. We will be completing the OMEP ESD rating scale soon after our pilot centres have given us some very valuable feedback and will running a one day workshop later in the year.

Otago: Kia ora koutou. On Saturday afternoon, 29 February, 24 teachers and student teachers participated in a music workshop held at the University of Otago, facilitated by Natasha Manowitz and Anna Davies. The number of participants shows the interest that there is in incorporating music into the curriculum - we were at full capacity! Dunedin weather on that afternoon was exceptional - a very beautiful day - yet, all those who said they would attend were there! Natasha and Anna are both exceptional musicians and teachers and they run the Dunedin preschool music group. Natasha and Anna took us through some inspirational ideas for including music making in the early years. I am feeling excited about how 'musicking' can be supported in early childhood education. Mihi atu Bev Clark

REMINDER

CREATIVE ART WORLD OMEP* (World Organisation of Early Childhood)

Colour your rights: 30 years with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

On behalf of OMEP Cyprus, OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand wish to invite you to participate in the CREATIVE ART WORLD OMEP PROJECT celebrating 30 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children from all OMEP member countries are invited to illustrate their understanding, feelings and thoughts about one specific Right of the Child through artistic expression using a variety of ways, approaches and materials which will initially be digitally displayed at the OMEP World Assembly in July 2020.

Please check the OMEP Aotearoa Facebook site for further information and forms. DUE DATE 8th MAY 2020. We are looking forward to receiving the children's artwork.



Awareness Days/Weeks

7 April [World Health Day](#)

22 April International Mother Earth Day

23 April English Language Day

28 April [World Day for Safety and Health at Work](#)

4 May - 10 May 2020 [NZ Sign Language Week](#)

15 May [International Day of Families](#)

To mark its 75th anniversary in 2020, the United Nations has launched the biggest-ever global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want. Go to <https://www.un.org/en/un75> for further information.

Key Dates

Next OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand National Executive meeting - Tuesday 28 April 2020

WORLD OMEP ART PROJECT Due 8th May

2020 - 72nd World Assembly and Conference: July 13-17, Athens, Greece

2021 - the 73rd World Assembly and Conference will be held in French Canada; dates yet to be announced.

OMEP Asia-Pacific Region

2021 Regional Conference - April 18-20, Hangzhou, China

Follow us on

 OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand



<http://omepaotearoa.org.nz/> (currently under construction)



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18 March 2020

Dear ARNEC partners and members,



1. The UN was founded after the Second World War to replace the League Of Nations which had been so ineffectual in preventing war.
2. When the UN was founded there were 45 members. There are now 193.
3. The most recent country to be admitted to the UN was South Sudan in 2011.
4. UN Peacekeeping forces comprise 116,919 field forces from 123 countries.
5. The UN Charter comprises 8,778 words. The second draft of the EU Ecolabel preliminary report for Sanitary Products (including toilet paper) has over five times as many (44,065) words.
6. The UN provides food to 90 million people...
7. ...and vaccinations for 58 per cent of the world's children.
8. **Importance of OMEP Representation at UN system.** Since its founding in 1948, World OMEP has had official consultative status at UN. World OMEP is entitled to seven ground passes for its representatives to participate in the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)¹ and Department of Public Information (DPI)² and their subcommittees. These representatives are often referred to collectively as "OMEP's New York Team. OMEP's consultative status at the United Nations and UNICEF provides a vitally important avenue for our organization's global child advocacy: (1) gains visibility and credibility in terms of health, wellbeing, rights, and education of children aged 0 to 8 years; (2) influences decision-making at the highest levels; and (3) collaborates with influential stakeholders both inside and beyond the core Early Childhood community.

We are in a very difficult time as Covid-19 is affecting us all. We hope that you are well, along with your families and communities.

ARNEC stands for the protection and wellbeing of young children and their families and communities, as governments work with all sectors of society to contain the spread of COVID-19 in countries in the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world. As you are all delivering frontline services to young children and their communities, the ARNEC Secretariat expresses our full support and deep appreciation for the work that you do.

We are with you in these challenging times and we are seeking ways to continue promoting early childhood development in different ways.

ARNEC strongly supports multi-sectoral and whole-of-society measures to halt the geographical spread of the corona virus and to address unintentional impacts of these measures. We all know that school closure, pressures on national and local health systems, squeeze on public and private investments, and the looming financial and economic downtrend have adverse effects on us all, especially young children.

ARNEC is foremost concerned on the overall burden placed on the family, especially the poor, as a result of prolonged days of non-work, the concomitant effects on household incomes, plus the adjustment measures it has to make in the face of a global slowdown.

At a time when most governments have urged citizens to stay home and minimise human movement and interaction outside the home, ARNEC is steadfast in promoting ways to make this period productive, meaningful, and engaging for young children and their families.

We believe in the power of our Network to support and learn from each other's efforts to cope with this unprecedented situation. We are creating a platform by which we can actively share information, resources, and tools putting young children at the centre of all our initiatives.

The call of the times is for us to be more collaborative in keeping our children, families and communities healthy and free from the corona virus. Now more than ever we need to stand on each other's shoulders to continue our work.

As an initial step, ARNEC commits to share in its website and social media platforms early learning, proper hygiene and child protection resources from partners and other stakeholders advancing early childhood development in the region and beyond for all to learn from and use, whilst most of us are at home with our children.

Please visit ARNEC at <https://arnec.net> and search ARNEC in Facebook and Twitter for regular updates of early learning, hygiene and child protection resources, which you may share in your own platforms. We encourage you to do the same to foster cross-sharing of resources for young children and their families.

ARNEC takes this opportunity to remind everyone to discern information on COVID-19. ARNEC enjoys all to get regular updates only from competent authorities and to stay away from misinformation and unverified sources.

Let's all work together for the protection and development of young children, as much as we keep ourselves mindful of good health, nutrition, and hygiene to help stop the transmission of COVID-19.

Evelyn, Andrea and Joel (ARNEC Secretariat)

Check out <https://arnec.net/resource?id=180> for Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools - March 2020 by WHO, UNICEF, IFRC