



38th Annual General Meeting – 12th May 2021

Ruahine Kindergarten Association

Board Nominations

Karyn Aspden

Tēnā koutou katoa.

Ko Puketapapa te māunga

Ko Waitemata te moana

Ko Armstrong te whānau

Ko Kupenga o te Matauranga te marae

Ko Karyn Aspden toku ingoa

Nō Tāmaki Makaurau ahau

Engari, kei Te Papaioea e noho ana

Ko te Kura o te Matauranga e mahi ana

Kei Te Kunenga ki Purehuroa.



My name is Dr Karyn Aspden, and I am a Senior Lecturer in Early Years Education at Massey University, based in the Manawatū. I have worked in the Early Years team for over ten years now, and for the past six years I have been the coordinator of the Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood) in which I support those training to become qualified ECE kaiako.

My professional interests focus on enhancing quality teaching practice, leadership in ECE, inclusive education and infant and toddler pedagogy. In my role I have had a long and very valued relationship with the Ruahine Kindergarten Association, as partners in programme development, professional experience, sector liaison and research projects. I would bring to the role extensive knowledge of, and experience in early childhood education. I completed my teacher education qualification at the Palmerston North College of Education in 1992, where I first spent time in RKA kindergartens. My subsequent career saw me teaching in a variety of both kindergarten and community-based early childhood services, including the experience of working with community to build a new early learning service, of which I was the founding leader.

Alongside my teaching qualifications, I also have a deep commitment to supporting all learners in inclusive early childhood settings in ways that uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and am a qualified early





intervention teacher, with a Masters degree in Inclusive Education. I believe my roles as a parent, teacher, ECE leader and teacher educator bring a well-rounded understanding of the issues facing early learning in Aotearoa, the capacity for decision-making and critical thinking, as well as the ability to be strategic, organized, and able to consider and value multiple perspectives.

I have always considered it a privilege to work with the RKA team to support the professional development of student teachers and teachers within the Association and would love the opportunity to give back as a representative on the governance Board.

Proposed by Clare Corboy and Seconded by Letitia Morris

Alison Christensen

I like to be known as Ali. My background and current employment is as a Senior Specialties Registered Nurse in Interventional Radiology at MidCentral DHB.

I have a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Science, working towards my Postgraduate Diploma. I have been an active NZNO union Delegate for the past 5 years. I am very aware of confidentiality, evidenced based decision making and focused implementation of care.

As a parent of 2 daughters, 1 of which has attended Makino Kindergarten previously, and 1 who is enrolled currently, I have always been committed to keeping up to date with current practices within early childhood and actively contributing when needed.

I would like to be elected to the Board of RKA to continue actively supporting the learning of our Tamariki.

Proposed by Alex Cooper and Seconded by Deborah Meurk





Suchen Huang

Tēnā tatou. My name is Suchen Huang. I am a father of two daughters, 3-year-old Hannah and 3-month-old Emma. Hannah currently attends Summerhill Early Learning Centre.

As a father who just started the parenthood journey, I am fortunate to have a great centre taking care of my daughter and tamariki of the local community. I want to be more involved with the Ruahine Kindergarten Association and contribute to the ongoing success of the wonderful community organisation.



I work as an IT Business Relationship Manager at Massey University. Part of my work involves setting up and working with governance boards for projects of various sizes and types. I need to be both strategic and pragmatic in order to facilitate good outcomes out from the governance boards. I have a good understanding of strategy and business directions.

I am excited to be able to apply my work experience and skills to community services. In addition, I can also provide diversity to the Board, including my experience as a migrant, my Chinese/Asian background and a perspective from a relatively new centre. I am fully aware of the roles and responsibilities of being a Board member, and I believe I am up to the challenge.

Proposed by Erin Willson and Seconded by Jin Hou

Mike Tantrum

I am a committed strategic thinker who is happy to apply a 'get it done' mentality to problems. I am a current local business owner and board member and am a member of the Institute of Directors. I am continuously improving my knowledge and experience by continuing development through several training courses.

I have children who have previously attended RKA services and have another beginning shortly at Makino Kindergarten, so I am committed to ensuring that issues are sorted in a timely and efficient manner. I have no conflicts of interest and am primarily interested in getting involved with a board that positively influences my children's development. I hope that I will be able to give something back to the RKA as I feel that the organisation has positively affected my own life.



Proposed by Lysandra McKenzie and Seconded by Carole Payton

