

# BUILDING OUR KINDERGARTEN FUTURE

What happens each day at kindergarten is what matters most to children and whānau



Kia ora. Talofa. Kia orana. Malo e lelei. Namaste. Ni Hao. Jou Sanh. Witam. Greetings.

This newsletter is for parents, whānau and staff of Rimutaka and Wellington Kindergarten Associations – August 2014

On 6 August 2014, the Rimutaka and Wellington Region Kindergarten Associations will come together as one organisation called **He Whānau Manaaki o Tararua Free Kindergarten Association**. (He Whānau Manaaki Association or He Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens for short)

The name “He Whānau Manaaki o Tararua” simply translated means “the caring family of Tararua”. Tararua acknowledges the mountain range that identifies the two existing kindergarten associations, one running the eastern seaboard north from Wellington and the other, the western landbase of Wairarapa. Tararua has a variety of meanings reflecting different Māori tribal traditions – the one of greatest relevance is that of the mountain ranges referring to Whatonga remembering his wives Hotuwaipara and Reretua. The metaphor is of the female element of creation and nurturing. The concept of the caring family encapsulates the underlying philosophy of Kindergarten and the intention of the new association.

Over the past 18 months we have been exploring the idea of bringing together the associations and concluded a single association would provide a sound foundation for the future. Association members voted to establish the new association at special meetings in May which were followed in June by further meetings to address the constitutional issues.

While there is a lot of activity going on behind the scenes, we want to ensure what happens at your kindergarten continues to happen. You and your child and family will continue to be involved as you are each day. The change is about the structure of the association supporting kindergartens, rather than what happens at kindergarten.

Becoming a single association means there will be some changes in the association office and for the governance of the association.

Amanda Coulston, currently the general manager of the Wellington association, will become the chief executive, and Jane Braun, currently the manager of the Rimutaka association, will be the deputy chief executive of the new association.

The interim governance board is made up of the two associations’ board members and will be co-chaired by Pamela Malcolm, current chairperson Rimutaka association and Shane La’ulu, current chairperson of Wellington.

He Whānau Manaaki o Tararua Kindergarten Association will operate 85 kindergartens and other early childhood education services in Wellington, Petone/Eastbourne, and the Kapiti Coast through to Levin, Upper Hutt and the Wairarapa. Over 5,600 children and families participate.

As the leadership team Amanda and Jane will work with the interim governance board and management and professional advisory teams to bring the two associations together. There will be a transition period to allow time for systems, policies and procedures to be worked through and aligned, and for the development of new structures such as reference and advisory groups.

We want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to engage to support the aims and aspirations of He Whānau Manaaki Association for the future.

### Contacts

On 6 August, the key change will be the name of the association. If you need to contact someone in the association office please ring 04 232 3069 or 04 528 8671.

Association office staff and senior teachers will retain their current contact number and email address. Although these will change in the future – you will be notified of the changes in advance of when it happens.

Each kindergarten will continue to have the same contact telephone number and email address, although these will change in the future – again, you will be notified of this in advance of when it happens.

The association office is located at 211 Main Road, Tawa, Wellington and postal address PO Box 51 143, Wellington, 5028. The office is open from 8.00am – 5.00pm daily.

### Administration

While we are trying to keep changes to systems and processes to a minimum, there are some administrative changes we can't avoid. Parents of children attending kindergarten in Upper Hutt and Wairarapa using direct payments facilities will need to change to a new association bank account number. We will contact you directly about this in the next week or so. We aim to keep disruption to a minimum but there will be other things we will have to revise or reorganise during the transition period – we'll give you as much notice as possible.

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### Keeping in touch

We will have an event to celebrate the new association in the coming months. We will keep you up-to-date on progress and if you'd like to know what is happening please get in touch with either Mandy or Jane, or go to the website [http://www.nzkindergarten.org.nz/He\\_Whanau\\_Manaki\\_o\\_Tararua\\_KA](http://www.nzkindergarten.org.nz/He_Whanau_Manaki_o_Tararua_KA) or contact [info@wn-kindergarten.org.nz](mailto:info@wn-kindergarten.org.nz). We want everyone to be well informed.

Thank you for attending meetings, for your feedback and ideas, and for your support. This is an exciting development and we look forward to growing and strengthening kindergarten in our region in the future.

Pamela Malcolm – Chairperson  
Jane Braun – General Manager  
Rimutaka Kindergarten Association

Shane La'ulu – Chairperson  
Amanda Coulston – General Manager  
Wellington Region Free Kindergarten Association

