



2021

kindergartens

SOUTH

Pūtahi Kura Pūhou o Murihiku

ANNUAL REPORT

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Key Personnel



Board Chair - Victoria Sinclair



Vice Board Chair - Charlotte Murch



Board Member - Mike Wyeth



Board Member - Sarah Ruffell



Board Member - Erin Cross



Board Member - Chris Kennett



Board Member - Lisa Shaw

Life Members

Gaynor Logan

Wendy McArthur

Robin McCall

Diane McWhirter

Karen Purdue

Winy van Rossum

Gil Wikstrom

Leadership Team

Senior Teachers - Robyn Leckie and Wendy McLachlan

Lead Administrator - Sheryl Harrison

Finance Manager - Annemey Everson

Property & Maintenance Manager - Joseph Sanginiti

General Manager - Patrick Edwards

Message from the Board

Kindergarten South
Board Chair Annual Report

2021/2022 has been a challenging year on all fronts- and I am proud to say we are an organisation that has faced these challenges head on.

The first task for our Board this year was to revisit and set our organisational strategic plan. This process highlighted that our Board is focused on being leaders in the Early Childhood Education sector, connecting with our communities and keeping our tamariki at the centre of all that we do.

In June 2021, the Board was excited to appoint our new General Manager, Patrick Edwards. The first task for Patrick was to establish the direction of travel for Kindergarten South (in alignment with our strategic plan) and to build strong relationships with the various stakeholders associated with Kindergarten South.

Under Patricks' leadership, we have gone from strength to strength. Many tough decisions have been made, and many exciting new steps have been taken, which have all contributed to fantastic results, both from a financial perspective and also for our kaiako and tamariki.

Our Senior Teachers have ably led the curriculum development and delivery in our Kindergartens, taking on many exciting opportunities in order to keep moving forward. The Board wishes to acknowledge Wendy and Robyn - you are experts in education and we value all that you bring to our mahi.

We believe we have the best ECE educators in our kindergartens. Everyday tamariki come to kindy - their home away from home. This is because our kaiako work tirelessly to be the best for their tamariki, to create a space where our kids feel connected and safe, and to actively advocate for the best outcomes for each of the children. The Board wishes to acknowledge each of our kaiako, and say a heartfelt thank you for all that you do. You are spectacular teachers - I know that my children have blossomed under the care of their kindergarten teachers, and I know this is the case for all children in our organisation. Thank you also for your amazing mahi as we have coped with Covid-19. You maintained stable and secure relationships with your tamariki, in trying situations. Thank you.

Message from the Board

One of the major obstacles we faced this year was the challenge of an ongoing deficit budget. With careful planning and strong fiscal management, our financial performance is significantly improved, as you can see in the Financial Report. This has meant a number of large changes. We have employed a Property Maintenance Manager, and a Financial Operations Manager. Bringing these services in house has not only cut costs, but also means we are able to be more agile and responsive to the needs of our organisation.

The Board wishes to acknowledge that sometimes changes like this can be uncomfortable and tricky to navigate - but something had to change. We are confident that the future is looking much stronger and more sustainable, and in time we believe each of our members (tamariki, whanau, kaiako) will begin to see the benefits of these changes.

In May 2021, the Board said farewell to a long-serving Board Chair, Pauline Smith. Pauline served on the Board for 7yrs, both as vice-president and president. Her amazing heart and passion for the work of Kindergarten South over the years has ensured that we have a strong foundation from which to build. Pauline - thank you for all that you have done for Kindergarten South - we wish you all the very best for the future.

Kindergarten South is supported by a wonderful office team. Sheryl, Nikki, Annemey, Joe - you are outstanding. Your commitment to our vision and, in turn, our tamariki, is impeccable. Thank you for being part of our journey - we know at times it's not straight forward and yet you still keep working to keep the cogs turning.

This year the Board and Patrick are hugely grateful for the support of Jill Bond (CEO New Zealand Kindergartens) and the NZK Network. Jill stepped in to steer the ship as we transitioned between our previous General Manager, Nikki McRobie and current GM Patrick Edwards. She has subsequently maintained close contact with both Patrick and our Board as we grow and develop, frequently offering wise advice and counsel as we settle in to our new normal. Jill - thank you for all that you have done, we can not speak highly enough of you and your expertise.

Message from the Board

I wish to thank another group of people - our Board. Each of you brings something special to the Board table. Not only do you have skills and expertise that ensure our discussions and decisions are robust and strong, but also you bring your heart. You genuinely care about the work of Kindergarten South, and constantly work to keep our tamariki and their whanau at the centre of the mahi we are doing. It is a pleasure and an honour to work alongside you all, and I am excited about the next years as we keep aiming high for our members.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge and thank Patrick. One of the things I admire the most about Patrick is that he works so hard to ensure that the outcomes for our people are the best they can possibly be. Every decision is made with careful consideration and thought. Kindergarten South has an outstanding leader in Patrick, and the Board is excited to be working with Patrick as he leads us forward. Patrick, on behalf of the Board and Kindergarten South, I wish to thank you for a year of exciting and challenging changes - we are looking forward to the next year!

I would like to finish this report with a whakatauki that underpins the work we are doing in all areas of Kindergarten South:

He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!

What is the most important thing in the world? It is people! It is people! It is people!

This whakatauki talks to the importance of human connection and relationships. This is what creates community and enables people to flourish. It values the human being in all of us and reminds us of what is most important – not money, not success, not a job or a thing – it is people.

Thank You
Victoria Sinclair
Board Chair
Kindergarten South

Notes from the General Manager

There are few opportunities in our careers where we get to utilize our skills and experience along with our passion for community and supporting our tamariki. Taking on the role with Southland Kindergarten Association this year was a position I was very excited to be selected for, a dream job.

With clear leadership and direction from the Board I have used my time in the role, with great support from the leadership team, to build a future for Southland Kindergarten that first and foremost, has sustainability. The key driver to this is to ensure our current and future tamariki can continue to experience quality ECE from our association.

The association has made huge steps towards a great future. While we have not avoided the impacts of COVID, we have experienced our first positive financial end of year position for 4 years, and we look forward to a budget for 2022 that will continue this journey.

Our property maintenance management has been moved to internal employment, along with other key processes, which has allowed us to be agile and nimble in our decision making and our strategic journey.

At the end of 2021 we concluded a long relationship McColloch & Partners (MCP) who have been involved with the association for many years with financial management. I would like to acknowledge and recognise the work carried out by MCP during this time and for the support and advise provided to myself, and previous GMs, with operational needs.

Southland Kindergarten Association is here for our community, and it is imperative that our shape and direction matches the needs of the community, both current and in the future.

I am excited about the prospect of working with the team to help take us there.

Our Numbers

804
Tamariki
Average over 12 months

153
Employees
Kaiako, Relievers and Operational
Support

24
Kindergartens
+
Main Office

Senior Teachers

Senior Kaiako have continued to work alongside the General Manager, leadership team, and kindergarten kaiako to provide quality early childhood education that best meets our local community needs.

He pai te tirohanga ki ngā mahara mō ngā rā pahemo
engari ka puta te māramatanga i runga i te titiro whakamua.

It is fine to have recollections of the past, however wisdom comes from being able to prepare opportunities for the future. (Early Childhood Curriculum: Te Whāriki, 2017)

Professional Learning for Kaiako

In 2021 our Association continued to invest in kaiako professional learning. Some of this professional learning included:

- Teaching Council new Professional Growth Cycle which replaced our previous Appraisal process.
- Enviroschools hui throughout the year.
- Pecha Kucha sessions: This was a fantastic opportunity for all our kindergartens to share some of their practices
- Therapeutic Model of Care: Some of our new kaiako were able to attend these sessions.
- Steph Holloway work with our Head Kaiako around leadership.
- Child Protection Professional Development – this is delivered biannually to all our kaiako.
- Kahui ako: These are clusters of kaiako across early childhood, primary and secondary who share resources and professional learning that is relevant to their current learning community.
- Sandra Collins from ERO shared ERO's history, new processes and what to look out for going forward.
- Staff Health and Well-Being – session with Sport Southland in relation to looking after ourselves, physically and mentally
- Incidental Professional Learning around virtual teaching and sharing of ideas across the association.

Induction and Mentoring

In 2021 we reviewed our Induction process for all kaiako. Feedback from this has been that we now have a more comprehensive process that supports kaiako across their first 6 months - one year for Head Kaiako - of working with Kindergartens South.

Senior Teachers

Itinerant Teacher Aids

Kindergartens South has a commitment to providing quality early childhood education to all tamariki within our services. Our Itinerant Teacher Aid programme employs up to nine permanent teacher aids across our network, as well as four teacher aids who are employed on a needs basis in our rural kindergartens.

Ministry of Education Targeted Funding and Flexible Funding

The Ministry of Education (MOE) introduced Targeted Funding for Disadvantaged in 2018 and this funding allocation is reviewed each year. In 2021 we had 11 kindergartens who qualified for this funding. The funding is spent each year by the kindergarten according to the criteria set by the MOE. In addition to this there is also Flexible Funding which is allocated to kindergartens to address an immediate need within their learning environment. Kindergartens can use this funding in a variety of ways to support tamariki and whānau and engagement within the kindergarten. This may be through purchasing additional resources to enhance learning, professional development for kaiako, whānau evenings, accessing external support agencies, and/or food and resources to promote tamariki health and wellbeing. Some examples of how some kindergartens have enhanced their programmes in the past year include:

- Providing a speech language therapist to work in the kindergarten
- Community gardens where produce is used at the kindergarten and shared with the learning community.
- Additional staff to provide targeted one on one time for some tamariki
- Wet weather gear and gumboots for the kindergarten so that all tamariki can enjoy the Southland elements regardless of the weather.
- Transport to excursions.
- Whanau evenings to promote the kindergarten and a sense of community.
- Duffy books programme – which provides books for tamariki in their home.
- Breakfast club and kai as needed.
- Targeted whole team Professional Development

Each kindergarten reports to the MOE as to how they have spent the allocated funding and to advise them of the difference this funding is making to tamariki.

Senior Teachers

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Ministry of Education Covid-19 Urgent Response Fund

In 2021 some of our Kindergartens were successful in their application to the Ministry of Education Covid-19 Urgent Response Fund. This funding was made available to support tamariki and/or whānau who have adversely been affected by Covid-19 or where a need for extra support for the kindergarten was identified. The funding enabled kindergartens to address specific needs within their learning communities. These included:

- Supporting whānau and tamariki through the anxiety of COVID
- Additional staffing to release kaiako to work alongside tamariki supporting social and emotional competencies.
- Speech language therapists to support language development
- Additional staffing to support transitions of tamariki and whānau back to kindergarten after absences.

Enviro Schools

The number of Kindergarten's, now signed to the Enviro-schools programme, has risen from 15 to 17 and these Kindergartens are supported by two active Kindergartens South facilitators.

The Enviro-schools kaupapa of – “creating a healthy, peaceful, sustainable world through people teaching and learning together,” is evident at each of these kindergartens.

We currently have one kindergarten that has reflected at Green/Gold level; three kindergartens that have reflected at Silver level and nine that have reflected at Bronze level.

Our connections with Toimata Foundation and Environment Southland remain strong. We seek advice and support from Toimata, to ensure our kaiako have access to the latest resources and information. We work closely with the lead facilitator at Environment Southland, enabling us to provide interesting informative workshops for our kaiako and to continue to grow our connections within the wider Southland community.

Kindergartens South holds the Enviro-schools kaupapa in Early Childhood Education in Southland and we are proud to have this as a key point of difference for our Association.

Taiao Tuhura Excursions

Out Taiao Tuhūra destinations, continue to be exciting places where tamariki, kaiako and whānau can take their time to have fun; enjoy peaceful moments; and experience challenge and excitement. There is an opportunity, for all, to develop a sense of responsibility for the living world and to learn how to care for it. (Te Whāriki 2017) When young tamariki learn about the concept of Kaitiakitanga, and learn to be kaitiaki, they learn to respect, care for, and protect people places and things that are important to us all.

Our tamariki have had opportunities to visit exciting places in the community, even during the uncertain times we have experienced.

In the current climate, well-being is essential – “nature alleviates the impact of life stress on children and helps them deal with adversity. The greater the amount of nature exposure, the greater the benefits” (cited in Buchan 2015)

Luka's Treasure Map



Bluff Kindergarten

During the past 12 months, Bluff Kindergarten have celebrated many successes. The most significant was commemorating 50 years of our Kindergarten being open, serving our Bluff community. It was an amazing celebration of whānaungatanga and manaakitanga with past kaiako and tamariki sharing stories and memories of their time at Kindergarten.

Oral literacy was a key area of focus. Kaiako implemented intentional teaching opportunities to extend children's language and understandings of literacy.

Enhancing children's social and emotional competencies, mindfulness was another key focus of the day-to-day curriculum. Tamariki enjoyed participating in mindfulness mat times, learning what it means to be mindful. Highlights of this included developing skills and strategies for self-regulation, such as deep belly breathing and mindful listening (meditation).



Above: Mia Tautari taking some "big belly breaths" to encourage some mindful listening to the world around us.



Above: Bluff Kindergarten tamariki exploring with literacy play using our kindergarten shed as their canvas.

Clarendon Learning Community

The Clarendon learning community has recently embarked on a journey together (ako) as Kaiako, tamariki and their whānau strengthen their mana atua and the mana atua of the learning community through the lens of physical and emotional well-being.

Tamariki have been exploring healthy food options and ways to keep their mind and body healthy through their time at kindergarten and everyday lives. This learning was celebrated with a trip to the Life Education Bus, a fantastic way to deepen their understanding and revisit the learning that has been happening in all areas of the kindergarten programme.

This learning has incorporated aspects of sustainable food options as tamariki and Kaiako planted vegetables in the kindergarten gardens. Tamariki have been empowered to become kaitiaki of the kindergarten environment as well as opportunities for Tuakana Teina as they help support, guide, and role model to younger tamariki. Clarendon Kindergarten is just beginning their environmental learning journey with many exciting ideas and learning pathways to explore next year!



Above: Whanaungatanga

Right: Exploring literacy on the outdoor blackboard



Drummond Rural Kindergarten

The tamariki, Kaiako and whānau of Drummond Kindergarten this year have spent a great deal of time celebrating Papatūānuku and the wonders she brings. Tamariki are kaitiaki of their learning environment, modelling and actively living our Kaupapa of kindness, compassion and awahi.

Tamariki are learning about the importance of caring for our natural world through sustainable approaches such as planting and harvesting in our māra, conserving water, discovering the water cycle, and the creation of Te Mea homai noa, our sharing shed.

Through these wonderful learning experiences, we have become an Enviroschool, and are inquiring into how we can strengthen our Toitu – our focus on sustainable living and learning. This is an incredible opportunity for our community of learners and a journey we are just beginning.

The rural atmosphere and sense of Turangawaewae here at Drummond evokes many positive partnerships developed between tamariki, Kaiako, whānau and our wider community. Whanaungatanga is such a valued, respected and living element within our environment and we pride ourselves in how welcoming and caring the tamariki all are. This year the tamariki have been exploring bucket filling and how to care for their own and others mana atua. Caring for others, the whenua and modelling manaakitanga are all worth celebrating!

E iti noa ana, nā te aroha – Although it is small, it is given with love



Right: Dani, kaitiaki of Papatūānuku
Left: Tamariki planting seeds



Elsie Street Kindergarten

Throughout the year we attended professional learning and development provided by the SELO contract Bicultural Responsiveness. This mahi enhanced kaiako bicultural awareness, providing teaching and learning strategies for kaiako to implement with tamariki and whānau. This also linked to our internal evaluation which focused on how effectively kaiako upheld the principles, partnership, and protection of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

In May we celebrated Elsie Street Kindergartens 70th birthday with present and past whānau attending a celebratory afternoon tea.

Kaiako and tamariki performed at the Hokonui Cultural Feast with Longford and Oxford Kindergartens. This was an opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity within our community.

We were excited and proud to receive our Bronze Enviroschools award. We continue with this mahi, enhancing kaiako and tamariki awareness of sustainability throughout our interactions and experiences. Kaiako and tamariki are now working towards the Silver Enviroschools award.

Our Nui Ferns programme continues to provide opportunities for 10 tamariki, kaiako, teacher aide, and parent helper to build relationships with nature in an unhurried manner. With the objective that tamariki will experience situations to build their self-confidence, develop problem solving skills, persevere, and take risks while learning to care and respect their natural surroundings.



Above: Kaiako carried out a rubbish audit with our tamariki of a day's worth of rubbish.



Right: Tamariki exploring at Nui Ferns around their 'campfire'

Elston Lea Kindergarten

One of our kaiako completed a teacher swap with Lees St kindergarten in Term 1 and brought back new ideas around individual planning for children's learning & this has been well embedded into practice. The year finished with a new Head Teacher.

In July 2021 the kindergarten parent committee arranged a family night with a magician. This was a big hit with a great family turnout.

Lockdown in August meant daily Zoom catchups & this was well received by the families and children, particularly wacky hair day. The children were really engaged in doing activities suggested by the teachers and happy to talk and interact via Zoom.

The Ivy has been removed from the outside of the building and some fresh paint has brightened up the indoors and the entranceway.

Taiao Tūhura continues to be a highlight for our older children and teachers. The learning from this is deepened at kindergarten by sharing with the younger children what has been learnt. Our children's interest in bugs and nature led to the construction of a bug hotel at kindergarten, providing a place to encourage bug life within our playground environment.



Above: 2021 Elston Lea bugs – Children constructing the bug hotel to be installed at kindergarten

Right: 2021 Elston Lea magic – Visit from the Magician organised by our Parent Committee



Fiordland Kindergarten

Our annual easter egg hunt was a highlight last year. The tamariki had fun following the clues around Ivon Wilson Park. At the end of the trail was a little surprise for every tamariki. We are so lucky to have amazing whānau that help organise these popular events. Our biggest change this year was moving to the full year model. Kaiako and whānau have supported this change, especially those whānau that needed our service during traditional term breaks. Enrolment inquiries have increased, and full year is influencing whānau choosing to use our service.

This year we received money from the Covid Response Fund. This money was used to fund an initiative that focused on tamariki speech, oral literacy, behaviour, and social emotional competencies. Using this money, we employed an ITA so Kaiako could work alongside the speech therapist learning skills that would help Kaiako work one on one with the tamariki. This was fantastic and the improvement in tamariki speech was noticed by all. We were able to spend quality time with tamariki building up confidence, self-esteem and positive strategies to use in times of conflict or uncertainty. Resources were purchased, and used as support to strengthen the work we were doing with tamariki.

What we have learnt this year again is the importance of the mahi we do building relations with our kindergarten whānau especially during difficult times.



Above: Nature play
Right: Water play



Glengarry Kindergarten

In 2021, the health and wellbeing of children and whānau were our priorities during such uncertain times. Initially, we had many changes here - within the teaching team, with Covid restrictions and with our new full year operating model. Whilst this presented uncertainties, it has now resulted in a great permanent team and we are seeing the benefits of working through the process of establishing the full year kindergarten.

We had a wonderful celebration for Matariki, where our whānau joined us at Queens Park to visit the awesome mahi created collaboratively with the children and their whānau.

We were still able to enjoy small group visits in the community, such as to Queens Park, Nichols Greenworld, School Science Fair and town. We also enjoyed visiting Longbush Kindergarten during our 'term breaks' and they, in turn, reciprocated.

We continued to support the Southland Charity Hospital by holding another Red Black and White Day, raising enough money to buy a brick - bringing it to 3 bricks in total bought by Glengarry Kindergarten. We also collected for the kittens at Furever Homes and enjoyed their visit during our dress up day.

We're looking forward to navigating new ways to reconnect with the community in the coming year.



Above: Tamariki and whānau creating their waka for Matariki celebration
Right: A child initiated trip to visit her father's workplace, Nichol's Greenworld



Grasmere Kindergarten

At Grasmere Kindergarten our tamariki continue to strive, setting their own learning goals and learning new strategies to reach these goals. Literacy has been one of our main focuses for 2021 and it is great to hear feedback from whānau about how much their tamaiti knows and how proud they are of their tamaiti.

This learning is driven by the tamariki however Kaiako have purposely set out to enhance this learning by making a few simple changes during our hui time and around our environment.

Our tamariki continue to role model our kaupapa within Grasmere kindergarten and it is lovely to hear from our community how much it is felt and seen when they visit. It is through the feedback from whānau, our community, and the actions of our tamariki that we know our tamariki are leaving kindergarten with the foundations which prepare them for life.



Left: Tamaiti filling in the rest of her name to be our hui time kaea
Middle: Tamariki recreating hui time playing our letter/name game
Right: Tamariki building their magnatiles tower up to the roof



Kew Kindergarten

When we reflect about ako over 2021 at Kew, our three threads of Bucket Filling, Mana Reo & Enviro-school kaupapa stand out. These are some of the things our tamariki have explored through our curriculum design...

- Re-signing the treaty with our tamariki – “Hand painting to do the Treaty, so we know what the rules are.”
- Amazing Me Programme – “I love Suzy, she teaches me to Stop, Think and Act and that’s a fact!”
- Collecting bread tags – “We’ll collect bread tags and get you a wheelchair Alana!”
- Waste Free Wanda – “No putting garbage like nappies in the water, they are disgusting!”
- Reusing egg cartons – “It will make our kai table look ataahua, aye Mel.” “We can’t stop looking up at it aye, it’s so beautiful.”
- Market day – “I have a idea, we could have a market day or rob a bank!” “These are the money’s and we need this much money to buy the poppits. I think we can buy poppits with the market day money.”
- Bike track – We had a hui to discuss the new bikes & tamariki decided “Put on your helmet, stay on the track, don’t smash the bikes or helmets, put on your shoes, take turn. “We are walking our track to know we are safe.”

Our tamariki are empowered to explore their ideas and to take action in a safe environment.



Left: Tamariki exploring science with a rainbow experiment.
Right: Tamariki enjoying a sunny day at Bush Kindy.



Lees Street Kindergarten

“How effectively does our enviro school curriculum promote and strengthen, knowledge, skills, and attitude for being active kaitiaki?” This was Lees Street Kindergartens Internal Review patai 2021. Over our year the tamariki strengthened their learning and developed ideas further around these concepts. There were many ways in which the collaboration of learning happened and developed in 2021.

Tamariki continued to develop working theories around communities and how people within our community help us. Kaiako then posed the patai – “People help us in our community but what can we do to help them?” “It’s a no money day” pukapuka, provided provocations regarding people in our world who do not have enough money, food etc. There were discussions amongst our cohort and many weeks of scaffolded learning happened from this provocation. Through some of the discussions the tamariki decided they wanted to ‘give back’ to the community – the concept of a sharing shelf was born. Kaiako applied for a grant from Earthwise in conjunction with Enviroschools to seek funding to build the shelf.

Lees Street were successful in this application. It took numerous weeks of individual tamariki drawing designs regarding what our sharing shelf would look like. Once the plans were finalised one of our kindergarten Dad’s kindly built the shelf with the tamariki at kindergarten. This was a great way to end our year.

The teaching team presented this mahi to other national Enviroschools Early Childhood Centres via zoom. We also presented a petcha kutcha to the other Southland Kindergarten Teachers mid-year.

Left: The completed sharing shelf with Arthur the amazing Dad that helped build the shelf.
Right: Tamariki harvesting potatoes for the sharing shelf



Lindisfarne Kindergarten

Our highlight for 2021 would have to be the patience, resilience, care, warmth, and contributions from our tamariki, whānau and community, as Covid added its few challenges.

Our programme and the learning experiences continued to be enriched by the shared sense of kotahitanga, unity and vision, seen throughout all aspects of the programme.

We were pleased to reflect on Silver as part of our Enviroschool journey. This continuing our commitment to the Enviroschool Kaupapa which is all about encapsulating the importance of creating a healthy, peaceful, sustainable world through people teaching and learning together. This sense of Kotahitanga was seen in the building, preparing and combined efforts of planting out the two new raised garden beds, which complements our vision to eventually have a space where vegetables/produce can be grown to readily supply to our families and the wider community.

This sense of collaboration and collective mahi was also evident in how everyone came together to work on the Tangaroa art piece for Polyfest, which Lindisfarne Kindergarten was awarded the Mīharo Supreme Award, for Early Childhood, we received the people's choice award as well. These were the highlights that stand out for us.



Above: Tamariki being great kaitiaki

Right: Tangaroa art piece

Longbush Kindergarten

One of the great advantages of being a rural kindergarten is the extra space we have to extend the nga tamariki learning about sustainability through our focus on garden to plate. We have had the space and whānau support to extend the garden and farm into a great learning environment that has been reflected in the kindergarten gaining the 'Silver' Enviroschools award.

We continue to pride ourselves on our Active movement program with this being another key element here at kindergarten. At the start of the year, we were lucky enough to purchase new equipment for our outdoor environment. This has been a wonderful new addition and continually challenges and enhances our nga tamariki learning.

We continued to engage in celebrations that are important to our whānau and love learning about and celebrating these at kindergarten. These included Matariki, book week, Diwali, visits to the farm and a disco. Our wonderful relationships with our local schools continued throughout the year as we visited the new entrant classrooms and they visited us also.



Above: Celebrating Chinese New Year
Right: sharing stories with Nana

Longford Kindergarten

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi engari he toa takitini.

I come not with my own strengths but bring with me the gifts, talents and strengths of my family, tribe and ancestors.

This whakataukī embraces our journey of growing mana inspired teaching and learning at Longford Kindergarten. Acknowledging our whānau connections is leading to a powerful shift in how we document tamariki learning. We have aligned our local curriculum of what's valued learning here at Longford through weaving our local story of Matamata the taniwha. Kaiako and whānau unpacked the learning characteristics of Matamata and use these aspects of teaching and learning. Tamariki and kaiako have been exploring ways that we can follow our interests through freedom to explore, time to wonder and spaces to connect with people, places and things.

Tamariki continue to explore their kaitiakitanga learning through Bush Kindy and Enviroschools and our mahi was rewarded in December last year with the Bronze award! Our celebration of cultural events was highlighted in our local paper recently through our Dragon Dancing for Chinese New Year, as quoted by Kaiako in the Ensign "we are proud of our tamariki showing respect for the diversity of people and cultures as they learn, acknowledge and celebrate the Chinese New Year and other cultural events".

2022 continues with our inquiry into mana inspired teaching and learning at Longford Kindergarten. Ngā mihi nui



**Left: Celebrating Chinese New Year through Dragon Dancing
Right: Jordie explores science at the water play**



Newfield Kindergarten

Talofa lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia Orana, Tena Koutou

Newfield is a place where fun is celebrated and expressed freely.

At Newfield, nga kaiako nurture and guide tamariki and their whānau to have the best possible learning outcomes, building trusting, caring, warm, respectful relationships for all.

Tamariki experience an environment where they develop the skills and dispositions to be curious and try new things, find interests, develop talents, to be creative and expressive. Tamariki learn through trial and error, using their imagination, being curious and problem solving.

“Ko te ahurei o te tamaiti arahia ō tātou māhi”
“Let the uniqueness of the child guide our work.”



Left: Tamariki learning turn taking and building confidence in their body and mind to succeed.

Right: Tamariki have set up their own course ready to challenge themselves and engage in physical play.



Northern Southland Kindergarten

At the beginning of 2022, we opened the doors of our newest kindergarten – Northern Southland. The kindergarten is situated in the center of Lumsden and is within walking distance to the local Primary School. The kindergarten is providing quality Early Childhood Education to the tamariki living in the town as well as those living in out-lying rural areas.

Ngā kaiako work hard to make the kindergarten a warm and welcoming space for whānau and their tamariki. The current focus is on the Te Whāriki strand “Belonging – Mana whenua.”

Belonging – Children know they belong and have a sense of connection to others and the environment.

Mana whenua – Children’s relationship to Papatūānuku is based on whakapapa, respect, and aroha. (Te Whāriki 2017)



Above: Cara Colquhoun and her daughter Bella
Right: The teachers at Northern Southland
(from left to right) Aroha, Sarah, Loren



Otatara Kindergarten

One of the main highlights of 2021 for Kaiako and whānau, would be that we moved into a “Full Year Model” Kindergarten.

We had a number of whānau very keen for this and we have since had a lot of positive feedback about being open through the term break and only being closed for 2 weeks over the Christmas/ New Year period. Our waiting list has increased and our tamariki are settled.

We are incredibly lucky that we have the local school, Community Hall, and Scenic Reserve right over our fence, providing us with alternative sites for great learning opportunities. It is a positive aspect of our kindergarten and its location. This year (2022) we have had some great times at te Kura, in the Hall and at in the Scenic Reserve (we have our bush kindy in the reserve).

With us utilising these areas we are supporting our seamless transition to school, making the school environment and other well used areas by the school, familiar in a fun way with their peers.



Below: “Wheels Day and P.J Day over at the school.
Above: This is one of our whānau members who came in to share her bubble wands. You can see how close we are to the Otatara Scenic Reserve right over our fence.



Oxford Kindergarten

2021 was a year in which we saw community spirit shine. Kindness, empathy; and respect are at the forefront of our kindergarten philosophy. With so much uncertainty in the world; we all came together and offered support where it was needed. We were overwhelmed by generous donations from our community.

Eastern Southland Plunket gifted us a term of swimming lessons for two tamariki. This was randomly selected, and whānau were so appreciative of this.

Our local BP petrol station offered bread, which has continued into this year. This was the beginning of our kindergarten breakfast club. Whānau have provided marmite, jam and even honey from their farms. Tamariki arrive at kindergarten each morning excited to have breakfast alongside their friends and upon reflection, tamariki start their day much more settled with full tummy's.

We were kindly donated woollen blankets, slippers, hats; and mittens for every single child at our kindergarten from a number of generous beautiful people.

The Gore District Council invited the three Gore Kindergartens to perform at the Hokonui Cultural festival and the local Town and Country Club in July.



Left: Tamariki proud of their new hats and mitten's.

Right: Tamariki learning and having fun together.



Ranui Kindergarten

In another strange Covid affected year it probably seems odd that one of our highlights came about because of the pandemic. During the August lockdown kaiako were able to take advantage of most people being at home more, having time to interact with us via Storypark.

Our curriculum design at the time was around tamariki understanding who they are and knowing what makes them special. We used lockdown as a means of connecting home and kindergarten, sharing our pets, baby photos, letterboxes, favourite games and experiences, as well as lots of stories. Our whānau made the most of this time and our kindergarten community became stronger for it. Every cloud has a silver lining!

We were also delighted that we were able to use most of our Targeted Funding allocation to support the development of speech and language. Two therapists from SHOUT came and worked twice weekly with small groups here at Ranui. This has been money very well spent, and the benefits for our tamariki will be on-going. Kaiako also benefited from watching these professionals in action and tamariki always looked forward to our SHOUT visitors.

Although there were some restrictions and less community events, we managed to celebrate Matariki with a whānau night, and Covid couldn't stop our annual Christmas Cheer walk around our community.



**Left: Tamariki and whānau spreading goodwill on our Christmas Cheer walk
Right: SHOUT in action.**



Riverton Kindergarten

At Riverton Kindergarten, we feel privileged every day to be in such an awesome place both in the physical environment as well as in our sense of community and belonging. 'Bush Kindy' is part of our curriculum that encompasses this so well. Our tamariki love the opportunity to learn in nature, It enhances the focus on physical wellbeing as well as learning in Papatūānuku, allowing us access to our whenua and learning in an authentic way.

Throughout all the ups and downs of the year the resilience of the tamariki was so evident. They were happy to be with each other, tight in their sense of belonging together at kindergarten. They are learning the messages and lessons of ways to support each other. We often hear them check in with each other "are you OK?" It is so rewarding to hear, feel and see how they are learning to be amazing people!

We finished the year with a lovely celebration picnic at Mores Reserve, visiting the Christmas doors, (a display put on by and for the community) having a visit from Santa and relaxing and having fun together. Once again, an amazing example of how the community helps raise our tamariki; the work they put into setting up the doors ensuring it is a magic place for children. Our bus driver joined the in the spirit, doubling up on a couple of jobs that day for us too,



Above: Being at one with nature

Right: Working together



Rockdale Kindergarten

Rockdale Park Kindergarten awahi mokopuna and whānau to develop a true sense of belonging and partnership. Alongside whānau we aspire for ākonga/learners to develop a strong sense of mana and to become confident and competent communicators, explorers, problem solvers, decision makers, creators and kaitiaki. A sense of wonder, curiosity and creativity is fostered, discovering the extraordinary in the ordinary.

We have run an AWOL (Away Walking our Land) programme. A small group ventures out into the community, developing an ecological identity and a coming-to-know the people, places and things that make up our community.

We participate in local cultural events such as Polyfest and value the contribution of whānau to enhance our performance and our art installations. Early in the year we participated in what was called the L & P exhibition with Waverley Kindergarten.

We are committed to ensuring we meet our responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and draw inspiration from the 100 Languages of Reggio Emilia. This year mokopuna rediscovered their super-powers, the ability to recognise the super-powers of others, and their emotions through a coming to know Tangaroa.

Through the 100 languages mokopuna have developed an awareness of what it means to be a kaitiaki in our kindergarten space. This was shown through the designing and building of a bug hotel and a collaborative piece, called 'A community of whāre manu', for the 2021 Gingerbread House Competition – a selection of bird houses that were gifted to the birds on our return to kindergarten.



**Right: Literacy is everywhere
bottom: Exploring and revisiting a
LOCKDOWN activity - Mandala**

The Cottage Kindergarten

Curriculum design, planning and assessment for 2022 was focused on growing social competencies in tamariki and them becoming effective communicators.

Kaiako have been working intentionally to provide an environment that promotes tamariki to be able to communicate their wants and needs with others and building social language through small and large group experiences.

Our tamariki are enjoying building tuakana/teina relationships with their peers where our older tamariki are taking on the responsibilities of helping the new tamariki who have come into the kindergarten.

We have been reviewing our environment and how this best supports tamariki through transitions.

The tamariki have been engaged throughout the year investigating how things grow with our tunnel house and planter boxes and enjoying it being used as part of our lunches.

Our older tamariki have continued to enjoy going to Bush Kindergarten and learning about being Kaitiakitanga of our environment.



Left: Enjoying reading stories
Right: Cooperative Play



Waikiwi Kindergarten

2021 was another great year at Waikiwi Kindergarten and one where we once again got to reflect on the wonderful community support that we receive.

This year we had the support from our local Makarewa Lions club as they donated a new carpentry table.

Our tamariki are really drawn to this aspect of our curriculum as our volunteer "Grandad Dave" assists us to hone skills in this area. We were also able to finish our outdoor plan as we put up more roll down blinds which has created a wonderful all weather outdoor space, a must in the very changeable Southland climate!

We enjoyed family nights at the Bike Park and a nighttime star gazing trip to the Observatory too.

Our planning focus was on Kotahitanga, supporting the holistic way that our tamariki learn and grow.

This allowed us to be responsive to the changing needs of our tamariki. This planning enabled us to get to know so much more about the tamariki that make our kindergarten the special place that it is, and support our tamariki with an individualized approach to their learning.

We have embarked on a journey with a traditional carver, to create an artwork that reflects the bicultural heritage of our country and we can't wait to have this completed in 2022.



Left: Jay Coote leading the tamariki and Kaiako in an active movement session based on the Atua.

Right: Celebrating our new carpentry table with Grandad Dave and Charlie Daly. Charlie is the clever man from the Makarewa Lion's who made our new table.



Waverley Kindergarten

Waverley Kindergarten had another busy year welcoming many new whānau within our community.

Our Covid response ensured that we were able to provide a consistent programme, that helped to support tamariki during uncertain times.

Our Internal Evaluation looked at how we can increase tamariki awareness of how to care for themselves, each other, and our environment. This has strengthened our Environmental practice and a shift in thinking by ensuring that we always think about how we can reuse items first. We also took part in a series of hui on bicultural awareness through Interlead.

New thinking from these hui led us to change our approach to our Curriculum Design planning to reflect a more bicultural approach. We took part in the Matariki Light Festival and Polyfest online. These events were well supported by our whānau. We also were able to have whānau nights at the park to search for owls and the train park.

Tamariki are able to investigate both our kindergarten environment and take part in the Taiao Tūhura programme. This has led to lots of wonderings from tamariki about their world around them and shared learning.



Left: Santa visits on Christmas Week
Right: Hailey and her fairy castle she designed and made for Gloria our kindly fairy.



Winton Kindergarten

Winton have had changes in the last year, including the retirement of a long-standing Head kaiako. The Winton community alongside Kindergartens South successfully kept the Kindergarten running smoothly, while kaiako changes were occurring.

It really does take a village! We are now very thankful to keep the changes in the past and are very excited to now have a permanent team. We are all very excited for 2022!

With many cancelations due to you know what, the Winton community still tried to be involved in as much as we could. It was a very proud moment for Kindergartens South and Winton Kindergarten to see many of our Kindergartens take out prizes in the Mīharo 2021 Art Awards. Winton Kindergarten walked away with the Māori Culture and Heritage Award for our Tangaroa inspired art piece.

Being new to Winton Kindergarten means getting to explore our Nature Discovery Site Ivy Russell. Wow we are very lucky to have such a beautiful place to visit each week, to care for it, to nurture it and to develop a long-lasting connection as the Tamariki belong to the community in which Ivy Russell belongs. One of the special connections we have is our connection to the Takitimu mountains. Winton Kindergarten even have their own waka carving to keep the legend alive and strong in the community.



Above: Winton Tamariki all enjoying the Monkey Tree
Right: Winton Tamariki playing with natures confetti



Financial

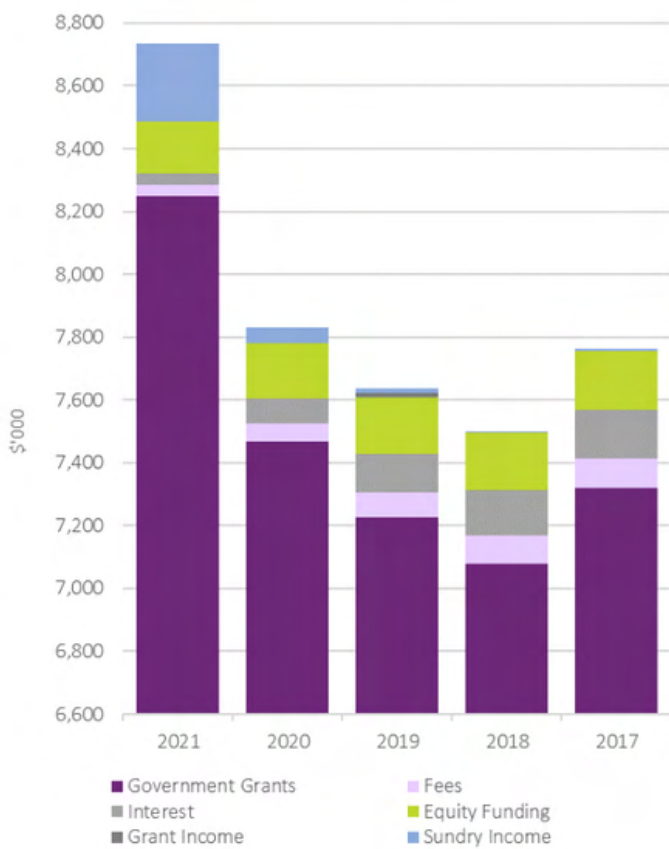
Southland Free Kindergarten Association Financial Information 2017-2021

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Performance					
Income					
Government Grants	8248	7468	7228	7080	7320
Fees	35	56	78	90	92
Interest	36	80	121	143	156
Equity Funding	166	178	181	182	189
Grant Income	-	-	14	-	-
Sundry Income	250	49	14	6	6
Total Income	8735	7831	7636	7501	7763
Expenses					
Staff Expenses	6515	6047	5892	5759	5870
Kindergarten Expenses	953	1004	911	1049	1015
Governance Expenses	37	26	39	36	25
Admin/Management	747	712	696	729	738
Equity Funding	166	143	173	179	226
PRT Fund	-	-	1	10	6
Depreciation	149	145	151	150	145
Total Expenditure	8567	8077	7863	7912	8025
Net Surplus/Deficit before Transfer from Reserves	168	-246	-227	-411	-262
Plus Allocation from Reserves	-	-	-	-	62
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	168	-246	-227	-411	-200
Financial Position					
Current Assets	4551	5011	4636	4526	5018
Fixed Assets	2608	2568	2688	2812	2895
Total Assets	7159	7579	7324	7338	7913
Liabilities	1900	2488	1986	1773	1937
Net Assets	5259	5091	5338	5565	5976
Ratios					
Net Surplus to Income %	1.92	-3.14	-2.97	-5.48	-2.58
staff Expenses as a % of Bulk Funding	78.99	80.97	81.52	81.34	80.19

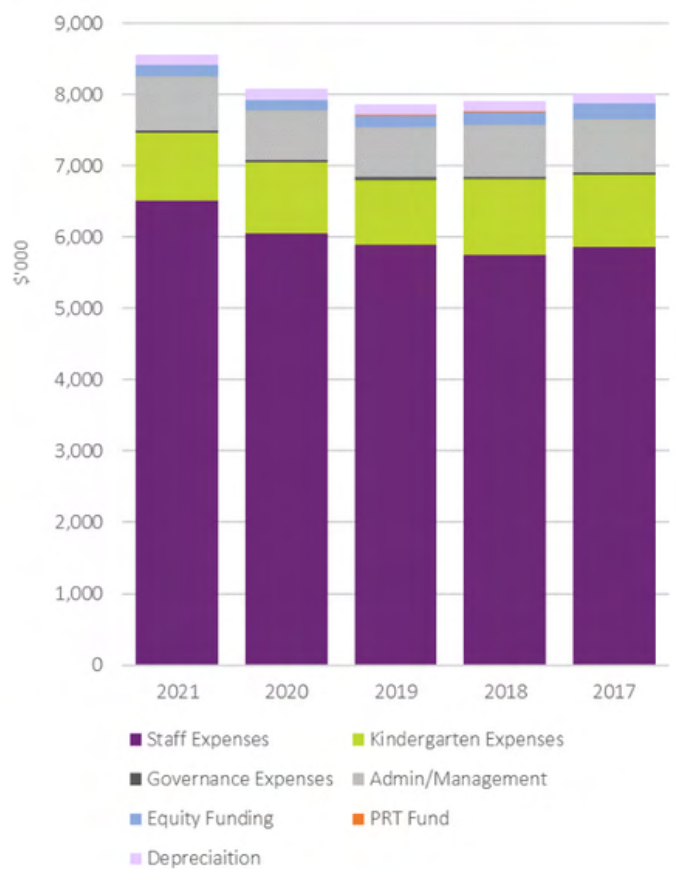
The following accounts are presented as a DRAFT format only. The final Version will be verified on the completion of the audit

Financial

Components of Income

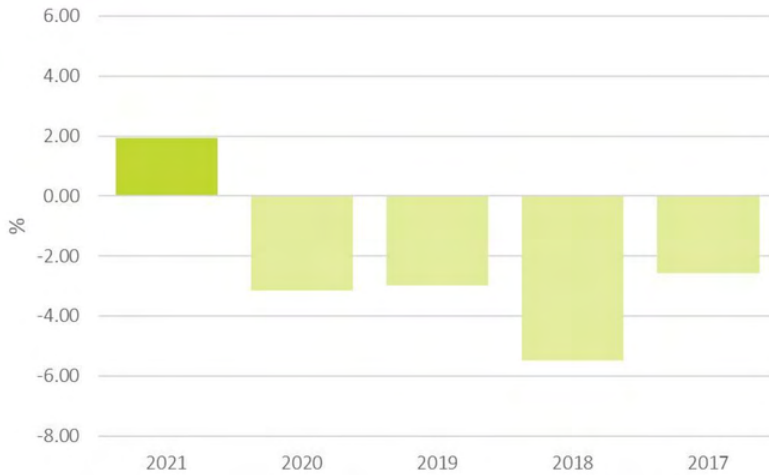


Components of Expenditure

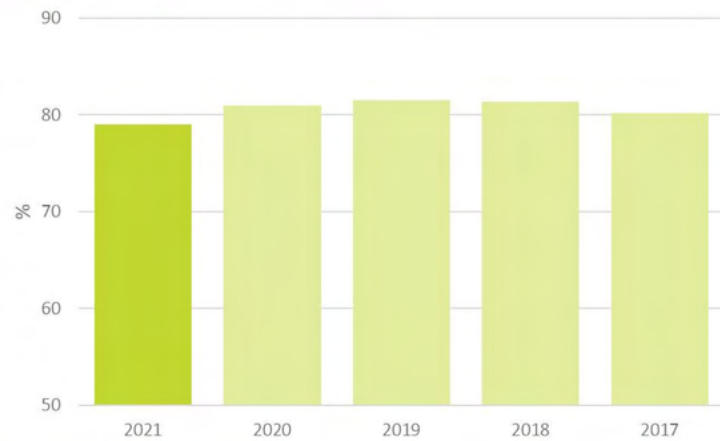


Financial

Net Surplus/(Deficit) Income as %



Staff Expenses as a % to Bulk Funding



Total Income for the Year

