Issue #14 - Nov/Dec 2026

The Kindy Chronicle

Big Performance coming up for SKA

Following on from the wonderful success of last year's 'Xmas in the Park' performance, the Southland Kindergarten Association is thrilled to be taking the stage once again. This year we will be bringing our festive cheer to the beautiful Queens Park Band Rotunda.

We want everyone to be ready to sing along, so it is time to start warming up those vocal cords! Simply scan the QR code below to head straight to the YouTube video we are all using to practice our waiata for the performance.



Look out for our amazing kindergarten children, teachers and parents marching proudly in this year's iconic Santa Parade on the 28th.



Pat's Corner

A message from our CEO

Pat's Corner is a message from our CEO keeping you connected to SKA.

As our Association moves towards a well-deserved Christmas break, I am excited about the planning already underway for 2027 and beyond.

January will see two more of our kindergartens move to a full-year model, offering whānau the option of kindergarten attendance during the traditional holiday periods. We will also see more kindergartens adopting a non-sessional model, providing greater flexibility and supporting our barrier-free approach.

Alongside the fantastic learning programmes happening, I am proud that we now have six kindergartens providing free hot meals to tamariki, with more planned for next year. This combined with our 30 hours free for 2 - 5 year olds, continues to present SKA as ECE focused on current economic environment.

To help support our free food initiative, we are also excited to announce our very first Pop-Up Op Shop – The POP OP! Taking place AM 12 December, with more details to follow on our social media pages - see you there.

Finally, thank you to all our whānau for your continued support throughout the year.

Ngā mihi nui,

Pat
Chief Executive Officer
Southland Free Kindergarten Association

Te Ono o Whitiānaunau

Rakaunui/Full Moon - 25 November 2026 Whiro/New Moon - 9 December 2026

The Power of Loose Parts Play

The best play materials for your tamariki often aren't traditional toys. Everyday items like pinecones, boxes, pebbles and fabric scraps are 'loose parts' - open-ended materials that can be moved, combined and redesigned endlessly.

Why Loose Parts Matter for Development

Traditional toys usually have a single purpose, but open-ended materials encourage children to do the thinking. This unstructured play offers incredible benefits:

- **Problem-solving:** Children test ideas, balance objects and figure out how things fit together.
- **Physical development:** Grasping small items builds fine motor skills, while moving heavy boxes develops strength and coordination.
- **Language and social skills:** Creating imaginary worlds encourages children to narrate their play, invent words and negotiate roles with others.

How to Implement It at Home

You don't need to spend money because you already have what you need right at home:

- **Raid the recycling:** Cardboard tubes, egg cartons, lids and boxes are perfect for creative construction.
- **Open the kitchen drawers:** Wooden spoons, bowls, cups and Tupperware offer endless stacking, sorting and pretend play.
- **Look to nature:** Collect pinecones, smooth stones, shells and sturdy sticks from the park or beach.
- **The 'odds and ends' box:** Keep a basket of safe household items like wooden pegs, fabric offcuts, ribbons and old keys.

Providing these simple materials gives your tamariki the freedom to direct their own play right in your living room.







Kupu o te Marama

Tākaro

(tar-car-raw)

= sport, play & recreation

Southland Kindergarten Association
Pūtahi Kura Pūhou o Murihiku

CHRISTMAS GARAGE SALE

More details to follow