

Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa | Playcentre Aotearoa

Annual General Meeting Papers 2020



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Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa AGM Papers 2020

Tiro whānui | Overview

“To operate as a creative individual in a co-operative setting can be a spiritual experience, for blending what we are with others is finding a new kind of belonging.”

Ref. Elinor Peace Bailey (1996), Good Clean Fun – New Zealand’s Playcentre Movement, p164.

Playcentre Aotearoa is a cooperative that celebrates the individual achievements of our members. While in today’s world it doesn’t feel like there is a lot to celebrate, we are proud of who we are and where we have come from as an organisation. We know the best is yet to come, even though it may be hard to see right now. As your trustees we uphold Playcentre Aotearoa’s philosophy, and look to the future with our members to create a new chapter. On this unknown journey we may not get every step right but together we can move forward.

“We cannot change what we are not aware of, and once we are aware we cannot help but change.”

Anonymous

It is in this spirit that we present the Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa (TWTNoA-PA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) papers.

Tikanga | Rationale

Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa constitution can be found [here](#)

The following clauses of the TWTNoA-PA constitution are emphasised:

- 3. WHAKAMĀTAU / PHILOSOPHY
- 10. NGĀ HUI / MEETINGS
- 11. WHAKATAKOTORANGA WHAKAARO / DECISION MAKING

Definitions of Constitutional Terms

Receive – ‘to be given or presented with’

Consider – ‘to think carefully about or reflect on’



Confirm – ‘to give approval to’

Determine – ‘to decide, or make a decision’

Endorse – ‘to approve or support’

Appoint – ‘to formally choose someone for an official position’

Confer – ‘to award an honour’

Please note the only papers representatives will be making decisions on are:

Approving the minutes of the 2018 AGM and 2019 AGM

10.10.6 – **determine** the levy

10.10.7 – **endorse** the Co-presidents

10.10.8 – **endorse** the Te Whare Tikanga Māori trustees

10.10.9 – **endorse** Tāngata Tiriti trustees

10.10.10 – **appoint** an auditor and legal advisor

There is opportunity for members to submit written questions and have those responded to prior to AGM. Questions regarding AGM papers must be submitted to the Administrator (administrator@playcentre.org.nz). **The deadline for questions is 12pm, Friday 19th June.** The Trustee Board, on behalf of the membership, has developed the strategic direction and governance policies, and has presented the financial audited accounts, annual report and the budget.

Mahi Ngātahi | Working together

Together we are solidifying Playcentre as a whole, Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa. In this time of regrowth, planning is a high priority as we align timelines to enable the future governors to succeed.

The AGM papers are aligned to the relevant TWTNoA-PA constitution clause.

Nā mātou noa, nā,

Ruth Jones, Avis Stewart, Michelle Hutton, Tiso Ross, Char Martin, Ranee Davies

TWTNoA-PA Trustee Board (2019 – 2021)



8th May – AGM Notice and papers circulated (emailed to centres and on Website)

18th – 22nd May – Cluster Meetings (Term 2, Week 4)

25th May – 12th June – Regional Meetings (Term 2, Week 5, 6 & 7)

Online Zoom meetings for regional governance spaces and rōpū Māori - with a 30 minute introduction from Trustees (then Trustees will leave) to discuss papers and select representatives. All relevant paperwork and links will be sent to Centre emails prior to Zoom meetings.

25th May - Registrations open (information emailed to centres)

19th June – registrations close and questions regarding AGM papers to be sent to National Administrator, deadline 12pm

26th June – AGM paper questions and responses circulated (emailed to centres and on Website)

1st August – AGM online - 10am (time to be confirmed)



Introduction

Minutes of the New Zealand Playcentre Federation Annual General Meeting November 2018 can be found [here](#).

Minutes of the Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa Annual General Meeting November 2019 can be found [here](#).

Any corrections to the minutes must be emailed to the Administrator (administrator@playcentre.org.nz) by 12pm, Friday 19th June.

Recommendation

1. The Annual General Meeting agrees that the minutes of the New Zealand Playcentre Federation Annual General Meeting November 2018 are a true and correct record.
2. The Annual General Meeting agrees that the minutes of the Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa Annual General Meeting November 2019 are a true and correct record.

Nā mātou noa, nā,

Ruth Jones, Avis Stewart, Michelle Hutton, Tiso Ross, Char Martin, Raneë Davies

TWTNoA-PA Trustee Board (2019 – 2021)



10.10.2 Receive the Annual Report



Annual General Meeting 2020

Introduction

Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa constitution indicates that:

10.10. Annual General Meetings shall:

10.10.2. receive the Annual Report.

The Playcentre Aotearoa Annual Report 2018/19 can be found [here](#)

Recommendation

The Annual General Meeting receives the Annual Report and that the report has been circulated within the constitutional timeframes.

Nā mātou noa, nā,

Ruth Jones, Avis Stewart, Michelle Hutton, Tiso Ross, Char Martin, Ranees Davies

TWTNoA-PA Trustee Board (2019 – 2021)



Introduction

Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa constitution indicates that:

10.10. Annual General Meetings shall:

10.10.3. consider the audited Financial Statements.

See pages 68 – 92 of the Playcentre Aotearoa Annual Report 2018/19 found [here](#) and

Audit Completion Report 2018/19 found [here](#)

Recommendation

The Annual General Meeting has considered the audited Financial Statements that have been circulated, within the constitutional timeframes.

Nā mātou noa, nā,

Ruth Jones, Avis Stewart, Michelle Hutton, Tiso Ross, Char Martin, Raneë Davies

TWTNoA-PA Trustee Board (2019 – 2021)



10.10.4 Consider the Strategic Direction of Playcentre Aotearoa by Confirming Key Outcomes, Goals and Priorities



Annual General Meeting 2020

Introduction

Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa constitution indicates that:

10.10. Annual General Meetings shall:

10.10.4. consider the strategic direction of Playcentre Aotearoa by confirming key outcomes, goals and priorities

Ngā Whāinga o Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa 2020 – 2030 can be found [here](#) in the following section of this booklet.

Recommendation

The Annual General Meeting confirms the key outcomes, goals and priorities of the Strategic Plan 2020 – 2030, as circulated within the constitutional timeframe.

Nā mātou noa, nā,

Ruth Jones, Avis Stewart, Michelle Hutton, Tiso Ross, Char Martin, Raneë Davies

TWTNoA-PA Trustee Board (2019 – 2021)



“Strategy is style of thinking, a conscious and deliberate process, an intensive implementation system, the science of insuring future success.”

Pete Johnson

He aha te aha | What is ...?

What is a Strategic Plan?

A plan that provides direction regarding how the whole of Playcentre Aotearoa will find success.

What is Strategic Planning?

Strategic planning is an organisational governance activity that is used to set priorities, focus energy and resources. It is implemented by the Operational arm of our organisation. Effective strategic planning articulates not only where an organisation is going and the actions needed to make progress, but also how we will know if it is successful. It is on a regularly scheduled review cycle.

How Has the Strategic Plan Been Developed?

Strategic Aspirations are statements about an ideal future. In Playcentre Aotearoa aspirations come from our governors. As your Kaitiaki/Trustees our role is to ensure we are carrying the voice of our governors from Playcentres and Rōpū Māori into the strategic plan.

There have been four pathways for governance voice through this strategic planning process:

- 1. AGM 2018** – delegates participated in a review workshop which looked back at what we had achieved and gathered themes and aspirations for future direction



2. **Playcentres** – members were asked to complete the strategic planning survey
3. **Hui ā-Tau Māori and Tāngata Tiriti hui 2019** – delegates captured further aspirations during workshops
4. **Kaitiaki/Trustees** - collated all the governors' voice and aspirations on behalf of Playcentre Aotearoa which informed the development of the Strategic Plan 2020 – 2030.

During July and August, the Trustee Board collated and analysed the results of the consultation pathways. The Trustees recognised that there were several common themes which were evident in the feedback received. At the August trustee board meeting the trustees consolidated this feedback into four themes and associated objectives. The Trustee Board then worked with the Operations team to develop specific actions related to each of the themes.

Why is this Strategic Plan for 10 years?

As part of the strategic planning process the Trustee Board reviewed previous strategic plans. The Trustees noticed similar themes/objectives were evident across previous plans, some of which have not yet been achieved. Given this realisation, alongside knowledge of the significant work streams already in progress and the need for the organisation to diversify funding to reach these goals the decision was made to develop this strategic plan with a 10year horizon.

Playcentre Aotearoa has identified four specific strategic priorities to achieve our moemoeā / vision.

Ngā Whāinga o Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa 2020 – 2030

The result is Ngā Whāinga o Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa 2020 – 2030 which can be found [here](#).



10.10.5. Consider the Policies Developed by the Trustee Board



Annual General Meeting 2020

Introduction

Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa constitution indicates that:

10.10. Annual General Meetings shall:

10.10.5. consider the policies developed by the Trustee Board.

The governance policies can be found [here](#).

Recommendation

The Annual General Meeting has considered the Governance policies developed by the Trustee Board, which have been presented within the constitutional timeframes.

Nā mātou noa, nā,

Ruth Jones, Avis Stewart, Michelle Hutton, Tiso Ross, Char Martin, Raneë Davies

TWTNoA-PA Trustee Board (2019 – 2021)



10.10.6. Consider the Budget and Determine the Levy to be Paid by Playcentres

Annual General Meeting 2020

Introduction

Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa constitution indicates that:

10.10. Annual General Meetings shall:

10.10.6. consider the budget and determine the levy to be paid by Playcentres.

The Playcentre Aotearoa Operational Budget 2020 – 2021 can be found [here](#) in the following section of this booklet.

The recommended levy is being retained at 50%, however the budget shows a large deficit. This may limit the services the organisation can provide to centres.

Levy **will not** be applied to Ministry of Education Equity payments being Low Socio-Economic funding, Special Needs funding, Language, Isolation, and Targeted Funding.

The Annual Top-up for Isolated Services (ATIS) fund is a top up to Funded Child Hour (FCH) funds where these are deemed to be below the minimum a centre needs for basic operation and overheads. Please refer to the MoE funding handbook for further explanation of ATIS funding.

Reference: Ministry of Education bulk funding notices and handbook, TWTNoPA constitution

Recommendation

The Annual General Meeting has considered the 2020-2021 budget that has been circulated, within the constitutional timeframes.

For the 2020-2021 financial year the meeting agrees to the following levies for bulk funding received between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021:



- 1) Levy for licensed Centre sessions of Playcentre Aotearoa - Retained at 50% of GST exclusive bulk funding based on Child Funded Hours and ATIS funding only. Excludes those centres that are exclusively programme based sessions.
- 2) Levy for Centre sessions of Playcentre Aotearoa operating exclusively programme based sessions that Playcentre Aotearoa manage the full employment of - Be 100% of GST exclusive bulk funding based on Child Funded Hours only. Programmes that are recognised, but not limited to, are – SPACE, Babies can Play, CYCLE.

Nā mātou noa, nā,

Ruth Jones, Avis Stewart, Michelle Hutton, Tiso Ross, Char Martin, Raneë Davies

TWTNoA-PA Trustee Board (2019 – 2021)



Playcentre Aotearoa Operational Budget 2020 - 2021



Annual General Meeting 2020

The recommended levy is being retained at 50%, however the budget shows a large deficit. This may limit the services the organisation can provide to centres.

Operational Budget - Playcentre Aotearoa 2020/21

Income	National	% of levies	Governance	Education and PLD	Programmes	2020/21 AGM Budget	2019/20 AGM Budget	Movement	Commentary
Interest Received	60,000		-	-	-	60,000	180,000	- 120,000	Reduction in Official Cash Rate resulting in lower interest rates for term deposits along with lower bank balances as reserves are reduced will reduce income.
Levies	5,383,557		-	-	-	5,383,557	5,375,493	8,063	Levies are still set at 50% of FCH revenue, this only reflects the 1.5% increase from the 2019 Government Budget. We will update based on the 2020 Budget when it is announced mid May.
Grants	50,000		-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	Grantors have reduced their revenue with reduced Gaming during the lock down and are less inclined to support centres that are in closure period and have received Government Support.
Parent Contributions	-		-	-	286,733	286,733	229,386	57,347	We have tightened up controls around billing and collection and have successfully increased the collection of parent fees for Programmes.
Bulk Funding	-		-	-	1,936,982	1,936,982	1,934,081	2,901	This is Programme funded hours for SPACE, Babies Can Play and CYCLE Programmes, these have been updated for the current increase in FCH funding and will be revised if there is an increase in the 2020 Government Budget.
Sundry Income	50,000		-	1,144,171	-	1,194,171	1,187,871	6,300	Education and PLD revenue are combined funding from TEC and MoE for the contracted services provided. The national revenue is made up of rental of unoccupied ex-association offices and vacant Playcentres plus other miscellaneous revenue such as donations,
Total Income	5,543,557		-	1,144,171	2,223,715	8,911,443	8,906,832	4,611	



Expenditure	National	% of levies	Governance	Education and PLD	Programmes	2020/21 AGM Budget	2019/20 AGM Budget	Movement	Commentary
Wages	2,593,626	48%	-	1,146,687	1,942,875	5,683,189	5,662,019	21,170	This is contracted wages for National Service Centre Staff, Regional staff, Education, PLD, Programme staff including facilitators.
Centre Facing Wages	1,462,046	27%	-	-	-	1,462,046	1,589,947	- 127,901	This is centre facing wages spent on Centre Support Workers and Centre Administrators only.
Other Employment	40,000	1%	-	-	-	40,000	42,543	- 2,542	This is for currently uncontracted overtime, additional cost to cover annual leave for centre paid staff or to support centres who are unable to cover their wage bills.
Total Employment	4,095,672	76%	-	1,146,687	1,942,875	7,185,235	7,294,509	- 109,274	Total employment at current contracted rates equates to 76% of levy revenue and is the highest spend area for Playcentre Aotearoa.
Building Costs	1,000,000	19%	-	-	9,000	1,009,000	682,119	326,881	Property maintenance and capital works were agreed to make up 6% of the 50% levy charged. However over the last 2 years it has been noted this is not enough to keep up with maintenance alone especially as many properties have had much necessary works deferred for long periods of time. With lower ability for centres to access Grants after Covid 19 the amount of \$1m is deemed the absolute minimum to keep up with maintenance needs, but will still not provide adequate funding for all centres to access 80%. Centres will need to access their own reserves where possible to ensure centres that have no reserves are able to get the minimum support needed.
IT Licenses	519,994	10%	-	8,100	-	528,094	480,822	47,272	Licenses include Discover and Xero for all centres, payroll software including TimeFiler and other miscellaneous small purchase software such as back up programmes and consolidation software.
Insurance Paid	477,209	9%	-	-	-	477,209	441,860	35,349	Insurance paid to cover the entire property portfolio including contents, cyber, indemnity and other small items insurance where needed.
Telecoms	576,936	11%	-	560	-	577,496	553,023	24,473	Updated for inflationary increase only and for larger number of centres having been connected.
Direct Expenses	2,574,138	48%	-	8,660	9,000	2,591,799	2,157,823	433,976	Total direct expenses that are necessary to maintenance of the properties and costs paid on behalf of centres.



Expenditure	National	% of levies	Governance	Education and PLD	Programmes	2020/21 AGM Budget	2019/20 AGM Budget	Movement	Commentary
Travel	400,000	7%	-	112,265	3,700	515,965	607,224	- 91,259	Travel budget is mainly for the cost of Centre Support workers and Centre Administrators to travel to centres on a weekly basis. This also covers National meetings as well as travel for education and delivery of programmes.
PR	71,255	1%	-	-	-	71,255	69,858	1,397	Budget for public relations including the hosting and maintenance of the website and other advertising.
Consultancy, legal Computer expenses	139,699	3%	-	33,000	-	172,699	199,699	- 27,000	Made up of contractors to support employment gaps, legal advice, property advice and project management as well as IT support.
Rent and Home Office	91,720	2%	-	-	119,800	211,520	260,040	- 48,520	This covers the rental on the National Service Centre, Regional offices where these are not owned and Home Office Allowances, this has reduced with the move away from Home Office remote workers into cheaper office space.
Utilities and office costs	163,094	3%	-	84,801	12,971	260,866	283,366	- 22,500	Reduced for less home office positions and lower number of offices
Audit	60,000	1%	-	-	-	60,000	73,500	- 13,500	Annual Audit of the Parent and Group accounts only. The TEC audit is not expected to be performed again in 2020/21.
PLD	18,000	0%	-	500	3,725	22,225	22,225	0	This is for Professional Learning and Development costs for employees, many of these courses can be run in house by our PLD team.
Parenting Place Costs	-	0%	-	-	83,468	83,468	83,468	-	These are participant and programme fees paid to Parenting Place who hold the license for the SPACE Program.
Other expenses	943,768	18%	-	230,566	223,664	1,397,998	1,599,380	- 201,382	Total expenses for running the Regional offices, Travel and overheads.
Governance									
Honoraria	-	0%	38,000	-	-	38,000	38,000	-	Honoraria payments to two Co-Presidents and 4 Trustee Board Members.
Travel and events	-	0%	123,333	-	-	123,333	185,000	- 61,667	This covers face to face meetings for the Trustee Board, travel and accomodation for two Hui's and one AGM - this has reduced from the 2019/20 budget that allowed for two AGMs.
Legal and consultancy	-	0%	10,000	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	Contingency for legal or other consultancy advice.
Home Office	-	0%	3,600	-	-	3,600	3,600	-	Telecom and internet allowance for Trustee Board members.
Other operating costs	-	0%	3,000	-	-	3,000	5,500	- 2,500	Equipment or telecom costs for Trustee Board members or required for member attendance or communication to AGMs or Hui meetings.
Total Governance	-	0%	177,933	-	-	177,933	242,100	- 64,167	
Total Cash expenditure	7,613,578	141%	177,933	1,385,913	2,175,539	11,175,032	11,051,712	123,320	Total budgeted cash outflow for the year.
Total Cash Inflow/(outflow)	- 2,070,021	-41%	- 177,933	- 241,742	48,176	- 2,263,589	- 2,144,880	- 118,709	Cash deficit is the actual amount of cash that goes out of the year over the amount that comes in. This will be the drop in the bank balance.



Expenditure	National	% of levies	Governance	Education and PLD	Programmes	2020/21 AGM Budget	2019/20 AGM Budget	Movement	Commentary
Depreciation	500,000	0%	-	-	-	500,000	500,000	-	Depreciation for the property portfolio, this is non cash - i.e. no cash leaves the bank to pay for this.
Non cash expenses	500,000	0%	-	-	-	500,000	500,000	-	
Total Operating Expense	8,113,578	0%	177,933	1,385,913	2,175,539	11,675,032	11,551,712	123,320	Total cash and non cash operating expenses.
Total Operating Profit/ Loss	- 2,570,021	-46%	177,933	- 241,742	48,176	- 2,763,589	- 2,644,880	- 118,709	Total book operating deficit and reduction to reserves.



10.10.7. Endorse the Co-Presidents Selected by Each House



Annual General Meeting 2020

Introduction

Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa constitution indicates that:

- Te Whare Tikanga Māori shall be responsible for: 7.6.5. selection of a minimum of three (3) members up to a maximum of five (5) members of the Trustee Board and such other Officers as may be deemed necessary; and
- Tāngata Tiriti House shall be responsible for: 8.5.5. selecting of a minimum of three (3) members up to a maximum of five (5) members of the Trustee Board and other Officers as may be deemed necessary; and
- 10.10.7. endorse the Co-Presidents selected by each House.

Ruth Jones' introduction can be found [here](#) in the following section of this booklet

Recommendation

The meeting endorse:

1. Avis Stewart, as Co-President from Te Whare Tikanga Māori (current term 2019-2021)
2. Ruth Jones, as Co-President from Tāngata Tiriti House (2018-2020, 2020-2022)

Nā mātou noa, nā,

Ruth Jones, Avis Stewart, Michelle Hutton, Tiso Ross, Char Martin, Raneë Davies

TWTNoA-PA Trustee Board (2019 - 2021)



10.10.8. Endorse up to Four (4) Trustees Selected by Te Whare Tikanga Māori



Annual General Meeting 2020

Introduction

Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa constitution indicates that:

- Te Whare Tikanga Māori shall be responsible for: 7.6.5. selection of a minimum of three (3) members up to a maximum of five (5) members of the Trustee Board and such other Officers as may be deemed necessary; and
- 10.10.8. endorse up to four (4) Trustees selected by Te Whare Tikanga Māori.

Recommendation

The meeting endorse:

1. Char Martin, as Trustee Board Member from Te Whare Tikanga Māori (2019-2021) and
2. Ranee Davies, as Trustee Board Member from Te Whare Tikanga Māori (2019-2021)

Nā mātou noa, nā,

Ruth Jones, Avis Stewart, Michelle Hutton, Tiso Ross, Char Martin, Ranee Davies

TWTNoA-PA Trustee Board (2019 - 2021)



10.10.9. Endorse up to Four (4) Trustees Selected by Tāngata Tiriti House



Annual General Meeting 2020

Introduction

Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa constitution indicates that:

- Tāngata Tiriti House shall be responsible for: 8.5.5. selecting of a minimum of three (3) members up to a maximum of five (5) members of the Trustee Board and other Officers as may be deemed necessary; and
- 10.10.9. endorse up to four (4) Trustees selected by Tāngata Tiriti House.

Michelle Hutton’s introduction can be found [here](#) in the following section of this booklet.

Recommendation

The meeting endorse:

1. Tiso Ross, as Trustee Board Member from Tāngata Tiriti House (2019-2021) and
2. Michelle Hutton, as Trustee Board Member from Tāngata Tiriti House (2018-2020, 2020-2022).

Nā mātou noa, nā,

Ruth Jones, Avis Stewart, Michelle Hutton, Tiso Ross, Char Martin, Raneë Davies

TWTNoA-PA Trustee Board (2019 - 2021)



10.10.10. Appoint an Auditor, and an Honorary Legal Advisor



Annual General Meeting 2020

Introduction

Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa – Playcentre Aotearoa constitution indicates that:

10.10. Annual General Meetings shall:

10.10.10. appoint an Auditor, and an Honorary Legal Advisor.

Recommendation

The meeting appoints BDO Wellington as Auditor and David McLay as Honorary Legal Advisor.

Nā mātou noa, nā,

Ruth Jones, Avis Stewart, Michelle Hutton, Tiso Ross, Char Martin, Raneë Davies

TWTNoA-PA Trustee Board (2019 - 2021)



Appendix: Additional Information

Introduction

This is further information supporting the Endorsing Trustees (10.10.7 & 10.10.9) papers.

As discussed at Tāngata Tiriti Hui November 2019 the next Tāngata Tiriti hui would not be before AGM 2020. It is scheduled for November 2020. After discussion, the whare agreed who would be endorsed as Trustees and Co-President at AGM July 2020. The constitutional requirements and the legal advice received were part of the discussion.

The table below reflects the legal advice given and contained in the paper “Tāngata Tiriti Trustee Terms 2019 -2020”:

Name	Role	Election	Re-election	Maximum duration
Ruth Jones	Co-President	November 2018	July 2020	ending in July 2022
Michelle Hutton	Trustee Board Member	November 2018	July 2020	ending in July 2022
Tiso Ross	Trustee Board Member	November 2018	November 2019	ending in July 2021

Ruth Jones – Perehitana Takirua/Co-President – Tāngata Tiriti Whare

Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya.

No, wait. That's not right.

Kia ora koutou katoa,

My name is Ruth Jones. I started Playcentre in Aug 2000 with my eldest child, who took one eye widening look at the sandpit at Hataitai Playcentre and never wanted to leave. Almost 20 years and



5 more kids later, I am honoured to be a Life Member of Wallaceville Playcentre. I have held most centre roles in that time, some at the same time as is often what happens. I found my feet as part of the Hutt Association team, supporting our centres and representing them at national meetings. That was what really changed my life - all these amazingly strong people in a room who were as passionate as I was about this thing that had fundamentally changed how my husband Brendon and I have raised our whānau. There is a reason my mihi has the line "Ko te whānau tupu ngātahi tōku ukaipo - Playcentre has been my source of sustenance."

My journey has continued even as our children have grown, joining the Association Support Team for a year, then the privilege of being Kaiwhakahaere for Te Whare Tikanga Māori. This was a time to deepen my knowledge of Te Ao Māori, of what it means to be in a working partnership relationship. This was an especially precious time I will always hold dear to my heart, to be able to serve our whānau and tamariki Māori as a Pākehā mum. Being part of the Māori Federation Officers (as they were known at the time) was also a brilliant foundation to working as a partner at the Trustee Board table. When Susan Bailey stepped down unexpectedly, I knew that I could step up to this new challenge, Perehitana Takirua Co-President of Playcentre, mostly because I knew our partners from Te Whare Tikanga Māori walked along side me, supporting me.

This was a role I never imagined I would hold, but I know that it is right for me to be your Co-President at this time, to hold the vision for Playcentre in these uncertain times, to nurture that passion that all Playcentre members have for whānau tupu ngātahi, families growing together.

Ngā mihi nui for your continued support of me.

Michelle Hutton – Kaitiaki/Trustee – Tāngata Tiriti Whare

Kia ora koutou katoa,

My name is Michelle Hutton and it is an honour and a privilege to serve you, the Playcentre community, our tamariki and whānau as a Tāngata Tiriti Trustee. My Playcentre journey started when I was six months old when my mum and I joined Flaxmere Playcentre in Hastings. My whānau have been involved in Playcentre throughout my life. My journey continued when I became a parent to two boys first at South City Playcentre in Hastings, then Blockhouse Bay



Playcentre in Auckland. I have held many volunteer and paid roles at both centre and association level, including being Auckland Association President for three years. I have completed Course Four of the Playcentre education programme.

Playcentre is my passion, and I am absolutely committed to ensuring we continue to thrive into the future so that tamariki and whānau can experience the same empowering environment that my whānau have benefited from. There is a proverb about Playcentre, that you come for your children, but stay for yourself. This particular adage resonates with me on so many levels. The friendships that sustain me, the new skills I have developed, and the altered perspectives I have experienced have formed some of the most pivotal moments of my life.

I have now been a member of the Trustee Board for 18 months. I believe in our vision for Playcentre, whānau tupu ngātahi, and will continue to be an advocate for our members as we create a pathway towards a sustainable future. I have deeply appreciated the opportunity to walk alongside my fellow Tāngata Tiriti trustees and our partners in Te Whare Tikanga Māori as we have worked together for the benefit of Playcentre. I look forward to continuing to work, learn and grow in my role as a Trustee alongside the Trustee Board team and our Playcentre community.

