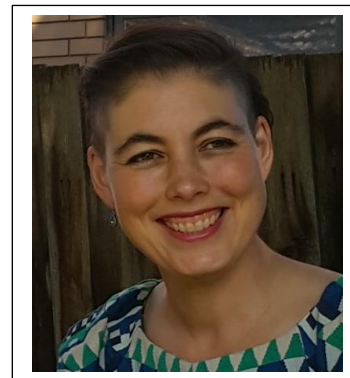


**Name: Ann Langis**

Playcentre: Life member Narrowneck Playcentre

**Position Nominated for: Tāngata Tiriti Trustee****Governance Region NNI****What have you bi-culturally contributed to your Playcentre | Rōpū Māori?**

- Active support of Centre biculturalism; while serving as Centre President and Association Liaison we reviewed all of our policies through a bicultural lens and updated our Strategic Plan to reflect a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Helped begin a centre tradition of local Marae visits and Matariki celebrations that continues to this day.
- Te Reo Immersion program through Te Herenga Waka and NSPA: Completion of modules 1 – 3
- I completed an informal immersion course in dual governance over my time as a Trustee from 2015-2018, as well as completing some formal bi-culturalism PD during this time.

**What will you contribute to Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa?**

Passion for Playcentre, vision, ideas, energy, and enthusiasm. Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Excellent facilitation skills. Strong leadership skills and big picture thinking. My leadership style is facilitative, collaborative, I am in constant pursuit of group synergy. Very action oriented, love to see the big ideas crystallised into clear plans. Enjoy working with different types of people, different perspectives – love the challenge of facilitating effective groups.

I thrive on complexity. I have the ability to synthesise large amounts of information, make connections and focus on the most important elements. I am able to present complicated information in a clear, neutral, and succinct way which facilitates understanding and effective decision-making.

The skill set I developed as Vice President and President of North Shore is very relevant, in addition to 3 years as a Trustee from 2015-2018; an understanding of governance vs. management issues, working closely with the Operations Manager, creation of new structures and job descriptions, hire/induction/performance review of employees, budget setting and financial management. In those roles I had the opportunity to represent Playcentre to outside organisations and feel very competent to do so.

As a trustee built effective working relationships with other trustees and PA employees, and positive, productive communication with regional governors and others within our organisation. Within our house I have successfully supported facilitation at National meetings to support our group process, and planned and implemented effective Professional Development and team building activities.

Over my time on the TB I consistently asked challenging questions at the Trustee Board level, and feel I am an effective advocate for improved communication.

**What will you contribute to the Trustee Board?**

As a Trustee, I hope to:

- Build on my past experience as a Trustee and bring a strong, knowledgeable voice to the table
- Act as an effective consensus builder and leader for our house
- Be a champion for clear and effective communication
- Ask challenging questions to promote effective governance and operational decision-making at the national level

I'm particularly interested in effective governance structures – how to retain Centre 'voice' and empowerment, Te Tiriti based partnership, Change management, strategic direction, funding relationship with MOE.

**Provide a brief non-Playcentre work, volunteer, education and life history prior to and/or during Playcentre:**

Playcentre is an incredible taonga and I would like to use my time and energy to protect and strengthen this treasure. I am originally from the USA, where there is nothing even remotely similar. My own experience growing up was very transient, and I had the opportunity to experience schooling in various parts of the country. Some were in wealthy neighbourhoods where I learned alongside children of professors, and some were in low socio-economic environments where violence and dropping-out were the norm. I emerged from this childhood with a strong interest in diversity and the rights of all children to a high quality education.

At University I designed my own course of study which resulted in a BA in Child Advocacy, including papers on Family and Child Law, Politics, Economics, Child Psychology, Education, and Sociology. During this time I gained work experience in a range of organisations, from teaching in low decile pre-schools to government agencies compiling educational data to non-profit organisations lobbying the government for more equitable education opportunities. I also had the opportunity to lead our University Mock Trial Team to a National Championship. Mock Trial honed my analytic and oratory skills, forcing me to think on my feet in an extremely challenging context.

I then completed a Master's degree in Education with a specialisation in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy. My coursework covered topics such as Adults as Learners, Teachers as Leaders, Funding for Non-Profits, and Racial Inequality in Education. Additional work experience during this time included a role with National Education Goals Panel (USA): policy, data analysis, and political writing, as well as Leave No Child Behind (USA): advocacy, lobbying, communications.

Following this I moved into 4 years of primary school teaching in a low decile school, where I took on the position of Union Representative, responsible for liaising with Department of Education Administrators and local politicians. In response to long delays in wages, I organised a school-wide teacher walk out, after which the arrears were quickly paid out.

Since that time we have been lucky to call New Zealand home, and even luckier to have found Playcentre 12 years ago when my first child was 1. Playcentre has had a huge impact on my educational philosophy, my group skills, my leadership capabilities, my cultural awareness, and my understanding of what 'community' really means.

I now add group dynamics to my list of passions, after experiencing the formidable power of group synergy at Playcentre. Over my 12 years at PC there has been a continual flow of opportunities to broaden my understanding of the myriad aspects which create effective or ineffective groups. My experiences with leadership at the centre and association/regional level, facilitation of group skills workshops, and opportunities to mediate conflict situations have all provided lightbulb moments, and 3 years on the Trustee Board have continued to broaden my skills.

Since resigning from the Trustee Board I have focused on building my own successful social enterprise businesses; Conscious Kids and Ann Langis Play, which have further deepened my understanding of effective fiscal practices, compliance, and marketing/promotions for organisations.

Playcentre membership: 1 year at Glen Innes Playcentre, 11 years at Narrowneck Playcentre

Education level: Course 3

Roles held:

Centre: Treasurer, President, Education, Course 1 Facilitator, First Aider

Association: Course 2/Course 3/Play Workshop Facilitator, Course 3 and 4 Education Coordinator, Vice President (Jan 2013 – April 2014), President (May 2014 – December 2016)

NZ Playcentre Federation/Playcentre Aotearoa: Trustee Board member 2015-2018

## **Time Commitment -**

**Please comment on your ability to meet the time commitment for the Tāngata Tiriti Trustee Role:**

I have a supportive husband, and all of my children are now in school. I run my own business and am able to be flexible with my time. I am able to attend the TB meetings and can allocate 5-10 hours a week to this role.

I have in the past few years learned quite a lot regarding my own time-management and sustainability, and am quite comfortable setting limits and saying no. I make time for the things that matter most to me, and let go of other things farther down the list.

Self-sustainability is one of the most important skills I've learned at Playcentre – It's up to me to prioritise my own mental and physical health so that I can contribute most effectively to a happy family and the wider world. I feel I am in a very good position to rejoin as a fully involved Trustee Board Member.

**Referee:**

**Clare Ferguson, TB member 2016-2018**