



EONZ 2017 Annual Report to the Annual General Meeting of 3rd May 2018

It is our pleasure to report on the year ending December 2017 for Education Outdoors New Zealand (EONZ). This year has certainly been a busy and rewarding year for EONZ.

National Executive

This dedicated and dynamic team has continued to work hard to promote and support EOTC around the country. It is rewarding to be able to work with this passionate and committed group, who are able to share diverse perspectives, and all have a passion for educating outdoors sustainably.

The board meets monthly via Zoom and twice annually for a face-to-face weekend-long meeting.

The 2017 Executive comprised: Libby Paterson, Fiona McDonald, Liz Thevenard, Donald Matheson, Sophie Watson, Caroline Reddish, Phil Washbourn, Dr Allen Hill, Dr David Irwin and Catherine Kappelle (Executive Officer EONZ).

Liz Thevenard finishes her term as 'Immediate past chair' at this AGM and we wish to thank her for her support of the current co-chairs. Liz's contribution to the EONZ executive has been so significant it is impossible to cover in one AGM report. We are very grateful for all her input and dedication over a sustained and committed period on the executive. We will miss her wise counsel at the table but are hopeful that she will still be there when we need her. It was with immense pleasure that EONZ was able to award Liz a Life Membership at the last AGM.

Executive Officer

Catherine Kappelle as our Executive Officer continues to keep EONZ running effectively for our members. She continues to develop the website and other communications to provide the latest information to members and the wider community. We truly appreciate and value her work for this organisation.

Networks of Expertise

The Network of Expertise, a collaborative partnership with New Zealand Health Educators and Home Economics and Technology Teachers New Zealand, will conclude at the end of May – together we have delivered both primary and second workshops (Connecting with contexts, concepts and colleagues - introducing the Food and Nutrition Learning Progressions and critiquing the use of outside providers in the school space). Some 200 secondary teachers attended these – numbers were very low for primary and we will continue to develop strong relationships with our primary schools. Our second task was to establish a kaiārahi – a go-to person. We have been fortunate to have two kaiārahi over the past year. Dave Cassaidy, unfortunately had to step down due to the changing nature of his role in his school and Sophie Hoskins has picked up the mantle – we have been fortunate to have these two with a wealth of experience who have avidly set about building stronger networks for teachers, providing exemplars and sharing good practice. Our third task was to create an online resource, this will be ready for the publication by the end of the contract. Watch out for this – Re-visioning school camps. This project has been invaluable for building stronger relationships and understandings with other subject associations – the shared knowledge and expertise of others can only but help to strengthen our organisation. Our EO Catherine provided the financial acumen and we are indebted to her for her eye for detail and her expertise.

EOTC Safety Management Plan Template and Tools

The second edition of this was uploaded to Te Kite Ipurangi (TKI) on www.tki.org.nz/communities/eotc at the start of the year. This provides a valuable model for schools and is a continually improving system. We value schools input and feedback to continue to improve the template and tools. The increasing possibilities offered by technology will hopefully continue to create efficiencies for schools.

Good Practice Guidelines

EONZ has been working with the NZ Recreation Association (NZRA) to produce Good practice guidelines for activities that are commonly used as contexts for learning by schools. These will support teachers to use these contexts.

EONZ PLD

Two Place-Responsive Approaches to Outdoor Education PLD workshops were run in Nelson and Mt Maunganui, with a further four planned for 2018.

Under the Ministry of Education EOTC Management Initiatives contract, nine sets of 2-day EOTC PLD workshops were run across the country with 276 participants from 182 schools. These workshops will continue to be offered as widely as possible during 2018.

A 1-day workshop called Embedding Good Practice for EOTC was developed during the year and delivered in Christchurch and Auckland in November and December. Further workshops will roll out in 2018, with another 8 planned for the period.

Our thanks are extended to EONZ facilitators Gemma Periam, Liz Penman, Libby Paterson, Erin Porteous and Jane Townsend, who have developed and facilitated PLD opportunities made available by EONZ during the year.

Ministry of Education EOTC Management Initiatives contract

EONZ values the relationship it has with the Ministry, one that has been built on since 2011. Alongside various initiatives, including delivery of PLD, development of the SMP Template and Tools, and coordination of the National EOTC Coordinator Database for schools, EONZ and the Ministry of Education have supported a significant national research project being run by an inter-university research group, focussing on EOTC in schools. Many EONZ-member schools will have participated in the first phase of this four-phase in-depth study through completion of a survey that was run in Term 4. We look forward to completion of the project, its findings and its recommendations.

Representation

EONZ continues to represent EOTC and Outdoor Education on many of the national outdoor advisory groups both within the education sector and the wider outdoor sector. We have been working with the Ministry of Education, Skills Active Aotearoa, the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, the New Zealand Recreation Association, Department of Conservation, Water Safety New Zealand, Physical Education New Zealand (PENZ) and the New Zealand Health Education Teachers Association (NZHEA).

EONZ had strong representation on the PENZ/NZHEA/ conference planning committee conference in 2017 and greatly appreciate all those facilitators who stepped up to develop and run workshops at the Tauranga conference. Going forward, we are looking at how we can support both our ECE members and the wider early childhood sector.

Te Whakatika

Our publication *Out and About* was renamed Te Whakatika during the year. *Out and About* was first distributed to members in 1999, with Hilary Chidlow the editor. *Te Whakatika* retains the central messaging that *Out and About* embraced. Dave Irwin, from Ara, has been editor since 2009 and we thank him for his enormous effort to create a thought provoking and inspiring publication. It is fantastic to have members willing to contribute to Te Whakatika.

There are so many great examples of quality EOTC and outdoor education, we encourage all our members to get involved in sharing their learning experiences with others. Education is currently in a state of change and we must all ensure that opportunities for our students outside of the classroom and outdoor education remain a priority for schools.

Libby Paterson and Fiona McDonald (Co-chairs)