

Reggio Emilia Australia

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

re search for a new culture of childhood

Annual Report

January 2016 – December 2016

2016 REAIE COMMITTEE

Executive

Chairperson	Ruth Wallbridge
Vice Chairperson	Cara Mearns
Treasurer	Kerrie O'Neill
Secretary	Leanne Mits
Public Officer	Leanne Mits

Committee Members

Heather Conroy

Libby Cumming

Kirsty Liljegren

Jane Merewether

Jan Millikan

Kate Mount

Babs Newton

Debbie Nicholas

Helene Oberman

Ruth Weinstein

Fiona Zinn

STAFF

Office Manager	Caryn Marks
Professional Learning Coordinator	Karen Szydlik
Administration Support	Jody Kingston Susii Harbard
Finance Coordinator	Michelle Tenace

REPORTS

Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange Chairperson's Report January 2016 – December 2016

It is always a pleasure to prepare an annual report. It is a time to pause and reflect on all that has been worked towards and achieved over the past 12 months. We have much to celebrate with the amazing work that is being done on behalf of REAIE by members, the committee, project groups and our office staff.

This year has seen an increase in staff with Jody Kingston joining the administrative team and Karen Szydluk taking up the newly created position of Professional Learning Coordinator. Both colleagues have brought great skill and enthusiasm to their roles, strengthening the work of the organisation. Together with Caryn, Susii and Michelle, they make up the fantastic staff in the REAIE office and thanks to them we continue to see an increase in membership numbers and member satisfaction. The office team is continually working to improve the efficiency of office procedures and provide better service to the membership. We are very fortunate to have such a committed and competent team.

In May 2016, REAIE hosted a four-state tour of Australia by Tiziana Filippini. Over 900 delegates attended the workshops, seminars and public lectures in Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia. We are currently in negotiations for a return visit in 2017. The appointment of a Professional Learning and Network's Coordinator has enabled REAIE to develop a calendar of events around Australia and the second half of 2016 has seen the invited speaker series around the country.

REAIE offered two study tours in 2016 with delegates attending the International tour in April to Reggio Emilia and the intensive study week to New Zealand in August; both of these tours were fully subscribed and continued to meet the needs of many educators. January 2017 will see an Intensive study tour designed for those who have attended a Reggio Emilia study tour in the past or have an in-depth understanding of the Reggio Emilia educational project. Study tours offer members professional learning possibilities and continue to ensure REAIE supports the integrity of the work being undertaken in Australia, influenced and informed by the values and principles of the educational project of Reggio Emilia.

REAIE is currently in the process of reviewing the *Challenge Journal* to ensure it is a quality document which evolves to meet the changing needs of educators from a variety of backgrounds and settings across Australia. We continue to

strive to provide resources that are of value to the membership.

In 2016, REAIE has continued to be involved in a campaign instigated by Early Childhood Australia (ECA) '*Early Learning: Everyone Benefits*' which aims to showcase the positive outcomes that arise from sound investment in the early years. REAIE is a member of this campaign alongside ECA, Goodstart Early Learning, Early Childhood Management Services (ECMS), Early Learning Association of Australia (ELAA), Family Day Care Australia, UnitingCare Australia, ARACY, The Parenthood and the Australian Community Children's Service (ACCS), with support also from the Benevolent Society, C&K and Wesley Mission Brisbane. Together we strive for quality early education as a right for all Australian children.

REAIE was delighted to sponsor Carla Rinaldi as the keynote speaker at the 2016 ECA conference in Darwin. This was a great opportunity for the organisation to gain a higher profile amongst a broad sector of early childhood educators from around the country.

REAIE continues to be the reference point for Reggio Children in Australia and is an invited member of the International Network Group. The International Network continues to evolve and grow with representatives now from over 30 countries. As well as financial support to Reggio Children, the network provides support in other ways as requested, and also enables ongoing relationships between the member countries. REAIE endeavours to send two representatives to the annual meeting of the Reggio Children International Network.

REAIE continues to be a partner in the South Australian *Thinkers in Residence Program* and is honoured to have ongoing representation on the governance board.

In collaboration, we have achieved a great deal in 2016 and we continue to be well placed to move forward as a national organisation to better serve our members, to work towards our Vision and Mission, and most importantly, to support Australian children and families. This is very much due to all the hard work of REAIE members and to the volunteer committee members who give so willingly of their time to ensure the success of REAIE.

Ruth Wallbridge
Chairperson

Treasurer's Report January 2016 – December 2016

It is my pleasure to present the financial report for Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange for the year ending 31st December 2016.

We have maintained our financial position and these results can be attributed to the success of study tours as well as the

various professional learning programs which operated throughout the year. These funds support the ongoing operational costs of the organisation which continue to rise as each year passes.

The study tours to both Reggio Emilia in April and New Zealand in August were both well attended. A number of professional learning programs were also held throughout Australia during the year including the successful conferences, workshops and public lectures presented by Tiziana Filippini in May 2016.

The next 12 months will be extremely exciting for the organisation with a number of upcoming professional learning events planned, as well as the *Landscapes of Identity* conference to be held in Sydney in July 2017. We hope that we will welcome back participants who have attended our conferences, in addition to new participants.

REAIE is proud to be a member of the Governance group of the South Australian Collaborative project. The cost of being involved in this project has diminished due to the availability of phone conferencing options.

We were also proud to sponsor Carla Rinaldi as a keynote speaker at the Early Childhood Australia conference in Darwin in 2016 and to host a trade exhibition stall at that conference. This gave visibility to our organisation, attracted pedagogical interest and resulted in new memberships.

In the 2015 financial year, REAIE received a grant from the Frank Leydon Tot Ed Trust Foundation to develop online learning modules. REAIE invested a great deal of time, in collaboration with Reggio Children, discussing how to best use this grant for educators in Australia. REAIE will also invest additional funds to authentically develop these professional learning packages that will be accessible to educators in major cities and the many regional services across Australia.

This year, for the first time, REAIE made a donation to a scuola in Reggio Emilia called Balducci. This centre was allocated to Australia through Reggio Children and the International Network. The children, educators and families will work in collaboration to use this money to build a maze in their outdoor playground. The outdoor environment is a significant and essential place for learning for Australian children and we are thrilled that Balducci have chosen to spend our donation in this way. Their research and documentation, in time, will be shared with REAIE, who will in turn share this research with REAIE members.

We thank our office staff for their ongoing care of members and for ensuring that the office runs smoothly, especially during busy times. We acknowledge their loyalty and ongoing commitment.

Michelle Tenace continues to do a great job of managing our financial obligations. Due to the growth of these demands, Michelle will increase her hours in 2017. We have added two additional part time staff this year and we welcome the expertise and skills they have brought to the team.

Every year I take this opportunity to acknowledge the many hours that the committee devotes to this organisation in a volunteer capacity. We are proud to declare ourselves as a non-profit organisation and the designated Australian reference contact with Reggio Children. Committee members devote many hours to the management and organisation of events, staffing and strategic planning without remuneration. I would like to thank my fellow Executive members for their collegiality and custodianship of this very important organisation and am confident that with strong fiscal policies we will continue to grow and RE search for a new culture of childhood for all Australian children.

Kerrie O'Neill
Treasurer

Documentation Centre Project Group January 2016 – December 2016

I have great pleasure in presenting the 2016 REAIE Documentation Centre Annual Report.

This year has been another busy and exciting year in the Documentation Centre. We regularly receive requests from a variety of centres and schools that are interested in organising Professional Learning sessions for their staff in the Documentation Centre. Visitors include educators from all sectors of the early childhood community, including students from tertiary institutions.

Visitors view their visits as an opportunity to browse through a variety of documentation pieces that reflect children's learning. The documentation that is on view is from centres within Australia as well as from Reggio Emilia and includes projects, stories, daily journals, portfolios and resource books. It is an opportunity for teachers to enjoy dialogue and discussion with educators from different states and different areas of early childhood, as well as their own colleagues.

This year, the Documentation Centre held open days during some of the Victorian school holiday periods and we also introduced a Twilight Visit in Term 3 that proved to be very popular, particularly for centres that are open throughout the year. With this success in mind, we plan to include more of these opportunities in 2017.

We have recently acquired another room in the University very near to the current Documentation Centre, enabling us to display more pieces of documentation, as well as establish a space for a REAIE library. We hope that this additional space will be completed for our January Open Day.

We are so grateful to everyone who has kindly lent or given documentation to REAIE and we are always very excited to hear from members who have documentation for us. This year we received some amazing documentation from the South Australian REAIE Network. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for these inspiring projects. Without this generous sharing from individuals, centres and schools, we would not be able to support our members and the wider

community and offer ways to further their learning in a relaxed, friendly environment.

We would also like to thank all who have visited the Documentation Centre this year and to all who help us to maintain the documentation. We particularly thank our amazing REAIE office staff. They are instrumental in welcoming visitors, making sure that all is in readiness and providing resources that can be purchased.

Finally, my grateful thanks to the other members of the Documentation Centre Project Group, particularly Debbie Nicholas and Cara Mearns. They are such loyal supporters and have worked tirelessly to ensure the continued success of the Documentation Centre. We all look forward to another productive and exciting year!

As Loris Malaguzzi reminds us: Nothing Without Joy!

Libby Cumming

Documentation Centre Project Group Convenor

Challenge Project Group January 2016 – December 2016

Three editions of the *Challenge* were published in 2016: April, August and November.

The April 2016 edition wondered about children and relationships and explored the idea of ecological sensibility. Articles included children developing theories about space and the people within them; secret gardens, communities of spiders, Uno's Garden and planetary messages from Australian children. We saw a team guided by the question: is curiosity innate or does it have to be learned? Educators from South Australia shared with us how they were inspired to both 'make their own road' and create cultures of collaboration, following Carla Rinaldi's role as 'A thinker in residence' in South Australia.

The August 2016 edition sought articles about the professional image and identity of the educator. It began with the voice of the child, as children investigated 'imagination' in response to the 2015 Conference as shared by the educators, with the children. What though, is the role of the educator in taking this inquiry further, the educators wondered? This edition also highlighted a diversity of ways that REAIE can and does support our members in the creation of their professional identities. The edition was a hope filled edition. The 'Encounter with Tiziana Filippini' was a highlight and articles through different perspectives were included; one from Fiona Zinn, REAIE's Professional Learning Convenor, and another the transcript of Tiziana's interview with ABC Hobart. Heather Conroy and her team used this 'encounter' and the radio interview as the impetus to reimagine professional identity asking 'who are we?' This idea of 're-visiting a concept' was a common thread. Paul Johnson and Tina Adamo reimagine childhood in their professional learning with Carla Rinaldi and Jan Millikan and they stepped us through this in their article. Mary Featherston and Esme Capp reimagine spaces for learning in a primary school setting. Two contributors reflected on their trips to Reggio Emilia where they were challenged, inspired, and eventually reassured as they wondered what it meant to be a competent teacher; a learning teacher. Libby Cumming, Kerrie O'Neill, Kirsty Liljegren, and Leanne Mits all report on further REAIE events for professional learning and developing our professional identities as they wrote about the Documentation Centre, the planned 2017 Sydney Conference

"Landscapes of Identity" and the 2016 Annual General Meeting. The articles gave us time to pause and reflect on our professional identities and perhaps celebrate a little.

The editorial of the November 2016 edition had a focus on community and families that is, culture and the protagonists of children's learning. This edition began with Hanna Daniel working with our youngest citizens, inviting reflection from the children's families. David Gilkes in a more formal way co-inquired into beauty with families for his Master's project. Toorak College opened its doors to show us a wonderful collaboration between the school, an artist and the Boon Wurrung people and then we are stepped into protocols of ethical engagement with Aboriginal resources by Catherine Hamm and Brian Newman. The eco cubby project was a collaboration with a diversity of community members as the children took the lead. The *Talking Piano* story showed us how children are creators of culture, as they tell a story that has never been told before. There is also a report on REAIE's participation at the ECA conference in Darwin, by the REAIE Committee, REAIE members and Carla Rinaldi.

This year, REAIE has engaged the services of Alex Lazarus-Priestley, a publisher with vast experience, who is undertaking a review of the *Challenge*. She will be interviewing committee members and those responsible for the *Challenge*, reviewing past editions as well as surveying REAIE members. This process and the data collected will help guide the future direction and development of the *Challenge* Journal.

These editions would not have been possible without the contributions from many teachers who courageously shared their practice, thinking, experience and pedagogical questions through the *Challenge*. The *Challenge* Editorial Group is grateful to all those who have given their time and made the effort to write about their experience. Each new article that comes across the editorial desk fills us with excitement...what are we about to read, to learn, to wonder about? Editing can sometimes be a lengthy process that can continue for several months and one that can be confronting for the writer, but it is within the spirit of collaboration; without these contributions; there would be no *Challenge* Journal. We encourage all members of REAIE to consider writing for the *Challenge*

Journal. It is a great moment to see your article in print and this can be a whole team process, a series of photographs, children's drawings...

The Challenge Editorial Group is always available to assist with the writing process.

Thank you:

Pam Andrew and Chris Celada: for ensuring the layout of the *Challenge* supports its pedagogical intent.

Challenge Editorial Group members: Jan Millikan, Libby Cumming, Ruth Wallbridge, Cara Mearns, Pam Andrews, Chris Celada, for designing and building each edition and for their assistance in encouraging writers to contribute to the *Challenge*.

Rooster IMC for their assistance in the publication and distribution of the journal. Caryn Marks and the office staff for their support.

All the *Challenge* contributors for sharing ideas, insights and practice, allowing others to read, reflect and consider other possibilities.

Debbie Nicholas

Convenor Challenge Project Group, Challenge Editor April 2016

Karen Szydluk

Professional Learning Coordinator; Challenge Editor August and November 2016

Professional Learning Project Group Report January 2016 – December 2016

In 2016 the Professional Learning Project Group consisted of Babs Newton, Heather Conroy, Jane Merewether, Helene Oberman and was convened by Fiona Zinn.

In April 2016 REAIE appointed our first Professional Learning and Network's Coordinator: Karen Szydluk, to oversee REAIE's Professional Learning events, Network Groups, the Documentation Centre and The *Challenge* Journal.

Professional Learning Events for 2016

'An Encounter with Tiziana Filippini'

It has long been a vision of REAIE to invite a speaker from Reggio Emilia on an Australian speaking tour. We were therefore thrilled to be able to bring this to fruition in May 2016, when Tiziana Filippini from Reggio Emilia visited Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia. In total 979 participants enjoyed the opportunity to listen to and work with Tiziana and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. A diversity of events was conducted including public lectures, workshops for early childhood and primary teachers and one-day conferences.

National Invited Speakers Series

Eleven events were held across four states, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania. In total 260 participants attended the workshops, which were presented mostly as 3 hour workshops but on occasion a full day program was offered. It is REAIE's intention that the workshops are offered Australia-wide and we are in consultation with network leaders in all states for future events so we can best suit the learning desires of the members in each state. The Invited Speaker Series has been well received and generally well attended. The content and speakers is decided in consultation with the Professional Learning Project Group, however we rely on and are grateful for the on-the-ground support from Network leaders to best guide us, in decisions about timing and venues.

REAIE Workshops: Introduction to Reggio Emilia

Two 'Introduction to Reggio Emilia' workshops were held in 2016, one in Canberra and one in Darwin. Both were well attended with 89 participants combined attending. As a result of these workshops, the attendance and feedback, future

workshops are planned for both states, with a view to build on knowledge and learning.

Workshops by Request

There were 21 requested workshops delivered to specific centres, schools, and individuals in 2016. These were in South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales, and were delivered by seven REAIE consultants.

Development of Workshops

Future workshop development is being planned for 2017 and beyond. We are redeveloping the *Introduction to Reggio Emilia Workshop* and looking to add four new titles to our offerings in the future.

National Twilight Centre Visits

Four States hosted Twilight Visits in October. Centres/schools in Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales, opened their doors for the ever popular Twilight Centre Visits. In all, 9 spaces were opened and visits were well attended.

Documentation Centre Open Days and Requested Visits

The Documentation Centre held four Open Days in 2016 in January, June, August and November. Across these visits 89 people attended. In addition, there were 17 privately facilitated sessions in the centre which were conducted by 6 different facilitators. REAIE continues to receive wonderful gifts of documentation from schools and early childhood centres for inclusion in the Documentation Centre as provocations for all our learning. We are very grateful for all documentation donations.

Looking forward to 2017

We are very excited to be dreaming up more possibilities for engaging professional learning in 2017 and beyond. Possibilities include further events in the Invited Speakers Series across Australia. We currently have sessions booked for Canberra in March, Perth in February and more to come early in 2017.

Thank you

The above events could not be possible without the committed pedagogical work of the Professional Learning Project Group, the unending administrative support from the wonderful REAIE Office Team and the important on-the-ground work of the National Network Convenors. We thank all those who have facilitated professional learning events across Australia on behalf of REAIE in 2016. All this is facilitated by the ongoing work of the REAIE Executive and National Committee. REAIE thanks all our members for continuing the dialogue

through attending the professional learning events and we welcome your suggestions for future professional learning opportunities around Australia and beyond.

Fiona Zinn
Professional Learning Project Group Convenor

Karen Szydlik
Professional Learning Coordinator

Reggio Children International Network Report January 2016 – December 2016

REAIE, as the acknowledged Reggio Children reference organisation in Australia, maintains close contact with both Reggio Children and the members of the Reggio Children International Network. There have been many changes in recent months and the report of the network meeting below provides some insights into the current situation regarding the educational project in Reggio Emilia. Jan Millikan and Ruth Wallbridge represented REAIE at this meeting, and it was a significant meeting on several counts.

The meeting celebrated 10 years since the establishment of the Network. REAIE was an invited participant at the first meeting to determine the possibility of establishing this group, and at that time there were 22 countries represented. There are now 32 countries represented: - Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Ricco, Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, Iceland, India, Israel, Ireland, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Singapore, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay, and the USA.

The intention is to increase this number, and there are currently 6 countries seeking membership. A new strategy for determining membership criteria is now being developed.

It was also a time to reflect on the history of the Reggio Emilia educational project, and the restructuring of the present organisational system in facing a challenging present and future. The three organisational structures involved are: a) Reggio Children, b) The Istituzione, and c) The Foundation Reggio Children Loris Malaguzzi Centre.

Reggio Children began in 1994, to promote and defend the rights and potentials of the world's children through organising international pedagogical and cultural exchanges. Claudia Giudici has been elected as the new chairperson of Reggio Children.

The Istituzione was established in 2003 by the local government of Reggio Emilia to take responsibility for all the preschools and infant toddler centres in the province of Reggio Emilia, not only the local government centres. Paola Cagliari is the continuing Director of the Istituzione.

The not-for-profit Foundation Reggio Children - Loris Malaguzzi Centre was established in 2011 and coincided with the completion of the Loris Malaguzzi International Centre. It has

the aim to promote quality education in Reggio Emilia, and in the world, and its key words are: research, internationality, solidarity, educational quality and economic sustainability. Carla Rinaldi is the chairperson of the Foundation.

The Local Government early childhood centres are currently facing very severe financial issues and at the present time the Foundation has the role of providing 41% of the total funding for the centres. This is a matter of grave concern.

The support of the early childhood centres is assisted by donations to the Foundation, events at the Malaguzzi Centre and restaurant, the provision of Study Tours, the travelling exhibitions, providing speakers and consultancies at International conferences and events, and the publishing and sale of resources which began in 1994. To date there have been 83 books and 400,000 copies published. There have also been translations into 21 languages: Albanian, Catalan, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Korean, Japanese, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish, Portuguese, Chinese, Arabic, Hebrew, Finish, and Greek. Many of the translations are organised through the various networks.

In 2015 the International Centre welcomed 100,000 visitors. It is considered as a place for everybody, both local and international, and not only educators. During our visit in July, it was a joy to see the International Centre looking so beautiful and so alive. While we were there, the Centre welcomed our group meeting, and also an International Research and Design conference and study groups from China and New Zealand. Additionally, children and families who arrived in the late afternoon enjoyed the many established Atelier spaces too.

It has always been the practice of Reggio Emilia to consider and respect the past in considering the present and the future. They acknowledge their complex and challenging history which has involved conflict, triggered by passion, and as they have done this, they have also been able to continue to work together.

The current Vision and Mission of Reggio Children was shared with the network group for discussion, with a strong emphasis being given to the need to protect the knowledge base of their educational project. A strategic plan is now in process including the contribution from the Network Group and a draft

version will be available for further discussion in February 2017.

A rich professional learning experience followed, including four presentations from the network groups. Projects were provided by England, Columbia, Sweden and Australia. Ruth

Wallbridge presented a beautiful project on behalf of Australia which was very much appreciated by everybody concerned.

Jan Millikan

REAIE Liaison with Reggio Children and the International Network

Planetary Era project group January 2016 – December 2016

We are part of an ecosystem and we must be convinced of this...that our earthly journey is a journey made together with the environment, with nature, with the cosmos: that our organism, our morality, our culture, our knowledge, our sentiments are all connected with the environment, with the universe, with the world, with the cosmos....and this is where the great web of our life exists. Malaguzzi quoting Commoner, in Cagliari, Castagnetti, Giudici, Rinaldi, Vecchi, & Moss, (eds.). (2016) p 329.

In 2015, Reggio Children invited REAIE as a member of the International Network to contribute to a project which aimed to give voice to children's empathic relationships with the natural world; to highlight the strength of the connections perceived to exist by children between humankind and nature.

REAIE decided to relaunch this project in April 2016 and continues to invite submissions by members wishing to participate in this national project. A small project group is

working to collect photographic images, children's representations and transcripts of conversations. It is hoped that this collaborative process, involving REAIE members throughout Australia may eventually create a provocation for dialogue which might take the form of a series of panels, a short animation, or a travelling exhibition of children's thinking made visible. Contributions received to date direct attention towards factors that need consideration to ensure the synergy of individual pieces towards a cohesive whole.

I would like to thank Jan Millikan for her exceptional guidance in steering this project and also to Debbie Nicholas and Cara Mearns for their support and enthusiasm.

Heather Conroy

Convenor, Planetary Era project group

Cagliari, P.; Castagnetti, M.; Giudici, C.; Rinaldi, C.; Vecchi, V. & Moss, P. (eds.). (2016). *Loris Malaguzzi and the schools of Reggio Emilia*. Abingdon, Oxon UK: Routledge.

Conference Project Group Report January 2016 – December 2016

The committee members for the National Conference Project Group, 2016 were: Kirsty Liljegren, Fiona Zinn, Kerrie O'Neill, Jan Millikan, Heather Conroy and Cara Mearns.

Planning for the 2017 Conference, *Landscapes of Identity* began in early 2016 with Kerrie O'Neill and Kirsty Liljegren returning to their positions as co-convenors supported by other committee members. Phone conference meetings enabled participation by committee members from different states and regional areas.

The previous National Conference Project Group had secured the new Sydney Convention Centre as the venue for the 2017 Biennial National Conference. We are very excited to be hosting our event in this amazing new building, located on Darling Harbour.

A difficult decision was made this year by the National REAIE committee not to offer either the Hundred Languages Exhibition or the Wonder of Learning Exhibition, due to difficulties in finding a suitable venue, associated costs and feedback indicating that conference participants have limited time during the conference to engage and interact with any

exhibition.

Semann and Slattery were re-appointed as the conference management team, due to the success of the 2015 conference *Landscapes of Imagination*, which attracted 1145 participants, a record attendance. We are aiming for the Sydney conference to draw a similar crowd, and are mindful of the challenges that a larger conference can bring. We will consult with our conference management team to ensure that the conference continues to operate smoothly with comfort and ease for our participants.

The state conference network group in Sydney has met several times with great enthusiasm and energy and are utilising their local knowledge to support the conference planning. We are grateful to Ruth Weinstein for coordinating this group and look forward to the contributions that they will bring to the conference.

We are excited to announce that Leanne Gibbs (past CEO of Community Child Care NSW) will act as the Master of Ceremonies during the conference and we are working to secure a broad range of speakers who will address the conference theme of identity. The conference, as always, will

feature two speakers from Reggio Emilia, along with speakers from the Australia.

A new conference website has been launched and registrations opened in December. The site will continue to be updated as new events and speakers are secured. We will be trialing new conference registration software and hope that conference registrants find this new system easy to use.

We are very excited about the 2017 conference and hope to see many existing members, new members and other educators participate. We are very sure it will be a memorable event.

Kerrie O'Neill and Kirsty Liljegren
Conference Project Group Co-Convenors

Networks and Membership Project Group January 2016 – December 2016

In 2016 the Networks and Membership Project Group (NMPG) was a collaboration between Jane Merewether, Debbie Nicholas, Fiona Zinn, Ruth Wallbridge & Kate Mount. This group completed two major tasks in 2016: a review of membership fees and structures, and the creation of an information pack to support REAIE Networks throughout Australia.

The review of fees and structures was presented to the REAIE Committee in June. The report recommended retention of the current membership structure which includes a number of individual and organisational membership options. The review also recommended membership fees be increased. Membership fees have not increased since 2011. There has been no adjustment for inflation during this period and this has resulted in a narrowing gap between revenue and expenses. Further, the expanding benefits offered by REAIE have not been reflected in the membership fees. The following changes were passed in June by the full REAIE committee:

- Individual Full \$109 becomes \$119
- Individual Concession \$59 becomes \$64
- Organisational A \$179 becomes \$195
- Organisational B \$299 becomes \$329

- Organisational C \$349 becomes \$385
- Challenge Only \$79 becomes \$85

The NMPG also compiled the first draft of the REAIE Network Pack, a set of information and guidelines for Networks. The pack includes information about the history, structure and committee of REAIE, and outlines the role and purpose of Networks within the organisation. It also includes information such as possible formats and content for meetings, support available from REAIE, contact details and funding possibilities. The Network Pack was sent to all Network Convenors for their feedback in December 2016. It is anticipated this pack will be updated on an annual basis.

The NMPG was delighted to welcome Karen Szydlik to the REAIE staff this year. Karen's role as Professional Learning and Network's Coordinator means that the REAIE office now offers additional support for individual REAIE networks. The nature of this support is still evolving, and will be a point of discussion in 2017 when we look forward to meeting with Network Convenors on 25 March, following REAIE's AGM.

Jane Merewether
Networks and Membership Project Group Convenor

REAIE NETWORK GROUP REPORTS

Adelaide Hub Group

January 2016 – December 2016

The Adelaide Hub Group reflected on the Reggio principle of organisation and the nature of participation this year. Under the leadership of Kate Mount, Sheryle Yorston, Nadia Carruozzo, and Sally Gower, the Term 1 meeting was used to open up dialogue with our members to see what they wanted. The feedback from the meeting revealed that participation was going to look different for everyone. Some were looking for the opportunity to come together to enter into dialogue and reflective conversations about research and readings; others were wanting practical workshops and opportunities to visit sites, and another group of people were wanting a way to begin their journey with the Reggio Emilia approach and have the opportunity to ask questions and learn about the principles. This feedback was then implemented with a change to our hub group meeting structure. We would meet 'on site' and break into one of four groups: research, reading, beginners, and site tour/workshop. The Adelaide community responded positively to these changes and attendance at hub group meetings has increased to 80-100 people.

Another turning point for the group was Kate's resignation as the convenor and the invitation from Kate, Sheryle, Nadia and Sally for new members to join them on the executive group. In

response to this Holly Baulderstone and Leanne Lovett (current co-convenors), Melissa Baulderstone, Anita Menon, Mary Scales, and Rina Visser joined the executive. This has resulted in representation across all the sectors of the South Australian Early Childhood Community, from government, independent, Catholic, long day care, stand-alone kindergartens, and schools. In considering the potential of distance preventing participants from connecting with the group, we made an effort to plan meetings across all areas of the city. Participant appreciation of this decision was reflected in our attendance lists.

Building on the challenge offered by Paola Strozzi (Pedagogista) and Max Ghirardi (Atelierista), when they visited as part of the SA Collaborative Project, the Adelaide executive was challenged to consider ways to connect with our arts community; to reflect on the synergy that exists between arts organisations and our early childhood sector and how collaborative partnerships could be established.

In 2017 we look forward to building on the momentum the group has developed this year.

Holly Baulderstone



Brisbane Network Group January 2016 – December 2016

We have had an exciting year filled with many opportunities to come together as a group. I wish to thank the many people who assisted and supported me personally and the group throughout the year. Each event we hosted, whether it was a network meeting or a guest speaker ran very smoothly thanks to support of our network group.

Visitors and guest speakers for 2016 include Tiziana Filippini, Jan Millikan, Heather Conroy, Jill McLachlan, Margo Hobba and Chris Celada. Each event was very well received with requests to *do this again please*. A few of our network colleagues headed off to Reggio for the study tour earlier this year and have said they have benefitted greatly from the professional learning that has been provided since their return. We all felt very privileged to have Tiziana lead a workshop with us as well as feeling very inspired by participants who travelled across the country to join us. Tiziana's passion for understanding

children and their thinking ignited us to rethink how and what we do regardless of what field we work in.

Our thanks go to Otello's restaurant in West End for allowing us to meet in their rooms upstairs. Later in the year we returned to meeting at centres in the hope that more people would become involved. Next year Renee Mitchell and Skye Deveraux will share the role of convenor and meetings will be held at Goodstart Red Hill (at the change of each season). Opportunities for guest speakers to present workshops will also be available throughout the year. I wish to thank all of our wonderful network members for their professionalism and ongoing support over the years. It has been a great pleasure to work with you all, thank you.

Karen Renz

Limestone Coast January 2016 – December 2016

The Limestone Coast South Australia Network Group has just been re-ignited. We had a very successful first meeting at the end of term three where we had 30 very enthusiastic educators attend. As a group we explored the possibilities of what it is we wanted out of these meetings and how we might format them. It was a great opportunity for us to share our thoughts, questions and ideas. We then explored the words 'Dialogue', 'Discussion' and 'Debate' and what they mean to us. We read articles about these words and their meanings to further challenge our thinking. From this initial meeting a small organising committee was formed to support and structure our future meetings. We will meet again this term and have asked everyone to come to the evening with their answer to this question....**What is your image of the child?** We have suggested the use of a book to document their thinking. This

book could become a journal that documents their network journey. In small groups we will dialogue around this question and share individuals' thoughts about their image of the child. We will then come together to share and reflect as a whole group. In between meetings we will provide links to various articles to continue our learning.

Our journey as a network group is just beginning and as we build relationships with one another to support, guide and challenge our thinking, we are excited about where our journey will take us.

Sally Gower

Northern Rivers NSW January 2016 – December 2016

The highlight for the Reggio Emilia Northern Rivers Group was the workshop delivered by Margo Hobba and Chris Celada on the pedagogy of relationships. This was attended by approximately 25 people.

Members are excited about the Reggio Emilia Biennial Conference to be held in Sydney in July 2017.

Wendy Boyd

NW Sydney RE-Search Group January 2016 – December 2016

It has been a quiet year for the NW Sydney RE-Search group. We will be having a meeting in Term 4 but otherwise we have not met as a network. This quiet, reflective year has given us space to reconsider what we want for the future of the network. As of October 2016 our convening group extended from two to five co-convenors and now has convenors representing educators from preschool, long day care and the school sector. The new convening group will be meeting together before the end of the year to consider ways ahead that will be sustaining and meet the various hopes and needs of the group.

means that members come to an average of one meeting per year, usually the meeting that is geographically closest to their setting. We do have a core group of about 4-6 educators that will make an effort to attend, not dependent on the location of the meeting.

With the changes ahead, there may be a change of name and further changes to the convening group. For example, we may break ourselves into smaller more focused groups rather than stay as a large network. The end result of our discussions about the future is not yet clear but we will inform REAIE as decisions are made about future directions.

On the table is a consideration to narrow the region served by our network, in the hope of facilitating richer and more regular connections across settings. Our current geographical reach

Jill McLachlan

Perth Reggio Network January 2016 – December 2016

Once again, Perth Reggio Network has had a very fruitful year. We met each term and heard from a number of very interesting members of our network:

- In February, Dr Stefania Giamminuti (Curtin University) and Juliet Lewer (Lance Holt School) shared their experience as co-researchers on what became known as the 'nature walks' research project – a year-long investigation involving the use of 'pedagogical documentation' as a research tool.
- In May, Wendy Candy from Wesley College spoke about her experiences in building partnerships

between family and school.

- In August, Katie Pitchford and Sarah Briotti from Como Children shared their project 'Deconstructing Nature and Beautiful Discoveries: The Como Eco Scientists'.
- In November, Denise Ansingh spoke about her experiences on visits New Zealand and Reggio Emilia and how these might influence those working with the EYLF in a Western Australian context.

These events not only challenged our thinking but also highlighted strengths and capabilities within our network.

In May, Perth was privileged to have four Tiziana Filippini events hosted by REAIE. Tiziana presented a public lecture, two workshops and a one-day conference. She also visited a number of schools and centres. Her presentations were very well received by both those familiar with the ideas from Reggio Emilia and those new to them. We are extremely grateful for the support of REAIE and Reggio Children, which enabled Tiziana to come to our city, and of course, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Tiziana who packed so much into her time in Perth. We also thank all the members and delegates who participated so enthusiastically in these wonderful

professional learning opportunities.

Once again, the Twilight Visits were very successful for Perth this year. Three centres welcomed network members and the public in October, further adding to the conversation amongst educators who are interpreting the ideas from Reggio Emilia for an Australian context. The generosity of these centres is much appreciated.

Perth Reggio Network looks forward to another year of thinking, wondering and inquiry, centred on the provocation of our colleagues in Reggio Emilia.

Jane Merewether

The Tasmanian REsearch Network January 2016 – December 2016

The Tasmanian REsearch Network continues to be active in encouraging dialogue and offering professional learning to educators in relation to the provocation of the educational project in Reggio Emilia. In 2016, the Tasmanian Network was fortunate enough to have hosted well-known pedagogista and collaborator Tiziana Filippini from Reggio Emilia for a series of events, including a public lecture at the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), a two day workshop and one day presentation at the beautiful Baha'i Centre. All events were very well-attended, attracting people from around the State, from interstate and overseas. Tiziana was interviewed in Hobart on ABC radio and this was shared around the country. Her work in Tasmania sparked discussions between educators and also between organisations and local council

representatives. An exciting time! As part of the REAIE's speaker series, Kelly Boucher from Melbourne and Lou Thorpe from Hobart each presented workshops in Launceston. Those who attended these workshops have provided us with excellent feedback. The Tasmanian REsearch Network has also been involved this year in discussions with our local Government regarding the proposed changes to the Tasmanian Education Act and submitted a paper in response to the proposal to lower the school starting age. We will continue to be involved in this process, advocating for the rights of children, families and educators in our State.

David Gilkes

**REGGIO EMILIA AUSTRALIA INFORMATION EXCHANGE INC.
A.B.N. 73 879 960 566**

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY 2016 TO 31st DECEMBER 2016

REGGIO EMILIA AUSTRALIA INFORMATION EXCHANGE INC.
A.B.N. 73 879 960 566

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange Inc for the period from 1st January 2016 to 31st December 2016.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The names of the committee members throughout the financial period and at the date of this report are:

Ruth Wallbridge (Chairperson)	Kirsty Liljegren
Cara Mearns (Vice Chairperson)	Jan Millikan
Leanne Mits (Secretary)	Fiona Zinn
Kerrie O'Neill (Treasurer)	Babs Newton
Libby Cumming	Debbie Nicholas
Helene Oberman	Kate Mount
Heather Conroy	Jane Merewether
Ruth Weinstein	

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the association during the financial period were:

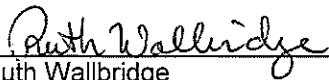
- production and distribution of a journal
- conferences
- workshops and seminars
- study tours
- membership support
- implementation and maintenance of website
- sale of resources
- management of travelling expenditure

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

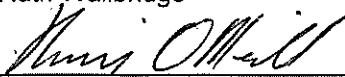
No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the period.

OPERATING RESULT

The operating surplus for the 12 month period amounted to \$40,360.
Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Ruth Wallbridge



Kerrie O'Neill

Dated this 7 day of MARCH 2017

REGGIO EMILIA AUSTRALIA INFORMATION EXCHANGE INC.
A.B.N. 73 879 960 566

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2016

	31-Dec-16	31-Dec-15
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Sale of Goods	40,006	41,528
Interest Received		
-Banks	13,247	18,317
Rendering of Services	795,258	1,593,945
Miscellaneous Revenue	2,820	3,673
Donations and Grants	25	10,000
TOTAL INCOME	851,356	1,667,463
EXPENSES		
Audit Fees	2,600	3,290
Advertising	931	7,599
Bank Charges	2,267	2,701
Conference Expenses	6,447	752,725
Depreciation	1,533	1,787
Employee Benefits	143,143	131,185
Exhibition Expenses	3,143	7,094
Freight & Cartage	1,446	1,167
Insurance	17,944	14,296
Intensive study tour	75,021	-
NZ study tour	41,732	25,451
Venue Expenses	25,271	579
Other Expenses	156,621	126,852
Purchases	27,921	26,933
Printing & Stationery	31,949	50,909
Rent	24,670	23,197
Study Tour Expenses	210,431	155,221
Workshop Expenses	37,926	17,182
TOTAL EXPENSES	810,996	1,348,168
OPERATING PROFIT	40,360	319,295
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	40,360	319,295

REGGIO EMILIA AUSTRALIA INFORMATION EXCHANGE INC.
A.B.N. 73 879 960 566

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2016

	2016	2015
CURRENT ASSETS		
CASH AT BANK - BENDIGO	82,841	82,445
CASH AT BANK - ANZ	49,173	50,925
CASH AT BANK ANZ	815,733	817,853
TERM DEPOSIT - BENDIGO	12,397	12,075
TERM DEPOSIT - ANZ	229,271	224,225
PAYPAL ACCOUNT	45,202	2,927
PETTY CASH	365	182
SUNDRY DEBTORS	-	28,242
DEPOSITS	-	-
PREPAYMENTS	161,358	-
GST RECIEVABLE	8,297	14,772
STOCK ON HAND	27,272	36,221
LIBRARY	4,072	4,016
	<u>1,435,981</u>	<u>1,273,883</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT	31,637	31,637
LESS ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	<u>21,647</u>	<u>20,114</u>
	9,990	11,523
LOW VALUE POOL	-	-
	<u>9,990</u>	<u>11,523</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,445,971</u>	<u>1,285,406</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
ANZ CREDIT CARD	-	1,189
TRADE CREDITORS	449	24,290
UNEXPENDED GRANT INCOME	80,000	80,000
PREPAID STUDY TOUR DEPOSITS	184,405	92,780
PREPAID CONFERENCE INCOME	46,011	-
PAYG & SUPERANNUATION PAYABLE	7,543	3,899
PROVISION FOR LONG SERVICE LEAVE	6,332	6,332
GST PAYABLE	10,819	6,864
	<u>335,559</u>	<u>215,354</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>335,559</u>	<u>215,354</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>1,110,412</u>	<u>1,070,052</u>
EQUITY		
RETAINED EARNINGS	1,110,412	1,070,052
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>1,110,412</u>	<u>1,070,052</u>

REGGIO EMILIA AUSTRALIA INFORMATION EXCHANGE INC.
A.B.N. 73 879 960 566
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Income from Operating Activities		
Services rendered	961,586	1,581,448
Grants & Donations	25	90,000
Sales	40,006	38,786
Other income	2,680	7,113
	<u>1,004,297</u>	<u>1,717,347</u>
Payments from Operating Activities		
For and on behalf of employees	143,096	128,571
Administration and Office	108,012	98,238
Membership	38,788	51,282
Purchases	34,277	28,100
Program Expenses	471,610	238,780
Network Expenses	10,890	9,229
Advertising	5,712	36,690
Conference Expenses	161,358	739,036
	<u>973,743</u>	<u>1,329,926</u>
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	<u>30,554</u>	<u>387,421</u>
Income from Investment Activities		
Library	-56	-805
Office Equipment	0	-1,647
Interest Received	13,848	18,545
Net Cash Flow from Investment Activities	<u>13,792</u>	<u>16,083</u>
Total Cash Flow for Year	44,346	403,504
Cash at Beginning of Year	1,190,633	787,129
Cash at End of Year	1,234,979	1,190,633
Represented by:		
ANZ Cash at Bank	49,172	
ANZ Online Saver	815,733	
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	12,396	
ANZ Bank Term Deposit	229,271	
Bendigo Bank Cash at Bank	82,841	
Paypal Account	45,201	
Petty Cash	365	
	<u>1,234,979</u>	

REGGIO EMILIA AUSTRALIA INFORMATION EXCHANGE INC.
A.B.N. 73 879 960 566

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2016

RETAINED EARNINGS

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Opening Balance	1,070,052	750,757
Profit for the year	40,360	319,295
Transfer from Reserves	-	-
Closing Balance at 31 December	<u>1,110,412</u>	<u>1,070,052</u>

RESERVES

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Opening Balance	-	-
Transfers	-	-
Closing Balance at 31 December	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**REGGIO EMILIA AUSTRALIA INFORMATION EXCHANGE INC.
A.B.N. 73 879 960 566**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2016**

1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below and in the notes to the financial statements, which the directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared with the requirements of the following Australian International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS):

AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 110	Events after Balance Date
AASB 1031	Materiality

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non current assets.

**REGGIO EMILIA AUSTRALIA INFORMATION EXCHANGE INC.
A.B.N. 73 879 960 566**

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

ss 94(2)(b), 97(2)(b) and 100(2)(b)

**ANNUAL STATEMENTS GIVE A TRUE AND FAIR VIEW OF THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
AND POSITION OF THE INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION**

We, Ruth Wallbridge, and Kerrie O'Neill, being members of the committee of Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange Inc., certify that -

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange Inc. during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 31 December 2016.

Signed: *Ruth Wallbridge*
Dated: *7/3/2017*

Signed: *Kerrie O'Neill*
Dated: *7/3/2017*

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF REGGIO EMILIA
AUSTRALIA INFORMATION EXCHANGE INC**

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report of the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange Inc consisting of statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts for year ended 31 December 2016. The Committee is responsible for the financial report to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and I have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

I disclaim any assumptions of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members or for any purpose other than for which it was prepared.

Auditor's Responsibility

My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination on a test basis of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether in all material aspects the financial report is presented fairly so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Association's financial position and performance as presented by the results of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the financial statements present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange Inc as at 31 December 2016 and the results of its operations for the period then ended.



BRUCE T HYDON
Chartered Accountant
Level 1/ 267A Glenferrie Road
Malvern, Victoria, 3144

6A March 2017