

# **Reggio Emilia Australia**

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

*re search for a new culture of childhood*

## **Annual Report**

**January 2017 – December 2017**

## **2017 REAIE COMMITTEE**

### **Executive**

**Chairperson** Ruth Wallbridge

**Vice Chairperson** Cara Mearns

**Treasurer** Kerrie O’Neill

Leanne Mits, Acting Treasurer, July - September 2017

**Secretary** Leanne Mits

**Public Officer** Leanne Mits

### **Committee Members**

Heather Conroy

Libby Cumming

Kirsty Liljegren

Vanessa Miller

Jan Millikan

Kate Mount

Babs Newton (January – July 2017)

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 2017 – December 2017

It is always a pleasure to prepare an annual report. This 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 our office staff, the committee, project groups, network groups and members.

We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and enthusiastic team in the REAIE office of Caryn, Jody, Susii, Michelle and Karen who are continually working to improve the efficiency of office procedures and provide better service to the membership. This year we have seen our membership grow to 549 individual and 325 organisational members and we continue to see an increase in membership numbers and member satisfaction. I would like to formally acknowledge the commitment of our staff and thank them each for the skills they bring to the organisation as they provide the welcoming face of REAIE. As our organisation continues to grow, the Committee, in consultation with our staff, recognises the necessity to expand the staff team to meet the increasing needs of the membership and organisation.

Providing numerous professional learning opportunities around the country has been a large part of REAIE's work over the past twelve months, in addition to the Biennial Conference in Sydney, which saw 1115 delegates attending. Tiziana Filippini from Reggio Emilia presented a number of seminars and workshops in Melbourne in October 2017 and she has just returned to visit Adelaide. Whilst she was in Melbourne, Tiziana spent a day with the Committee and facilitated a review of the REAIE Mission and Vision. Although the content has not changed we were able to more clearly articulate our vision and the direction of the organisation as we move forward. REAIE is also in the final stages of developing three online professional learning modules in collaboration with ECA on the Reggio Emilia Approach to Education, which we anticipate will support access to quality professional learning for many educators who have not had this possibility in the past.

REAIE offered three study tours in 2017 with 37 delegates attending the Australian January Intensive Study Tour to Reggio Emilia, 138 delegates attending the International Reggio Emilia Study Tour in April, and 31 delegates to New Zealand, in August. All study tours were fully subscribed and continue to meet the needs of many educators. 2018 will see all study tours offered again with January and April at capacity. 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 Reggio Emilia approach to education.

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 2017 REAIE continued to be involved in a campaign instigated by ECA, *Early Learning Everyone Benefits*, which aims to showcase the positive outcomes that arise from adequate investment in the early years. REAIE is a member of this campaign alongside Early Childhood Australia (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.

During 2012 /13 REAIE was a partner in the South Australian Government's *Thinkers in Residence Program*. Our invitation to be partners arose because the *Thinker* was Carla Rinaldi from Reggio Emilia. In response to Carla's report, *Re-Imagining Childhood*, the South Australian Government established the South Australian Collaborative Childhood Project to continue to improve outcomes of children in South Australia and beyond. REAIE is honoured to have representation on the governance board and continues to search for ways to support this initiative and share the great work being done in South Australia with its members. REAIE was delighted to sponsor the welcome reception at the South Australian Early Childhood Collaborative Project's *Re-Imagining Childhood* Conference as a demonstration of REAIE's ongoing support for the work being undertaken in South Australia by the Department of Education.

REAIE continues to share a long-standing and close relationship with Reggio Children. In its role as the sole representative of Reggio Children in Australia, appointed by Reggio Children, REAIE continues to develop and broaden this relationship and the opportunities this provides. REAIE is honoured to share with members the ever evolving and ongoing pedagogical research in the schools for young children birth to 6 years, in Reggio Emilia, as well as a more recent move of this project into the primary school sector. The work in Reggio Emilia also continues to strive for the rights of the world's children to have their wellbeing and learning potentials realised. In this role

REAIE is also privileged to be a member of the Reggio Children International Network, which also 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, enabling an ongoing relationship between the member countries. REAIE endeavours to send two representatives to the annual meeting of the Reggio Children International Network and continues to participate in the City Childhood Council of Balducci Preschool in Reggio Emilia. For the past three years REAIE has been connected with Balducci Preschool and when in Reggio Emilia recently, Study Tour Leaders enjoyed visiting and meeting with families and teachers of this school. In recognition of our strong commitment to the Preschools and Infant Toddler Centres of Reggio Emilia, REAIE financially supported Balducci in building a labyrinth in their outdoor learning environment. We wish to make visible this commitment as we recognise it is these very centres that enable us, as an organisation to exist. REAIE values the ongoing research and work of the schools and believes our participation in the International Network and City

Childhood Councils is one way we can support this work, offering opportunities to share perspectives and to be in solidarity with the educational project of Reggio Emilia.

In 2017 The Hundred Languages of Children exhibition was leased by Guardian Early Children Services for seven months and was on display in Melbourne with over 2000 visitors making the most of this valuable opportunity to engage with this exhibit. REAIE is currently in negotiation to take the exhibition to Alice Springs in 2018.

In collaboration, we have achieved a great deal in this past year with, and for, REAIE. REAIE is well placed to move forward as a national organisation to better serve the members, to work towards a clear Vision and Mission and most importantly, to support children. This is very much thanks to all the hard work of you all and to the volunteer Committee who give so willingly of their time to ensure the success of REAIE.

Ruth Wallbridge  
*Chairperson*

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **January 2017 – December 2017**

It is our pleasure to present the financial report for Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange for the year ending 31st December 2017.

This year has been profitable for the organisation, and these results can be primarily attributed to the success of our 2017 Biennial Conference. The financial contribution of the conference helps to sustain the organisation over a period of two years and eases the pressure of generating a significant income in a non-conference year. The Intensive Study Tour to Reggio Emilia in January and the annual April Study Tour, with the addition of the New Zealand Study Tour, also contributes to these good results. REAIE also ran a very successful professional learning program with Tiziana Filippini in October. These sessions were well attended and received. These funds support the ongoing operational costs of the organisation, REAIE's advocacy for children and the growing interest and requests by members.

The next 18 months will be extremely exciting for the organisation with upcoming professional learning events planned, as well as the next national conference to be held in Perth in July 2019. We hope to welcome back loyal participants who have attended previous REAIE conferences, in addition to new participants.

One of the exciting projects REAIE worked on during 2017 was the development of three online professional learning encounters that 'unpack' the principles and practices that represent the educational project of Reggio Emilia. REAIE entered into a partnership with Early Childhood Australia, and this project required a substantial investment. We know that

this initiative will be well received by those educators who are in research with the project, as well as those who are interested in finding out more about these ideas. The online aspect of this professional learning means that these encounters will be accessible to individual educators or teams of educators in major cities and the many regional services across Australia.

REAIE was proud to have a presence, and an exhibition stand in Adelaide for the Reimagining Conference in November. This conference gave visibility to our organisation, attracted pedagogical interest and resulted in new memberships and healthy book sales.

Last year's Treasurer's report informed members that REAIE had made a financial 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 have been working in collaboration, to use this donation to build a labyrinth in their outdoor space. We were thrilled when Balducci offered REAIE permission to share documentation of this project in our latest edition of the Challenge. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we have.

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.

The REAIE Committee has worked with external consultants and strategic planning processes, to identify the need for a Business Manager. This position will add a new staffing cost to

the budget in 2018, and the projected budget has been adjusted to accommodate this.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions committee members give to REAIE in a volunteer capacity. We are proud to declare REAIE as a non-profit organisation and the designated, sole-appointed Australian reference contact with Reggio Children. We thank our fellow Executive members for

their collegiality and custodianship of this important organisation and are confident that with strong fiscal policies and processes REAIE can continue to grow and re-search for a new culture of childhood for all Australian children.

Kerrie O'Neill, *Treasurer*

Leanne Mits, *Acting Treasurer*, July-Sept. 2017

## Documentation Centre Annual Report January 2017 – December 2017

I have great pleasure in presenting the 2017 REAIE Documentation Centre Annual Report.

This year has been another busy year in the Documentation Centre. We constantly receive requests from a variety of centres that are interested in organising bookings for their staff to attend a professional learning session in the Documentation Centre. In 2017, there were seventeen bookings, coming from all sectors of the Early Childhood community, including practitioners, tertiary educators and students, municipal groups, REAIE Network Groups, visitors from overseas and Company Directors. The Documentation Centre also hosted the filming of an interview with Jan Millikan and Tiziana Filippini. Visitors view these visits as an opportunity to enjoy browsing through a variety of documentation examples that reflect children's thinking and learning. The documentation that is on view comes from centres within Australia as well as from Reggio Emilia and includes examples of projects, stories, daily journals, portfolios and resource books. It is an opportunity for visitors to engage in dialogue with others eager to learn more about the educational project from Reggio Emilia. Open Days were also held throughout the year and proved to be very popular.

The recent acquisition of an additional room within the University has enabled us to increase the range of documentation, with a particular focus on children 0-3 years.

We are so grateful to everyone who has kindly either lent or given documentation to REAIE. We are always excited to receive documentation about the inspiring work that is being undertaken throughout Australia and of course in Reggio Emilia. This year we would like to acknowledge the continuing input and contributions from the South Australian Network, Heather Conroy and the educators at Amici - Westbourne Early Learning Centre, Wooranna Park, One Tree Victoria and Stefania Giamminuti and Juliet Lewer – Lance Hall School, WA.

Enormous thanks to our magnificent office staff who are responsible for the smooth management of bookings, selling resources, providing refreshments, keeping a record of attendees and many other details. We are so thankful for their wonderful support.

Very special thanks to our loyal and committed members of the Documentation Centre Project Group, Debbie Nicholas and Cara Mearns, who have assisted in many ways throughout the year to maintain the two Documentation Centres and assist whenever needed, including facilitating the Open Days. We look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Nothing Without Joy! – Loris Malaguzzi

Libby Cumming

*Documentation Centre Project Group Convenor*

## The Challenge Journal - 2017 Editions January 2017 – December 2017

Three editions of the *Challenge* were published in 2017: April, August and November.

The April 2017 edition sought articles from researchers in the field, in a desire to put a spotlight on our roles as **researching** teachers and in the case of Jo French, researching nurses. Academics reported on conferences they had attended, bringing us all a little closer to the current international scene in Early Childhood. One teacher in the field shared with us part of her research for her Masters project and others brought us all into the finer details of their educational research as they experimented with and came to know materials.

The August edition was 'loud' with the voice of the child and a diversity of professionals who reminded us that **teaching is a great responsibility**. The articles showed us the conditions for learning across a diversity of settings, art galleries, parks, preschools and in Reggio Emilia itself. This edition was bursting with colour and invited further thinking about the 100 languages of children and the role of the atelier and Atelierista.

The November 2017 edition was 'The Conference edition', sharing the 2017 REAIE Biennial Conference, 'Landscapes of Identity', beginning with a doodle art piece drawn by a delegate mid-conference. In the August edition we invited participants to contribute their reflections from the conference and were delighted with the responses. Contributors have

reflected on what Reggio the place, Reggio the experience, Reggio the conference, and Reggio the pedagogy means to them. We hope this edition brought those members who were not able to attend the conference a little closer to the experience and those who were able to attend, an opportunity to revisit the many moments that made up the whole...just as the provocation of the little clay figures, dotted throughout the journal, combine to make the whole and remind us *lo chi siamo*, 'the I who we are'.

This year Alex Lazarus-Priestly, an independent consultant, reviewed the *Challenge* Journal. She interviewed Committee Members and those responsible for the *Challenge*, reviewed past editions and surveyed REAIE Members. Alex is preparing a report for the committee. This process will help guide the future direction and decisions made about the *Challenge* Journal.

These editions would not have been possible without the contributions from many teachers and other professionals 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 and knowledge. Each new article that comes across the Editorial desk fills us with excitement...what are we about to read, to learn, to wonder about? Where will this article best fit? Editing can sometimes be a lengthy process 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. Writing can be a whole team process and might include a series of photographs, children's drawings, poetic musings or pedagogical questions. It might report on an event or project you have undertaken. It can be a bonding experience to write such a piece for a team and an experience of growth for beginning writers. 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 and for their eagle eye precision on all things, from the physical to the pedagogical.

RoosterInc for their assistance in the publication and distribution of the *Challenge*.

Caryn Marks and the office staff for their support in making sure all our members receive their copy of the *Challenge*.

All *Challenge* Journal contributors in 2017 for sharing ideas, insights, questions and practice, allowing others to read, reflect and imagine other possibilities.

Karen Szydlik

*Professional Learning Coordinator; Challenge Editor 2017*

Debbie Nicholas

*Challenge / REAIE Committee Liaison*

## **Professional Learning Project Group Report January 2017 – December 2017**

In 2017, the Professional Learning Project Group consisted of Babs Newton, Heather Conroy, Jane Merewether, Helene Oberman, Kirsty Liljegren, Kate Mount, Jan Millikan, Karen Szydlik and was convened by Fiona Zinn.

Professional Learning Events 2017

### **In dialogue with 'The Hundred Languages of Children Exhibition'**

On the back of the Sydney Conference and in collaboration with Guardian Early Learning, Maddalena Tedeschi and Maura Rovacchi arrived in Melbourne to deliver this exciting workshop. Ninety-nine people attended for the full day (22 participants attended half day), which involved visiting the exhibition at Guardian, and pedagogical discussions at the CLC (Catholic Leadership Centre) a new and successful venue for REAIE.

This event was kindly sponsored by: Preschool Equipment.

### **'An Encounter with Tiziana Filippini'**

Continuing on the success of Tiziana's visit to Australia in 2016, REAIE was thrilled to host two weeks of events with Tiziana

speaking in Melbourne in October. In total, 450 plus 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.

This year we introduced a new event to the schedule, a three-day intensive titled 'Pedagogical Coordination in Dialogue with Reggio Emilia'. This was a new and unique event held for the first time outside Reggio Emilia. This was a special event for members only, by application, and 36 people attended.

### **REAIE Workshops: Introduction to Reggio Emilia**

In 2017 REAIE commissioned the re-drafting of our 'Introduction to Reggio Emilia' workshop material. Jan Millikan and Kirsty Liljegren have co-authored this new workshop and we have been thrilled with the response to its first few offerings. Two 'Introduction to Reggio Emilia' workshops were held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, with 90 attendees in Melbourne and 44

attendees in Hobart. As a result of the feedback we received from these workshops, future events are being planned which will build on the knowledge and learning from the introduction.

We plan to continue this workshop into 2018 in different locations around Australia. It is also listed as one of our 'Professional Learning by request' topics for REAIE Networks and member organisations. If you are keen to host this workshop with your Network please get in touch with Karen Szydluk at the REAIE office.

### **Workshops By Request**

Twenty-one requested workshops were delivered to specific centres, schools, and individuals in 2017. 12 different REAIE consultants delivered these. Kirsty Liljegren, Kerrie O'Neill, Fiona Zinn, Karen Szydluk, David Gilkes, Liz Chick, Jan Millikan, Heather Conroy, Hanna Daniels, Mary Featherston, Leanne Mits, Janet Robertson, plus a local group of educators in Canberra for a special one day conference.

They included partnerships with CESA (Catholic Education South Australia), collaborations with Networks, ongoing mentoring to independent centres and supplying speakers to conferences (Perth, Melbourne, Adelaide).

In addition, REAIE hosted 4 Speaker Series events: Jan Millikan in Perth, Jan Millikan and David Gilkes in Canberra, Kelly Boucher in Melbourne, and Janet Robertson and Angela Chng in Sydney.

### **Development of Workshops**

Following on from the success of the renewed '*Introduction to Reggio Emilia*' workshop, REAIE is planning to commission the development of 4 new workshops in 2018, some of which will be rolling out in 2018.

A designer, Jane Andrew, has been appointed to design new REAIE digital templates.

### **Online Learning**

In 2017 REAIE entered into a collaborative partnership with Early Childhood Australia to develop a series of online learning workshops to be hosted on the ECA Learning Hub in 2018. Our '*Encounters with Reggio Emilia*' will look at the principles, history and pedagogy of the Educational Project of Reggio Emilia and also provide a few snapshots of experience, examining the different ways that Australian educators have interpreted these principles in their own contexts.

This work has been possible thanks to the generous agreement of Reggio Children, Italy who have granted permission to REAIE to develop this initiative on the grounds that REAIE is, and continues to be, the Australian reference organisation for Reggio Children, Italy.

A team of 5 workshop developers were engaged to undertake this project between July 2017 and February 2018; Jan Millikan, Karen Szydluk, Fiona Zinn, Kerrie O'Neill and Chris Celada.

REAIE is excited that this new initiative will mean that we are able to reach members far and wide and provide new resources for learning via digital platforms. Members will be notified, via the REAIE Newsletter, when the online workshops are available.

### **National Twilight Centre Visits**

Five States hosted Twilight Centre Visits May/June: Western Australia (49), Victoria (80) Tasmania (24), South Australia (14), Queensland (16), in total 9 centres, visitors 183.

Two States hosted Twilight Centre Visits in October/November: Tasmania (52), Queensland (25).

### **Documentation Centre Open Days and Requested Visits**

REAIE opened the Documentation Centre to members and others 4 times in 2017, in January and September, at the AGM in March and for the Melbourne Network Meeting/Swedish visitors. Across these visits 132 people attended. In addition there were 17 facilitated sessions by request in the centre, which were conducted by 7 different facilitators. REAIE continues to receive wonderful gifts of documentation from schools and early childhood centres as inclusion in the Documentation Centre as provocations for all our learning. We are very grateful for all documentation donations.

REAIE is working on a set of permission release forms for all documentation donated to the REAIE Documentation Centre. These forms will document the permissions granted by the schools and centres who donate material to be shared in the collection.

### **Looking forward to 2018 and beyond**

We continue to discuss and plan for engaging professional learning in 2018 and beyond. We are working to develop an 18 month calendar of 'off-the-shelf' workshops between February 2018 and the July 2019 Conference in Perth.

We will continue to collaborate with CESA, with 4 workshops planned in 2018 as well as a school tour.

Educators from New Zealand continue to be annual visitors to REAIE.

We hope to collaborate with Network Groups across Australia to deliver both 'off-the-shelf' and tailored professional learning. The first '*Introduction to Reggio Emilia*' event will be February 2018.

The Conference title, '*Landscapes of Transformation,*' will also underscore our work with the Networks. We are looking at the idea of 1-day conferences in different locations around the

country in the 'non-conference year', preparing to reach more regional sites as we move forward.

### **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 2017. 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.

Karen Szydlik

*Professional Learning Coordinator*

Fiona Zinn

*Professional Learning Project Group Convenor*

## **Reggio Children International Network Liaison January 2017 – December 2017**

REAIE, as the reference organisation for Reggio Children in Australia, is also a foundation and invited member of the Reggio Children International Network. There are 33 members of the International Network representing:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Columbia, Costa Rica, Denmark, England, Finland, Korea, The Netherlands, Germany, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Singapore, Uruguay, Venezuela, USA and Sweden.

The last meeting of the Network was held in February 2017 with the particular intention of connecting with the previous meeting, held in October 2016. This meeting celebrated 10 years of the existence of the International Network, and also shared a draft of a significant new Strategic Plan. Because of the closeness of the two meetings the numbers attending were quite small at the 2017 meeting with only 14 of the 33 member countries represented. However, the 22 representatives from 14 countries did provide a wide diversity of perspectives and the dialogue was both strong and insightful.

The countries involved were:

Australia, Austria, Brazil, Columbia, Denmark, Costa Rica, Israel, Mexico, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Sweden, Uruguay, and the USA. Jan Millikan and Heather Conroy attended the meeting on behalf of REAIE.

This meeting was addressed by the Mayor of Reggio Emilia and the new chairpersons of the three organisations representing the Educational Project of Reggio Emilia, The Istituzione (Institute), Reggio Children, and the Foundation Malaguzzi International Centre. An additional intention of the meeting was to indicate the ongoing search for the identity of the International Network particularly as a human resource in providing an awareness of what is happening in the world.

Apart from the enormous economic difficulties facing the educational project in Reggio Emilia, the largest threat is the danger of losing the integrity of their brand.

At the present time there is no control over speakers, centres or schools using their brand and this is a serious threat to their future.

Reggio Children therefore has the intent to strengthen the relationships and possible roles of members of the International Network Group in planning for the future, and this includes the need for the Networks to protect both the Reggio brand, and the fundamental rights of children across the world. The aim is to spread both knowledge and understanding of the Reggio Approach to learning and teaching, not as a model, but as a key reference point for education in the world.

The relationship with the International Network is therefore considered to be very important because it provides the opportunity to speak to the world. It is also ambitious and complex because it involves the need to develop a system of values and ways of working that embrace different perspectives, not only those related to pedagogy, but also the political, ethical and cultural domains.

Consideration is presently being given to the development of a framework to provide an assessment reference for the Reggio Approach, whilst at same time being very concerned that their Approach does not become a method, but instead advocates for beliefs based in Progettazione. They are also very aware of the many different definitions given to the term 'assessment'.

The intent of the document is to strengthen the role of the Networks by providing a clearer path, and of searching for consistency rather than a particular interpretation of 'quality'.

In between meetings, the various members of the Network Group stay in touch through the on-line sharing of experiences



in their own countries, and we were also delighted to have three members of the Swedish Network group visit Australia in October 2017. Initially this was to attend the *Re Imagining Conference* in Adelaide, but also to provide the opportunity of visiting and speaking to REAIE Network members in Sydney and Melbourne. It also involved several organised gatherings in Adelaide, as well as visits to centres and schools in all three states. They were very appreciative of the welcome and the experiences afforded to them.

Our sincere thanks to all those who gave so generously of their time in contributing to this visit. We remain in awe of the Swedish government's recognition and financial support in the provision of a comprehensive education for all ages. As a country we have much to learn from all members of the International Network as well as the rich resource for our learning from Reggio Emilia.

Jan Millikan

*Liaison to the Reggio Children International Network for REAIE*

## Conference Project Committee Annual Report January 2017 – December 2017

The Committee members for the Conference Project Group (CPG) for 2017 were: Kirsty Liljegren, Kerrie O'Neill, Fiona Zinn, Jan Millikan, Heather Conroy and Cara Mearns.

Kerrie O'Neill and Kirsty Liljegren worked together as Co-convenors with the support of the Conference Project Group (CPG). The workload for this immense task increased incrementally and was very busy as the conference drew closer. With the anticipated size of the conference, together with some new initiatives, meetings were held regularly in person and via phone conferencing, which enabled participation by interstate and regional committee members.

The CPG worked closely with Semann and Slattery (the appointed conference management team) and the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange (REAIE) office team, with the 1115 participants attending.

A group of volunteers from various Network Groups around New South Wales, led enthusiastically by Ruth Weinstein, joined together to support the work of the CPG. They met several times at various centres to carry out various projects, which included the many special touches that gave a strong sense of identity to Sydney to the conference. This included gifts in the conference bags, a slide show, a *hands on* clay installation piece (a small version of which can be seen in the REAIE Documentation Centre), and the magnificent table decorations and clay gifts for dinner.

Semann and Slattery were able to foster a continuing relationship with sponsors and trade exhibitors from the Melbourne conference, together with some new sponsors. We were pleased to have another high level of sponsorship, with our major sponsors being:

My Life My Super  
Educational Experience  
Big Fat Smile  
Community Child Care Cooperative  
ACECQA (Australian Children Education and Care Quality Authority)  
ECA (Early Childhood Australia)  
Explore and Develop

DET NSW  
Cocoon Play concepts  
Book Garden  
Yarn Strong Sista  
Teaching Solutions  
KU Children's Services  
Awe and Wonder  
AIB  
Modern Teaching Aids

Despite a desire to hold the *Wonder of Learning Exhibition* in Sydney, a suitable and reasonably priced venue was unable to be found despite the efforts of the CPG and Semann and Slattery. The REAIE Committee made the difficult decision not to offer either the *Hundred Languages of Children Exhibition* or the *Wonder of Learning Exhibition* in conjunction with this conference. This decision was based on the associated costs together with feedback that indicated that conference participants have limited time during the conference to engage and interact with an exhibition.

The conference, titled, '*Landscapes of Identity*', was a conference that celebrated the complex identities of children as citizens with rights from birth, educators as researchers and families as participants in early childhood centres and schools as places of learning, democracy, and culture.

It was a busy start to day one of the conference as a multitude of buses arrived to take participants on the various educational tours; there was a great buzz of anticipation in the air. We thank the educators from centres and schools who had the courage and dedication to open and share their practice with others.

Thank you to:

KU Wombarra, The Point Preschool, The Scots College Early Learning Centre, Paddington Child Care, Mary Bailey House, Mia Mia, Guardian Early Learning Centre Barangaroo, Museum of Contemporary Art, Moriah College Randwick, Joigny Centre at Kincoppal, Abbotsleigh Junior School, Abbotsleigh Early Learning Centre, Bambini House, KU Rushcutters Bay

Preschool, Bronte Early Education Centre, Moriah College Rose Bay, Wee Care and The Northern Nursery.

We were thrilled to have the conference opened by Australia's first National Children's Commissioner, **Megan Mitchell**, an advocate for the rights of all children and young people in Australia who set the scene for the conference.

The keynote speakers, Maddalena Tedeschi (Pedagogista) and Maura Rovacchi (Atelierista at the Municipal Preschool 8 Marzo) captivated audiences throughout the program. The sessions were inspiring, stirring, and created a buzz of pedagogical excitement throughout the conference and beyond. Jane McCall, a translator from Reggio Emilia, did an amazing job and made the words of Maddalena and Maura *come alive* in English. The translation and interpretation from Italian to English is a crucial factor in the success of the conference as it helps participants to understand the deep and complex pedagogy being presented through projects and stories.

The program was enriched by speakers from the Australian context. This was offered through the popular RED Talks

together with a new initiative, *Identity Matters* and through several breakout sessions for participants to choose from.

The conference dinner was a highlight for many in the Crystal Palace Ballroom, Luna Park. For many it was a chance to network, have fun and be immersed in an experience that was designed to reflect some of the multiple identities of Sydney.

With the organisation of such a large event, there are always challenges and hurdles that we had to overcome but in true collaborative style, from many parties, we worked together to ensure the huge success of the conference.

Planning has begun in earnest for the 2019 conference, '*Landscapes of Transformation*', in Perth, so mark **July 11-14<sup>th</sup>, 2019** in your diary!

REAIE looks forward to working with the Network Group and volunteers from WA who will bring their local knowledge and expertise to support the organisation of the event in Perth.

Kirsty Liljegren and Kerrie O'Neill (Co-Convenors)

## REAIE NETWORK GROUP REPORTS

### Canberra Network

January 2017 – December 2017

In 2017 the Canberra Network welcomed Jan Millikan and David Gilkes to a one-day conference at the start of the year. This workshop provided all of us with a renewed understanding and respect for children and for the educators of Reggio Emilia. Throughout this year we have met as a Network and provided opportunities for members to share their ideas and expertise with others through the provision of hands on art experiences and centre visits. Our final meeting was at the newly established Urambi Children's Centre. An

architecturally designed centre which is promoting and celebrating the approach advocated by our mentors in Reggio.

We are farewelling from the Network, Leith Biggs, who has for many years supported and volunteered in the Network. We wish her every success as the new Head of St Stephens' on the Gold Coast and thank her for all of her efforts and help over the many years.

Tanya Stevenson

### Tasmanian REsearch Network

January 2017 – December 2017

2017 has been a busy and exciting year for the Tasmanian REsearch Network. As well as Twilight Visits in May and October, the State has hosted an 'Introduction to Reggio Emilia' Lecture, presented by Jan Millikan, and an *Identity Bites* workshop, presented by Liz Chick and David Gilkes (which was an adaptation of the presentations given by these two speakers at the REAIE conference in Sydney in July).

Our biggest undertaking this year, however, has been the *Together Project*. The *Together Project* has been an exciting piece of ongoing research undertaken by a group of interested educators in collaboration with children birth -8 years of age from various settings in the Hobart area. These educators (inspired by Tiziana Filippini's visit to Hobart, 2016) have been keen to make young children's thinking, creativity and theories visible in our city. Between October and December 2017, three billboards in Mathers Place in central Hobart (known as *The Soapbox*) have been filled with photographs of children's work

(drawings, clay pieces, collaborative mandalas etc.) as well as documented conversations, all centred around the provocation of the word **'TOGETHER'**. The educators involved have met regularly, both online and in face-to-face meetings, to share what they have been doing with their children and also to seek the perspectives and input of others. They have also collaborated with Hobart City Council to design and produce the three billboards. During Children's Week in October, we arranged a launch of the billboards (with various events and hands-on experiences for children in the middle of the city), a display in Mathers House and also presented our journey to interested educators and community members as part of a series of talks run by the Council. We see the *Together Project* as the start of something bigger and look forward to writing up and recording the process, as well as using it as a re-launch for further research and collaborations.

David Gilkes

One of the finished billboards



## Melbourne Network

### January 2017 – December 2017

In 2017 the Melbourne Network Group held four meetings with consistently good attendances at each. The format of the meetings varied each term and this year our meetings began at the later time of 5pm. The change in time saw a welcome increase in the number of people from long day care attending each term, joining those working in a range of contexts including both preschools and primary schools.

Our first meeting, held on March 21, was well attended and set the tone for a successful year. With the title of 2017 REAIE Conference being *Landscapes of Identity*, the decision was made to explore the concept of 'identity' in the terms leading up to the conference. Karen Szydlik began our discussion on the 21 March as she shared with us *Dynamic Identities of Families and Children*. Karen shared with the group her thoughts on identity through her own personal stories through the eyes of an educator and parent. Many thanks to Leanne Mits and her team at Pope Road Kindergarten for hosting the evening and organising a light supper to welcome members. Leanne shared with us the identity of Pope Road Kindergarten and challenged us all to think about the identity of our context, the identity of the families, children and educators.

The Term 2 Meeting was held at St Peters Early Learning Centre on June 7. At this meeting, members were invited to join us for an early evening of workshopping and dialogue to think about, and explore questions about identity together. Questions we explored included *Identity...what is yours? What is the Identity of your setting? What impact do you have on this Identity? How does the relationship that children have within your setting influence and shape their identity?* Small groups worked together on each question, then shared their discussion with the whole group. The dialogue was rich and gave everyone an opportunity to share the identity of their settings and their role within it. Thank you

to Kylie McLennan and her team for running this evening and for opening your centre for us.

Our next meeting was held at Eltham Collage on 6<sup>th</sup> September. The educators from Eltham gave us an insight into their *identity* as an ELC through their presentation: *Shaping Identity...How the development of a bush program has contributed to our identity*. Thank you to the team at Eltham ELC for their willingness to share their centre and story with us.

Our last meeting of the year was held at the REAIE Hawthorn offices in November. We had the privilege of hosting three visitors from the Reggio Emilia Insitutet in Sweden. Anna Soderstrom Ahrborn, Sara Bruun and Sonja Lundmard gave us an insight into what the principles of Reggio Emilia look like within the Swedish context. We learned much about the Swedish educational system as well as projects that had been undertaken in both preschools and schools. This was a wonderful way to end our year and I know that many were inspired by what they heard.

I would like to sincerely thank the team of people who came on board to help with the organisation of the meetings this year. Alicia Argenti, Jo Dowling, Jacqui Goodenah, Kylie McLennan and Jenny Urbano, I have appreciated your assistance, suggestions and support throughout the year and look forward to the year ahead.

To all the members who have attended our meetings, I thank you for your attendance, contributions to our meetings and ongoing support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Pat Barbieri as Network Convenor of a new Network Group, on the Mornington Peninsula. This group will give members who live or work in this area opportunities to attend meetings. I wish Pat every success for the coming year.

Debbie Nicholas

## Northern Rivers NSW

### January 2017 – December 2017

The meetings of members has been re-ignited, following attendance at the Reggio Emilia Conference in Sydney in July 2017. Four members have met regularly every four weeks since then, and a larger meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November titled *Reggio Emilia Tapas: Perspectives on transformational learning*. At this gathering we shared, provoked, discussed and

reflected upon the Reggio Emilia video *Utopia*, Reggio Emilia conference experiences, and a book review: the *Goodness of rain* by Ann Pelo.

Wendy Boyd

## Perth Reggio Network

### January 2017 – December 2017

2017 heralded some changes for the Perth Reggio Network. In January, a small leadership group was convened (PRN Committee), and at Perth Reggio's first gathering, this Committee proposed three possibilities for Perth Reggio

members to be part of in 2017:

- 'Article Club' (like a Book Club but with less reading) which meet to discuss a journal article or chapter related to 'the Reggio Approach'

- Workgroups (approx. four teachers + one pedagogical coordinator) to research and document children's learning through play
- Quarterly guest-speaker presentations about the Reggio Emilia project

This seemed to provide something for everyone, helping to address the challenge encountered by many Network Groups of the varying levels of familiarity with and commitment to the Reggio project. As a result:

- The Article Club group became Fremantle Reggio Network
- Eight workgroups of 3-5 teachers, all with a pedagogical coordinator, formed to research play. The documentation from this research was presented at the WA Play Summit in October.
- Four very well-attended guest-speaker presentations were held, including:
  - o March: **Jan Millikan**, '*Places of Learning as Places of Research*'

- o May: **Dr Marie Martin**, '*Documenting Thinking*'
- o August: **Suzanne Bushby** (Perth College), **Katie Pitchford** (Como Children) & **Kristy McFarlane** (Victoria Park Primary School), '*Playful Exchanges: Researching and Documenting Children's Learning in Play*'.
- o November: Various presenters, '*Playful Exchanges: Round-table Discussion-Presentations from the WA Play Summit*'

These possibilities not only challenged our thinking but also highlighted strengths and capabilities within our Network. In 2018, 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

### **Fremantle Network January 2017 – December 2017**

The Fremantle REAIE Network Group has been building itself up in this first year of its establishment. The group is a small, intimate group of around ten educators from across the early childhood (EC) sector; university, independent schools, public schools, childcare and students. The group operates as a reading club, where articles or chapters are set for

reading/discussion at our meetings as they relate to our West Australian EC context. Future plans will see the group taking on a collective project in preparation for the REAIE biennial conference in Perth in 2019.

Vanessa Wintoneak

### **REsearch Conversations NSW January 2017 – December 2017**

This year saw a transition for our Network Group from a broad, more generalised, group to a smaller, more committed research group. Members were asked to sign up to a yearly commitment, with dates of meetings given in advance. This new way of 'being together' has supported stronger relationships and led to more active member contribution within the group. A key goal for the year was to unpack the question, '*What is Education?*'. This question formed a thread for our meetings together. In each meeting we examined the story of the Reggio Emilia Educational Project as a lens through which we considered and questioned the purpose and

possibilities of our work with young children. We have learnt a lot this year as convenors, as much from what worked as from what didn't! We are looking forward to continuing with our research in 2018, refining our process along the way, as we learn together through conversation and shared research. We will be using the provocation of *transformation* in 2018, with the focus on the transformative journey of adults working in early childhood (ourselves) through building relationships of collaboration within the REsearch Conversations Group.

Jill McLachlan

### **Gold Coast Network January 2017 – December 2017**

The Gold Coast Network is a newly formed group which is just at the beginning of its journey. To date, we have brought together a few members to discuss what 'being inspired' by Reggio means for us in our services.

Karen Humphreys

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY 2017 TO 31st DECEMBER 2017**

**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 2017 to 31st December 2017.

**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                 | Vanessa Miller   |
| Ruth Weinstein                 |                  |

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

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

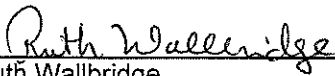
- production and distribution of a journal
- conferences
- workshops and seminars
- study tours
- membership support
- implementation and maintenance of website
- sale of resources
- management of travelling expenditure

**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 \$150,526.  
Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth Wallbridge

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kerrie O'Neill

Dated this 13 day of March . 2018

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

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2017**

|                                   | <b>31-Dec-17</b>      | <b>31-Dec-16</b>     |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
|                                   | <b>\$</b>             | <b>\$</b>            |
| <b>INCOME</b>                     |                       |                      |
| Sale of Goods                     | 63,946                | 40,006               |
| Interest Received                 |                       |                      |
| -Banks                            | 9,282                 | 13,247               |
| Rendering of Services             | 782,110               | 795,258              |
| Conference                        | 1,176,926             | -                    |
| Miscellaneous Revenue             | 6,013                 | 2,820                |
| Donations and Grants              | 3,983                 | 25                   |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>               | <u>2,042,260</u>      | <u>851,356</u>       |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                   |                       |                      |
| Audit Fees                        | 2,600                 | 2,600                |
| Advertising                       | 539                   | 931                  |
| Bank Charges                      | 14,160                | 2,267                |
| Conference Expenses               | 795,248               | 6,447                |
| Depreciation                      | 1,329                 | 1,533                |
| Employee Benefits                 | 220,775               | 143,143              |
| Exhibition Expenses               | 4,526                 | 3,143                |
| Freight & Cartage                 | 4,307                 | 1,446                |
| Insurance                         | 15,129                | 17,944               |
| Intensive study tour              | 223                   | 75,021               |
| NZ study tour                     | 53,823                | 41,732               |
| Venue Expenses                    | 34,011                | 25,271               |
| Other Expenses                    | 320,957               | 156,621              |
| Purchases                         | 37,190                | 27,921               |
| Printing & Stationery             | 42,232                | 31,949               |
| Rent                              | 28,046                | 24,670               |
| Study Tour Expenses               | 289,303               | 210,431              |
| Workshop Expenses                 | 27,336                | 37,926               |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>             | <u>1,891,734</u>      | <u>810,996</u>       |
| <b>OPERATING PROFIT</b>           | <u><u>150,526</u></u> | <u><u>40,360</u></u> |
| <b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b> |                       |                      |
| Other Comprehensive Income        | -                     | -                    |
| <b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b> | <u><u>150,526</u></u> | <u><u>40,360</u></u> |



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

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2017**

|                                      | 2017             | 2016             |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                |                  |                  |
| CASH AT BANK - BENDIGO               | 40,157           | 82,841           |
| CASH AT BANK - ANZ                   | 36,930           | 49,173           |
| CASH AT BANK ANZ                     | 1,120,602        | 815,733          |
| TERM DEPOSIT - BENDIGO               | 12,709           | 12,397           |
| TERM DEPOSIT - ANZ                   | 233,373          | 229,271          |
| PAYPAL ACCOUNT                       | 5,657            | 45,202           |
| PETTY CASH                           | 316              | 365              |
| SUNDRY DEBTORS                       | 15,770           | -                |
| PREPAYMENTS                          | 79,087           | 161,358          |
| GST RECIEVABLE                       | 11,180           | 8,297            |
| STOCK ON HAND                        | 45,554           | 27,272           |
| LIBRARY                              | 4,072            | 4,072            |
|                                      | <u>1,605,407</u> | <u>1,435,981</u> |
| <b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>            |                  |                  |
| OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT       | 31,637           | 31,637           |
| LESS ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION        | <u>22,976</u>    | <u>21,647</u>    |
|                                      | 8,661            | 9,990            |
| LOW VALUE POOL                       | <u>-</u>         | <u>-</u>         |
|                                      | 8,661            | 9,990            |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                  | <u>1,614,068</u> | <u>1,445,971</u> |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>           |                  |                  |
| ACCRUED EXPENSES                     | 15,517           | -                |
| TRADE CREDITORS                      | 50               | 449              |
| UNEXPENDED GRANT INCOME              | 76,250           | 80,000           |
| PREPAID STUDY TOUR DEPOSITS          | 196,405          | 184,405          |
| PREPAID PROFESSIONAL LEARNING INCOME | 13,273           | -                |
| PREPAID CONFERENCE INCOME            | -                | 46,011           |
| PAYG & SUPERANNUATION PAYABLE        | 11,092           | 7,543            |
| PROVISION FOR LONG SERVICE LEAVE     | 9,766            | 6,332            |
| PROVISION FOR ANNUAL LEAVE           | 21,770           | -                |
| GST PAYABLE                          | 9,007            | 10,819           |
|                                      | <u>353,130</u>   | <u>335,559</u>   |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>             | <u>353,130</u>   | <u>335,559</u>   |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                    | <u>1,260,938</u> | <u>1,110,412</u> |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                        |                  |                  |
| RETAINED EARNINGS                    | 1,260,938        | 1,110,412        |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>                  | <u>1,260,938</u> | <u>1,110,412</u> |

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2017

**RETAINED EARNINGS**

|                                | <b>2017</b>      | <b>2016</b>      |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                | \$               | \$               |
| Opening Balance                | 1,110,412        | 1,070,052        |
| Profit for the year            | 150,526          | 40,360           |
| Closing Balance at 31 December | <u>1,260,938</u> | <u>1,110,412</u> |

**RESERVES**

|                                | <b>2017</b> | <b>2016</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                | \$          | \$          |
| 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**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2017**

|   | 2017             | 2016             |
|---|------------------|------------------|
|   | \$               | \$               |
| <b>Income from Operating Activities</b>         |                  |                  |
| Services rendered                               | 1,925,299        | 961,586          |
| Grants & Donations                              | 234              | 25               |
| Sales   | 63,946           | 40,006           |
| Other income                                    | 6,013            | 2,680            |
|   | <u>1,995,492</u> | <u>1,004,297</u> |
| <b>Payments from Operating Activities</b>       |                  |                  |
| For and on behalf of employees                  | 192,022          | 143,096          |
| Administration and Office                       | 200,690          | 108,012          |
| Membership                                      | 68,369           | 38,788           |
| Purchases                                       | 41,547           | 34,277           |
| Program Expenses                                | 559,116          | 471,610          |
| Network Expenses                                | 9,556            | 10,890           |
| Advertising                                     | 73,510           | 5,712            |
| Conference Expenses                             | 644,606          | 161,358          |
|   | <u>1,789,416</u> | <u>973,743</u>   |
| <b>Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities</b>  | <u>206,076</u>   | <u>30,554</u>    |
| <b>Income from Investment Activities</b>        |                  |                  |
| Library   | 0                | -56              |
| Equipment                                       | -617             | 0                |
| Interest Received                               | 9,306            | 13,848           |
| <b>Net Cash Flow from Investment Activities</b> | <u>8,689</u>     | <u>13,792</u>    |
| <b>Total Cash Flow for Year</b>                 | <b>214,765</b>   | <b>44,346</b>    |
| <b>Cash at Beginning of Year</b>                | <b>1,234,979</b> | <b>1,190,633</b> |
| <b>Cash at End of Year</b>                      | <b>1,449,744</b> | <b>1,234,979</b> |
| <b>Represented by:</b>                          |                  |                  |
| ANZ Cash at Bank                                | 36,930           | 49,172           |
| ANZ Online Saver                                | 1,120,602        | 815,733          |
| Bendigo Bank Term Deposit                       | 12,709           | 12,396           |
| ANZ Bank Term Deposit                           | 233,373          | 229,271          |
| Bendigo Bank Cash at Bank                       | 40,157           | 82,841           |
| Paypal Account                                  | 5,657            | 45,201           |
| Petty Cash                                      | 316              | 365              |
|   | <u>1,449,744</u> | <u>1,234,979</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 2017**

**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 2017.

Signed: *Ruth Wallbridge*  
Dated: 10/3/18

Signed: *Kerrie O'Neill*  
Dated:

**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, statement of changes in equity and notes to the accounts for year ended 31 December 2017.

**Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The committee of the association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted our my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

My audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion,

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.

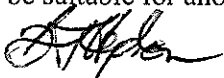
**Audit Opinion**

In my opinion the financial report of the association has been prepared in accordance with the Association Incorporation Reform Act 2012 including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards as referred in Note 1 to the Financial statements.

**Basis of Accounting and Restriction Distribution**


Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describe the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist REGGIO EMILIA AUSTRALIA INFORMATION EXCHANGE INC to meet the requirements of the Associations Reform Act 2012. As a result the report may not be suitable for another purpose.



BRUCE T HYDON

Chartered Accountant

Level 1/ 267A Glenferrie Road, Malvern, Victoria, 3144

 February 2018