



Reggio Emilia Australia
INFORMATION EXCHANGE
re search for a new culture of childhood

REAIE Annual Report

January – December 2018



Our vision

Research for a culture of childhood that defends and promotes the rights of all children.

Mission

- Promote a strong and positive image of children as citizens and active participants in democratic communities through the promotion of the critical role of research, observation, documentation and interpretation of children's processes of action and thought.
- Advocate for social justice and democracy in education, giving priority to active constructive and creative learning by children.
- Sustain and strengthen the relationship between REAIE and Reggio Children and continue to be their national reference organisation in Australia through the promotion of dialogue, professional learning and research of the educational project of Reggio Emilia.

Values

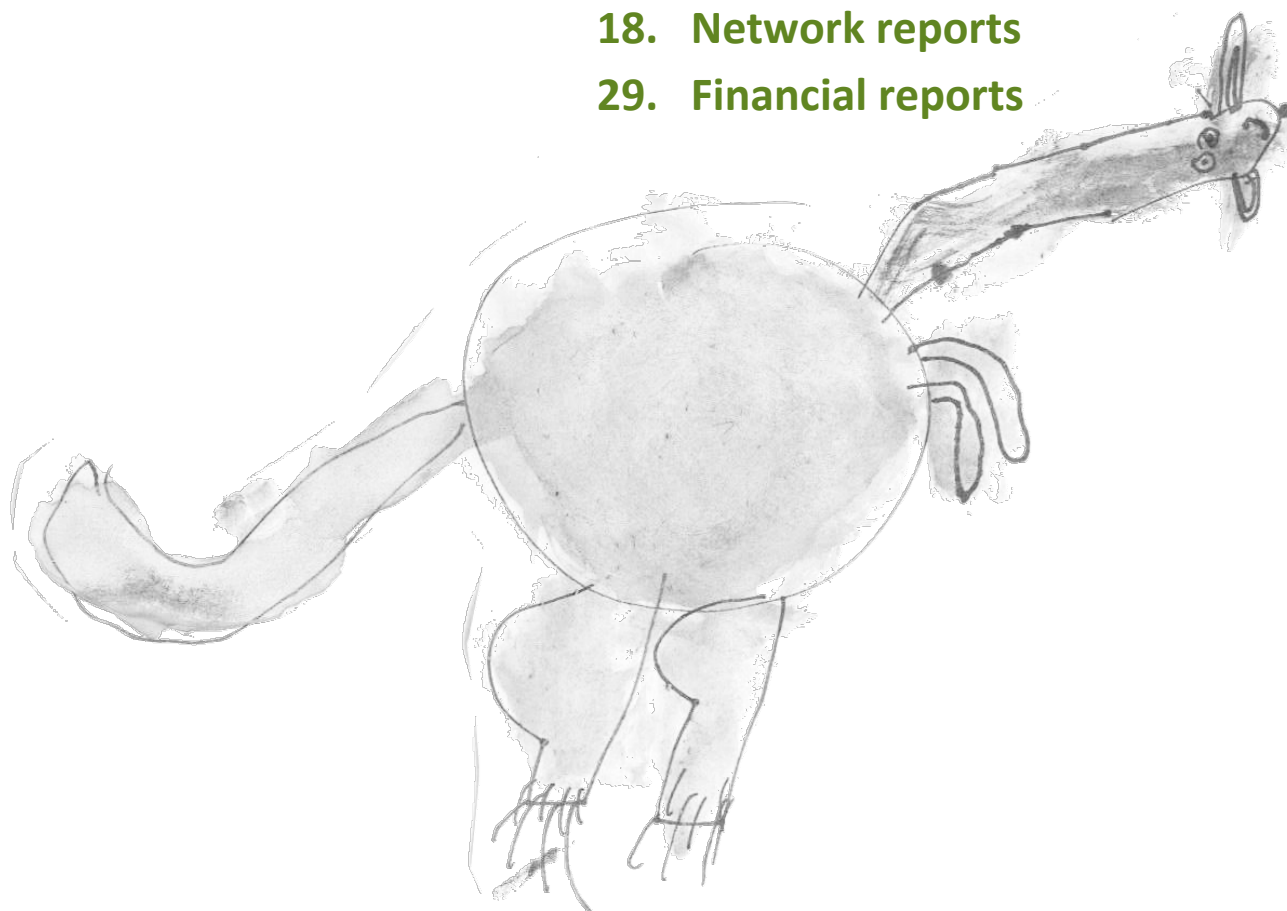
When making decisions and advocating for the work of the organisation Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange staff and committee pledge to:

- *Honour Children*
- *Act with Respect and Integrity*
- *Be Democratic and Ethical*
- *Support Learning, Teaching and Research.*

These values reflect the vision and mission of the organisation and will support REAIE decision-making processes

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"The ideas and thoughts of Loris Malaguzzi, the Founder and Philosopher of the Reggio Emilia Approach, remain very contemporary in present times, and coincide with Reggio Emilia becoming a world-wide reference for education. Malaguzzi designed many pathways of possibility but also suggested that we need to travel new roads together, using history and the past to guide us."

Claudia Giudici, President of Reggio Children

About us

This Annual Report has been prepared to provide an overview of activities undertaken across REAIE in the period January 2018- December 2018. It provides an insight into the journey of our organisation, our challenges, successes and developments.

Background

Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange (REAIE) is a not-for-profit membership organisation established in 1994. The organisation was originally established to provide an opportunity for dialogue within Australia contexts. The dialogue responded to the provocations from the educators in Reggio Emilia, Italy. REAIE became an incorporated body in June 2000.

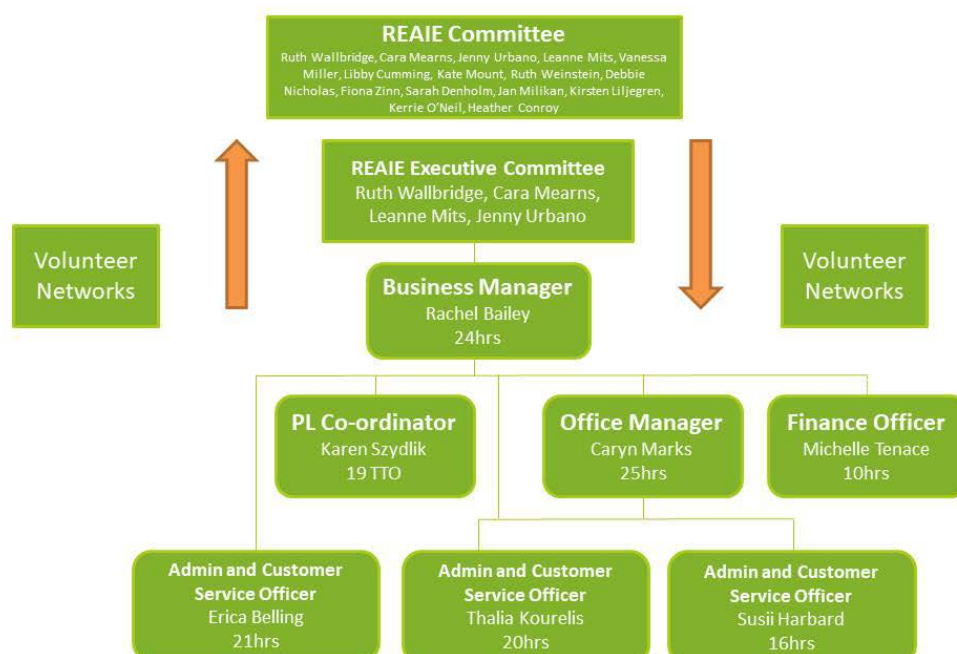
Embedded within the development journey of REAIE, is a commitment to defend and promote the rights of all children, promote dialogue, facilitate professional learning and to undertake research. All of these commitments remain at the heart of the organisation.

The hard work and dedication of both committee members, volunteers and staff has resulted in further growth and development opportunities for REAIE in the past year.

Vision mission and values

The vision, mission and values statements have been co-constructed by the committee, volunteers and staff. They have evolved and been refined throughout the historical journey of REAIE. The most recent updates were approved in July 2018 following a strategic planning day where a key set of values were agreed upon for the organisation.

The current structure of the organisation is demonstrated by the figure 1.0 below:



Chairperson's report

Preparing annual reports provide 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 and network groups and our wonderful members.

2018 was a significant year for REAIE with the appointment of a business manager to support the growing the work of the organisation. I would like to give special thanks to Rachel Bailey for filling this role and leading our dedicated team to update processes and policies to better serve our members. A special thanks to Caryn Marks, Karen Szydluk, Susii Harbard and Michelle Tenace, who along with Rachel Bailey are the welcoming voice that for many is the initial contact with our organisation. We are indeed lucky to have such a committed and capable team in the office. This amazing team have worked tirelessly to realise the mission and vision of the organisation. I would also like to thank the 2018 REAIE committee of management for their commitment and hard work in a voluntary capacity for the members of REAIE.

I would now like to bring to your attention a few highlights of the past year which has been a very full and busy one.

Our network groups continue to be a valuable way educators can share their challenges and joys on a local level - they provide a lifeline for many educators in the field. Our network groups continued to grow in 2018 and we now have 16 across Australia. I would like to thank them for their ongoing commitment to the pedagogical exchange that they support around the country.

REAIE has a long and important interdependent relationship with Reggio Emilia as a member of the Loris Malaguzzi International Network. REAIE strives to ensure the integrity of the work of the schools in Reggio Emilia is honoured and acknowledged as the provocation and inspiration for our work here in Australia.

In 2017, REAIE made a donation to Balducci Preschool in Reggio Emilia to support their Labyrinth project through Reggio Children; as REAIE has representation on the Balducci Pre-school's City Childhood Council. We were delighted that during 2018 the maze was built and is now being enjoyed by the children at that school. REAIE's relationship with Balducci continues to grow and we look forward to together discovering new ways to link REAIE with this school in the future.

REAIE continues to partner with a number of peak bodies involved in early education in The 'Early Learning: Everyone Benefits' campaign, which aims to increase public awareness and understanding of the benefits of investing in early learning for Australia's future prosperity and secure political commitment to increase access to early learning. This campaign is being spearheaded by Early Childhood Australia (ECA) with a strong online presence and works to advocate for all Australian children's' right to early education.



In 2018, REAIE held a third January intensive study tour to Reggio Emilia which was once again well attended and provided opportunity for those who have been working with the ideas of Reggio Emilia for a long period of time to delve deeper. We also continued to offer the international study tour to Reggio Emilia in April which saw nearly 100 participants attend with REAIE.

REAIE is honoured to have representation on the governance board of the South Australian Early Childhood Collaborative Project and continues to search for ways to support this great initiative and share the great work being done in South Australia with its members.

We can all look forward to an organisation which continues to evolve and be more reflective of the Australian educational setting with opportunities for dialogue, exchange of ideas and professional learning in each state/territory as REAIE's Professional Learning Calendar continues to expand to support educators working around Australia.

The REAIE committee will continue to strive to improve services to our members as, together with our membership, we will promote a democratic world where equity, social justice and inclusion are an everyday lived experience for all.

Through collaboration, we have achieved a great deal in this past year with, and for, REAIE, 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 children. This is very much thanks to all the hard work of you all and to all of the staff and the committee who give their time so willingly to ensure the success of REAIE.

Ruth Wallbridge
2018 Chairperson REAIE

Treasurer's report

2018 has been a year of transformation for Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange. Early in 2018, the committee invested in the recruitment of a business manager to provide the committee with strategic direction for a sustainable not for profit organisation. As a committee and staff team, we have worked hard to review the organisational income and expenditure ensuring continued growth and development of the organisation, while seeking best value on our expenditure.

Resources were invested in the appointment of additional staff and to support the upgrade of the website, marketing, technology and office equipment. The office was reorganised to adequately accommodate staffing and the day to day business needs. This included a renovated kitchenette with lunch/meeting room that has proven to be an asset for visitors to the Documentation Centre and for resource sales.

The ongoing financial requirements of REAIE including budget updates and financial reports are presented to the committee at the monthly meeting embedded in the Business Managers Report. This report includes analysis of budgetary allocations and forecasted incremental annual adjustments. The committee are provided with income and expenditure reports on a quarterly basis. As we move through 2019, the committee in collaboration with staff, will continue to drive an increase in our membership bank, increase opportunities for professional learning (PL) Australia wide, develop a PL annual calendar and to continue to offer and lead study tours to Reggio Emilia.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful team who support the committee to achieve our goals. You are in-tune with the vision of REAIE and uphold the values that we co-constructed. It has been a pleasure to get to know you and I am always welcomed into the office, no matter how busy you are. Thank you.

I wish to express particular gratitude to Michelle Tenace the finance officer, who I have had the privilege of working with this past year. Michelle has supported my introduction to the role of the treasurer with patience, diligence and professionalism. She has been a wealth of knowledge about the past procedures, policies and best practice. Thank you.

I would also like to thank Rachel Bailey, Business Manager, who has been a constant source of information and direction and whose wisdom has guided the committee to take a more strategic advisory approach to leading the organisation. You have been a tireless support and I say, "Thank you".



Thank you to each member of the committee for the hours you volunteer in the pursuit of social justice and advocating for the right of every child to creative, quality education. You are an inspiration and I am thankful for all that you do.

Jenny Urbano
2018 Treasurer REAIE

Our business

Rachel Bailey joined REAIE in April 2018. Coming from an integrated service background where she established, lead and developed large family support teams to support children and families from birth to 19 years. Rachel has extensive experience in leading and developing early years' programmes in the UK, including establishing new nurseries working with the Principles of The Reggio Emilia Educational Project.

It was a privilege to join REAIE almost a year ago to the day, and to work with such a dedicated team of staff, committee members, network convenors and volunteers.

2018 has been an incredible year of change for REAIE. The committee has led the organisation for two decades and, in early 2018, recognised the need to appoint a business manager to support the ongoing development and future sustainability of the organisation.



In June 2018 a strategic planning day was held with staff and committee members where the vision and mission of the organisation were revisited. A new set of values was developed and a commitment made to work within these values.

Following the work undertaken at the strategic planning day the committee made the decision to work in a different way in order to support the continued development of the organisation.

An overarching aim for the organisation was identified: ***To bring the REAIE vision, mission and values to fruition.***

In order to support this overarching aim, four key organisational objectives were identified.

As result of strategic planning day four project groups were established and have been operational since July 2018 with membership from staff, committee and volunteers. The responsibility of the project groups is to drive forward business activity to support the achievement of the related business objective.

Business Development

Objective 1: To develop a sustainable business where income generation consistently exceeds expenditure by 5%.

Activity undertaken to support REAIE to achieve its objective in 2018:

- Business manager appointed
- Nurturing an ongoing relationship with Reggio Children
- Strategic planning day held
- Business plan developed
- Finances analysed and budget prepared
- Vision mission and values revisited
- Grant funding streams identified and applications submitted
- Planning and reporting cycle introduced for REAIE
- Staff policies and procedures developed and implemented
- Programme of committee staff and development undertaken
- Develop links with educational establishments and government departments
- Review the purpose of networks and provide a programme of engagement and support to raise awareness of the organisation with members and non-member.

The business development objective was not fully met in 2018. However systems, process and structures were put in place to support the organisation to achieve its objectives moving forward. Good progress was made in all areas of business activity.

Marketing and Communications

Objective 2: To improve marketing and communications and increase membership by 10% per year.

Activity undertaken to support REAIE to achieve its objective in 2018:

- Development and launch of new website
- Review of communications
- Evaluation of The Challenge Survey and consultation
- Redesign of The Challenge
- Promotional activities to increase membership
- Raise awareness of the organisation with non-members
- Review branding and publications
- Attendance at ECA conference in Sydney to support membership growth and promotion.

The Marketing and Communication objective was not fully met and this is largely due to staff vacancies. This aside significant progress has been made across all identified actions and the organisation is in a good place approaching 2019.



Figure 2.0 shows REAIE membership by state

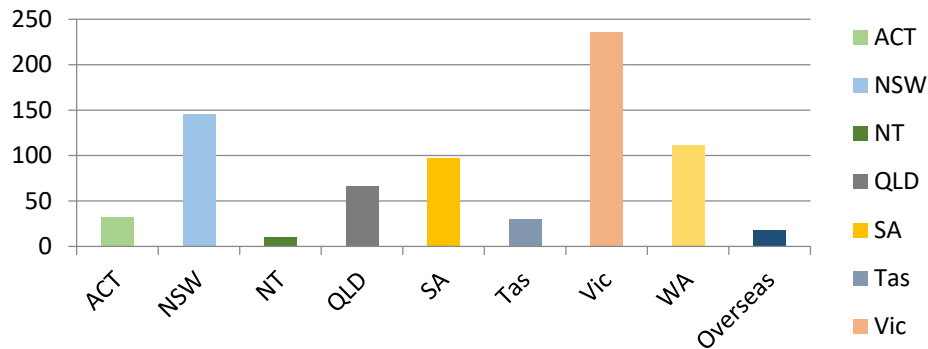


Figure 3.0 shows new memberships to REAIE by month thus demonstrating the organisation is consistently recruiting new members.

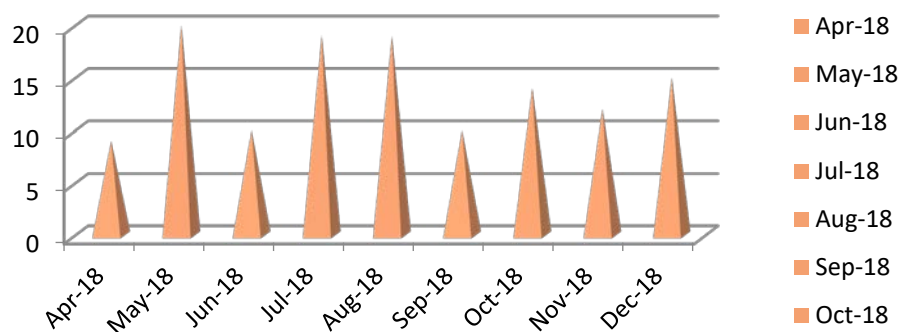
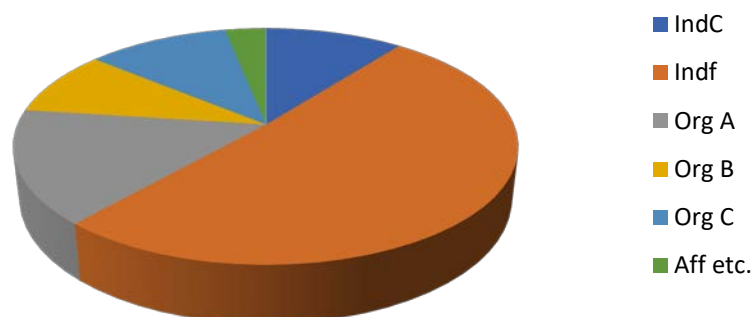


Figure 4.0 shows membership by subscription type demonstrating that the largest percentage of memberships is from individual members.





Research and Development

Objective 3: To facilitate research and development and publish two projects per year.

Activity undertaken to support REAIE to achieve its objective in 2018:

- Develop and market the documentation centre as a resource
- To support Australia-wide research projects
- To collate and record the history of REAIE
- To develop a pop up documentation store
- To facilitate the *One Hundred Languages* exhibition in Alice Springs.

This project group has been the hardest to establish and drive forward. This is largely due to capacity of committee and staff vacancies. A structure is now in place to support development in 2019.

Professional Learning

Objective 4: To develop and implement a professional learning strategy that generates 100% profit and contributes to the growth and sustainability of the organisation.

Activity undertaken to support REAIE to achieve its objective in 2018:

- Professional learning schedule in development
- Supported network throughout Australia to facilitate PL inline to requested topics
- Facilitated two week residency with Tiziana Filippini in Adelaide March 2018 with educators from Australia and international
- Collaborated with Tiziana to film interview with Jan Millikan in six parts. This was designed to be used by REAIE networks as PL meeting material and in dialogue.
- ECA project and online modules developed and launched across Australia
- Development of new modules in progress
- Planning and development of REAIE workshops; Introduction to Reggio Emilia, Documentation: *Listening differently, an image of the child and childhood*, The Hundred Languages of Children and Environment as the Third Teacher
- Application for grant funding to develop capacity submitted
- Application for grant funding to develop and implement the *Mosaic of Marks* exhibition
- Marketplace of ideas facilitated.

The objective for this project group has not been fully met; however excellent progress has been made to support achievement of the objectives in 2019 and beyond. This has included review and analysis of finances associated with the delivery of PL. This will enable the project group to make informed decisions about REAIE PL calendar, bespoke PL delivery, study tours future and conferences.

Figure 5.0 shows professional learning activity accessed by individuals 2018.

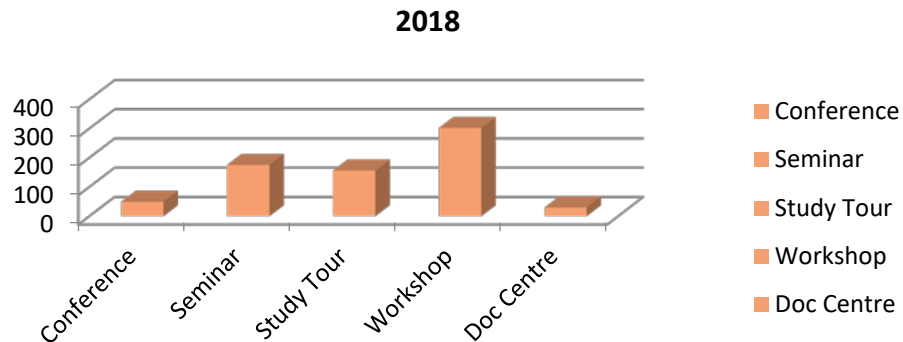


Figure 6.0 shows categories of events facilitated

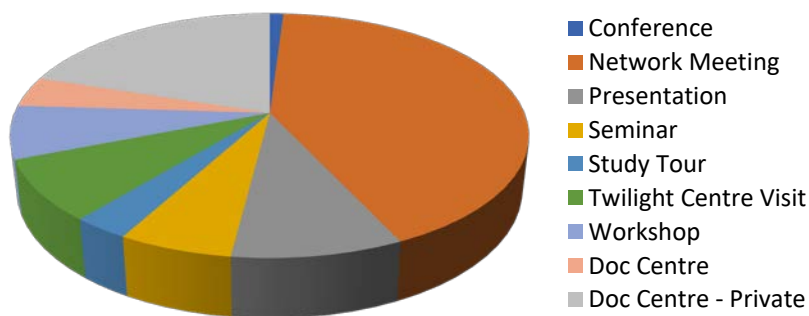


Figure 6.0 demonstrates that network meetings are a significant area in supporting REAIE members. Feedback tells us that attendees at these meetings feel supported. Please refer to Network Reports for information on specific networks.

The organisation has provided a range of PL accessed by members and non-members across a large geographical area and REAIE is working hard to ensure equity of access.

Reggio Children International Liaison Role

REAIE as an invited member of the Reggio Children International Network has an international liaison representative, Jan Millikan. Jan, supported by committee member Heather Conroy, attends the international annual meetings to represent REAIE. These roles are critical to supporting the ongoing relationship and work with Reggio Children.

Reggio Children is one of three organisational entities that comprise the system of the Reggio Emilia City Council's Approach to the education of children from birth to six years. This educational approach now extends to a small extent into the primary and secondary years of education which come under the governance of the Italian Government.

The other two entities of the system are:

- *The istituzione* – which has responsibility for the day-to-day organisation, management, pedagogical approach, and research in the infant toddler centres and preschools.
- *The Foundation Malaguzzi* – which has responsibility for research and extending the Reggio Emilia Approach to other parts of Italy, and parts of the world where the rights of children are in jeopardy.

The meeting of the international network usually involves two days dedicated to:

- Reporting on the progress of projects discussed at the previous meetings
- Sharing challenges and concerns being experienced internationally
- Sharing the organisation and management of new initiatives and strategies being proposed.

There are usually three days of Professional Learning. Some representatives only stay for the days of the meeting.

The Mayor of Reggio Emilia always greets the members of the international network, to reinforce the importance the Municipality recognise in this alliance.

Reggio Children's role is to respond internationally to requests to support deeper understanding of the Reggio Approach for those already familiar with their work, to protect the brands associated with the Reggio Approach from misuse and misinterpretation, and from those seeking to use their work for personal gain.

They also provide financial support to the Istituzione and the children's centres from the sale of resources, professional learning opportunities and donations. The international network was formerly inaugurated 11 years ago to further inform and support this work. Membership of the Network is by invitation, and involves a yearly donation to Reggio Children. Japan is the most recent country to be invited to the network. There are several other countries currently being considered for membership.

Over 45 participants from 22 countries participated in the February meeting which focussed on restructuring the network and professional learning opportunities. Strongly supported by the Reggio Emilia City Council, the meeting was opened with a welcome and thank you from the Mayor.

The diversity of experiences, languages and organisational strategies of the various countries involved has often made it difficult to find a meaningful identity for the group, and the City Council considered disbanding the Network in 2017. However, as part of a new strategy for expanding - and protecting their educational work - a new consolidation of identity and intent was established.

A decision was made to develop a new structure which would involve a deep permanent dialogue and an acknowledging responsibility, not only with pedagogical matters, but also social and economic issues. The mayor also spoke of the City's commitment to the whole of education not just the early years, and the need to consider new choices, not only related to pedagogical matters, but also ethical, political, and cultural perspectives.

The City is currently facing new issues around plagiarism, religious differences, gender violence, refugees, and individualism versus the global community, and the Mayor spoke about the importance of living together within a civil communal life. The City Council is trying to place citizens at the centre of all decision-making through broad participation and working towards open communities concerned with rights and relationships at both a local and global level.

The mayor believes that Reggio is a city welcoming contemporary challenges through the main drivers of education, cultural awareness, innovations, and services, and in working toward producing change through collaboration. This intention is being activated through the childhood city councils and the pedagogical projects in the children's centres.

Reggio Children International Network Meeting

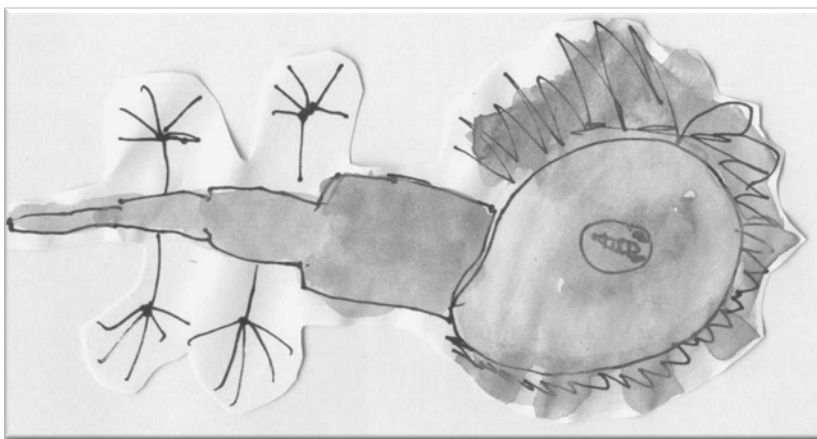
The February 2018 meeting built on previous discussions, and focused on *the re-identification of the international network group and its transformation*.

- Concerns were raised around possible changes that could result from the election of a new board and president for Reggio Children, the Foundation and the Istituzione in December, as well as City Council elections in January.
- There is a dramatic increase in global brand awareness and the Reggio Approach, raising concerns around the misinterpretation and use of the brand. Strategies were discussed for the protection of the brand.
- Reggio Children have hired three new Pedagogistas and an Atelierista to work in different situations to the Children's Centres.

Additional items discussed included:

- Peter Moss and his publication in celebration of Malaguzzi's birth
- Professional learning
- The *Wonder of Learning* exhibition
- Ateliers at the Malaguzzi centre
- Strategies and actions to recognise the Reggio Approach in action
- Reggio Children brands.

For more information please request a copy of the full International Liaison Report from the office.



REAIE Networks

REAIE infrastructure is supported by REAIE Networks. REAIE would like to extend a special thank you to all network convenors and members for their hard work and enthusiasm in supporting our organisational mission, vision and values. We would not be the organisation we are today without their dedication and support. We are excited about the future and how we can continue to work as ambassadors for change.

We have 16 networks operating on behalf of the organisation across Australia:

- Tasmanian Research Network
- Perth Reggio Network
- Canberra Network
- Adelaide REAIE Hub Group
- Inner West Sydney
- Northern Rivers
- Northern Territories
- Queensland Brisbane
- Queensland Gold Coast
- Queensland Capricorn Coast
- Melbourne West
- Melbourne
- Mornington Peninsula
- Limestone Coast
- New South Wales Eastern Suburbs
- Research Conversations NSW.

The REAIE Networks support the work of the organisation and each group provides a place for members to debate pedagogical practice within Australian educational settings in response to the provocation of the educational project of Reggio Emilia. Network groups are open to all REAIE members and invited guests.

The REAIE Network Groups *“bring together, for the purpose of creating a strong network, like-minded educators interested in further developing and extending their knowledge of the values and principles of the educational project of Reggio Emilia.”* Jan Millikan

State & Territory Networks

- Contribute to the advocacy work of the National REAIE committee in advocating for children’s rights and active citizenship within their own state or territory context
- Provide a forum for mutual support and exchange enabling educators to share ideas and experiences in relation to the values and principles of the educational project of Reggio Emilia
- Create communities of practice whereby educators reflect on and challenge their own practice and pedagogy as they make reference to the values and principles of the Reggio Emilia educational project.

Networks are critical in reaching and supporting our members across Australia and in 2018 we have supported almost 1000 individuals.

Network reports

REAIE Network Convenors have been invited to contribute a short update for this annual report. Due to different stages of the development of networks, the reports vary in length. REAIE celebrates the achievements of all networks.

The following networks have been unable to provide a full report, however we have included a snapshot of their journeys below:

The Limestone Coast Sally Gower	Continuing to meet – a small group of 15 twice per term and have begun exploring the web series that ECA and REAIE have put together.
NT Top End Liz Chick	The Top End Early Years Research Network commenced 2019 reflecting on the key principles and practices unpacked in the Indications booklet. Most educators attending are new to the Reggio Emilia and are revelling in the provocation it offers. Meeting at Malak Preschool twice a month, they are exploring how to hear the whisperings of an Inquiry Based Project amongst the daily noise of school life.
Queensland Capricorn Coast Marion Hayes	Marion attended the January intensive study tour in Reggio Emilia and is looking forward to supporting members in the Capricorn Coast.
Queensland Gold Coast Karen Humphreys	Karen continues to support all Queensland groups to facilitate workshops on behalf of REAIE.
Melbourne Western Suburbs	This group started in 2018 and held an excellent first meeting in Altona.
Melbourne Network Alicia Argenti	Alicia has facilitated successful Northcote Pottery Workshops and is handing over the convenor role to Jo Dowling.
NSW Eastern Suburbs Ruth Weinstein	The oldest network in Sydney, this network has been actively collaborating with other Sydney-based networks to host REAIE workshops. They continue to facilitate network meetings for members, and study tour meetings. They have hosted three members of Reggio Emilia Institutet Sweden, a variety of international guest speakers, and have also held a focused network meeting on transformation.
Research Conversations NSW	This group asks people to commit to attend four meetings each year. The group has been researching identity and transformation. They have created a structure that allows people to connect, build relationships, show commitment to revisit research and transform their relationships and knowledge, impacting professional practice.



The Tasmanian REsearch Network by David Gilkes, Tasmanian REsearch Network Convener



In 2018, the Tasmanian REsearch Network primarily focused on looking for opportunities to build connections and relationships around our State, continuing to ensure that our Network was inclusive and representative of our whole island. The highlight for the Network in 2017 had been the work of 'The Together Project', and, although this research project had been successful in so many ways, we weren't completely satisfied. We had spoken so much of 'togetherness' in 2017 and yet the project to this point had been very 'Hobart-centric'. How could we grow this? How could we connect our island in collaborative research and seek perspectives and insights from across our State?

Our first response to this was to run two PL events. Lou Thorpe and David Gilkes ran a well-attended PL event in Burnie in May to share the journey of the Together Project with educators in the north of the State and to seek ideas for 'where to next?' This PL event generated much enthusiasm and was repeated in Hobart in June (this time with Fran Parker). It was the perfect opportunity for sharing the ideas of our northern colleagues with educators in the south. After much dialogue and reflection, 'The Together Project' morphed into 'The Together Project – A Journey of Transformation' - a project which continues to grow and now connects educators in the south, north and north-west of Tasmania through online discussion forums and research projects in schools and other educational settings. As I write this we are also currently in the early stages of planning a 'transformation day' PL, where we will hear perspectives on transformation from people outside of the education sector (e.g. artists, musicians, town planners, scientists etc.). We are very excited about what thinking and ideas this day will generate.

- The start of 2019 has also been busy and exciting. An absolute highlight for us has been creating and publishing *"The Whole World is Connected – unfolding dialogues on togetherness by the children of Hobart"*. This publication attempts to document 'The Together Project' research project and we feel is a beautiful celebration of capable and competent children, educators and families and what's possible when we view children as active citizens of their city. Tasmania also hosted the *Introduction to Reggio Emilia* PL in February of this year. This event was held in Launceston, once again highlighting our commitment to events being offered in various locations around our State.
- Many Tasmanian members attended various REAIE events around the country and the world, including Tiziana Filippini's events (in both Adelaide and Melbourne), and the Intensive study tour to Reggio Emilia in January and the REAIE annual study tour to Italy in April.
- We look forward to all that the coming year has to offer us – possibilities, uncertainties, interconnectedness and joy.



Northern Rivers

by Dr Wendy Boyd and Shauna McIntyre,
Co Convenors, REAIE Northern Rivers
Network



REAIE's Northern Rivers Network meetings for 2018 were re-ignited following attendance at the REAIE Conference in Sydney, July 2017. Four key members met regularly to reflect, discuss and plan, and organised the Introduction to Reggio Emilia workshops at both Lismore, and Gold Coast with good attendances at both sessions.

In May 2018 a meeting was held to discuss the principle of participation also well attended with around 20 members. Participants shared initiatives from their centres, and Shauna McIntyre, Project Leader for the *Growing up on Widjabul Wia-bal Country Project* gave an overview of the project. This project became the focus for the year, involving 4 local REAIE members, local Elders, educators and children from 7 x early childhood education services, with mentoring support offered by REAIE members, Chris Celada and Margo Hobba. The year-long project was completed in December 2018, resulting in a published book of documentation of children's understandings of growing up on Widjabul Wia-bal Country, Bundjalung Nation, Lismore and educator reflections (see image of cover above).

The book was officially launched at the new Lismore Regional Art gallery in Feb 2019, with the Mayor of Lismore commenting that it was the largest group of people seen at a launch since the new gallery opened. The Mayor also indicated that he would be gifting the book to every new citizen at future Lismore City Council Citizenship Ceremonies. Lismore City Council was acknowledged for providing the funding for the design and publication of the book.

Throughout the project professional development was a key element involving educators and partners in Reggio inspired ways of city-wide collaborative work. This group met every three weeks to explore the children's learning following visits by Elders to their settings. The work of this project will be presented in Perth at the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange Conference: *Landscapes of Transformation: changing education for changing times* in July. The Network has some exciting professional learning planned for the rest of 2019 which we hope will result in increased REAIE membership and regular participation in Network meetings.



Peninsula Network

by Pat Barbieri, Network convenor



Our first year as a new Network group has been a time of connecting, discovering and growing. Our meetings have been varied both in content and location.

Our first meeting in term 1 was a combined gathering with the existing Melbourne Network group. We were privileged to witness two presentations: 'The Circle Project' presented by Ruth Wallbridge and Melinda Gregory and The Toorak College Foundation Years 'The coming together project'. Collaboration amongst educators, children, families and community were the common threads in both of these inspiring projects.

In term 2 the network meeting was held at Woodlands preschool Mount Eliza 'The story so far' was a presentation of this relatively new preschool and how the Reggio Emilia principles were considered and embedded both in the start-up of this program and within everyday practices.

In term 3 the ELC team at Cornish campus hosted our third meeting. It was an evening of creativity, inspiration and shared dialogue as we actively investigated the properties and values of working with wire. Through a socio-cultural lens the group imagined and created some wire works of beauty, boldness and wonder.

Karen Anderson and Ann Slater from Balnarring preschool were the term 4 guest speakers. They shared their Beach Kinder experiences and how they integrate indigenous education through learning *on land* perspective. Again we discovered strong similarities between indigenous culture and that of the Reggio Emilia philosophy.

Canberra Network Group

by Tanya Stevenson, Canberra Network
Convenor



In 2018 the Canberra Network had a series of discussions and workshops about the use of documentation. This was inspired by the fact that a number of teachers had completed the online course through Harvard University called Making Learning Visible through Documentation. This course was inspired by the practices of Reggio Emilia. The Canberra Network also began discussions about how we can support the collection of recycled materials for schools. The network also had the opportunity to visit Blue Gum Community School to see the practices of educators in action. Many thanks go to all of the educators who participated and supported the network in 2018.



Perth Reggio Network

by Jane Merewether, Perth Reggio Network Committee



Perth Reggio Network has enjoyed another very interesting and thought-provoking year. With a focus on participation and children as citizens, we continued last year's approach of having small workgroups (approx. four teachers and one pedagogical coordinator) researching and documenting a shared research project. This year, inspired by the 2019 REAIE conference title, "Landscapes of Transformation", our project was 'City and Children Transforming Together.'

This project was supported and provoked by three very well attended guest-speaker presentations:

- March: Dr Stefania Giamminuti, "Citizens and Connoisseurs: Children Becoming with Cities"
- June: Jill McLachlan, "Children as Citizens: I am a Citizen"
- August: Jane Merewether, "Listening to Children as Citizens of the Present: Possibilities and Practicalities"

In November, the workgroups presented their projects, "Stories of Transformation: City and Children Together". We heard many stories of children's engagement with the city of Perth. For example, one group worked with a city council to design possibilities for a laneway, another transformed neglected bus shelters, another investigated how the city transforms in the rain, another looked at how babies engaged with the public through the window of their early learning centre, another transformed the city by offering it ephemeral gifts, such as drawings, flowers and unfired clay pieces. These projects sought to make children visible as citizens of Perth and some resulted in highly public events:

<https://southperth.wa.gov.au/about-us/news-and-publications/news-and-public-notice/news-detail/2019/02/08/local-bus-stop-transformed-by-children's-artwork> and <https://soel.com.au/yagan-square/>

These projects not only challenged and transformed thinking but also highlighted strengths and capabilities within our network. In 2019, Perth Reggio Network is especially looking forward to welcoming to our city the biennial REAIE conference. We are delighted to be sharing this event with our interstate and international colleagues and are looking forward to a very exciting year.

Adelaide REAIE Hub Group
by Holly Baulderstone
Adelaide Hub Group Convenor



2018 saw the Adelaide network in a state of both reflection and anticipation. We started the year with the opportunity to encounter the ideas shared by Tiziana Filippini and continued with the provocation offered by the upcoming 2019 conference: *Landscapes of Transformation*.

Tiziana's visit was a transformative experience – challenging us to re-evaluate our identity as teachers and to reassess our image of child at a social and political level. Transformation at its core is simply change – or as Moss describes 'a state of continuous movement'. However, change is often associated with feelings of discomfort so our first step as an executive was to frame the concept of transformation in a positive sense. We turned to the following quote from Loris Malaguzzi that reminds us that "Children are not looking for dull continuity, they are looking, avidly, for what changes, what transforms, and what becomes other than itself". He then goes on to suggest that in order for educators to enable this attitude in children – in ourselves – all we need is an attitude that remains open to wonder and marvelling. It was with this attitude that we began to look for examples of transformation in sites across Adelaide.

In Term 2 educators from St Peter's Girls ELC Caterina Pennestri, Mel Angel and Kate Mount provoked our thinking by discussing one of their projects: *Transformation of a space; creating a path to our heritage*. The vehicle for this transformation of space was their collaboration with Christine Cholewa, public artist and resident of Adelaide. Christine extended their learning exposing the children and educators to natural and industrial materials. She shared with the educators new techniques and perspectives of art languages which enriched their knowledge about learning opportunities.

In Term 3 we referred back to the history of the Reggio Emilia approach to education by watching the documentary: *Not Just Any Place*. We viewed this film through the lens of transformation by considering the joys and challenges of change within an educational context. It also highlighted how the notion of transformation was at the heart of the Reggio Emilia philosophy and continues to guide their pedagogy today.

One site that exemplifies what it means to embrace transformation as part of their practice is Galilea Catholic School. They kindly hosted our Term 4 meeting sharing the history of their process of becoming and their ongoing projects that challenge traditional concepts of what a 'school' is.

Moving forward into 2019 we have looked at the germinating idea behind the 2019 conference that was provided by Jane Merewether and the two quotes that accompany it from Freire and Rinaldi that link the process of transformation to dialogue and action. For the first half of the year we will continue the dialogue around transformation and then after the conference we will launch into action through the use of materials. We hope to spark a sense of wonder and marvelling that will open us up to transforming our practice and pedagogy.



Inner West Reggio Emilia Australia information Exchange: A tapestry of thinking by Ruth Mules



The IWREAIE group has grown from four members at our first meeting in 2017, to 25 members attending throughout 2018. This included one visitor from China, and Emma who relocated to Norfolk Island. We also welcome members from the North shore and South of Sydney. We conducted 4 network meetings and one social event at the end of the year. Our co conveners are: Deborah Garret, Emma Cullen and Ruth Mules, with visiting convener from the North, Research Conversations, and Paula West. Co conveners meet prior to IWREAIE meetings to reflect and plan. Our co conveners attended meetings with co conveners from the East and North throughout the year. Our meetings are held at service locations and included a school, day care and early learning centres.

Valuable exchanges took place at each meeting, where hosts provided a tour of their environment and shared pedagogical practice and documentation. We were inspired by Maya Angelo's thoughts that "We should all know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their colour", to call our meetings: *Tapestry of thinking*.

Looking back on the year, we now see how resolutely, the notion of diversity and inclusion has woven our discussions and transformation. We took a journey to discover who we are as a group, what our identity was and how our identity and practice related to the learnings from the schools of Reggio Emilia. We did not rush this, but rather let the conversations and sharing lead us.

Each meeting, we found our connections became stronger and that there were definite shared values reflective of our inner west communities. Interestingly, the transformation from a group of passionate colleagues with common interests and curiosities culminated through the experience of creating an art work that depicted our identity. This artwork will now become a symbol of our group. We intend to continue to explore the relationship between identity, transformation and art throughout 2019 and to write a paper detailing our experience of transformation.

Several of our members attended the introduction to Reggio Emilia presented by REAIE in Sydney and the Presentation by David Gilkes and Fiona Zinn, Documentation through a Reggio Emilia Lens. We have found Karen and her team at REAIE to be helpful and resourceful and we look forward to our ongoing work together through 2019.



Brisbane Reggio Emilia Landscape of Transformation By Letitia Harvey



To look back on the past 12 months since being in Adelaide at the conveners' meeting, it is exciting to see the growth and transformation of the Brisbane Reggio Network.

Renee and I are encouraged by the enthusiasm and support at each of our meetings. We have found, over the past 12 months that the core group offers the direction of each meeting as we continue in a storming and norming phase. There is an incredible base of skills and experience within this core group and an untapped resource in those that attend but are less vocal. This storming and norming will continue to bring out the untapped expertise of others, however in the meantime – until they feel comfortable or the sense of belonging those more familiar seem to be providing the framework of the group – there is no shortage of eager participants.

We feel incredibly blessed to have an amazing group of professionals that span in their expertise across early childhood pedagogy – it is truly a rich group. It is wonderful to have the skills and expertise of recognised people such as Carrie Rose, Deborah Harcourt, Venus Ganis, Vivienne Walsh and Renee Mitchel who are able to offer wide and varied expertise across a variety of topics. So too, it has been great to have Renee as co-convenor to “bounce off” and share this role, including the help of Carrie Rose with our meeting minutes and keeping the Facebook page alive and well. It also has been reassuring that others within our group feel comfortable that they are able to offer readings and provocations on this site for the group – slowly the Facebook page is growing (now with 71 members) and becoming an interactive learning space.

The group very much took the direction in 2018 of meeting across different settings – viewing and gaining an understanding of the different pedagogy's across different early childhood settings and the varying way in which the Reggio approach exists in each of these contexts. Within each visit is a complementing presentation from the hosts about their setting and/or projects they are working on. This always proves enriching and provoking for all as it is always great to get new ideas from others.

Looking over the attendance sheets of 2018 we have held a solid core of *regulars* who offer valued input and provocations to the group – occasionally getting *political* which leads to great conversation. We consistently get new attendees some of which whom remain and others who do not (*outside of the professional presentations advertised by REAIE*). For us, a goal is to have them return to meetings in the future and become contributing as regular members of the group to grow the professional network, face and name of Reggio Australia. (Perhaps here a “Welcome New Members Sheet” that gives us an insight to their needs/interests from joining the group might be mutually beneficial.)



2019 hit with a bang and shift in gear for our group. Thank you to the support of REAIE with the organisation of the presentation of an *Introduction to Reggio*, by Jan Millikan in February and then in March *the Environment as the Third Teacher*, hosted by Megan Gibson and Lyn Zollo. We were very excited by support from the community we received with these two events given short notice. These events have offered another level of transformation and evolution of our group and demonstrated the growing interest here in Brisbane. The hosting of these events has shifted our image within our Network and we continue to grow in an effort to respond to the needs of the group and present a platform for more professional conversations. Jan's *Introduction to Reggio* offered a sound and real insight to the Principles of Reggio- beyond the tourist approach seems prevalent and "trendy". There were lots of "ahaaaaa moments" in this session that consolidated a lot of questions for participants and presented even more questions in their research of learning, pedagogy and the approach of Reggio in an Australian Context.

Megan and Lyn's presentation shortly after in March on *environments* provoked deep thinking on theories of the environment beyond how it "looks" – challenging participants thinking and their view of the environment. We have been able to plan our calendar for the remainder of the year, our Facebook group is becoming more interactive as members offer readings, insights, use this forum for discussion and so on. Coupled with the warm social networking that has been evident with the core and growing.

We have also hosted the Reggio Tour get together for those travelling to Reggio in April – a new group of ladies that we hope to have join our network upon their return from Italy. The remainder of the year brings 6 weekly network meetings across a variety of early childhood settings that have been offered by our members – again a wonderful opportunity sees the approach of Reggio across different contexts.

Financial reports

A considerable amount of work progressed in 2018 in order to critically analyse the finances of REAIE. This has included reviewing expenditure and seeking best value. This analysis has enabled REAIE to:

- Identify and assign budgets
- Plan for ongoing growth and development of the organisation
- Identify professional learning income generation opportunities.

2018 was a non-conference year and also a year of considerable investment and growth for the organisation resulting in a deficit of \$181.900. The organisation drew from cash reserves, previously accumulated, to fund the restructure to support future organisational growth and development.

In order to support financial sustainability priorities for 2019 and beyond include:

- Membership growth
- Raising the profile and reputation of REAIE nationally through partnerships and political avenues
- Developing capacity to support delivery
- Restructuring and developing the PL program.

The following pages contain the financial report for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY 2018 TO 31st DECEMBER 2018

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 2018 to 31st December 2018.

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
Jennifer Urbano (Treasurer)	Sarah Denholm
Kerrie O'Neill	Debbie Nicholas
Libby Cumming	Kate Mount
Heather Conroy	
Ruth Weinstein	

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

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

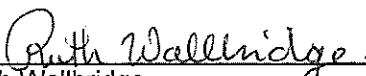
- production and distribution of a journal
- conferences
- workshops and seminars
- study tours
- membership support
- implementation and maintenance of website
- sale of resources
- management of travelling expenditure

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

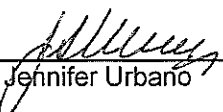
No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the period.

OPERATING RESULT

The operating deficit for the 12 month period amounted to \$181,900.
Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Ruth Wallbridge



Jennifer Urbano

Dated this 27 day of March 2019

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

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2018

	31-Dec-18	31-Dec-17
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Sale of Goods	38,505	63,946
Interest Received		
-Banks	8,433	9,282
Rendering of Services	761,577	782,110
Conference	-	1,176,926
Miscellaneous Revenue	3,813	6,013
Donations and Grants	52,356	3,983
TOTAL INCOME	<u>864,684</u>	<u>2,042,260</u>
EXPENSES		
Audit Fees	2,600	2,600
Advertising	869	539
Bank Charges	4,064	14,160
Conference Expenses	-	795,248
Depreciation	4,506	1,329
Employee Benefits	249,816	220,775
Exhibition Expenses	2,860	4,526
Freight & Cartage	4,178	4,307
Insurance	17,581	15,129
Intensive study tour	62,942	223
NZ study tour	-	53,823
Venue Expenses	7,001	34,011
Other Expenses	276,401	320,957
Purchases	30,153	37,190
Printing & Stationery	35,259	42,232
Rent	33,183	28,046
Study Tour Expenses	271,011	289,303
Workshop Expenses	44,160	27,336
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,046,584</u>	<u>1,891,734</u>
OPERATING DEFICIT/SURPLUS	<u><u>(181,900)</u></u>	<u><u>150,526</u></u>

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2018

	2018	2017
CURRENT ASSETS		
CASH AT BANK - BENDIGO	7,299	40,157
CASH AT BANK - ANZ	42,871	36,930
CASH AT BANK ANZ	884,864	1,120,602
TERM DEPOSIT - BENDIGO	12,963	12,709
TERM DEPOSIT - ANZ	237,288	233,373
PAYPAL ACCOUNT	15,058	5,657
PETTY CASH	261	316
SUNDRY DEBTORS	16,550	15,770
PREPAYMENTS	103,303	79,087
GST RECIEVABLE	11,292	11,180
STOCK ON HAND	51,980	45,554
LIBRARY	4,072	4,072
	<u>1,387,801</u>	<u>1,605,407</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT	53,996	31,637
LESS ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	<u>27,482</u>	<u>22,976</u>
	26,514	8,661
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,414,315</u>	<u>1,614,068</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
ACCRUED EXPENSES	-	15,517
TRADE CREDITORS	-	50
ANZ CREDIT CARD	264	
UNEXPENDED GRANT INCOME	23,893	76,250
PREPAID STUDY TOUR DEPOSITS	136,570	196,405
PREPAID PROFESSIONAL LEARNING INCOME	-	13,273
PREPAID CONFERENCE INCOME	110,073	-
PAYG & SUPERANNUATION PAYABLE	17,428	11,092
PROVISION FOR LONG SERVICE LEAVE	10,979	9,766
PROVISION FOR ANNUAL LEAVE	19,178	21,770
GST PAYABLE	16,892	9,007
	<u>335,277</u>	<u>353,130</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>335,277</u>	<u>353,130</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>1,079,038</u>	<u>1,260,938</u>
EQUITY		
RETAINED EARNINGS	1,079,038	1,260,938
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>1,079,038</u>	<u>1,260,938</u>

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2018

RETAINED EARNINGS

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Opening Balance	1,260,938	1,110,412
Profit/Loss for the year	(181,900)	150,526
Closing Balance at 31 December	<u>1,079,038</u>	<u>1,260,938</u>

REGGIO EMILIA AUSTRALIA INFORMATION EXCHANGE INC.
A.B.N. 73 879 960 566
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Income from Operating Activities		
Services rendered	815,069	1,925,299
Grants & Donations	-	234
Sales	37,796	63,946
Other income	3,813	6,013
	<u>856,678</u>	<u>1,995,492</u>
Payments from Operating Activities		
For and on behalf of employees	244,858	192,022
Administration and Office	203,404	200,690
Membership	73,863	68,369
Purchases	34,331	41,547
Program Expenses	519,732	559,116
Network Expenses	12,289	9,556
Advertising	3,446	73,510
Conference Expenses	-	644,606
	<u>1,091,923</u>	<u>1,789,416</u>
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	<u>(235,245)</u>	<u>206,076</u>
Income from Investment Activities		
Office Equipment	(22,420)	(617)
Interest Received	8,525	9,306
Net Cash Flow from Investment Activities	<u>(13,895)</u>	<u>8,689</u>
Total Cash Flow for Year	(249,140)	214,765
Cash at Beginning of Year	1,449,744	1,234,979
Cash at End of Year	1,200,604	1,449,744
Represented by:		
ANZ Cash at Bank	42,871	36,930
ANZ Online Saver	884,864	1,120,602
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	12,963	12,709
ANZ Bank Term Deposit	237,288	233,373
Bendigo Bank Cash at Bank	7,299	40,157
Paypal Account	15,058	5,657
Petty Cash	261	316
	<u>1,200,604</u>	<u>1,449,744</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 2018

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. 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 committee 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 107	Cash Flow Statements
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 110	Events after Balance Date
AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 1054	Australian Additional Disclosures

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 Jennifer Urbano, 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 2018.

Signed: *Ruth Wallbridge*
Dated: 27/3/19

Signed: *Jennifer Urbano*
Dated: 2/04/2019

**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 2018. 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

To the best of my knowledge and belief, I believe that there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to my audit.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the financial report presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange Inc as at 31 December 2018 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.



BRUCE T HYDON
Chartered Accountant
Level 1/ 267A Glenferrie Road
Malvern, Victoria, 3144
27th February 2018.