2020 ANNUAL REPORT

January - December



Reggio Emilia Australia
INFORMATION EXCHANGE

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Welcome

Welcome to the 2020 annual report of Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange (REAIE). REAIE staff and Committee, like so many of our Members, entered 2020 with hope, enthusiasm and great optimism. Little did any of us know what we were to face in 2020. It was without doubt this same hope, enthusiasm and optimism that supported REAIE to respond to the global pandemic. By reaffirming our commitment to the REAIE Vision. Mission and Values we were able to collaborate with our Members and partners and develop something very special. The work of REAIE is undertaken as a collaborative ...a collection of like-minded colleagues and staff who share a passion for supporting the professional growth of all involved in working with and for children as we make reference to the educational project of Reggio Emilia.

This report is designed to give you, our Members, an insight and overview into the work that the organisation has undertaken on your behalf.

Background

REAIE is a not for profit membership organisation established in 1994. The organisation was originally established to provide an opportunity for dialogue within Australian contexts about the educational project of Reggio Emilia. The dialogue responded to the provocations from the educators in Reggio Emilia, Italy. REAIE became an incorporated body in June 2000.

REAIE achieves its aims and objectives through collaboration with Members, partners and volunteers who all work together to develop and help shape an integrated learning community. At the heart of the organisation there remains a commitment to defend and promote the rights of all children, promote dialogue, facilitate professional learning and to support educators to interpret the principles of the educational project of Reggio Emilia in an Australian context. Underpinning REAIE ethics and practice are our Vision, Mission and Values.

REAIE Vision is to:

Research for a culture of childhood that defends and promotes the rights of all children and this vision remains at the heart of REAIE work.

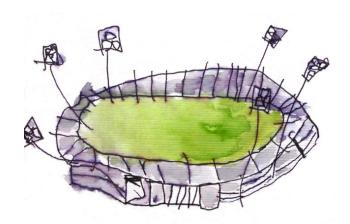
Our Mission, on behalf of our Members, is to:

- 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 the strong relationship between REAIE and Reggio Children, as an invited representative of the Reggio Children International Network, through the promotion of dialogue, professional learning and research about the educational project of Reggio Emilia.

When making decisions and advocating for the work of the organisation, Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange staff and Committee pledge to uphold the following values:

- honour children;
- act with respect and integrity.
- be democratic and ethical; and
- support learning, teaching and research.

We believe that these values reflect the vision and mission of the organisation and will support our decision-making processes.



Introducing REAIE volunteer Committee.

Hear, in their words, how they have contributed in 2020 to support REAIE and its Members.

Ruth Wallbridge - Chairperson

2020 was a year none of us expected and it provided great challenges for us all. As Chairperson of REAIE this meant moving to chairing the Committee and Executive meetings online; a platform I had very little experience with. I thank my very patient colleagues as I found my way. As a member of the Research and Development Project Group we were able to determine a future direction for this group and define the associated tasks. It was also my pleasure to prepare and present a webinar on Light for REAIE; the preparation and collaboration involved in developing this webinar was a wonderful learning opportunity for me. I am extremely fortunate to be representing REAIE at the Reggio Children Teacher Educator Program alongside Kerrie O'Neill. This carries a huge responsibility and commitment to both REAIE and Reggio Children. Together we prepared a day of professional learning for the REAIE Committee to share our new understandings and to ensure that REAIE continues to be in a position to represent the work of the Infant Toddler Centres and Preschools of Reggio Emilia in an authentic and respectful way. I feel greatly honoured to have been able to represent the Membership of REAIE in 2020 and look forward to being part of this important organisation in the future.



Heather Conroy - Vice Chair

I was first elected to the REAIE Committee in 2016. In 2020 I participated as National Vice Chair, which has an associated role on the Business Development Project Group (BDPG). The BDPG is responsible for visioning the future and strategic direction of REAIE, including policy development; overseeing the development of a working budget; evaluating staffing to meet the growing needs of our organisation and exploring partnerships and initiatives to support ongoing development. 2020 was possibly one of the most unpredictable years for us all in so many ways and the capacity to flexibly adapt and set new directions was both challenging and exhilarating.

I have also greatly valued engaging with colleagues as part of the REAIE Equity and Diversity task group ... a small but energised group interested in developing reflection points for REAIE Members aimed at placing a lens on inclusion and social justice issues within all aspects of our day to day practice. I am proud to collaborate with Kirsty Liljegren and Committee colleagues to convene our inaugural Research Symposium, the planning of which confirms a strong belief in creativity and the capacity of individuals to find strength in collaboration.

It has been a privilege to have contributed to the work of the organisation and I sincerely thank colleagues who have likewise offered immense investments of time, energy and commitment towards the ongoing development of REAIE in 2020. May 2021, our birthday year, set the scene for another successful 21 years.



Ruth Weinstein

My name is Ruth Weinstein and I have been a Committee member for eight years. I have had amazing opportunities to be involved in the planning of two conferences as well as being on the Marketing & Communications Project Group which helps to develop exciting ways that members can be involved in, and connected with, the work of Reggio Emilia. I have also been the Study Tour Leader on four occasions to Reggio Emilia and once to New Zealand which were wonderful opportunities to connect with passionate educators from around Australia and support them in their developing a relationship with the Reggio Emilia experience and philosophy. The committee is made up of a diverse group of inspiring educators who constantly stretch my thinking and enable me to contribute to deep discussions about the future of early childhood education in our country and how we can contribute to and support this.



Leanne Mits - Secretary

It is an honour to contribute to the work of REAIE as a national Committee Member. REAIE is a wonderful organisation to volunteer with, and my ongoing commitment to REAIE is one way I can 'pay it forward', for the positive impacts this organisation and the Reggio Emilia project has had on my life, both personally and professionally.

As Committee Secretary I am responsible for preparation of monthly Executive and Committee meeting agendas, collating and disseminating reports for meetings, and recording meeting minutes. I am excited to be part of a new task group, to develop REAIE's first Reconciliation Action Plan and moving this important part of REAIE's strategic plan forward. Other contributions to REAIE during the last year include being part of webinar panel interviews, providing Challenge articles and supporting online meetings of Network Convenors, to support them in their important volunteer work for REAIE.



Debbie Nicholas

Over the past two years, I have had the privilege to have undertaken the role of Convenor of the Marketing and Communications Project Group. The role of this group encompasses many areas, with an overall objective of improving marketing and communications for REAIE. My role has been to oversee the many Marketing and Communications projects undertaken, in consultation with members of the group, Business Manager and office staff.

I became curious about the educational project of Reggio Emilia many years ago after seeing the Hundred Languages Exhibition in Melbourne. I was drawn to this way of viewing and listening to children and since then have begun a continuing journey of knowledge building and exchange. I have recently retired after teaching in a community kindergarten for several years before teaching at Fintona ELC for over twenty years. My desire to keep learning and continue to be involved in the work of REAIE remains strong. Since joining the REAIE Committee 9 years ago, I have become involved in many different project groups. I am also editor of the Challenge journal. I look forward to the year ahead as REAIE works together with its Members to create new platforms for learning and exchange in what is the new COVID normal.



Fiona Zinn

I have been a member of REAIE for twenty years and joined the REAIE Committee in 2004. During this time, I have participated in the Conference Project Group, Marketing Project Group, Professional Learning Project Group and Strategic Planning Sessions as REAIE maps out future initiatives and pathways. I am currently the Professional Learning Project Convenor, a role that has required many creative twists and turns in 2020 thanks to the pandemic. I enjoy the rich and rigorous collaboration that the Professional Learning Project Group brings, acknowledging the incredible and relentless work of every member of the group, whose commitment has enabled REAIE to transform all of our existing professional learning initiatives.

Driven by a deep commitment to uphold the vision and values of REAIE, I consider the educational project of Reggio Emilia as a powerful tool for renewal in education and for the rights of children everywhere. I am honoured to be able to give back to the world of education through volunteering for the organisation and supporting REAIE in all its endeavours.



Kerrie O'Neill

It was my great honour and privilege to fulfil my role as an REAIE Committee Member in 2020. This is my 21st year of service to the Committee, being one of the founding ommittee members in 2000, along with Jan Millikan and other visionary members.

One of the values that I carry with me in my role is that of contribution and as I reflect on our 'unprecedented' year, I recognise that REAIE had to adapt and realign our delivery of services; first and foremost as a responsibility to our REAIE Members. I was proud to be one of the Blog writers, one of the Webinar presenters and also the Convenor of the Capacity Building Group.

The Capacity Building project was born out of a successful philanthropic application and donation by the Philanthropic Trust and provided the funds for REAIE to develop a Capability Building Framework (CBF). A small group of committee volunteers along with the Business Manager, designed the CBF to hold together a set of ideas and expectations, organised into domains, that comprises of a contextualised Australian professional learning approach, in response to the principles and values of the educational project of Reggio Emilia. This framework was developed to offer six scholarships to applicants who had the appropriate expertise and were willing to undertake a future role of Professional Learning Facilitator for REAIE. Consequently, a training program was developed and offered more broadly to Members. It was named, Contexts of Coherent Pedagogy and it was well attended and has been extremely well received. The richness and depth of this training is in part, attributable to my participation in the three year Teacher/Educator training that I have been participating in, with Reggio Children, on behalf of REAIE.

I am a member of the Marketing and Communications Group and am proud of the innovative work that was undertaken during 2020 and to have represented REAIE along with the Business Manager, Rachel Bailey, in contributing to a strategic alliance of organisations who worked together on a tender for a contract with the Victorian Government. While we were unsuccessful on this occasion, a new strategic direction was identified and will be pursued in the future.



Cara Mearns

I have been actively involved with REAIE for well over a decade, including through the Melbourne Network Group and as a member of the Committee, on which I have been serving for over seven years.

The last 12 months have provided both opportunities and challenges to the organisation and to Committee Members. Working in a completely online environment provides a dichotomy of both 'connection' and 'separation'. 2020 saw the Committee work in new and innovative ways, and each online meeting became a touchstone for many of us during these difficult and sometimes isolating times.

During the last 12 months I have been a member of the Marketing and Communications Project Group and have enjoyed collaborating with this team on a variety of tasks. I am also a member of the Conference Task Group, a group I have participated in over many conference years. This group had to make some difficult decisions regarding the scheduled 2021 Biennial Conference. The outcome of this saw the postponement of the Conference to 2022, and the team pivoted to begin planning the Research Symposium to be held in July 2021.

I am grateful to be part of such a wonderful organisation and I look forward to the year ahead and all that I can contribute to the 2021 REAIE Committee.



Sarah Denholm

During 2020 I was privileged to have my third year as a volunteer on the REAIE Committee where I witnessed the courageous and great work of the organisation as it continually pivoted to meet the needs of Members, advocate for children and continue a strong relationship with Reggio Children in what, was and continues to be a time of great challenge and crisis across the globe.

2020 started off with great joy, as together with REAIE Committee member Leanne Mits, I co-facilitated the January Intensive Study Tour to Reggio Emilia. It was also my pleasure to serve on two project groups: the Professional Learning Project Group and the Marketing and Communications Project Group. I am also a member of the Conference Group/Research Symposium group. Other, more personal contributions to REIAE last year included sharing some of our School's work and research around digital landscapes and the possibilities of technology in learning through the final Challenge journal of 2020 and participating as an invited contributor to the 2020 REAIE webinar, titled Transforming Orientations and Welcome, where I was shared stories and reflections of practice from my school context.



Jenny Urbano -Treasurer

I have been a REAIE Committee member for three years now and I can honestly say that it has been an absolute privilege and pleasure to work with such a dedicated passionate team of individuals. I am proud to have worked alongside an incredibly hard-working team of fellow Committee members and staff and I am constantly in awe of the commitment and achievements of REAIE. I have enjoyed my role as REAIE treasurer and have been a member of the Conference Planning Task Group and am an Executive member of the Business Development Project Group.

I have had the privilege of being a Study Tour Leader, with my colleague Leanne Mits, and was grateful for the opportunity to support Study Tour Participants. I have also presented on behalf of REAIE both nationally and internationally. I am strongly influenced by the values and principles of the educational project of Reggio Emilia and am continually developing my knowledge and understanding through self-reflection and professional learning.



Kirsty Liljegren

The past 12 months have felt like an opportunity to contribute and participate in some long-held dreams for REAIE. As a Committee, we often talk about our responsibility and intent to reach Members and people interested in the ideas from Reggio in regional and remote areas. Also, we consider how the professional learning opportunities are accessible and inclusive to all where possible. While mindful of the financial hit the organisation has taken because of COVID-19, it has opened up these very opportunities we have been discussing for many years. I remember having a coffee with Kerrie and Rachel after the first lockdown, dreaming up ideas, many of which became a reality. Podcasts, blogs, webinars, and many other ideas are all contained in the Online Piazza. It has been exciting to be part of this transformation as part of the Professional Learning Project Group, that I'm sure will be long-lasting and change the face of professional learning in our organisation in the long term. I would never have dreamt I would be editing a podcast on GarageBand! The things you learn .



Other exciting projects that I have participated in have been the Capacity-Building Framework design and rollout and developing the Research Symposium as Co-convenor with Heather Conroy.

This symposium, while daunting to organise, is another exciting initiative coming out of a difficult situation. We are excited about who we are bringing together for this symposium and the potential influence on the changing landscape of education.

Kate Mount

In 2020 it was pivotal that we supported our Members and stay connected as best we could in what turned into a very complex year. I am a member of the Professional Learning Project Group and assisted in some of the ideas in finding ways to engage our Members in online learning. As a group we collaborated to find the avenues that we felt Members could engage with. In particular we wanted to find practical and helpful tools and support resources for our educators across the country. The Encounter Series was developed for our webinars and I was delighted to be able to support this with the presentation of a webinar: Encounter with Languages: The role of the atelierista. The feedback surveys from this series demonstrated how important it was to offer a range of different webinars serving a range of multiple purposes.

A highlight of the year was the Malaguzzi Celebration. I was able to bring some of this very special day to our local network in Adelaide in term 4. We shared some of the history of Loris Malaguzzi's life that was shared by Peter Moss as well as sharing our history in Adelaide as a network.

Contributing to events and encouraging collaboration across our country are part of the joy of being on the REAIE Committee. Working with such inspirational colleagues is an absolute privilege. It is essential we continue to work from a local to national level bringing all voices together. We look forward to bringing more opportunities to our Members in 2021.



I have been on the REAIE Committee for a year now and it has been a busy one filled with meetings and phone calls, enabling deep conversations on how best to support the organisation of REAIE and its Members. It has meant being actively involved in the Strategic Planning days and professional learning, working in the Research & Development Project Group, and has meant much dialogue around professional learning and suitable ways to present the Research Symposium in a digital format. It has been an on-going time of deepening my own understandings of the educational project of Reggio Emilia and a time of giving back to a sector that has been such a large part of my life for such a long time. As always, a fun time in building friendships and relationships.



Jan Millikan

Jan Millikan, OAM, is one of the founding REAIE Committee members and has supported, advised and helped shape the organisation for 21 years. Jan plays a pivotal role as mentor and advisor to both the Committee and staff. Her knowledge, skills and experience are invaluable to the ongoing development and sustainability of REAIE. Jan has worked across all REAIE Project Groups and more recently has been involved in both the Research and Development Project Group and the Professional Learning Project Group. REAIE is delighted that Jan will continue to support the organisation in an advisory and mentoring capacity as REAIE continues to research for a new culture of childhood that defends and promotes the rights of all children.





Introducing REAIE Staff Team.



Rachel Bailey: REAIE Business Manager

I joined REAIE in April 2018 as Business Manager and am responsible for business development, sustainability and working with the Committee to provide the strategic direction of the organisation. I enjoy the diversity and complexity of the role and have been excited to support the ongoing development of the organisation through a period of great change. I enjoy participating in professional learning events (when time allows) and meeting REAIE members. I support the REAIE Network Convenors in their interstate roles, respond to professional learning enquiries from educators and actively participate in all four REAIE Project Groups; Professional Learning (responsible for developing and scheduling initiatives and programs), Marketing and Communications (ensuring that REAIE professional learning and key messages are marketed and communicated systematically and widely), Research and Development (supporting the interpretation and understanding of the educational project of Reggio Emilia in an Australian context) and Business Development (responsible for leadership and management of the organisation, staff, finances and ongoing sustainability).



Caryn Marks: REAIE Office Manager

I have worked at REAIE for the past 15 years. In my role I look after many areas of the daily functions of the organisation. I oversee our membership services, ensuring membership information is kept up to date and accurate. I look after all membership communications through our email mailing service ensuring Members are aware of all upcoming professional learning as well as any content updates on the REAIE website. I set up all the REAIE events on the website and ensure all participants receive timely communications and zoom links. I also ensure that the REAIE website is kept up to date and am currently working on refreshing the look and feel of the website. I really enjoy the variety of my role, the interactions I have with Members and the connections that I have developed with many Members over the past 15 years. While the past year has certainly presented challenges it also presented many opportunities and the development of the Online Piazza and a 'content rich' Members only section has been the highlight for me. I have also had the opportunity to further develop and enhance my website management skills, taking the committee's dreams and wishes and translating them into new webpages and membership engagement opportunities. I am looking forward to the future growth of the organisation and being able to continue to make a positive contribution.



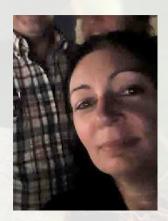
Michelle Tenace: Finance Officer

I have been in the role of Finance Officer for Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange for the past 10 years. My role allows me to oversee all finance functions of the organisation including working closely with the Business Manager and Treasurer regarding budgets and the strategic direction. The past 12 months have been extremely challenging for many organisations, REAIE included. We have, as an organisation, been able to successfully develop many new online initiatives to support our Members in response to the constraints placed on us due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a team we transitioned to working from home rather seamlessly strengthening our communication and relationships whilst navigating our new normal. It is exciting being part of a team of such committed professionals and I look forward to 2021 and beyond.



Nicole Harris: Events & Project Officer

In 2018 I was contracted by REAIE, as a database developer, to update the businesses systems. Subsequently I assumed a customer service role within the admin team. Since March of 2020 I began to work on various projects and joined the Private Professional Learning (PPL) team where I liaise with our clients and facilitators to assist with the delivery of REAIE professional learning in teaching centres across Australia. This year as our work environment altered, so did our approach to PPL, necessitating the use of such tools as Zoom. I also assist with audio/video editing for our podcasts, webinars and marketing videos, which allowed to us to reach a larger audience due to lockdown. I enjoy the varied and interesting tasks of my role and relish the ability to learn new approaches that assist us to fulfil the REAIE mission.



Claire Mance: Administration & Customer Service Officer

In 2019 Claire joined REAIE as part of the Admin team. During 2020 Claire has looked after the memberships and event registrations and has worked tirelessly on our social media and marketing, creating social media posts and scheduling their delivery. (Written on behalf of Claire Mance.)



Thalia Kourelis: Administration & Customer Service Officer

Thalia joined REAIE as part of the Admin team in early 2019 assisting with new and renewing memberships. She managed our incoming calls and provided general assistance to the Office manager and other Admin staff with various tasks. Sadly Thalia left REAIE just prior to the 1st COVID-19 lockdown in Melbourne to further her career in social work. (Written on behalf of Thalia Kourelis)



REAIE Executive Report

Ruth Wallbridge - Heather Conroy - Leanne Mits - Jenny Urbano

The REAIE Executive Committee is responsible for ensuring that the work of the Business

Development Project Group drives forward. Key objective for this project group is to develop a sustainable business.

2020 has been a year like no other, not only for REAIE, but indeed, the whole world. REAIE acknowledges all the educators that continued to work with children, families and communities throughout this challenging and unpredictable year. In Australia we are very fortunate to live on an island, protected from the full force of the pandemic. REAIE expresses distress and empathy to the many families, children and communities worldwide, who have experienced a much greater impact from COVID-19. This is certainly a time for solidarity and unity, patience and support.

REAIE particularly acknowledges that Reggio Children and the Infant Toddler Centres and Preschools in Reggio Emilia have been severely impacted by the pandemic and is committed to support them in any way we can as they now face their third wave of this pandemic virus.

REAIE's 2020 January Intensive Study Tour saw a small group of Australian educators share a successful and inspiring in-depth exploration of the role of the atelier in the Educational Project of Reggio Emilia. This was shortly followed by the International Network Meeting, scheduled to coincide with the centenary of Malaguzzi's birth. This was one of the last in-person event held by Reggio Children, in Reggio Emilia. REAIE was well represented at this meeting by Jan Millikan and Heather Conroy, who conveyed REAIE's commitment to Reggio Children and the impact of the work of the Infant Toddler Centres and Preschools of Reggio Emilia on early education in Australia.







REAIE experienced a huge blow to income generating capacities in 2020, with the organisation forced to rethink and reimagine it's model of operation and what it offered to Members and non-members. In a remarkably short time REAIE was able to reinvent ways of offering professional learning and developed an online presence. REAIE is always mindful of the responsibilities, as a member of the Reggio Children International Network, to offer professional learning which is current, guided by and honouring the research and work undertaken in the Infant Toddler Centres and Preschools in Reggio Emilia. REAIE is extremely proud of the quality of events and webinars offered in 2020. These changes, including robust online professional learning opportunities, are now welcomed additions to REAIE's repertoire of professional learning possibilities. This has been especially welcomed by participants in remote and regional areas. Specifically, this included the introduction of an 'Online Piazza' featuring podcasts, webinars and a blog. REAIE has an exciting and ambitious calendar of professional learning events planned for 2021.

Like all businesses and organisations, REAIE had to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic quickly and creatively. Considerations, changes and new ways of operating were made in relation to staff, Committee, Members, events, finances, and more. None of this would have been possible without the hardworking office team who also adapted quickly to working from home and changes in work requirements. These amazing team members ensured that REAIE services were maintained. We also acknowledge the work, energy, leadership and dedication of Rachel Bailey, REAIE Business Manager, who has worked tirelessly alongside Caryn, Michelle, Nicole, Thalia and Claire. This team has been instrumental in ensuring that REAIE has been able to adapt and change in complex and challenging times. We publicly thank these members of the REAIE office team for their commitment to REAIE and its Members. Rachel has also been an outstanding support to the Committee; her passion and strong work ethic has guided REAIE through change and enabling the Committee to continue to function in it's voluntary capacity. Sadly, in April we said goodbye to Thalia as she moved to pursue her career in social work.

The Committee continued to meet monthly, and sometimes more often, during 2020, via Zoom. While this has created some challenges it also enabled the Committee to meet on an equitable platform which was more inclusive for members of the Committee who do not reside in Victoria, and are unable to physically attend monthly meetings face-to-face. To reduce costs, all 2021 meetings will continue to be held on Zoom.

Work of the 2020 Committee has included:

- Maintaining relationships with Reggio Children; Balducci Preschool in Reggio Emilia; the Reggio Children International Network; REAIE Australian Networks, Life, Honorary, Invited and General Members.
- Support of the Reggio Children Teacher-Educator Training Program, with two REAIE representatives participating in this 3 year program.
- Developing position descriptions for Committee Members and Office Bearers & Terms of Reference for the Project Groups.
- Maintaining the work of 4 main Project Groups; Marketing and Communications; Professional Learning;
 Research and Development and Business and Development.
- Planning and facilitating regular strategic planning days.
- Development of a working group to support REAIE to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan .
- Development of a working group to review and update the REAIE Constitution.
- Website upgrade.

Our thanks and appreciation is extended to all those who support REAIE to work towards its vision, to 'research for a culture of childhood that defends and promotes the rights of all children'. REAIE thanks Members for their ongoing commitment to children, families and communities in Australia and beyond, and we look forward to continuing to provide services which support you in your important work.

2020 has been an incredibly challenging and rewarding year for REAIE. Original plans for development and growth initiatives were derailed by the global crisis. That said, REAIE has reimagined, reinvented, and reinvigorated. This has been possible by the sheer determination, energy, commitment, and hard work of the REAIE Committee, staff team and Members.

Executive would like to thank each and every Committee, staff and member for their ongoing dedication and support throughout 2020, a year that will be forever etched in our hearts and minds.

Ruth Wallendge

International Network Liaison Officer Heather Conroy

As a context for this report, I return to the beginning of 2020 and the International Network meeting held in Reggio Emilia. It was both an honour and a privilege to represent REAIE with Jan Millikan, at the 2020 Network meeting, which had special significance being the year of Malaguzzi's centenary birthday celebrations.

Inveceilcentoc'è the title of the week long celebrations was organised to be a week filled of 'surprises'...a week devoted to ensuring the values and principles of the educational project resonated deeply throughout the city (and the world).

Participants in Reggio Children's International Network (with representation in 2020 from 25 different countries), were fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the following initiatives to celebrate Loris Malaguzzi's centenary:

- The conference, If the eye jumps over the wall.
- The seminar program The right to have rights.
- The inauguration of the new exhibition Clay: Prelude to a manual.
- A video project and accompanying installation Imagine a forest, created by the children, teachers and families of the Municipal infant toddler centres and preschools.
- Malaguzzi's birthday cake celebration including his grandchildren and great grandchildren

Little did we know that within days, we would all be living a reality which required of us all a reframing of our teaching and learning platforms. Many Network participants experienced difficulties traveling home; Jan and I went into early self-isolation on return to Australia and colleagues in Reggio Children began a period of lockdown which continues to this day (Reggio Emilia has just returned to orange zoning after several periods of lockdown).

This context, of world-wide uncertainty and severe travel restrictions across every country saw the development of a unique and unexpected context for ongoing professional learning. As we could not meet face to face, several online meetings were convened by Reggio Children throughout 2020 to ensure the solidarity that exists amongst Network members was not impacted. Claudia Giudici, President of Reggio Children frequently makes reference to the Italian term 'insieme' (together).

Online communication ensured a focus on Reggio Children priorities:

- Generating ongoing debate through online platforms to maintain hope and optimism for children and their learning.
- Ensuring the 'essence' of the educational project is maintained politically, pedagogically, culturally and socially to keep the focus on quality education.

The remarkable and swift development of online webinars/ 'courses' on e.g., documentation; children's rights; the 100 languages; initiatives such as The Digital Toolbox provide sustenance to many as we sought to reframe our own pedagogy. Online initiatives also enhanced accessibility for those who may, for a variety of reasons, not previously have been able to travel to Reggio Emilia.

Current negotiation with Reggio Children that we are excited to share with our Members include:

- The possibility of a digital study group to take place later this year.
- Confirmation of speaker names for the inaugural research symposium to be held online in July 2021.
- Confirmation of Reggio Children participation in the 2022 biennial conference.
- Negotiations begun with REANZ in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding which aims to consolidate our relationship through the sharing of professional learning initiatives.

REAIE, on behalf of our membership, continues to send messages of solidarity to colleagues in Reggio Emilia. We have continued our support through the promotion of online initiatives developed by Reggio Children. We, in Australia, are fortunate, to be in a relatively safe space within the context of the pandemic. In this time of uncertainty, the Municipal schools of Reggio Emilia continue to provide us with a vision of quality, and we encourage our Members and the wider educational community to support professional learning initiatives being shared via REAIE as well as directly accessing the Reggio Children website.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the REAIE Committee for the privilege of representing REAIE in the role of International Liaison Representative at this complex time. It has been an inspiration to collaborate on REAIE's behalf with Reggio Children and to witness how many ways they have sought to realise the responsibility of continuing to exist, as a point of reference for people seeking to realise a different way of educating and doing school, for all those working to affirm children's rights...so that we continue to feel, as Loris Malaguzzi used to say a 'nostalgia for the future'. - Reggio Children ReChild December 2020.

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Treasurer's Report Jenny Urbano

As an organisation the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange (REAIE) is committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for its Members. In 2020 plans were in place to build upon the successes of 2019 where the collaborative nature of the organisation's work had resulted in the original revenue projection being exceeded. It was with high expectations of a financially sound year that REAIE heralded 2020.

At the beginning of 2020 REAIE had in excess of 60 Professional Learning events planned across Australia to support Members. However, these were not to be realised and the income identified in REAIE 2020 Professional Learning budgets proved to be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve in the 2020 financial year.

Due to the global complexities of 2020, which resulted in REAIE being severely financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the forecast income in the 2020 budget could not be achieved. In March 2020 REAIE was by no means spared disruptions and uncertainties and the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the restrictions placed on international and interstate travel, together with social restrictions, had a severe impact on the planned Professional Learning events around the country. All face to face professional leaning initiatives were cancelled and the REAIE Contingency and Action Plan was developed to support ongoing business operations. This included relocating staff to home working from March 2020 to date.

Financial results for the year ending 31 December 2020 saw a year-to-date loss of 63,445k. This position included considerable government support by way of Jobkeeper, ATO cash flow boosts and the Victorian Government assistance totalling just under \$114k. Additional financial support includes expense subsidies on Rent and IT support services to the end of December 2020.

The April 2020 Study Tour to Reggio Emilia was cancelled and the payments were refunded in full by REAIE. The Reggio Children funding held on account for the 2020 Study Tour is currently \$72,077. A number of online initiatives including the development and facilitation of the new REAIE Online Piazza and Malaguzzi Celebrations created new income generation opportunities. Many thanks go to those Committee members that gave their valuable time and expertise to support the development and facilitation of webinar initiatives.

The Professional Learning facilitated online has contributed to a considerably more favourable year end position for REAIE than initially estimated. The income from Professional Learning is \$50,000 higher than originally forecast thanks to the diversification into the online space for REAIE. Through collective negotiation, collaboration, and the generosity of Members, staff and Committee REAIE is optimistic about the future and its ability to reimagine membership services and support. This is an opportunity for REAIE to continue to reimagine how best to support Members as we face a very different complex working environment.

Sincere thanks and gratitude to all those involved in the work and membership of REAIE. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the office staff and in particular Rachel Bailey and Michelle Tenace for the support and advice they have provided the Executive Committee and general committee and the expertise they bring to the financial organisation of REAIE. Our achievements over the past year would not have been possible without you both at the helm and I thank you for your wise counsel and patient advice.

REAIE's Commitment to Indigenous Inclusion

REAIE acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Nations people of Australia and the Traditional Custodians of the many lands and waterways that our Members and staff live, learn and work.

REAIE business practices reflect the core values of Reconciliation; relationships, respect and creating opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities through education.

REAIE:

- Ensures all critical events respectfully commence with a Welcome to Country offered by an Elder or an Acknowledgment of Land
- Ensures all meetings begin with an Acknowledgement of Land
- Has identified the development and implementation of a Reconciliation Action Plan as a priority at 2020 strategic planning days with actions taken immediately to progress this work.
- Has a long-standing relationship with REAIE Invited Members, Professor Mark Rose, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Strategy and Innovation, Deakin University, and Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney, a Nurungga man and one Australia's most influential Indigenous educationalists.
- Includes professional learning workshops on correlations between the pillars of Reconciliation and the principles of the Reggio Emilia Approach
- Invited and welcomed Deb Mann, Wakka Wakka woman, to share her experiences and insights
 through participation in REAIE webinars and workshops. Deb advocates for local solutions and
 self-determination, designed and driven by Traditional Custodians and Knowledge Holders
 safeguarding the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities.
- Offered two scholarships in 2018 in partnership with Guardian Early Learning Group for either an Aboriginal person or a person working with Aboriginal children and families to attend a Study Tour to Reggio Emilia.
- Worked for three years to secure funding to successfully host the Hundred Languages of Children Exhibition (from Reggio Emilia, Italy), in Alice Springs, Northern Territory (NT), with accompanying professional learning events. This extraordinary opportunity for NT enabled access to this internationally renowned exhibition and learning for children, families, educators, policymakers, politicians and the wider community.

A REAIE Executive member is an active member of the Early Childhood Australia, Victorian Branch, RAP Working Group and Co-Convener of an Early Childhood Australia, Victorian Branch Special Interest Group, 'Talking Reconciliation'. This participation and work complement the work of REAIE commitment to Reconciliation. REAIE, as an advocate for the defence of human rights for all citizens, is committed to continuing, strengthening and escalating this vital work in all aspects of operations and relationships.



Professional Learning Project Group

The REAIE Professional Learning Project Group is responsible for ensuring that the work of the Professional Learning Project Group drives forward. Key objective for this project group is to develop and implement a professional learning strategy.

In 2020, the Professional Learning Project Group worked to swiftly reimagine the way REAIE structured and delivered our professional learning initiatives across the country. The catalyst of COVID-19 came at a time when REAIE was already dabbling in the online delivery mode, through collaborations with Early Childhood Australia. Work had already been initiated but many new opportunities were presenting themselves through the first few months of 2020. Responding to the provocation of the pandemic, much collaborative and creative thinking was generated, enabling the Professional Learning Project Group to reimagine our work and re-establish our role to support Members, finding new ways to connect with and support educators around Australia and beyond. Some new key initiatives were born; strategies that led towards the establishment of an Online Piazza, a space for Members and non-members to interact, learn and grow together. We continued this work adding to our repertoire of live and on-demand webinars, blogs, podcasts and more. Coordinating the PL Project Group during this time meant that we needed to be inventive, original and come back to our mission, vision and values to defend and promote the rights of all children through research, collaboration and dialogue.... online.

Events across the year included several series of webinars on topics including Social Justice, Democracy, Encountering Materials and the Role of the Atelierista and many more. We celebrated 100 years since Loris Malaguzzi's birth with our online Malaguzzi Conference Day featuring keynote addresses from Jan Millikan, Peter Moss, Paola Strozzi and Sara De Poi. A special thank you to Dr. Esme Capp for participating in our panel discussion.



"I have just finished watching the above conference.

Congratulations to everyone concerned with it's organisation - it was truly inspiring, energising and a privilege to be a part of. In these crazy times it was so good to be reminded of why we do what we do to ensure all children have a right to education.

While it would have been nice to all be physically present together there are many advantages of going down the e learning pathway. It pretty much felt like we were in the same room together!"

"Thank you for allowing me to watch this at a slightly different time to what was scheduled. I would have missed it otherwise so I am so grateful to have been able to view it all at this time." "Dear REAIE team

Many, many congratulations on the wonderful day of celebration for Malaguzzi. It had all the right ingredients: information, inspiration, imagination. . . and real children! It was beautifully put together & technically super.

Most importantly, it showed huge respect for a most remarkable human being. I will be forever grateful for what he brought into my personal & professional life. . . & the ongoing work of Reggio Children & REAIE."

New work was undertaken as we secured funding for and developed a new in-depth course 'Contexts for Coherent Pedagogy' to be launched in March 2021 and reimagined our existing face to face workshops with refreshed content and new online delivery options.

We would like to acknowledge the encouragement we have received from Reggio Children, especially at such a difficult time in Italy as they faced their own challenges through the pandemic. We are very grateful to Rachel Bailey and the REAIE office team for their tireless work supporting and organising these initiatives, to our incredible presenters who have so generously lent their skills and knowledge to this work and who have supported REAIE in our efforts to sustain and support the learning of educators from all corners of the country.

Lastly, and most importantly, thank you to you, the educators and participants who attended our online events and sessions, and engaged with the Online Piazza, sending ideas and feedback for our continual improvement. Without you, we would not have been able to continue this important work, thank you. 2020 has been the most challenging year that REAIE has had to face to date. Our ability to hold fast within a moving and uncertain marketplace is not to be underestimated and would not be possible without the incredibly hard working committee, office teams and network leaders around the country. The Professional Learning Project Group is very grateful for the flexibility and courage of our entire REAIE family, including our Members.

Feedback from participants at some of our webinars:

"ZOOM brings us closer together as a learning community - we have the potential to be in contact across the country to undertake PL."

"Possibly more interaction from the participants, eg questions that come up throughout the session could be addressed in the last ten minutes etc."

"Encountering Clay: I found this a really informative, thought provoking webinar, with ideas and new perspectives. Pre-webinar communication was just right, today's reminder timely:)"

"Thank you for a thought provoking webinar. Lots to think and reflect on.., I loved it!"

"Once again another fantastic learning opportunity. Thank you so much for inspiring me and reigniting my wonder and delight in the work I do with children and educators!"

"Thank you for the organisation of the event. I think REAIE should be investigating ways to run more online platforms as it makes learning more accessible to more educators."



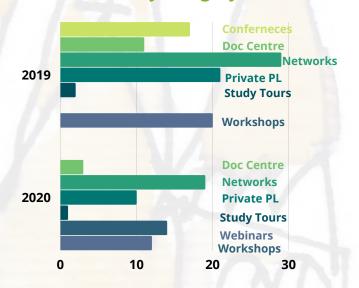


Professional Learning Project Group Charts

Comparison 2019 & 2020 participant numbers by category

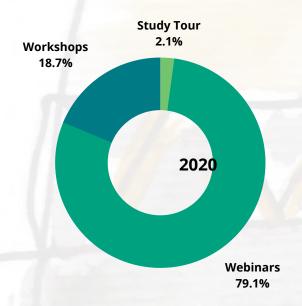


Comparison 2019 & 2020 total events by category



Theses graphs above show the altering landscape of REAIE events as the impact of COVID-19 became apparent in 2020. This information is used in an attempt to specifically ascertain which event types have greater event participation. We can conclude from the data analysis that educators have readily engaged in REAIE's webinars.

Total participants 2020 public events by category



This graph clearly shows the rising number of participants as REAIE webinars allowed for greater access to PL.

Total participants monthly for 2020 by category

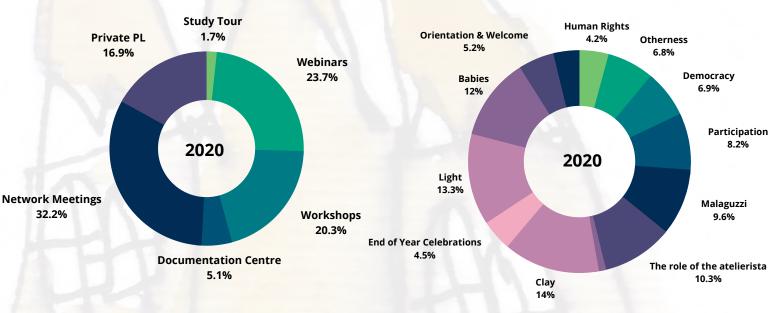


This graph clearly shows the change in event type as the year progressed and the rise of participation as REAIE webinars became more widely recognised.

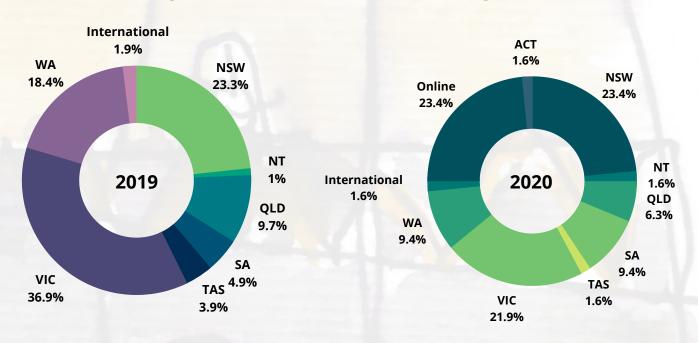
Events Statistics Summary for 2020



Participants in Webinars 2020 by Event



Comparison of 2019/2020 Events by Location



Theses graphs above show the geographical spread of REAIE events. This information is used in an attempt to specifically ascertain those states where event participation is primarily occurring. This information is collated for future planning and meeting member needs

Marketing and Communications Project Group

The REAIE Marketing and Communications Project Group is responsible for ensuring that the work of the Marketing and Communications Project Group drives forward. The key objective for this Project Group is to improve marketing and communications and increase REAIE membership.

2020 was a difficult year for many, with the onset of COVID-19 impacting upon us all in many different ways. Some of our objectives for the year were put on hold, due to the restrictions that COVID-19 put on us all and the logistics of working within this environment. Above all, the Marketing and Communications Project Group needed to consider how we could still provide for our Members and keep communications regular when face to face contact was taken away from us.

Surveys are regularly sent to our membership in order to determine how best we can provide for our Members. Results of these surveys are analysed and are used to determine our direction and strategies in moving forward. Results over the past twelve months have helped us to redevelop the content of our website, including providing Members only content, and making plans to move forward with the digitalisation of the Challenge journal. Special thanks to the Challenge editorial team Chris Celada, Pam Andrews and Debbie Nicholas.

Communication to both Members and potential Members was increased through the use of social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Linkedin. A social media plan was developed and implemented with increased advertising of online events and resource materials. The introduction of the posting of 'Inspirational Quotes', offered opportunities for subscribers to reflect upon their practice personally and with their teams. Increased likes and traffic on all social media sites in the last twelve months has shown us that social media continues to be an important strategy for communication.

To gain consistency in our publications and online presence, REAIE Branding guidelines were updated. REAIE publications were updated to reflect these guidelines and new publications were developed including the Contextualising Series booklet, poster and notebook with further plans to add to these in 2021.

We look forward to continuing this work with the Project Group in 2021 as we work together to devise and implement strategies for providing membership benefits and communication.



REAIE Online Piazza



Contextualising Series booklet, poster & notebook

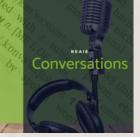


REAIE inspirational Quote tile

REAIE Blog Post Transforming End of Year Celebrations



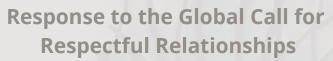
REAIE Blog Post



REAIE Podcast



REAIE Social Media & podcasting Profiles



Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange (REAIE) would like to respond to the global call for respectful relationships and on behalf of our Members declare that we stand in solidarity with Australia's First Peoples' and advocate to uphold human rights for all citizens. May these tragedies act as a catalyst for reflection and change, or as Malaguzzi said, "one of the many itineraries for orienting our walking together" (Cagliari et al., 2016, p.106).

REAIE recognises their ethical responsibility to advocate for reconciliation, social justice, democracy and equity, utilising respectful relationships, listening, reciprocity and participation. Hope for a truly shared humanity can be realised through these values in educational contexts with and for children.

#blacklivesmatter

Ruth Wallbridge REAIE Chairperson

"Thank you for this public declaration. It is time to be bold and let others know that the work of early childhood education is deeply political – it is of the people and it matters that we do not simply sit by and ask others to do the heavy lifting..."

"I very much look forward to hearing how REAIE will convert these words into actions into the future building on the commitment as action you have already made."

"Could you please pass on my deep and sincere gratitude to Ruth, the Committee, Rachel and all for this strong and powerful response on behalf of the membership. REAIE is moving to become the responsive, respectful and powerful advocate that it has always had the great potential to be and I humbly thank you all! What a wonderful organisation to belong to."

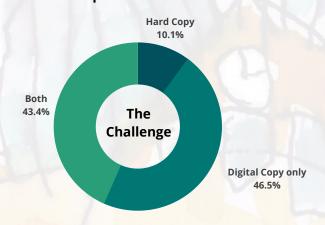
"Thank you again so much for your care, thoughtfulness and responsiveness to all human beings who need strong, articulate and courageous allies."

Marketing and Communications Project Group

2020 Member Survey Summary

What format would you like to receive your Challenge Journal?

80 people have completed the survey to date with a 91% completion rate.

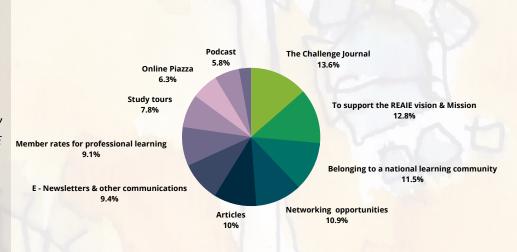


What else would you like to see as part of your membership?

- More affordable PL
- More networking opportunities (regional ones as well)
- A way of engaging families
- Discounted resources
- Free webinars for Members
- Pedagogista type help
- Mentoring opportunities for teachers
- School visits
- Increase advocacy'diversity of voices in articles and blogs

Why did you purchase a Membership?

"Definitely being connected feeling like we have a place where we can ask questions seek help and guidance feel like we belong to a bigger picture of education and early childhood philosophies. REAIE is like a blanket to keep us warm and inspired to think beyond, challenge ourselves and always want to be better."



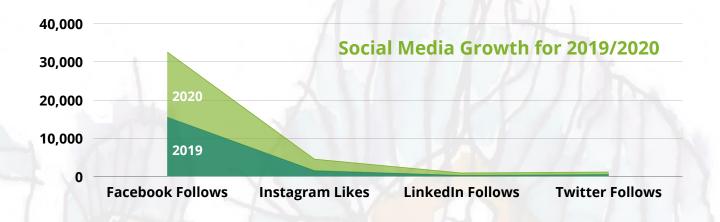
Feedback from members in 2020

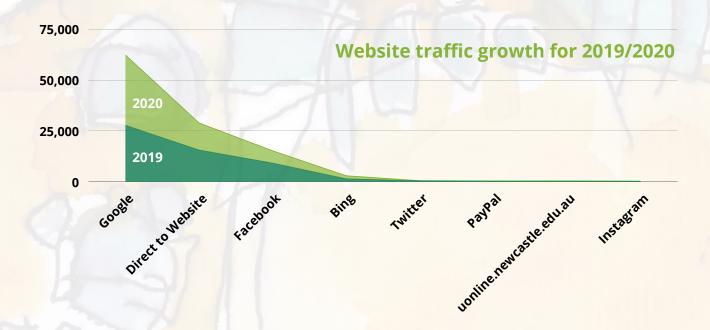
"Otherness is such a relevant topic during this changing world .. stories from people that are situated in what we name as others are missing from our conversations.

Families in public housing in lock down and many people on the margins have stories that can offer us all insight into the reality of otherness. Great that this dialogue has been initiated."

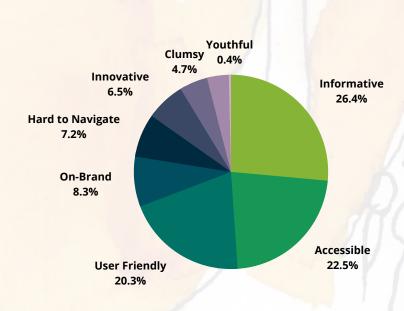
Thank you to the member survey respondants for helping us to shape our future planning for REAIE membership services.

2020 Website and Social Media Summary





When thinking of the current REAIE website, what words would you use to describe it?



"Smooth on a computer, sometimes clunky on a phone
- especially the member's only section - sometimes
wants me to log in multiple times."

"It does what it needs to do and reflects the philosophy of Reggio."

"I find it hard to find things in my area so being able to click on eg: Melbourne I could see what Pds are coming up."

"Extremely easy to navigate - very clear."

Our survey of Members' opinions of our website are varied and conflicting, however we are taking the advice on board and working to create a more satisfying user experience.

Business Development Project Group

The REAIE Business Development Project Group comprises of the REAIE Executive and Business Manager. This Project Group is responsible for driving forward the key objective to develop a sustainable business.

2020 was an incredibly challenging year for REAIE and required all our energy, enthusiasm, and combined experiences to reshape and reimagine our membership services. We realised early in 2020 that we would not be in a position to continue business as normal, we realised REAIE membership services required a significant redesign. As a Committee and staff team our priority was to continue to provide a service to REAIE Members.

Fortunately, recent REAIE office upgrades to systems and equipment in early 2020 placed REAIE staff in a strong position to relocate to home office working. Initially the team envisaged operating from home offices for a few weeks. In fact, the total timeframe has been in excess of 13 months.

REAIE's historic practice of facilitating face to face professional learning required a significant rethink and change in direction. Whilst COVID-19 has been challenging and thought provoking, it also provided REAIE with the catalyst that we needed to change direction and experiment with new technologies and opportunities.

Sadly, we could not renew a temporary Admin and Customer Service Officer contract and were in a financial position where we were required to negotiate reduced costs with a number of our service providers. We remain grateful to our landlord, Melbourne University, and to our IT services, Virtual IT Support, who negotiated reduced rates for REAIE throughout the remainder of 2020. Significant Government funding also supported REAIE financially. We continue to identify cost savings across our infrastructure to support a reduction in expenditure.

REAIE Executive worked hard with Reggio Children colleagues to negotiate around cancelled study tours and to promote Reggio Children's emerging professional learning opportunities whilst continuing to demonstrate our commitment and solidarity to the educational project of Reggio Emilia. The Business Development Project Group continues to identify and develop partnerships with organisations and individuals and acknowledges that there is more work to do in this area

This Project Group has the responsibility to oversee the work of all REAIE Project and Task Groups:

- To develop a sustainable business that reflects and responds to the REAIE vision, mission and values.
- To facilitate research and development in order to support the development and publishing of Australia wide research and to promote dialogue and professional learning about research and the Educational Project of Reggio Emilia.
- To develop marketing and communications with Members and non-members to raise the profile of the work of the organisation and promote a strong and positive image of children as citizens and active participants in democratic communities.
- To develop and implement a professional learning strategy which develops understanding of research, observation, documentation and interpretation of children's processes of action and thought.

REAIE closes 2020 in an invigorated and optimistic position. Invigorated by the experience of the past year and the lessons learned, and optimistic that this new learning will inform how REAIE continues to develop, reflect and evolve.

Research and Development Project Group

The REAIE Research and Development Project Group is responsible for ensuring that the work of the Project Group drives forward. Key objectives for the Research and Development Project Group are to research and record the history of REAIE, support the development and facilitation of the REAIE Documentation Centre and to actively promote and support the research of Australian educators.

The challenges and restrictions experienced throughout 2020 have impacted on the progress of some of the work this Project Group had planned to undertake. The Documentation Centre was refreshed and reorganised and discussions are underway to move to a digital model. Capacity and resources have not enabled this project to progress to completion. It will be revisited in the future with an aim to ensure that documentation is available to support the broader membership.

Work is underway to record and collate the history of REAIE as a research project. Generous donations have been received to support the production of digital documentation to capture and make accessible the development and history of REAIE. Broad contribution and participation from Members and partners is envisaged in this project.

REAIE has been working in partnership with Chris Celada and Margo Hobba to support the development of a research project to "experiment with and more deeply explore ways of using the digital to create complex and multi-sensory PL experiences that model and support the values of the educational project of Reggio Emilia and that can reach educators who are presently excluded from face to face PL through the tyranny of distance", (Celada, Hobba, 2020). Facilitation of the project will commence in 2021.

REAIE recognises the impact of COVID-19 on capacity and willingness to travel to participate in professional learning and conferences. It is with this recognition in mind that REAIE has taken the difficult decision to postpone the 2021 biennial conference until 2022. REAIE is however planning an inaugural Research Symposium to be held on the 10th July 2021 and significant planning has taken place throughout 2020. The Research Symposium seeks to challenge continuing binaries that separate theory and practice and classroom teachers and university researchers. It will be a space which brings teachers and academics together in a shared place of encounter; a place for everyone to participate. Bringing together a rich array of research perspectives, the symposium aims to create a platform to share, exchange and stimulate thinking...to excite participant's understanding of the integral role of educational research, as both underpinning and informing day to day classroom practice.

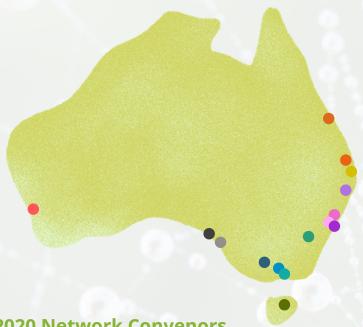
The potential of being in dialogue with colleagues from Reggio Emilia, as well as those researching the values and tenets of the educational project of Reggio Emilia within Australian contexts, supports us in coming to better understand and make reference to the Reggio approach within our own settings and schools. Australian academics participating in the symposium include Dr. Stefania Giamminuti, Dr. Jane Merewether and Associate Professor Wendy Boyd.

The symposium program will comprise classroom-based educators sharing their stories of research-inpractice alongside presentations shaped by academic research (this may in some cases be a partnership between classroom-based educators and academics). Our intention as mentioned, is to highlight the significance of seeing ourselves as teacher-researchers and to make visible the essential relationship that exists between theory, innovation and classroom practice.

Titled, Landscapes of relationships; inspiration, exchange, and dialogue for the future of childhood, the symposium adopts the same title as the forthcoming biennial conference to be held in Melbourne in July 2022. The symposium is defined as an initiative from which ongoing research may develop and take its place as part of the 2022 conference program.

REAIE Networks

REAIE infrastructure is supported by REAIE networks. REAIE would like to extend a special thank you to all Network Convenors and Co-Convenors and Members for their hard work and enthusiasm in supporting the vision, mission and values of the organisation. REAIE values their dedication and support. There are currently 15 REAIE Networks supporting the work of REAIE across Australia:



REAIE Networks 2020

Special thanks go to all Network Convenors who grappled with technology in 2020 and continued to meet online using Zoom.

REAIE is keen to increase our networks across Australia. Any Members who would be interested in convening a network group in their area are encouraged to contact the REAIE Office.

2020 Network Convenors

Brisbane Research Group Gold Coast Reggio Network Capricorn Coast Reggio Network

Northern Rivers NSW Network Group REsearch Conversations Eastern Suburbs Reggio Provocation Group

Canberra District Network

The Peninsula Network Group The Ballarat Network Group **Melbourne Network Group**

Tasmanian REsearch Network

Adelaide Network Group Limestone coast

Perth Reggio Network Group

- Letitia Harvey & Renee Mitchell.
- Karen Humphreys.
- Marion Hayes.
- Wendy Boyd & Shauna McIntyre.
- Emma Cullen & Deborah Garrett.
- Jessica Rix & Paula West.
- Nicole Johnson, Cathy Milwidsky, Samantha Mott & Ruth Weinstein.
- Subhadra Chapman & Tanya Stevenson.
- Pat Barbieri.
- Koren Naylor.
- Masud Ahmmed, Joanne Dowling, Sue Knowles, Sally-Anne Polson & Tonii Tran.
- Kate Newton.
- Holly Baulderstone.
- Sally Gower.
- Suzanne Bushby & Kristy McFarlane.

Coming & going...

REAIE would like to thank and acknowledge David Gilkes for his long service and dedication to REAIE as Tasmanian Network Convenor.

REAIE would like to thank and acknowledge Renee Mitchell for her service to the Brisbane Research Group in her role as Co-convenor.

We wish then both every success in the future and a continued relationship with REAIE.

Adelaide Network Group Report 2020

Adelaide Network Convenor Holly Baulderstone provides an insight into how the Adelaide Network celebrated 100 years of Loris Malaguzzi.

We bookended our year with the chance to connect in person. Our first meeting (Wednesday 26 February) almost seems like a dream after the difficulties that came with COVID restrictions. We met in a community garden in the centre of the city – where chickens clucked alongside humming traffic and the last of the tomatoes grew alongside new building developments. We had a plant swap and shared documentation and then discussed how to move forward with a research project we were hoping to develop together around friendship benches. Unfortunately, the idea of physically sitting on benches with friends became a distant thought as we took a pause on meetings to observe the necessary COVID restrictions.





Whilst members informally shared dialogue and provocations from the webinar series offered through REAIE it was not until Term 4 that we were able to physically gather again (despite two attempts!) This was an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on 100 Years of Malaguzzi. Sheryle Yorston shared the history of the Adelaide Network and we then discussed Peter Moss' presentation - Loris Malaguzzi at 100: influences, roles and provocations and this opened up a dialogue for such rich discussions in small groups. We were then able to toast Malaguzzi's birthday with a piece of cake made from the same recipe that Reggio Children had used earlier in the year.

When developing the momentum behind the friendship bench project we had worked with the metaphor of plants and growth. We are now in a different place then we expected, and the seeds of that project have become dormant - in Term 1 2021 - we were able to shine light on a new direction that promises to blossom throughout this year. Having all been inspired by last years webinars we started the year with a reflection on Encounters with Light. As a network group we have now decided that this is something that we want to continue to expand on. Whilst we had a quieter 2020 then we had planned it has lit up a new path for us in developing a South Australian dialect to the language of light.

Melbourne Network Group Report 2020

Sally Poulson Masud Ahmed provide an insight into the relaunch of the Melbourne Network Group.

The new look Melbourne convenors committee came together in 2020 with a returning member, a few new Members and some welcome support from Kerrie and Debbie, REAIE Committee members. It was felt that a team approach could work well with this branch of the conveners as we would be able to share knowledge & ideas as well as support each other through the important task. Debbie has brought valuable history of her own years of running this committee, Kerrie has shared insights into her recent trips and training in Reggio Emilia. We feel so fortunate to have their guidance in our beginning stage. The Melbourne Covid experience has meant that we have not as yet met face to face. We have had a number of Zoom meetings with the committee and one Zoom meeting with an open invitation to other Melbourne participants at the end of 2020.

We are very much looking forward to being a part of this important organisation and beginning to meet in person, hopefully soon.

Passage to Hope in challenging time

The opportunity of working together, knowing fellow co-convenors, planning for 2021 network events and to be connected (through Zoom, email) while 'apartness', 'isolation', 'covering face with mask', and 'social distancing' were the neo - societal norms, was an exciting way of getting to know the wider REAIE community and participating in mentoring sessions with Kerrie while Debbie was sharing her empirical learning (as former Convenor).

Our Plan

Our plan is to make the Melbourne Network Group a platform for connecting, networking, researching, enriching, reflecting, and wandering in the labyrinth of knowledge and profound philosophy. Hence, our aim is to invite educators to join us on our journey of knowing, understanding, making connections and reflecting on pedagogy and practice. We will actively promote REAIE initiatives among the members and meet online and face-to-face in different locations across Melbourne to share experiences in the Reggio approach.

Brisbane Reggio Network Report 2020

Brisbane Network Group Convenor Letitia Harvey explains the variety of challenges 2020 presented.

2020 for me as Network Convenor and full time Director/Licensee presented a variety of challenges. Being a 'touch and feel' kinda girl I was met with the awkwardness and uncertainty around 'getting together', being together and continuing a sense of 'belonging'. Our 2020 year started well with a network group that wanted to be more practically focused – exploring 'Languages' – with an excellent Clay Workshop presented by Lyn Bryant at a locally sourced school. AND THEN COVID-19 HIT!!! Schools were closed, kindergartens closed, childcare remained open, working from home for some, others were pushed to 'essential workers' status and so on. The minefield that was rapidly unfolding initially saw anything other than Covid go into the background – I remember thinking many a time during the initial stages "what did we do before COVID-19?" As everyone settled with their 'new normal', the variation across the network presented uncertainty coupled with everyone's busyness in responding to their individual COVID-19 work situations. And for me technological 'illiteracy' and fear of managing a Zoom or Teams meeting – and on a weekend or week night when everyone was already exhausted from the 'New normal', saw me question could we/I do it?

Brisbane Reggio Network Report 2020 - cont.

What kept me connected has been our Network Facebook Page, a closed group where members began to share ideas, readings, links and so on. This page became more of a shared page that everyone owns, with some regular and new members becoming more visible on this platform. COVID-19 connected people and also had the risk of disconnecting people. I wondered many a time, what will happen to this group. I am thankful for REAIE's efforts in maintaining links with Convenors and Members over 2020 as that will be the foundation for the reignition of 2021, the reconnection of whatever level people feel comfortable in. But for me – a 'touch and feel' kind of girl, Brisbane thankfully will be heading back to face to face being together – as a group of passionate, capable and resilient Educators returning in 2021 to reflect on the year that has been and look forward to thinking together.

Inner West Sydney Network Group Report 2020

Emma Cullen and Deb Garrett discuss how they moved their Network meetings online in 2020. With the assistance of the Melbourne office, our network group was able to meet three times last year via Zoom, after an initial face to face meeting.

We had begun 2020 on a high note, with anticipation of beginning a group project based around 'windows into our worlds', inspired by some professional development opportunities attended by members of our network group. We drew on literature and photos to assist us in our processes and were captivated by Jeannie Baker's books 'Window' and 'Mirror', which we intended to use as provocations. Fortuitously, or perhaps prophetically, we also shared Malaguzzi's quote, "Observe and listen to children because when they ask why, they are not simply asking for the answer from you. They are requesting the courage to find a collection of possible answers".

And then COVID-19 occurred, and courage was certainly needed as we navigated new landscapes and found strength to develop new ways of being and doing. Our network group became a one of support, as we connected in new digital ways. Our closed Facebook group became a way to share information, resources, and professional development, as well as videos and stories from our communities and that of Reggio Emilia. We were also determined to keep our project alive, not realising that it would be a year before we could meet again face to face.

Our meetings moved online, and when we shared what we were doing at a Convenor's meeting, REAIE asked us if we would open our next Zoom meeting to other groups in Australia. We were delighted to share the space with educators from different parts of the country. Thanks must go to Rachel and Caryn who assisted with coordination and gave us the time to hold these two hour meetings. The connection and networking afforded many positive benefits and learning opportunities for us all, and we hope to document these for Challenge.

We introduced the concept of liminal time to the group – a space between events, focusing on the positive aspects of life in lockdown and this gave us hope for the future.

We strongly encouraged our members to attend the online professional development opportunities provided by REAIE, and to make use of the resources available on the website. These places of learning helped to keep our group active and ensure the spirit of Reggio Emilia remained alive.

Covid has allowed our group to undergo a process of transformation, and we have emerged stronger than before, determined to encourage others to join us. We have had our first face to face meeting in 2021 and are excited by the potential and possibilities ahead.

January Intensive Study Tour 2020

January 2020 saw 34 participants and 2 study tour leaders, from Australia, Thailand, China and New Zealand add their valuable participation and perspective to this year's study tour. The event focused on The Reggio Emilia Approach to Education & The Culture of the Atelier and the Hundred Languages. Little did we know that not long after our treasured time in Reggio Emilia, the world would change as we know it and this experience would become, and remain, an important gift of hope to hold on to as we ventured into the uncertainty of the pandemic experience.

This study tour was lead by Leanne Mits and Sarah Denholm and was facilitated by the following main speakers from Reggio Emilia:

Elena Maccaferri, pedagogista; Federica Castrico, atelierista; Stefano Sturlon, atelierista; Filippo Chieli, atelierista; Sara de Poi, atelierista; Barbara Arduini, teacher and Elena Davoli, teacher. The translations were offered by Alberto (2 days), Alessandro (1 day) and Jane (2 days). The participants visited four Infant Toddler Centres and Preschools; Bellelli; Allende; Balducci and Neruda (combined visit with a study group from Korea).











The 5 day programme outline:

- **Presentation** Thinking by design and the culture of the atelier in the daily life of the school.
- **Presentation** In dialogue with the atelier park at Allende.
- **Small group work** Discreet Appearances in the atelier park at Allende and continuing at the Loris Malaguzzi Centre, ending with group presentations.
- Workshop 'A Festive Thought' visual metaphors in children's learning processes.
- **Exhibition** 'A Festive Thought' visual metaphors in children's learning processes visit to the exhibition.
- **Presentation** 'The dance of bridges' an experience from Michelangelo
- Presentation 'Piazza_piazze' an experience from Belleli.
- Infant Toddler Centre and Preschool visits to Belleli, Allende and Balducci and tea time at Neruda.
- 'Free time' on the afternoon on the Wednesday (which was well received).
- **Time** for reflections, questions and comments.

We recognise international travel will not be viable for the foreseeable future and as such REAIE and Reggio Children are discussing online opportunities for online study tours.



2020 Study Tour Participants



2020 Study Tour Reunion

Working in Partnership

REAIE continues to seek partnership working as integral to the ongoing success of the organisation. Key initiatives and partnerships have been explored, developed and instigated with the following organisations and individuals in 2020:

REAIE enjoys a positive relationship with REANZ (Reggio Emilia Aotearoa New Zealand), our closest network member. It has been a pleasure to support negotiations aimed at strengthening this alliance through the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations which will enable greater sharing of resources and professional learning opportunities.



Early Childhood Australia collaboration to develop an additional online learning module to be launched early 2021 and added to the existing suite of materials.



Partnership with Chris Celada and Margo Hobba to develop a research project investigating research as professional learning.



Collaboration with Megan Monk and Karin Morrison to explore the concepts of Equity and Diversity.



Collaboration with Catharine Hydon, Hydon Consulting, Early Learning Association Australia and Community Childcare to submit KQIP tender.





Special thanks to Dr Stefania Giamminuti, Dr Anne Kennedy, and Dr Jane Merewether for their support to record REAIE podcasts.



Acknowledgements

REAIE Life Members

Criteria: Life Membership is awarded at the discretion of the REIAE Committee and considered when an outstanding commitment for a period of not less than 10 years of commitment is given to REAIE and the nominee has made a significant contribution' to all points of the REAIE Vision.

- · Jan Millikan, OAM · Chris Celada · Pam Andrew
- · Margo Hobba · Mary Featherston, AM

REAIE Honorary Members

Criteria: Honorary Membership can be nominated and seconded by any member of REAIE with the nomination presented to the REAIE Committee for consideration. Honorary Membership will be considered when significant contribution is made towards two or more points of the REAIE Mission, over a period of not less than 5 years. Honorary Members can be re-nominated at the end of the five years of membership benefits.

·Alma Fleet ·Diane Bourke ·Karen Szydlik ·Julie Hertz ·Karin Morison ·Janet Robertson ·Judy McInty ·Avis Ridgway ·Mary Mauger ·Daphne Gaddie ·Robbie Cutts ·Helene Oberman ·Jane Merewether ·Libby Cumming ·Sheryle Yorston

REAIE Invited Members

Criteria: A person/organisation deemed by REAIE Executive Committee to have a significant advocacy role on behalf of REAIE. This membership is reviewed annually.

· Professor Frank Oberklaid · Professor Mark Rose · Dr. Lester-Irabinna Rigney

Financial Reports

The following pages contain the financial report for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020. It is to be noted that the organisational finances portray a final deficit figure of: (-\$63,455) (including interest).

For any questions relating to the financial reports please contact Michelle Tenace, REAIE Finance Officer: michelle@reggioaustralia.org.au /Jenny Urbano, REAIE Treasurer: Jenny@reggioaustralia.org.au.

REGGIO EMILIA AUSTRALIA INFORMATION EXCHANGE INC. A.B.N. 73 879 960 566
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY 2020 TO 31st DECEMBER 2020

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange Inc for the period from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Ruth Wallbridge (Chairperson)

Heather Conroy (Vice Chairperson)

Leanne Mits (Secretary)

Jennifer Urbano (Treasurer)

Kerrie O'Neill

Cara Mearns

Ruth Weinstein

Kirsty Liljegren

Jan Millikan

Fiona Zinn

Sarah Denholm

Debbie Nicholas

Kate Mount

Anna Munari

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
- maintenance of website
- sale of resources
- management of expenditure

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

During 2020 COVID 19 has significantly impacted on the financial position of the organisation, all planned face to face learning was cancelled and refunded including overseas study tours, the organisation has been the recipient of Government assistance by way of Jobkeeper subsidies and the cash flow boost for businesses. This reduced capacity to generate income has resulted in a financial loss for the organisation for 2020.

OPERATING RESULT

The operating loss for the 12 month period amounted to \$63,445 Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

Ruth Wallbridge

Jennifer Urbano

Dated this 12th day of April 2021

Ruth Wallendge

Milley

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	31-Dec-20 \$	31-Dec-19 \$
INCOME		
Sale of Goods	25,801	43,778
Interest Received		
-Banks	2,949	6,047
Rendering of Services	404,143	698,850
Conference	-	626,859
Miscellaneous Revenue	6,167	2,324
Donations and Grants	3,245	23,894
Government Assistance	114,758	•
TOTAL INCOME	557,063	1,401,752
EXPENSES	0.400	
Audit Fees	2,100	2,600
Advertising	1,632	1,925
Bank Charges	4,487	9,858
Conference Expenses	17,672	387,903
Depreciation	6,213	7,035
Employee Benefits	236,218	233,741
Exhibition Expenses	3,789	4,004
Freight & Cartage	1,356	2,803
Insurance	8,115	10,478
Intensive study tour	90,937	53,511
Venue Expenses	2,385	3,129
Other Expenses Purchases	147,976 14,806	212,367 37,366
	31,793	31,682
Printing & Stationery Rent	17,044	37,763
Study Tour Expenses	600	191,565
Workshop Expenses	33,385	61,688
Workshop Exhenses	33,303	01,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	620,508	1,289,418
OPERATING DEFICIT/SURPLUS	(63,445)	112,334

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

CURRENT ASSETS	2020	2019
CASH AT BANK - BENDIGO CASH AT BANK - ANZ CASH AT BANK ANZ TERM DEPOSIT - BENDIGO TERM DEPOSIT - ANZ PAYPAL ACCOUNT PETTY CASH SUNDRY DEBTORS PREPAYMENTS FUNDS HELD BY REGGIO CHILDREN OTHER RECEIVABLES GST RECEIVABLE STOCK ON HAND LIBRARY	22,895 37,426 782,978 13,458 242,675 6,713 308 - 9,418 72,077 9,450 5,969 55,655	87,420 203,748 822,201 13,272 240,689 23,179 322 21,500 69,961 - 6,420 50,709 4,072 1,543,493
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LESS ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	61,473 40,730 20,743	56,227 34,517 21,710
TOTAL ASSETS	1,279,765	1,565,203
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
SUNDRY CREDITORS TRADE CREDITORS ACCRUED EXPENSES ANZ CREDIT CARD UNEXPENDED GRANT INCOME PREPAID STUDY TOUR DEPOSITS PREPAID PROFESSIONAL LEARNING INCOME PREPAID VIDEO INCOME PREPAID CONFERENCE INCOME PAYG & SUPERANNUATION PAYABLE PROVISION FOR LONG SERVICE LEAVE PROVISION FOR ANNUAL LEAVE GST PAYABLE	4,475 7,470 1,435 27,755 4,415 41,187 6,467 6,431 10,494 13,437 17,851 10,421	959 1,759 1,982 31,000 257,775 33,095 4,466 - 8,355 12,864 12,808 8,768 373,831
TOTAL LIABILITIES	151,838	373,831
NET ASSETS	1,127,927	1,191,372
EQUITY RETAINED EARNINGS TOTAL EQUITY	1,127,927 1,127,927	1,191,372 1,191,372

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

RETAINED EARNINGS

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Opening Balance	1,191,372	1,079,038
Profit/Loss for the year	(63,445)	(112,334)
Closing Balance at 31 December	1,127,927	1,191,372

REGGIO EMILIA AUSTRALIA INFORMATION EXCHANGE INC. A.B.N. 73 879 960 566 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Income from Operating Activities		
Services rendered	314,310	1,369,453
Grants & Donations	-	31,000
Sales	25,802	43,778
Other income	6,167	3,283
Jobkeeper, Cash Flow Boost & Vic Government	105,308	-
	451,587	1,447,514
Payments from Operating Activites		
For and on behalf of employees	228,463	260,453
Administration and Office	108,393	152,485
Membership	42,008	52,781
Purchases	21,219	40,169
Program Expenses & Refunds	325,322	439,961
Network Expenses	6,852	23,558
Advertising	1,633	4,844
Conference Expenses	-	286,990
	733,890	1,261,241
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	(282,303)	186,273
Income from Investment Activities		
Office Equipment	(5,246)	(2,231)
Interest Received	3,170	6,186
Net Cash Flow from Investment Activities	(2,076)	3,955
Total Cash Flow for Year	(284,379)	190,228
Cash at Beginning of Year	1,390,832	1,200,604
Cash at End of Year	1,106,453	1,390,832
oasii at Liiu oi Teai	1,100,433	1,000,002
Represented by:	07.100	
ANZ Cash at Bank	37,426	203,748
ANZ Online Saver	782,978	822,202
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	13,458	13,272
ANZ Bank Term Deposit	242,675	240,689
Bendigo Bank Cash at Bank	22,895	87,420
Paypal Account	6,713	23,179
Petty Cash	308	322
	1,106,453	1,390,832

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020

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 Accounting Standards [AASB]

AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 107	Statements of Cash Flows
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 1048	Interpretations of Standards
AASB 1053	Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards
AASB 1054	Australian Additional Disclosures
AASB 1057	Application of Australian Accounting Standards

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.

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 Emila 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 2020.

Signed: Ruth Walkindge

Dated: 12th April 2021

Signed:

Dated: 12th April 2021

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 2020. 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 2020 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

BRUCE T HYDON

Chartered Accountant

Level 1/267A Glenferrie Road

Malvern, Victoria, 3144

11th March 2021



Reggio Emilia Australia INFORMATION EXCHANGE www.reggioaustralia.org.au

REAIE would like to thank everyone who helped co-construct this annual report.