

REAIE Inner West Sydney

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 26th May

Hosts

Leichhardt Family Day Care

Grateful thanks to our hosts for their hospitality. We were so excited to be back together in another face to face meeting 😊

Present

Deb Garrett, Rosie Pupo, Karen Dresser

Boyd	Kath	Reddam ELS Lindfield
Cordukes	Natalie	Paddington Children's Centre
Cullen	Emma	Banyan Park Early Learning Centre
Elderton	Melanie	E&D Annandale
Garrett	Su	E&D Annandale
Kobayashi	Miho	Inner West Council
Lorenzotti	Silvia	Teacher
McMahon	Kathryn	PLC Preschool
O'Brien	Megan	N/A
Olding	Alison	-
Robinson	Rowena	Manly vale elc
Smith	Helen	Uniting
Stevens	Ngaire	Stanmore Kindergarten
West	Paula	The Northern Nursery School
Xie	Mengnan	OAC Leichhardt

Apologies

Kylie, Alicia and Courtney from Abbotsford LDC, Bec, Xanthe and the team from E&D Leichhardt, Alison Olding

Minutes

Acknowledgement of Country

Led by Rosie

Membership

- Welcome to new members from PLC, Paddington Children's Centre and Stanmore Kindergarten 😊
- Please reach out if you'd like to join our closed Facebook group

Convenors Update and Professional Development Opportunities and Conferences

- Asia Pacific Study Tour – highly recommended opportunity, closing soon
- REAIE Research Symposium – a wonderful way of sharing current research. A number of Inner West group members will be attending, and Nat will be presenting work from Paddington CC.
- Webinars – a multitude available to purchase online, and more coming.
- ReSearch Conversations – 15th June: 5.30pm
- Follow REAIE's Facebook page to stay in the loop

Reggio Research Project – Deb

Deb talked through the inspiring research project she recently completed under the guidance of Margo Hobba and Chris Celeda. It was a 7 week program which used digital technologies as a vehicle for a deep exploration of the 100 Languages. The participants began by selecting a leaf, which they were then asked to draw, and use as the inspiration for a sculpture or structure. Photos were used to share their work. The process of research was a very successful one, and it provided excellent insight into working with children and the leap of faith that we often have to take. We need to be uncomfortable to make new discoveries and grow.

Deb reflected - Was the project really about the leaf? What else came out of it? Social connections, feeling uncomfortable and the growth that goes along with that, encounters with materials and people. A very exciting and worthwhile process!

AGM Inspiration – Silvia

Silvia unpacked some thinking which struck her during the AGM around leadership, transformations and liminal time.

We spoke about how city centres are still reclaiming their identity after Covid, needing to be adaptable and move with new ways of thinking and doing. Some questions to reflect on - Where are we going? What is going to happen?

General Discussion

- We highlighted our respect for FDC educators and the multiskilled nature of their roles.
- We spoke about educators as advocates, and how as reflective practitioners we need to ask questions – about our work, about structures and systems, and the regulations.
- Democracy and leadership – what does that mean for us as individuals and us as a collective?
- History of Reggio Emilia – richness of vision
- Image of child - how does that impact on everything you do? From the heart – once the image of the child is embedded in your thinking, it is ingrained in your decision making.
- Rosie recommended a book - Humanocracy by Gary Hamel
- What's in a name? Reggio Emilia – marketing and challenges of being misunderstood in the community – claims of “doing Reggio” are misguided.
- We discussed the importance of banding together under the umbrella of education, rather than making divisive splits between private and not for profit, LDC and Preschool centres.

Member Sharing

Nat –

Shared work with Uncle Jimmy and Red Ruby Scarlet – mapping of their cultural walk, using robotics – digital technologies with a cultural lens, which led to a musical bonanza, with the children writing a song about their connection to country – a Gadigal Song Line. This work will be shared at the Research Symposium.

Mel –

Focus has been on social justice and anti bias. They have been working with Red Ruby Scarlet as well. They have created a framework – the how-ing? Unpacking the how.

Kathryn -

Beginning their journey with REAIE

Establishing a collaborative approach to A&R at their new centre, which has brought together their team

Ngairé –

Building their philosophy, and getting to know the new children through their families and culture, has led to a project centred on the human body

Karen –

Michelle and Marion have continued their work in connecting documentation to their community

Participated in the MCA educator's program – highly recommended!

Mengnan –

Explained OAC program 'offerings'

Next Meeting:

Thursday 19th August, 6pm-8pm

Host: Stanmore Kindergarten – 1 Lincoln Street (enter via Salisbury Road)

Enjoy the eclipse of the moon tonight!

