



Reggio Emilia Australia  
INFORMATION EXCHANGE

[www.reggioaustralia.org.au](http://www.reggioaustralia.org.au)



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





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# WELCOME

Welcome to the 2023 Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange (REAIE) Annual Report.

This annual report shares REAIE's mission, values and purpose, highlights accomplishments over the past 12 months, and includes finance and auditor reports.

The work of REAIE is a collaboration between members, Networks, Network Convenors, the Operations Team and Committee, who are committed to supporting the professional learning and growth of all involved in working with and for children, families and communities, in relation to and informed by the educational project of Reggio Emilia.

This report offers an insight and overview into the work that REAIE undertakes on behalf of its membership.

## Acknowledgement

The Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange (REAIE) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and pays respect to Elders past and present.

REAIE acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples connection to Country and celebrates their continuing education and care of children and community.





# PURPOSE STATEMENT, MISSION AND VALUES

## Purpose Statement

‘Reimagining  
children’s  
education for  
a just society’.

## Mission

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

## Values

- When making decisions and advocating for the work of the organisation Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange staff and Committee pledge to:
  - Honour Children.
  - Act with Respect and Integrity.
  - Be Democratic and Ethical.
  - Support Learning, Teaching and Research.

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









# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



Kate Mount  
*Chair*

On behalf of the REAIE Committee I would like to share and celebrate the accomplishments of REAIE, over the past year.

It has been an honour to fulfil the role of Chairperson, alongside fellow Executive Members, Kirsty Liljegren, Leanne Mits and Cara Mearns, and Committee Members Ruth Wallbridge, Ruth Weinstein, Anna Munari, Professional Learning Convenor, Fiona Zinn, and International Liaison Representative, Heather Conroy. This hard-working group of volunteers dedicate many hours to progress REAIE's work and purpose. I thank departing Committee Member, Sonia van Hout, and express our gratitude for Sonia's valuable contributions and dedication during her time as a Committee Member.

I thank REAIE's Operations Team, led by Executive Officer Caterina Cassar, for their endless support. The commitment and hard work throughout the organisation have been pivotal to REAIE's successes and future direction.

I also acknowledge the hard work and advocacy role that Network Convenors generously play to support a wide range of aspects related to organising and nurturing Network Groups around Australia.

2023 became a year of opportunity as REAIE relaunched its work and events, both online and in person. There is a strong interest for the return to face-to-face events, balanced with online offerings. This mix has included Committee and Network meetings, as well as professional learning opportunities including workshops, REAIE's well known, successful biennial Conference. The 2023 national Conference,





'Landscapes of Curiosity and Creativity' was sold out, and a strong interest in REAIE's International Study Groups, travelling to Reggio Emilia, resulted in a second Study Group being organised for 2023. There is no doubt that participants had greatly missed these opportunities in 2021 and 2022 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Welcoming so many members and new members created such optimism.

REAIE's role, responsibilities and opportunities continue to be significant, both within the Australian context, and beyond. REAIE continues to be the sole reference organisation, representing Reggio Children in Australia. Aligned with this is the long standing membership REAIE has as an active member of the Reggio Children International Network. This unique and reciprocal relationship supports both the Preschools and Infant-Toddler Centres in Reggio Emilia and REAIE. We are honoured to work closely with Reggio Children and highly value our long-standing relationships that continues to be paramount to honouring REAIE's purpose and mission.

During 2023, REAIE prioritised operational and governance procedures, enabling the development of a varied and interesting 2024 Professional Learning Calendar and a massive renewal process of the organisation's constitution and associated policies and procedures. Additionally, Committee Task Groups were restructured to include a closer focus on professional learning and partnerships and engagement with stakeholders. Working collaboratively, REAIE is further progressing governance and procedural rigor and efficiency, to expand previous and future opportunities with and for REAIE members.

Honouring REAIE's history, including those who worked hard to pave the way for REAIE is continually recognised and has been integral to the pathways of the 2023 Committee. We were so proud to appoint Jan Millikan, OAM and REAIE founder, as REAIE Patron. This reflects Jan's ongoing mentorship, guidance and participation. We delight in meeting with Jan, to continually learn and reflect on REAIE's history and relationship with Reggio Children, to support us in responding to today's changing world.

It is our mission to be proactive in expanding partnerships, to have a greater reach and impact across the membership, Networks and with those not yet members. We are working hard to provide members with the best possible opportunities for learning together, to inform their educational practices with children, families and communities. We are intentional to ensure that children's rights are central in decision-making processes and professional learning offerings. Fostering innovative, progressive practices that honour our shared image of the child, as capable, curious and competent is pivotal in all that we do. Through collaboration we think and act creatively and earnestly, to realise possibilities and potentialities for education in these complex times.

As we conclude another year we acknowledge and honour that each one of us holds a responsibility to uphold REAIE's mission, values and purpose. I encourage a mindset that extends beyond our personal thoughts; one that extends to focusing on contributing to the collective progress of childhood in our world.

With thanks for your ongoing support.







# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



Caterina Cassar  
*Executive Officer*

2023 was a year of great achievement; noting, it was the first year rebuilding the organisation from significant COVID-19 disruption. This included building the part-time Operations Team from three to six employees/contractors and recently, recrafting existing key roles and expanding our recruitment drive.

The pandemic experience highlighted the importance of connection; time spent in the office with colleagues is thoroughly enjoyed due to the richness of discussion and collaboration. Our valued members are firmly at the heart of this dialogue.

With the easing of pandemic restrictions, particularly in Victoria, we were thrilled to offer in person professional learning once again, both in a public and private capacity. Despite facing uncertainty regarding the climate for face-to-face professional learning, given this is REAIE's core business, it was critical to reset and gather momentum as the year progressed. REAIE's signature Biennial Conference exceeded expectations in terms of participant numbers and revenue and is one of the primary reasons for REAIE's favourable financial result this year. This favourable result assists REAIE in the recovery of the financial losses experienced throughout COVID-19 as well as supporting the ongoing operational expenses of the



organisation in 2024, our non-Conference year. I'd like to extend my thanks to everyone who contributed to the 2023 Conference being a great success and we cannot wait to welcome you for our next Conference in Adelaide, 2025.

2023 saw the early childhood sector experience the important revision of the Early Years Learning Framework (V2.0, 2022) which enhances and promotes high quality education and care. REAIE offered the 'Intersections Workshop' across multiple states to provide participants interested in exploring the intersections between the principles of the Reggio Emilia and the EYLF through examples of current practice. These events encountered solid participant registrations, such that high demand required this workshop to be reoffered in 2024.

Another key milestone for REAIE in 2023, as part of our Strategic Planning and Professional Learning group days, saw the organisation come together to revise and enhance our Strategic Plan. Significant improvements to governance processes were implemented, including reporting mechanisms that improved efficiency and clarity. A fundamental pillar within the Strategic Plan now entails Stakeholder Engagement and REAIE made substantial progress to renew and establish partnerships within the early childhood education sector. This critical focus on





partnerships will continue throughout 2024 and particularly in the lead up to the Adelaide Conference in 2025 and more broadly through our public and private professional learning opportunities.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the Operations Team for their unwavering dedication and commitment to ensure the successful delivery of the organisation's operational function. Often, it is a full-time workload squeezed into a part-time capacity and therefore, the effort and accomplishment is hugely appreciated.

I also extend significant gratitude to Debbie Nicholas (REAIE Life Member) who has carried the position of Editor for REAIE's the Challenge Journal publication for a significant period. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Debbie and a rewarding experience to see each publication come to life.

Further to this, it is with gratitude that I acknowledge the ongoing commitment from all volunteers who support REAIE, including Network Convenors and Committee Members. Particularly, I wish to extend my thanks to you, our valued members, for your continued support throughout the year – together we work to realise our Purpose: reimagining children's education for a just society.

# FINANCE REPORT

REAIE values and thanks the membership for their continued support of the organisation throughout 2023. REAIE remains committed to providing members with the best possible outcomes and opportunities.

In 2023, REAIE was pleased to resume the delivery of its face-to-face professional learning programs post COVID-19. With the easing of both local and international restrictions, REAIE planned and delivered various successful initiatives. The return of this essential component of the business has contributed to the operating surplus for 2023 of \$261,191. This surplus will assist REAIE in the recovery of operating deficits experienced during COVID-19; including, the ability to reinvent programs, future offerings and contributing towards the organisation's operational expenses for 2024 in a non-conference year.

REAIE's 2023 Conference, Landscapes of Curiosity and Creativity: in dialogue with the 100 languages, was held in Melbourne. and successfully hosted more than 800 participants. Alongside the 2023 Conference, REAIE developed bespoke private professional learning opportunities, delivered a suite of existing workshops as well as launching new initiatives throughout Australia. REAIE also participated once again in the School Readiness Funding Victoria and Kindy Uplift Queensland programs, in addition to taking two international Study Groups to Reggio Emilia in April and November of 2023.

REAIE's commitment to good governance ensures that REAIE continues its review of both the annual and individual project budgets, as well as analysing actual results and expenditure line items to ensure the long-term financial viability of REAIE.

Cara Mearns  
*Treasurer*

Michelle Tenace  
*Finance Officer*



## REAIE COMMITTEE



Kate Mount  
*Chair*

Being an active Committee member for REAIE is both an honour and a responsibility. I have witnessed the evolution of the Committee over the past 8 years as new members join and others depart. The common ingredient is passion for the organisation and its purpose. As current Chairperson, I bring a desire to grow the organisation, ensuring we honour our national lens, connecting our diverse country through networks and professional learning. It is exciting to be part of this journey, progressing REAIE side by side with our members, ensuring we prioritise our advocacy to make a difference in the lives of all children. My deepest respect goes to those who have paved the way before us.



Kirsty Liljegren  
*Vice-Chair*

Working alongside a group of committed volunteers and the Operations Team continues to be a huge honour. I felt an enormous sense of responsibility stepping into the role of Vice-Chair, and I was grateful to learn from the incredible experience we have around the table. Co-convening the Biennial Conference with Heather Conroy, in collaboration with the Conference Project Group and Reggio Children, was a momentous event for the organisation. I firmly believe in and am committed to the partnerships and relationships we foster as we strive to uphold our purpose and serve our members on behalf of children, families, and education professionals.





Leanne Mits  
*Secretary*

2023 was a time of change and new potentials for REAIE. I am grateful to have served as Committee Secretary, contributing towards the valuable work of REAIE. During 2023 I co-led the organisation's Constitution review process, supported Network Convenors and the work of Executive, in relation to governance, staffing and financial responsibilities. I am deeply committed to the work of REAIE particularly professional learning and Network Group encounters that support educator's thinking and practices with children, families and communities. I look forward with optimism to REAIE's future endeavours.



Cara Mearns  
*Treasurer*

I have been a member of the REAIE Committee for 10 years and it was an honour to continue my contribution in 2023 as Treasurer, and a member of the REAIE Executive. My background in education, law and compliance saw me contribute across many key areas of the organisation including governance, strategic planning, staffing, finance and budgets. Additional areas of contribution include the review of the REAIE Constitution and co-editing The Challenge Journal. I am grateful to be part of such an inspiring organisation and to work alongside so many dedicated individuals. I look forward to contributing in 2024 as REAIE continues to grow and evolve.



## REAIE COMMITTEE *continued*



Heather Conroy  
*International Liaison Representative*

2023 was a huge year for REAIE with our first face to face Conference since the pandemic. I was privileged as Co-Convenor, to work in close collaboration with Reggio Children to define the Conference program. In my current role as International Liaison Representative, I am responsible for exploring ongoing avenues of collaboration, including negotiations for speaker participation (online and face to face). I am committed to REAIE's optimistic future as we further strengthen the positive relationships we share with Reggio Children and other International Networks, standing together in solidarity to advocate for the defence and advancement of children's rights.



Fiona Zinn  
*Professional Learning Convenor*

Since joining the REAIE Committee in 2004, I've enjoyed embracing many wonderful challenges and opportunities. In 2023, our work expanded in exciting new directions. Charting our path out of the pandemic, we focused on redefining our identity and listening to our members, as well as revamping our Professional Learning strategies. Following a successful 2023 REAIE biennial Conference, the Committee spent the latter half of 2023 enhancing our professional learning materials and refining our Professional Learning task group structure. This organisational refresh promises a pathway of innovative collaboration and growth ahead. As we step into 2024, I eagerly anticipate relaunching some of our popular professional learning initiatives and embarking on new professional learning adventures with the membership as we work together to chart a bold new course for Professional Learning and for REAIE's future.





Ruth Wallbridge

In 2023 I have been an active member of the Committee, attending and being involved in monthly Committee meetings to ensure we are truly representing the membership. I have a strong commitment to the work of the organisation in supporting members to authentically embed the principles and values of the Reggio Emilia Approach® in their own Australian context. In 2023 I completed the three year Teacher Educator training offered by Reggio Children. I was an active member of the 2023 Conference and Research Symposium Task Groups. I was honoured to lead the November Study Group to Reggio Emilia with Sonia Van Hout. I take very seriously the responsibilities of representing the membership and will always endeavour to be respectful and considerate of the wide cross section of the educational landscape that is the REAIE membership.



Ruth Weinstein

I have been an REAIE Committee member since 2015 with over 48 years' teaching experience. I was a founding member of the NSW REAIE Eastern Suburbs Network group and have attended eight Study Groups to Reggio Emilia. I have been privileged to have been a Study Group Leader on five occasions to Reggio Emilia and one to New Zealand. I am a member of the Conference Committee enabling me to encourage and support educators in their growing interest in the Reggio Emilia philosophy and working for the right of all children to have access to quality education.



Anna Munari

I have been an Early Childhood Teacher for my entire teaching career of over 40 years, and now I am able to share my knowledge and experience in the Tertiary sector in preparing the next generation of teachers. I have had the privilege of being on two Study Groups and been to all Conferences since 2006. I am actively involved with Professional Learning, Constitution review, and Conference and Symposium task groups. I have been a Member of REAIE since 2006, and I have been on the REAIE Committee since 2020, to promote and defend the rights of children.



# 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY

## Professional Learning

2023 was a busy and productive year for REAIE Professional Learning. Heeding the call from the membership, REAIE returned to hosting some events in-person, the first year of face-to-face Professional Learning opportunities since the pandemic. This return to on-site events along with other important analysis and restructuring, re-established REAIE's commitment to the purpose and the foundation of REAIE.

Ten in-person Professional Learning workshops across various locations throughout Australia were offered during the year and were enjoyed by members and non-members across various locations. In July 2023, REAIE successfully held the biennial REAIE Conference – the first signature event in the post COVID-19 era. The Conference unfolded with energy and enthusiasm, as REAIE hosted Tiziana Filippini and Filippo Chieli from Reggio Emilia, providing a wonderful opportunity to re-connect with Reggio Children, strengthen Australian partnerships and reinvigorate connections, with delegates from all states attending. Over 800 delegates attended the Conference, well above the conservative post-pandemic expectations. Following on from this event, REAIE held its first multi-state event since the pandemic: Landscapes of Context and Connection. The success of this one-day event, held in different states, will continue into 2024 and is reimaged as the Intersections Workshop Series, to be held in five different cities around Australia.

REAIE was also thrilled to be able to offer two Study Groups to Italy, in April and November. The April Study Group was the first time REAIE has returned to Reggio Emilia since the pandemic and accordingly, resulted in the event selling out within the first three days of advertising. 120 participants travelled to Reggio Emilia across the two week-long Study Groups – REAIE is grateful to its experienced and knowledgeable Study Group Leaders for ensuring an inclusive and personalised experience.

In addition to the in-person workshops held throughout the year, REAIE's suite of webinars continued to draw interest, with sales increasing by 33%. The most popular webinars being An Encounter with Languages and RAP and the Principles of Reggio Emilia.

## Private Professional Learning

Private Professional Learning can be sought by individuals, groups or organisations should they wish for bespoke professional learning and ongoing mentoring opportunities. Demand for Private Professional Learning was strong with approximately 35 quotes requested and at least 25 executed agreements, contributing to REAIE's income stream.

## Professional Learning Organisational Structure

In mid-2023, the REAIE Committee spent considerable time reflecting on the process and structures that support the organisation's pedagogical framework for Professional Learning. Building on from the great work undertaken by Kate Mount (Professional Learning Convenor April 2022 - May 2023) and the Professional Learning Project Group, the existing Professional Learning strands were refined and mapped against the collection of workshops, webinars and events that had been planned. The REAIE Committee spent time re-designing the Professional Learning Project Group and in August 2023, launched a new structure through the implementation of five Task Groups, charged with the responsibility of planning the pedagogical elements of Professional Learning and collaborating with the Operational Team in the REAIE Office. The five Task Groups consist of Committee and Operations Team Members; they are organised around five key functions of REAIE Professional Learning:

- Events and Scheduling
- Content Development and Delivery
- Symposium
- Exhibition
- Conference

We look forward to growing the Professional Learning Calendar, the partnerships with Reggio Children and other organisations to enhance the suite of learning opportunities we can offer to the REAIE membership in 2024 and beyond.





## Operations

In 2023, the REAIE Office Team, (REAIE's paid employees), re-branded as the REAIE Operations Team. Alongside this, REAIE employees have now increased from three to six employees/sub-contractors. This growth in the Operations Team increases capacity to meet the demands of the growing organisation, recognising that, like many organisations REAIE is still feeling the impacts of the pandemic influence on labour and the organisational workflow dynamic.

Despite these impacts, REAIE is pleased to report that memberships have not reduced, indicating a strong appetite for the ideas of Reggio Emilia and the work that REAIE does to translate these into Professional Learning in the Australian context. REAIE's membership (at approximately 750 members) has stabilised (comparing November 2023 to November 2022) with a natural cycle of fluctuation throughout the 2023 year.

With the Committee's focus on refreshing the organisational structures, the Operations Team ensured that rigorous reporting was provided to the Executive and Committee, with a redevelopment of reports at the end of 2023. Throughout the year, much of the operational work entailed responding to a wide range of enquiries received from the membership and general public to ensure that all requests were received, considered and answered in a timely manner.

## Marketing/Communications/Partnerships

The REAIE Challenge Journal continues to be a strong benefit to the membership. In 2023, REAIE collated, edited and published three editions, all of which have received strong feedback and indication that this publication carries resonance and significance for members, especially in the post-pandemic context.

REAIE Network Groups across Australia have continued to be a pivotal strategy in the organisation's success; almost 600 members and non-members attended various network meetings held throughout Australia during 2023. The Network Groups continue to grow and expand with opportunities for new Networks emerging in Canberra, Gold Coast, Bunbury and the Northern Territory.

REAIE's correspondence with the Membership via the quarterly REAIE Member e-newsletter also continued to ensure that members around the country stayed

informed about upcoming Professional Learning opportunities, developments in Reggio Emilia, Italy, and a number of special projects that REAIE has in progress. To support this, the communications channels were strong in the social media realm, with social media posts gaining significant traction over the year. REAIE's output on social media platforms increased significantly, with 270+ posts on Instagram and Facebook, 100+ Instagram story posts during the April Study Group Week and 100+ Instagram story posts during the Melbourne Conference. Email remains the most used communication strategy for the organisation, with 73,000+ emails sent via email marketing platform Mailchimp to members and non-members through the year. This included 87 email campaigns to members, including eNewsletters, Network meeting notifications and event promotions. Tracking how email lands with recipients has provided another opportunity for feedback. REAIE is pleased to report 49% open rate of emails (which is above the Mailchimp benchmark of 42%). Further to this, another 152 email campaigns were sent to promote events to non-members; these emails achieved an open rate of 54%.

Finally, from the first year of sales of its publication *Wishes for Children*, REAIE committed all profit (\$1500) to Children's Ground; a very worthy First Nations charity that empowers change within communities entrenched by inequity and disadvantage. Designed with First Nations people, Children's Ground builds on the ability, strength and culture of communities while responding to trauma and creating opportunities. REAIE thanks Children's Ground for their ongoing work with children, families and communities and is pleased to be able to donate to this organisation.

As REAIE stands on the threshold of the 2024 Annual General Meeting, the opportunity to reflect on the year passed has provided an important moment in time to check progress, engage the membership and look boldly towards the future. REAIE's goals for 2024 have been strongly informed by the progress achieved in 2023: and include increasing membership numbers, the recruitment for more Professional Learning Facilitators, increasing face-to-face Professional Learning offerings, strengthening the suite of on-demand webinars and digitally accessed materials, and refining organisational structures and processes towards the next chapter of REAIE.

As always, REAIE encourages member feedback through open channels of communication. Please do not hesitate to contact REAIE if you have any questions.



# INTERNATIONAL LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT



Heather Conroy  
*International Liaison Representative*

The role of International Liaison Representative exists to create a communication bridge, ensuring that both Reggio Children and REAIE, grow in understanding of each other's perspectives and aspirations. As such, the positive relationship that develops greatly assists both parties to work effectively in close collaboration. I have

been elected to the Liaison role (2020-2023), and believe that trust and mutual respect based on continuity of the role, has supported the evolution of strong, positive and trusting working relationships between our two organisations.

Solidarity grows out of collaboration and the evolution of a shared vision. Building dynamic and supportive relationships with other International Networks in the region has been a joyous achievement and I am extremely proud to have facilitated negotiations between our Network neighbours as we enact our shared vision of regional collaboration.

The Liaison role is also responsible for negotiating for speakers with Reggio Children and for co-constructing, with Reggio Children, the Conference program. Defining the program together requires sensitivity...to listen with an open mind to the thoughts and ideas of the speakers and to support their participation in ways in which they feel comfortable. It was a joy to have played a part in bringing Reggio Colleagues to share with our Australian Reggio community at the 2023 Conference.







# NETWORK REPORTS

REAIE Networks are groups of REAIE members organised by geographical location and/or special interests who meet to actively promote REAIE initiatives and explore the principles of Reggio Emilia, in a group context.

As a member benefit, Network meetings:

- are free for REAIE members, including organisational memberships
- welcome guests for a first meeting and encourage REAIE memberships
- thereafter ensure a sense of professional purpose and collegiality.

Networks are organised and run by Network Convenors. REAIE sincerely thanks all Convenors for their generosity of their volunteer time and energy, and their dedication to this role. We particularly welcome new Convenors who have shown enthusiasm to either reestablish historical networks or in establishing new networks.

REAIE is proud to share these reflections from some of REAIE's Networks for the 2023 year.

## Adelaide Network

(Adelaide, South Australia)

About the Network Convenor: Holly Baulderstone.

Holly is a passionate, creative, and thoughtful Early Childhood educator. As an educator, Holly loves exploring the languages of animation, clay, dance, and drawing as a way to create democratic spaces. Holly convenes the Adelaide REAIE Network Group and thrives on the dialogue and collaborative opportunities that this opens up for herself and colleagues.

### Network Report

Creativity and curiosity were at the heart of our thinking in 2023. We started the year with a panel of some of South Australia's leading creatives to nourish our thinking about creativity. We sought the expertise and perspectives of 'interdisciplinary' others to explore definitions, examples of practice, poetic languages, and challenge some of our current understandings about creativity. Dave Brown of The PaperBoats, Geoff Cobain of Patch Theatre, Stephen Noonan - performance artist, Caterina Pennestri - Atelierista at St Peter's Girls, Anne-Marie Shin of the University of South Australia.

From these conversations the notion of limiting the palate sparked our curiosity and we used the remaining meetings of the year to explore this idea. Caterina Pennestri curated fire, water, air, wood, and earth within boxes of materials for us to explore. In the first meeting, generously hosted by The Hills Christian Community School (amongst a severe weather warning in the Adelaide Hills!) we were awed by the beauty of intentionality in Caterina's boxes. We dived into the boxes with enthusiasm and joy. It took time to move beyond this to use the materials as 'languages'. In the next meeting, at St Peter's College, we reintroduced the same boxes and required colleagues to participate by designing ways that they would implement the idea of limited palettes in their settings.

## Ballarat Network

(Ballarat, Victoria)

About the Network Convenor: Koren Naylor.

Koren is an educator and leader with more than 25 years' experience in ECEC services in both Melbourne and Ballarat. She holds a Bachelor of Applied Science specialising in Disability Studies, a Graduate Diploma in Education, and a Master of Education (Leadership and Management). Since 2024, Koren has served as the Director of the Centre for Early Education (CEEEd) at



Ballarat



# NETWORK REPORTS *continued*

Ballarat Grammar and took on the role of Network Convenor for the Ballarat REAIE Network and Discussion Group in 2020.

## Network Report

Throughout 2023, the Ballarat REAIE Network and Discussion Group convened four times, with notable engagement at the Term Two and Term Four gatherings hosted at SMB Children's Centre and the Centre for Early Education (CEEd). These sessions delved into the principles of the Reggio Emilia Educational Project, reflections on the REAIE Biennial Conference, and the exchange of professional research and practice insights.

The final meeting of the year attracted educators from Melbourne and Geelong, as well as the local area, fostering collaborative opportunities and sparking enthusiasm for future involvement.

Recognising the value of showcasing varied learning environments and exemplary practices, future planning will incorporate hosting meetings at different services and involve input from educators locally and further afield. Hence, the first gathering of 2024 will unfold at Bakery Hill Kindergarten in Central Ballarat, with REAIE Committee Member, Heather Conroy, sharing her thinking and wonderings.

This strategic shift aims to provide attendees with firsthand exposure to different educational settings and ways of thinking, fostering meaningful discussions and enriching professional development opportunities.

## Canberra Network

(Canberra, Australian Capital Territory)

About the Network Convenors: Sophia Williams & Damien Montesin.

Sophia Williams: Sophia is keen to build on her experience and networking from her recent Study Group visit to Reggio Emilia. As a principal of a local school, Sophia has extensive experience in facilitating groups. She also brings with her over 20 years of experience working with the ideas of Reggio Emilia.

Damien Montesin: Damien is keen to re-engage the Canberra Network and its members. He sees it as an important way for members to connect as well as for professional development. It is a great opportunity to support each other through professional thinking and practices. Damien's experience has included being Chair of the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, supporting pre-service teachers in their professional

development during school placements, Student Senator of ACU and Chair of ACUNSA.

## Network Report

Following a Study Group to Reggio Emilia in April, Damien Montesin from Radford College and Sophia Williams from Blue Gum Community School embarked on a mission to revive the once vibrant, but recently dormant, Canberra/ACT Reggio Network. The timing couldn't have been better, as our first meeting in the hectic end of Term 4 drew an overwhelming response with over 40 participants!

To kick start our rejuvenated network, we initiated rich discussions exploring the current understandings, curiosities, discomforts, and skill sets of our diverse group. The energy and enthusiasm in the room were palpable as we laid the groundwork for engaging in robust conversations throughout 2024.

As we look ahead, we're filled with excitement about the possibilities that lie before us. With such a dynamic and skilled group of educators committed to the Reggio Emilia Approach®, we anticipate a year filled with growth, collaboration, and meaningful exchanges that will enrich our practices and deepen our understanding of early childhood education.

## Brisbane Network

(Brisbane, Queensland)

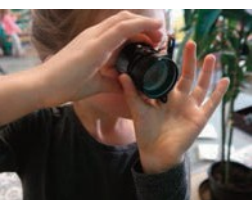
About the Network Convenors: Letitia Harvey & Joy Pohlner.

Letitia Harvey is a teacher, learner, and Co-Convenor of the Brisbane Network for the past 5 years. Working with young children for 30 years in kindergarten and childcare, she looks towards working with colleagues, children, and families in the co-construction of an inclusive and contributing community of visible learners. Joy Pohlner is a primary educator for 40 years and has commenced helping Letitia who has done a phenomenal job convening the Brisbane Network.

## Network Report

2023 saw us revisit making connections with our network as we move out of the virtual world of COVID-19. Finding platforms and times to connect continue to be a driving goal into 2024 so that conversations, research, and the culture of sharing remains a priority.

2023 offered opportunities accessing strengths from within our network coupled in with sharing "where we



Canberra





have been and where we can go". Conversations of being challenged and getting comfortable with being uncomfortable. Exploration and discussion of Networking formats and venues and how best to meet needs with maximum benefit.

2023 saw varied events of:

- Sharing learning, environment, and pedagogical styles in June.
- Collaborative reflection of the REAIE Conference in August.
- And an Up late Friday night Gallery Exhibition of children's works in October.

Thank you to those educators and organisation's for offering your spaces, time, and learning.

We look toward others sharing their journeys in 2024 and seek out pathways of how, where and when these journeys can be shared. 2023 and already into 2024 sees greater access to professional learning from REAIE in Brisbane and these events have been well attended and received.

### Eastern Suburbs Reggio Network (Sydney, New South Wales)

About the Network Convenor: Nicole Johnson.

Nicole has been involved with REAIE for over 12 years, with 5 years as Co-Convenor and now Convenor for the past 3 years of the Eastern Suburbs Reggio Network. A highlight has been helping with the hosting and organising of the Sydney REAIE Conference and involving all members in the creation of clay figurines of local children showcasing their identities as a gift for all the delegates. Nicole is assisted in the role by Samantha Mott who performs the administration.

#### Network Report

2023 saw us meet three times which was amazing to be able to connect with and build our numbers and have regular gatherings. We met at two centres and both were happy to open their settings and share their interpretations, passions and research with members.

The first meeting's focus was Atelier Spaces as Contexts for Learning. We were able to share some practical ideas around the creation of and use of what is termed an atelier within a learning environment. The meeting was enthusiastically received for both the discussion and the practical element that could be taken away.

Our second meeting of the year saw people attend Scot's College for professional development REAIE sharing. Attendees who went on the 2023 Study Group to Reggio Emilia shared some of the highlights and reflections. Delegates from the REAIE 2023 Landscapes of Curiosity and Creativity Conference also shared their key highlights.

The final meeting was called The Hundred Languages of Today and the Future. The group were challenged to think about the idea that when Loris Malaguzzi spoke of the metaphor of The Hundred Languages over 50 years ago, whether he could have imagined the possibilities for expression of ideas and knowledge that exist today and into the future. The 'languages' that children have and will have at hand to share their understandings and unique reflections on the world are possibly very different to how those ideas were shared in the 1960's. Further to this, we looked to the future and pondered the quote around how AI will affect us as early childhood educators in the future.

Overall, 2023 was a successful year with three very well attended meetings and great discussion, debate and challenge.

### Gold Coast Network (Gold Coast, Queensland)

About the Network Convenor: Lauren Weston.

Lauren feels very fortunate to be the new Gold Coast Network Convenor. She attended her first Biennial Conference – Landscapes of Imagination in 2015 and has attended all REAIE Conferences since. Lauren is currently the Head of Junior School at Silkwood School and along with her team, enjoys the challenge of weaving the principles of the Reggio Emilia Approach® into a primary school context. Lauren is looking forward to her first network meeting, where she can form valuable connections with other inspired educators in the early years sector.

REAIE welcomes Lauren to the REAIE family and thanks her for reestablishing the Gold Coast Network!



Eastern Suburbs



# NETWORK REPORTS *continued*

## Melbourne Network

(Melbourne, Victoria)

About the Network Convenors: Sally-Anne Polson, Tonii Tran & Jo Dowling.

**Sally-Anne Polson:** Sally is Educational Leader and teacher at Methodist Ladies' College (MLC Kindie), K-12 independent school, with 20 years' experience and a Master of Education (Early Childhood). The importance of being an advocate for children, families and educators and engaging in professional learning is essential component of her practice, pedagogy and leadership.

**Tonii Tran:** Tonii is the founder and Managing Director of Starfish Early Learning Centre, a group of 5 centres, located in various suburbs in Melbourne. Tonii has a Bachelor of Business and Graduate Diploma in Education. She has operated Starfish for over 15 years and currently oversees the management, pedagogy, practice and professional learning of all these centres. Her greatest joy is seeing the team's potential strengthen and thrive.

**Jo Dowling:** Co-Convenor of the Melbourne Network group, Jo is stepping back from her role in 2024. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jo for her years of organising, hosting and inspiring so many in the network. Her open and engaging presence in the group has enabled many thoughtful conversations and pushed our thinking with the principles of the educational project of Reggio Emilia forward. Thank you Jo!

### Network Report

2023 saw the Melbourne Network group come together in support of the REAIE biannual Conference. We united through a shared inquiry into rivers and the different waterways unique to the participating early learning centres and schools. Ten settings joined to create an installation and corresponding documentation which was displayed at the Conference. In addition, subgroups created flourishes such as clay beading, booklets, postcards and a slideshow at different stages of the Conference. This time together with the Melbourne group and other participants from around Victoria reminded us of the importance of collaboration and the value of dialogue with likeminded people who promote reflective discussion and challenge our thinking.



Perth

While we felt energised in our collaboration, our 2023 meetings continued online. In 2024 we are delighted to return to face-to-face network possibilities. We held our first meeting of 2024 in March where it is our hope to build upon the collaborative nature which energised us in the previous year.

## Peninsula Network

(Mornington Peninsula, Victoria)

Network Convenor: Pat Barbieri.

Pat has been involved and connected with REAIE for over ten years. During this time, she has attended many of REAIE's Conferences. Attending both the New Zealand and Italian intensive Study Groups were experiences that cemented her connections to the Reggio Emilia principles of education. In 2018, the Peninsula Network was relaunched.

### Network Report

2023 has been a year of reconnecting in person for the Peninsula Network Group. Our first meeting for the year saw a strong attendance of over 30 participants. This was a time to belong and to become. This came through the sharing stories, wonderings, and theories by all participants.

The learning environment was celebrated and considered at our initial meetings along with how documentation informs, supports, and facilitates the children's learning. How do we honour children's curiosity and musings? Was another rich discussion point.

In Term 4 there was opportunity to explore and unpack Our Image of Child. Participants shared the image they held of children and Early Childhood Education. We considered how our image of child is aligned with our practices. This final meeting was ended with a wonderful hands-on experience where participants were invited to create an image of child through an array of loose parts.

Each image created was a beautiful unique representation of the phenomenal capable children we are privileged to work with.





## Perth Network

(Perth, Western Australia)

About the Network Convenors: Rebecca Duncan & Suzanne Bushby.

Rebecca Duncan. Rebecca is an early childhood educator, currently working for the Association of Independent Schools of WA as a Consultant. She has Co-Convened the Network since 2021.

Suzanne Bushby. Suzanne is an Early Childhood teacher at Perth College, who has convened the Network from 2019.

### Network Report

In 2023, the Perth Network collectively researched the concepts of 'Connection, Curiosity and Creativity: In Dialogue with the 100 Languages'. We began the year with an inspiring visit to Carmel School, viewing a video conversation shared between Tiziana Filippini and Jan Millikan, 'Deciding upon a project' before unpacking shared theories about the concept of connection and considering personal paths forward with this project.

At Subiaco School of Early Learning (SOEL), we enjoyed an enriching presentation by Marie Martin, who provoked our thinking around ways of sustaining, strengthening and deepening collaborative inquiry with children, followed by a tour of SOEL's phenomenal environments.

Our final meeting at Perth College offered an astonishing presentation by guest speakers, Clare Griffin and Lydia Thompson, who shared their experiences from Palette Children's Atelier, with a focus on learning environments that nurture curiosity and creativity through the Hundred Languages. At the conclusion, Perth College generously offered a tour of their wonderful early learning classrooms. These gatherings attracted over 100 network members and new faces, and offered varied and inspiring opportunities for collegiality, solidarity, and professional learning.

## Reggio in the South West

(Bunbury, Western Australia)

About the Network Convenor: Tiffany Staples. Tiffany is the Principal at Bunbury Baptist College and as an Early

Childhood Education teacher, has embraced the Reggio Emilia Approach® as a way of bringing learning to life across the curriculum in all years of the K-6 Primary school. Her passion for the Reggio Emilia Approach® was taken to the next level following her Reggio Emilia Study Group in 2023.

REAIE welcomes Tiffany to the REAIE family and thanks her for reestablishing the Bunbury Network!

## tasreggio Network Report

(Tasmania)

About the Network Convenor: Kate Newton.

Kate has been an Early Childhood Educator for 30 years and has taken on many different roles in her workplace. She had been on the organising committee of the Tas Research Network Group which has now changed its name to tasreggio.

### Network Report

2023 was initially dominated by the National Conference in Melbourne entitled, "Landscapes of Curiosity and Creativity" and we were excited to hear reflections from the Conference from the many members that attended. We valued Chelsea de Bomford's reflections of the Conference, in particular, Filippo Chieli's project titled "Making music outdoors" that we read in The Challenge.

We wanted to use the theme of the Conference to continue to explore the many ways that Tasmanian educators are using their landscapes to be inspired to be curious and creative throughout the remainder of the year. We explored different ways of reconnecting by having several meetings online as a participating in an open morning at New Horizons, Battery Point to listen to Lou Kirkwood's presentation, A Tapestry of Place which provoked us all to see our local landscapes as a potential for learning. This project captured the many ways children can make their learning visible using digital imaging, photography, clay, paint mixing, collage on country and back at New Horizons. Concepts of ecological identity and sensitivity to place were evident throughout the children's learning and thinking.



# NETWORK REPORTS *continued*

## Thinking Differently Together

(Sydney, New South Wales)

About the Network Convenors: Deb Garrett, Victoria Kirkwood, Paula West & Virginia Aghan.

Deb Garrett: Having encountered the principles of Reggio Emilia in the 1990s, the importance of the environment and documentation resonated with Deb as she is particularly interested in change and life transitions. This comes from a space of understanding how our encounters with children within communities influences philosophy. Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples has built a personal pedagogy that honours trust and relationships. Deb has been a Convenor for the last 6 years.

Victoria Kirkwood: Victoria has more than 20 years of teaching, designing and leading educational experiences for young children and families in Australia and overseas, drawing on the Reggio Emilia educational approach and enabling children to be active citizens. She is a strong advocate for social constructivism, creativity, inclusion, cultural responsiveness and diversity. Victoria has Co-Convened the Thinking Differently Together network group for three years.

Paula West: Paula has over 40 years of experience in early childhood, 20 years as a Network Convenor, and been inspired to go to Reggio Emilia on 3 Study Groups and New Zealand as a Study Group Leader. Her passion lies in transforming people and culture and creating exceptional learning environments for children and adults. Through integrating critical thinking, reflection, and creative expression into the curriculum, children and adults are empowered to explore their ideas, question assumptions, and express themselves authentically through relationships and collaboration.

Virginia Aghan: Virginia has been a Convenor for six plus years, firstly with Research Conversations and since COVID-19, the combined group now called Thinking Differently Together in Sydney. She has a diverse early childhood background, spanning over 40 years and has attended 3 Study Groups to Italy: one general and two intensive, as well as multiple workshops presented by Tiziana Filippini. Virginia has been dancing with 'Reggio' thoughts since the 1990's.

## Network Report

In planning for 2023 and wanting to continue to build our membership we noticed that some of our members, who have not been on the Reggio pathway for long, were feeling some pressure. We had continued to meet at nominated services for gatherings and witnessed some extraordinary research taking place.

In analysing and reflecting on our second year and carefully relaunching our ideas we decided to explore the notion of place and how place influences our philosophies. This took our meetings to venues outside our services including the new wing of the Art Gallery of the New South Wales and our final extraordinary meeting at Barangaroo. We revisited one of our services who have been ongoing members and held a large gathering at the extraordinary Blue Gum Community School run by the inspiring Jill McLachlan.

We noticed perceptual changes to our discussions at these venues and that there was much deeper thinking, closer reflection and many more questions. Our final meeting connected invited guests and long-term friends and colleagues Fran Grant and Maria Pender - extraordinary women who provided our Welcome to Country. Like all meetings that gathering is documented in our minutes which allow us to revisit and reflect and as you can see from the notification of our first meeting this year, we have used the questions raised as the basis for our first gathering in 2024.





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## REAIE Life Members

- Jan Millikan, OAM  
(Medal of the Order of Australia)
- Pam Andrew
- Mary Featherston, AM  
(Member of the Order of Australia)
- Chris Celada
- Margo Hobba
- Debbie Nicholas

## REAIE Honorary Members

- Alma Fleet
- Diane Bourke
- Karen Szydluk
- Julie Hertz
- Karin Morrison
- Janet Robertson
- Judy McKinty
- Avis Ridgway
- Mary Mauger
- Daphne Gaddie
- Robbie Cutts
- Helene Oberman
- Jane Merewether
- Libby Cumming
- Sheryle Yorston

## REAIE Affiliated Members

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



# FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY 2023 TO 31st DECEMBER 2023

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY 2023 TO 31st DECEMBER 2023**





## COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your Committee members submit the financial report of the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange Inc. for the period from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Kate Mount (Chairperson)            | Heather Conroy   |
| Kirsty Liljegren (Vice Chairperson) | Anna Munari  |
| Cara Mearns (Treasurer)             | Margaret Hammersley (resigned 7th February 2023)         |
| Leanne Mits (Secretary)             | Deb Mann (resigned 8th March 2023)                       |
| Ruth Wallbridge                     | Kerrie O'Neill (period of office ending 4th April 2023)  |
| Fiona Zinn                          | Catharine Hydon (period of office ending 4th April 2023) |
| Ruth Weinstein                      | Sonia van Hout (resigned 6th December 2023)              |

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

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

- production and distribution of a journal
- conference
- workshops
- study tours
- membership support
- maintenance of website
- sale of resources
- management of expenditure

### SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The ability to resume the delivery of our face to face professional learning events, Conference and international study tours post the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a favourable operating profit for 2023.

### OPERATING RESULT

The operating profit for the 12 month period amounted to \$261,191.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

Kate Mount

Cara Mearns

Dated this 2nd day of February 2024



## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

|                           | 31-Dec-23 |
|---------------------------|-----------|
|                           | \$        |
| INCOME                    |           |
| Sale of Goods             | 32,775    |
| Interest Received         |           |
| -Banks                    | 10,210    |
| Rendering of Services     | 1,774,911 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue     | 1,327     |
| TOTAL INCOME              | 1,819,223 |
| EXPENSES                  |           |
| Audit Fees                | 2,750     |
| Advertising               | 1,559     |
| Bank Charges              | 13,006    |
| Depreciation              | 3,030     |
| Employee Benefits         | 346,211   |
| Exhibition Expenses       | 7,352     |
| Freight & Cartage         | 1,964     |
| Insurance                 | 5,608     |
| Membership Expenses       | 43,516    |
| Conference Expenses       | 532,888   |
| Study Tour Expenses       | 304,221   |
| Venue Expenses            | 7,044     |
| Other Expenses            | 159,493   |
| Purchases                 | 25,071    |
| Printing & Stationery     | 1,160     |
| Rent                      | 20,488    |
| Workshop Expenses         | 82,671    |
| TOTAL EXPENSES            | 1,558,032 |
| OPERATING DEFICIT/SURPLUS | 261,191   |





# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

|                                      | 2023      |  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| CURRENT ASSETS                       |           |  |
| CASH AT BANK—BENDIGO                 | 30,751    |  |
| CASH AT BANK—ANZ                     | 338,667   |  |
| CASH AT BANK ANZ                     | 769,716   |  |
| TERM DEPOSIT—BENDIGO                 | 14,200    |  |
| TERM DEPOSIT—ANZ                     | 243,877   |  |
| PAYPAL ACCOUNT                       | 23,311    |  |
| PETTY CASH                           | 60        |  |
| PREPAYMENTS                          | 11,370    |  |
| OTHER RECEIVABLES                    | 352       |  |
| GST RECEIVABLE                       | 11,425    |  |
| STOCK ON HAND                        | 47,653    |  |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS                 | 1,491,382 |  |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS                   |           |  |
| OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT       | 63,123    |  |
| LESS ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION        | 52,865    |  |
|                                      | 10,258    |  |
| TOTAL ASSETS                         | 1,501,640 |  |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES                  |           |  |
| SUNDRY CREDITORS                     | —         |  |
| TRADE CREDITORS                      | 1,974     |  |
| ACCRUED EXPENSES                     | 5,723     |  |
| ANZ CREDIT CARD                      | 139       |  |
| PREPAID STUDY TOUR DEPOSITS          | 103,370   |  |
| PREPAID PROFESSIONAL LEARNING INCOME | 12,416    |  |
| PREPAID VIDEO INCOME                 | —         |  |
| PREPAID CONFERENCE INCOME            | —         |  |
| PAYG & SUPERANNUATION PAYABLE        | 16,524    |  |
| PROVISION FOR LONG SERVICE LEAVE     | 15,802    |  |
| PROVISION FOR ANNUAL LEAVE           | 13,852    |  |
| GST PAYABLE                          | 6,713     |  |
|                                      | 176,513   |  |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES                    | 176,513   |  |
| NET ASSETS                           | 1,325,127 |  |
| EQUITY                               |           |  |
| RETAINED EARNINGS                    | 1,325,127 |  |
| TOTAL EQUITY                         | 1,325,127 |  |



## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

### RETAINED EARNINGS

|                                | 2023             | 2022             |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                | \$               | \$               |
| Opening Balance                | 1,063,936        | 1,095,523        |
| Profit/Loss for the year       | 261,191          | (31,587)         |
| Closing Balance at 31 December | <u>1,325,127</u> | <u>1,063,936</u> |





# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

|  | 2023<br>\$       | 2022<br>\$       |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Income from Operating Activities         |                  |                  |
| Program funding                          | 11,000           | 20,500           |
| Services rendered                        | 1,579,695        | 635,925          |
| Sales                                    | 34,568           | 28,093           |
| Other income                             | 4,492            | 3,869            |
|  | <u>1,629,755</u> | <u>688,387</u>   |
| Payments from Operating Activities       |                  |                  |
| For and on behalf of employees           | 391,183          | 146,498          |
| Administration and Office                | 108,132          | 122,597          |
| Membership                               | 60,885           | 47,262           |
| Purchases                                | 25,072           | 14,154           |
| Program Expenses & Refunds               | 937,789          | 125,079          |
| Network Expenses                         | 5,163            | 4,801            |
| Advertising                              | 4,956            | 5,353            |
|  | <u>1,533,180</u> | <u>465,744</u>   |
| Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities  | <u>96,575</u>    | <u>222,643</u>   |
| Income from Investment Activities        |                  |                  |
| Office Equipment                         | (1,650)          | —                |
| Interest Received                        | 10,071           | 2,593            |
| Net Cash Flow from Investment Activities | <u>8,421</u>     | <u>2,593</u>     |
| Total Cash Flow for Year                 | 104,996          | 225,236          |
| Cash at Beginning of Year                | <u>1,315,586</u> | <u>1,090,350</u> |
| Cash at End of Year                      | <u>1,420,582</u> | <u>1,315,586</u> |
| Represented by:                          |                  |                  |
| ANZ Cash at Bank                         | 338,667          | 251,073          |
| ANZ Online Saver                         | 769,716          | 760,350          |
| Bendigo Bank Term Deposit                | 14,200           | 13,721           |
| ANZ Bank Term Deposit                    | 243,877          | 243,512          |
| Bendigo Bank Cash at Bank                | 30,751           | 30,751           |
| Paypal Account                           | 23,311           | 16,085           |
| Petty Cash                               | 60               | 94               |
|  | <u>1,420,582</u> | <u>1,315,586</u> |



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

## 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, Kate Mount and Cara Mearns, being members of the committee of Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange Inc., certify that—

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange Inc. during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 31 December 2023.

Signed: Kate Mount  
Dated: 2nd February 2024

Signed: Cara Mearns  
Dated: 2nd February 2024





## **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 2023. 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 2023 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

BRUCE THYDON  
Chartered Accountant  
Level 1/ 267A Glenferrie Road  
Malvern, Victoria, 3144  
2nd February 2024