



Kindergarnerings

NEW ZEALAND
FREE KINDERGARTEN UNION INC.

NO. 2

NOVEMBER 1986

VIOLENCE AND THE MEDIA

A recent weekend seminar in Auckland on Entertainment, Violence, and a Peaceful World produced some thought-provoking material for all parents.

It was noted during a discussion on violence in the media that a major problem with TV violence is that the act is portrayed vividly - but the effects are seldom stated. Young children are less able to differentiate between reality and fantasy, and flick easily between the two. A programme clearly related to a child's life and experience may create or even increase a problem.

To many children, TV provides an escape into an undemanding world, and they may become less able, or willing, to cope with reality and their everyday life. The number of viewing hours, especially for very young children, averaged between 25 and 30 per week. In fact the average school child spends far more time in front of a TV set than he does in his classroom. A new problem has appeared with the widespread availability of videos, many of which are wholly unsuitable for children of any age, but which they may be able to watch without restriction either in their own home, or somebody else's.

Food for thought ? More of this in a later edition.

***Thanks to Luton Dawes, Auckland Kindergarten Association, for this material.

HOW TO FLOAT A SUCCESSFUL FUND-RAISING IDEA?

As a publicity gimmick, and to promote kindergarten, 13 of our kindergartens grouped together and produced a Christmas float, which was entered in Palmerston North's annual parade last Christmas. Staff, parents and children all contributed to the project which took some time and trouble, but was worth all the effort.

We literally had a kindergarten on a truck! Father Christmas, and a huge tree adorned with every imaginable collage decoration possible. A pergola of collage hangings made a roof befitting the "Big Mac". Children sat at various activities with some of our staff, and mothers walked with the truck and handed out flags and pamphlets to the thousands who came to watch.

We had advertising banners around the base of the truck, and children's art work decorated its sides and tail-board.

The entire float was a group effort, but much praise must be given to Helen Page, a member of our teaching staff, who co-ordinated all the art work from 13 kindergartens. Helen threw herself into the project with such gusto that none of us dared assume a casual attitude. Her efforts and enthusiasm were rewarded, however, when we were awarded the grand prize of "Best Overall Float".

What a proud bunch we were when we pulled off the parade route to park in the "Best Float" position. It must be mentioned that we worked as a group. Had parents, children, staff, and Board members not been able to work as a unit, our efforts would have been in vain.

At present 19 of our 22 kindergartens are involved in yet another mammoth promotion/fund-raiser. News of that in the next issue of Kindergartenings.

BEVERLEY KILLINGTON. PUBLICITY OFFICER. RUAHINE K.A.

***Has one of your kindergartens, or a combination of them, run some fund-raising activity which has proved to be a bonanza - or a disaster? Details, or dire warnings, of either would be welcomed by the Editor - and other kindergartens!! **

AND ANOTHER!

Does your local community have a Christmas Float Parade? Ours does! So we decided this was an opportunity to not only raise funds for our kindergarten, but also a way to promote it.

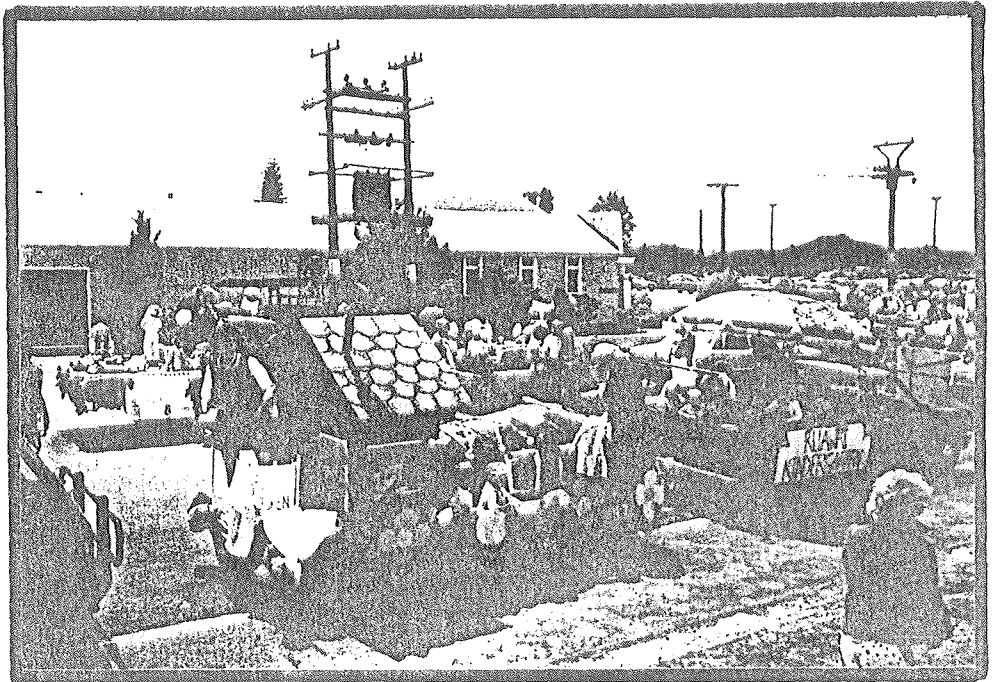
From cardboard boxes, old lino, rags and paint, along with a bit of ingenuity, we came up with - The Old Woman That Lived in a Shoe, with this accompanying rhyme :-

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe,
She had so many children she didn't know what to do.
She dressed them all up because it was windy,
Kissed them all soundly, and sent them to kindy.

The children were also able to participate, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as did the so-called grown-ups.

All in all great fun, with the extra bonus of winning for us first prize of \$200 !!

LYN PRESTON. PARENT PRESIDENT. RUAWAI KINDERGARTEN



MACKENZIE KINDERGARTEN, FAIRLIE - is to celebrate its 25th Jubilee this year. All past pupils, teachers, and involved parents are invited to participate in any or all of the jubilee functions.

On Saturday, 22 November, 1986, an afternoon get-together at the Kindergarten will be followed by a dinner and then a Cabaret, both to be held at the new Centennial Complex. A Church Service on the Sunday will conclude the weekend's celebrations.

Any enquiries should be directed to :-

Mrs M Crampton
Secretary, Mackenzie Kindergarten Jubilee Committee
33 Regent Street
Fairlie

*** Nelson District Free Kindergarten Association, and the Kindergarten movement as a whole, wish to express their appreciation of the contribution of Mrs Dawn Wade, a member of the N.Z.F.K.U. Executive for 2 years, and Treasurer of her Association for 5 years, who resigned at the Association's 1986 AGM.

GOODIES FROM THE AUCKLAND ASSOCIATION
FOR SALE

TAPES

"We Want Everybody Happy"

"Hey Diddle Diddle" (limited stock)

"Humpty Dumpty" (limited stock)

\$7.00 each (\$7.70 with GST)

FUND RAISING PADS

Boxes of 50 pads

\$112.50 per box (\$123.75 with GST)

PAMPHLETS

"What Do I Learn at Kindergarten"

Packs of 50 \$12.50 (\$13.75 with GST)

ORDERS TO BOX 6933, AUCKLAND

PRE-SCHOOL THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD

During a recent visit to London, Kevin and I welcomed the opportunity to accompany a Nanny and her 4-year-old charge to the Battersea 1 O'Clock Club.

The Club, physically established on much the same lines as our kindergartens, is one of many such clubs owned and operated by a local Council. It was open, free of charge, to any pre-schooler accompanied by a parent or carer between the hours of 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily. The supervision and overall responsibility for each child lay with 'their' adult. Whilst the Club was staffed by three trained child-care workers, they ran a play-group in the morning, and oversaw indoor activities in the afternoon.

Our visit coincided with the arrival of a late, but very hot summer. Consequently all the children were outdoors enjoying a very large playground - about half an acre - consisting of humps, huge trees with branches to the ground, a sandpit the area of a normal kindergarten (more or less!), 6 or 8 swings fenced off but set on asphalt, and all the outdoor equipment one could wish for. The grassy area was just that - one could not describe it as a lawn, and it was being well used by many of the adults trying to acquire a tan whilst keeping an eye on their charges.

As many of the children were an 'only', they obviously enjoyed the social interaction with other children. It was obvious too that the adults enjoyed the company one of the other. For the majority of children it was a place to play which they lacked in their terrace house homes or highrise apartments.

I spoke to many of the people there to ascertain if there were other reasons why they patronised the Club. Essentially they enjoyed the freedom it offered, based on the following comments: -

- Colour, race, and creed were accepted as providing interesting and challenging differences in art, dress, song, dance, and play from which all benefited.

- The hours were there to be used as individuals saw fit - come and go at leisure. No rolls, no waiting lists!!

- The Programme was of the individual's making. One child spent every moment of each visit in the sand-pit, another with a car that had lost a wheel.
- The relaxed, friendly and welcoming atmosphere encouraged the same people to come regularly.

The fact that Kevin and I spent several hours there in the heat, pushing swings and pulling carts, when there was still lots of London to explore, says a great deal for the Battersea 1 O'Clock Club - a child-oriented facility meeting the particular needs of its clients in a variety of ways.

PAT LOCKHART

DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR
APRIL ISSUE

MARCH 7th, 1987

ADDRESS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

BOX 969
TAURANGA

*** Children aren't happy with nothing to ignore
And that's what parents were created for !
OGDEN NASH.

*** A group becomes a team when each member is
sure enough of himself and his contribution
to praise the skills of others.

*** If you think it's weak being meek, try
being meek for a week !!

WATCH IT!

Anne West Kindergarten in Kaitaia has approached its neighbours in Neighbourhood Watch fashion in an effort to reduce the incidence of vandalism. The Kindergarten is one which has suffered fairly consistently from this problem, although it is in a built-up area, with houses looking directly onto the building and into the playground.

A letter has been circulated to every house in the area, asking that people keep their eyes open, and contact one of three people listed should they see anything suspicious. Neighbours have also been called on, to have the problem explained and to ask for their co-operation.

And, believe it or not, the results have been almost immediate. At 5 o'clock one morning a few days ago the system swung into action, and the full force of the local law was felt - by none other than the cleaners! Even though it was a false alarm, it is encouraging to know that at least one person is doing just as asked and is keeping a weather eye on our property.

We don't know yet whether the arrival of Police helicopters, cars and paddy wagons, fire engines, ambulances, and Civil Defence at 5 o'clock in the morning is going to jeopardise our cleaning contract. We are still waiting for the lady to come out of her coma!

PETER JACKSON. KAITAIA & DISTRICT F.K.A.

*** And speaking of insecurity, Lower Hutt F.K.A. has provided this cautionary tale.

A new mother, recently returned from overseas, was unwise enough to wear an expensive quilted jacket, and yet more unwise to drape said jacket casually over one corner of the collage table. Yes, you have guessed it!! Made really chunky-looking creations, and a great time was had by all - well, nearly all!

Perhaps parent education should contain suggestions as to suitable kindergarten garb for not only the children!!

*** Any more words for the unwary?

FROM THE EDITOR

Sincere thanks to those Associations which have expressed their interest and support for the first issue of Kindergarnerings, and for the contributions so far received - an interesting and varied selection. More would be even better. An idyllic situation for any editor is to have too much material for an issue - a situation not as yet quite reached. Perhaps next time? The promised L.P.G. exposé, for instance.

I had thought of writing some solemn and profound comment on the Annual Conference - but rejected the idea. The Minutes are always much more interesting. I did however leave Palmerston North with a couple of unanswered questions. Why did the Vice-President insist on telling Conference that he was standing when there was no election for his position? And why, when most conferences experience slip-ups, did ours have a slip-down? Witty, not necessarily accurate, answers to these or other questions would be most welcome.

LYN BLOW

***** By the way, have you tried my sea-food diet?
The more I see food, the more I eat!

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