

NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN UNION (INCORPORATED)

EXECUTIVE REPORT - 1966-67

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and privilege to present the Executive report for the year ending 30 June, 1967.

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Executive for their loyal co-operation throughout the year. This year, as well as your having a new President, the established custom of the President and Secretary residing in the same city has changed for the first time since 1951. This has entailed an immense amount of extra correspondence, but I feel that the affairs of the Union have been carried out with the same efficiency as in the past. Mrs Elliott, the Union Secretary, so well versed in the routine of our office, has been of invaluable help to me. I feel, we could, with confidence, agree to establish our permanent office in Rotorua as long as Mrs Elliott is willing, and able, to act in her present capacity.

Annual reports, by and large, follow a fairly set pattern, and as I have no desire to be original in the writing of this report, I will follow my distinguished predecessors.

At the last Annual Meeting two new members joined the Executive. Mrs W. E. Hall replaced Mrs R. M. Boyd as the Dunedin representative and Mr R. K. Papesch was elected as a non-training representative on the retirement of Mrs F. B. Keys after serving with distinction for ten years. Both of these new members have taken their responsibilities as Executive members seriously and have made valuable contributions.

Since the last Conference the Executive has met on two occasions - directly after the meeting in Westport last year, and again in March of this year. It was of the greatest concern to the Executive that remits passed at Conference could not be presented to the Department until February of this year. This delayed considerably projects which we were keen to have implemented. The Director-General's reply to remits which were passed at the 1966 Annual Meeting has been circulated to all associations. We would like to make special mention of the remission of stamp duty and record our thanks to the Minister.

Further thought was given to the manner in which existing buildings and facilities might be used to provide for increased numbers of children able to attend kindergarten. The Executive accepted the suggestion of Mr Pinder, Director of Primary Education, that four pilot schemes of twenty extra children for two sessions a week be established in four suitable kindergartens. That kindergarten buildings, with their most attractive equipment, are not being used by children for three afternoons a week is causing concern to a great number of people, especially in areas where waiting lists are lengthy. We confidently look forward to the success of this experiment which, if implemented on a national basis, would mean several thousand more children experiencing pre-school education with comparatively small added cost.

This year some of the work of the Executive is being shared according to the place of residence of individual members. The President has allocated to each member a number of associations for special help and guidance when required or requested. In this way more Executive members are becoming familiar with the problems of associations and associations can feel that there is an Executive member close at hand when help is required. Associations, of course, reserve the right at all times to have direct contact with the President and the Union office.

This year the grant from the Government towards the cost of the running of a permanent office will be raised from £150 to £500. This should go a long way towards eliminating the debit balance shown in our statement of receipts and expenditure when operating for a full year. Australian Pre-School Association Parents' News Sheets have for many years been a source of income to the Union, as well as a most valuable asset as an educational pamphlet. However, over the years,



declining licence remittance has caused worry as to numbers we can import. You will be surprised to know that these publications have been imported under the heading which includes comics - and there lies the cause of the reduction in our licence. On presenting this to the Honourable the Minister, we were assured that, as it is an educational publication, our licence will be restored. The merit of this pamphlet is well known to those who subscribe to it. Its circulation could be much wider and we commend it to you all.

#### MEMBERSHIP

The number of associations affiliated to the Union is sixtyfive. It is interesting to note that, although a further sixty kindergartens have been added since the 1960-61 year, the number of associations has remained almost constant. New associations have affiliated while others have amalgamated. This freedom of choice has not in any way hindered progress. At 30 June 1967 we had 266 recognised kindergartens, only three of which are not in their own buildings.

#### RECOGNITIONS AND OFFICIAL OPENINGS OF NEW KINDERGARTENS

During the year fourteen new kindergartens have met the requirements for recognition by the Honourable the Minister. They are Westlake-Forrest Hill (Auckland), Birkdale (Auckland), Kotiri (Auckland), Lucknow (Havelock North), Naylands (Nelson), Newfield-Heidelberg (Southland), Avonhead (Christchurch), Isleworth Road (Christchurch), Reid Park (Mosgiel), Hazelmere (Te Awamutu), Kihikihi (Te Awamutu), Ettrick Place (Tokoroa), Brockville (Dunedin) and St. Andrews (Hamilton).

Official openings have been held in Newfield-Heidelberg (Southland), Wainuiomata (Lower Hutt), Kotiri (Auckland), Birkdale (Auckland) and Reid Park (Mosgiel).

#### KINDERGARTEN BUILDING PROGRAMME

Because of the economic situation of the country at the present time, the decision of the Minister on the number of committees granted permission to proceed with building projects was later than usual. Great was our disappointment when we learned that only five on the priority list were to be allowed to go to tender. Of these five, one was on the priority list last year and two others building this year the Government was already committed to as kindergartens operating in halls ready to shift to their own buildings. Very strong representation was made to the Director-General and the Minister for a further three to be included and we await the outcome with fingers tightly crossed. The case for these three extra projects was made extremely difficult because of the backlog of unexpended money on 31 March of this year. Two of these committees were granted permission to build in 1964, thus depriving other committees of their turn. From the 1966 list of building grants nine had some money not uplifted on 31 March and the total carry-over was in excess of \$84,000. This surely tells its own story. Every effort must be made to have building grants expended by 31 March 1968 so that all committees on the priority list will be given the green light.

#### RECRUITMENT AND PUBLICITY

With the very fine kindergarten buildings, attractive equipment, improved salary scales and the advances made by the Kindergarten Teachers' Association, recruitment of girls to enter the kindergarten teaching profession is no longer a problem. The number of girls offering in each Training College area far exceeds the number that can be chosen. It is hoped that before long higher educational qualifications for entry will be necessary. We are pleased to report (in advance) that we have a generous number of grants from the Honourable the Minister for new entrants for 1968 as follows:

Auckland	60	Wellington	36	Christchurch	40	Dunedin	28	336
		In reserve	6.					



Publicity for student recruits is no longer necessary, but publicity for the educational work being carried out in kindergartens throughout the country should be a high priority for the year ahead. The Minister is concerned with the number of people who still consider kindergartens as a "baby minding institution". He is most keen that we do something concrete to eliminate this quite erroneous impression.

#### TRAINING

The trial period of three years for the Wellington Training College and Wellington Association operating as two separate entities expires in June 1968. All would say that it is an unqualified success and we record our thanks to Wellington for agreeing to accept the pilot scheme. We must await the decision of the Wellington Association as to how they wish to proceed from this date.

The curriculum for students for the four Training Colleges is in the final stages. We hope the planned course at Lopdell House will see this accomplished and wish the Principals and associates well in their deliberations. We would like to record our thanks to the members of the Department for arranging this course.

#### I. M. JAMIESON SCHOLARSHIP

As this scholarship will be offered again in 1968, we would urge all associations to make the worthwhileness of the award known to their staff members. There are a number of positions of responsibility offering now where extra qualifications will assure applicants of more favourable consideration.

#### NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

The Kindergarten Teachers' Association continues to flourish and it is pleasing to know that fourfifths of the teachers are members. It would be most encouraging to the officebearers of this association if the remainder of the teachers would accept the responsibility of membership. Much has been accomplished in the short period of its existence and we wish them every success in the future.

In January of this year a most successful Summer School was held at Lincoln College, Christchurch. It was pleasing to see a large number of Play Centre people among those who attended. Working together in the pre-school field in this way is the ideal approach to the efforts we are all making.

Because of use of the word "Director" in the personnel of the Department of Education, the Executive asked the Kindergarten Teachers' Association if they would give some thought to the changing of the name of staff working in kindergartens to kindergarten teacher and assistant teacher etc. This change would be welcomed by the Department.

The Union was pleased to invite applications from College staff members to attend the Australian Pre-School Association Conference in Canberra in May, offering fares and enrolment fees. Miss J. Barns of Wellington and Miss F. Cawkwell of Auckland were the successful applicants. Mrs Lindsey Rea, Vice-President of the Union, attended as its representative as the President was unable to accept the privilege.

#### EXECUTIVE TRAVEL

The President was honoured by invitations to present Diplomas at Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland and to attend the function at Dunedin. The Christchurch function was attended, bad weather was the cause of non-attendance at Wellington and Auckland and Dunedin were sent messages of congratulations and best wishes.

Invitations to open Newfield-Heidelberg Kindergarten and Wainuiomata were accepted by the President, the invitation to open Reid Park had to be declined and invitations to be present at the openings of



Botiri and Birkdale also were declined but congratulatory messages sent.

The President accepted an invitation to be present at the Diploma Presentation Ceremony of the Nelson Play Centre Graduates and also agreed to be one of a panel for an evening discussion group at a Play Centre in-service training school held at Waimea College.

Associations visited by the President were Nelson, as Guest Speaker at Nayland Road, Blenheim, Christchurch, Ashburton, Geraldine, Temuka, Timaru, Waimate, Oamaru, Alexandra, Balclutha, Gore, Dunedin, Southland, Mosgiel.

Mrs Downer completed some visiting to fulfil promises made during her term as President and met requests for assistance from neighbouring associations. Included in this were addresses to public meetings for recognition of new kindergartens at Havelock North, Tokoroa, Hamilton and Te Awamutu, attending a regional meeting of Hawkes Bay Associations to give information on amalgamation and advising Matamata and Huntly Associations on changes in administration made necessary through their growth beyond one kindergarten.

#### OVERSEAS CONTACTS

In view of the very heavy burden of work falling on the shoulders of the new President, Mrs Downer agreed to take over correspondence with overseas contacts. This was mainly in connection with our associate membership with OMEP. Although Dr Skard's visit to New Zealand does not fall within the period of this report, we briefly report that it was a highlight of the year.

#### FINANCE

The general financial position of the Union is sound, but an ever watchful eye must be kept on expenses so that the main object of our movement, that of building kindergartens, is not jeopardised by high administrative costs. In this respect we are indeed fortunate in our Secretary-Treasurer for wise guidance and prudent spending.

Once again the Executive records its sincere appreciation of the generosity of the J. R. McKenzie Trust Board for a further donation of £100. This was divided equally among the four Training Colleges to be spent on library books.

#### PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

On assuming office, the President said that she would be very keen to try once again to form an "Early Childhood Education Organisation". Several previous attempts had been made, but none had extended very far beyond the inaugural meeting. The type of organisation envisaged was one comprising as wide a field as possible of those nationally-constituted groups interested in early childhood. The Executive was unanimous in its support for a further attempt to be made. Discussions with officers of the Department, linked with the visit of Dr Skard, World President of OMEP, resulted in a very successful meeting being held in Wellington during her visit. Much will be heard of this in the near future.

#### THANKS

The Executive would like to record its grateful thanks to all who have helped in any way the work of the Union; to the Honourable the Minister, the Director-General of Education, the Director of Primary Education and the Officer for Pre-School Services for their sympathetic hearings and advice; to the Honorary Solicitor and Honorary Auditor for specialised professional knowledge; to the Westport Association for their real "Coast Hospitality" and excellent arrangements for the 1966 Conference and for all who made that memorable trip to Westport. To all member associations for their truly wonderful effort to further pre-school education, we record



sincere appreciation. To our Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs Elliott, who works with that quiet, conscientious efficiency, we say "thank you" for an excellent job.

I trust that this, my first Annual Report, conveys to you all the willingness on the part of those people you elected to the Executive to further the kindergarten type of pre-school education for the children of New Zealand. While only about 22% of children are privileged to enjoy this early education there is much left for voluntary effort to accomplish.

May I conclude by joining with each member of the Executive in wishing you every good wish for the coming year. May your own best hopes come true.

For the Executive,

Laura M. C. Ingram

President.

September, 1967.