

NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN UNION (INCORPORATED)EXECUTIVE REPORT - 1971-72

It is my pleasure to present the Executive Report for the 1971-72 year. This report, taken in conjunction with the Mid-Year Survey, will bring you up to date on kindergarten affairs.

Two new members were elected to the Executive at the last Annual Meeting, Mrs J. H. P. Miller, for Ward 6, replacing Mrs B. J. Brayshaw who was elected Vice-President, and Mr N. McKay, for Ward 5. Mr Zillwood, who resigned from the Executive after two years of service, was a very keen member and we record our thanks to him for his work at national level.

Because of your invaluable work for free kindergartens, you will have read with interest of the growing importance placed on pre-school education since last we met. The lead given by the Honourable H. L. Pickering, Minister of Education, who has stated publicly the importance he attaches to this field, has given impetus to securing the rightful place it should be taking in the overall portfolio of education. I am sure that the quality of pre-school experience offered by our movement has done much to kindle the growing awareness of its worth.

The Committee of Inquiry Report has been presented to the Minister and made public. The Minister asked the Union to comment on certain aspects of it and you are aware of the report we made. We look forward to the early implementation of the points we raised. I note in my copy of the New Zealand Department of Education Report to Parliament 1972, in the section headed Pre-School Education, page 33, the Department highlights as "major" recommendations the establishment of the District and National Councils - constituted, presumably, as the Report suggests, with those doing the work and raising the money having a minority representation. "A substantial increase in Pre-School Advisers" also gets full treatment. You will realise how vigilant we must be as to where, we feel, the emphasis should be placed.

MEMBERSHIP

Affiliated associations to the Union remain at 67 and the number of recognised kindergartens at the end of June, 338. Congratulations to all committees who have gained recognition and had official openings this year. I have attended some very memorable ones and I am sure I will be excused if I single out the one at Ashburton. This is the Merle Leask Kindergarten, named after the late Mrs Leask who gave very valuable service to the Union as a member of the Executive.

BUILDING PROGRAMME

We were all anxious about the lateness of the announcing of the building programme this year. I think the extent to which parts of the Committee of Inquiry Report are to be implemented and the size of the education vote would be the reasons for this. So far 16 projects, plus 3 special area kindergartens, may go to tender. I have quite a list to put forward at my October meeting with the Minister and I feel certain, on the correspondence I have received, that more will be granted permission to proceed. One must always be the "super optimist". Congratulations to those now involved in building - do all you can to have your kindergartens ready to start next February. Keep your progress payments up to date and apply to the Department for recognition as soon as possible after completion date.

TRAINING COLLEGE COSTS

Since I have been President, this surely must rate as my most wordy and tenacious battle. I have said my last words on

accumulated accounts outstanding from 1969-71 - this amount is something over \$18,000. It will have to be met now on a 'per kindergarten' basis. However, the Minister has directed the Department to contact Training Centres, direct, re costs involved. I think it is conceded that small institutions cannot be run on the same per capita grant as the larger primary Teachers' Colleges. Successive Ministers have said that the grants have been computed on the figures supplied by the Training Centres - it is now up to them to show where the deficiencies occur.

RECRUITMENT AND PUBLICITY

Student intake this year is 260 and total students (1st and 2nd year) 480, an increase of 35 on last year's intake. There were fewer with University Entrance than in the previous two years and this, I am sure, will be of concern to you all. The Kindergarten Teachers' Salary Claim will need to succeed to attract the students with high qualifications. The four Training Centres are taxed to the limit for accommodation and further accommodation is at present under urgent review.

As I have said in previous reports, publicity is everybody's business. I am pleased with newspaper cuttings I have received from many of you but many more associations could help. This year, with the help of the J. R. McKenzie Trust Board grant, we will reprint the Handbook. We had hoped to print a booklet similar to "Seventy-five Years of Free Kindergartens in New Zealand", entitled "Kindergartens in New Zealand". Associations were asked to send in to the Union office contributions bringing their story up to date from 1964. It is most discouraging to find that, out of 67 associations, 39 have not bothered to do so.

As this publication was quoted to cost over \$1,000 and could not be financed by the \$200 from the J. R. McKenzie Trust or the Union, I approached the Department for help and some progress was made. It is most embarrassing that the hold up is now the lack of interest and support of many associations. If your up to date histories are not received immediately, so that a fair price can be arrived at, we will have to proceed without them.

I. M. JAMIESON SCHOLARSHIP

This year the scholarship is to be offered again. We have four applicants, all well qualified. While in Ashburton, Mr J. H. M. Dawson and I interviewed two applicants from Dunedin and while in Auckland, Mr K. J. Hayr and I will interview the two from Auckland. Our decision will be made known to you as soon as possible. It is most encouraging to have teachers who have made considerable efforts towards being interested in our scholarship.

N.Z. COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

I keep in touch with the Director, Mr J. Watson, and the latest report is that the field of pre-school is being quietly pursued. Mr Watson suggests that perhaps next year we could approach the Government for extra finance for some major work to be undertaken. We are fortunate that Dr W. D. Barney, of Auckland, has such an interest in our field of education. N.Z.C.E.R. would like him to make more time available to them if it were possible.

N.Z. FEDERATION OF PLAY CENTRES

In the Mid-Year Survey I mentioned a meeting with the President and Secretary in Rotorua. Since then we met again in Auckland and had further useful discussion. You will remember

that I asked the Minister last year for a meeting with him for play centre and kindergarten people together. The meeting was arranged but was held with officers of the Department and discussion was tied specifically to items from the Hill Report, dealing with the District and National Councils and professional administration. At district level, we suggested that the District Senior Inspector of Primary Schools be the chairman. This was not acceptable to Play Centre but we did not give way as an independent chairman who could possibly arrange a boardroom for meetings was what we would like. We were agreed that for us Supervising Head Teachers were essential as were Liaison Officers for play centre. We both wished to make our own staff appointments. We agreed also on a predominance of kindergarten and play centre representatives on the National Council. Mrs S. Muir and Mrs H. Downer, acting secretary, accompanied me to this meeting, expenses for which were paid by the Department.

OMEP

Mrs H. Downer, who was our observer at the last meeting in Bonn, West Germany, will be speaking at Conference on her impressions of this meeting.

I have had a letter from Prof. A. Fieldhouse, Chairman of N.Z. membership of OMEP, in reply to one from me asking for up to date information. The committee of the Society has had no meetings. Prof. Fieldhouse wonders if the suggested National Pre-School Council to be set up as a result of the Hill Report could be tied in, in some way, with his committee. It is just a suggestion but I would not be in favour of this at all. I feel we must stick to our ideas that we put forward to the Minister. OMEP has very different functions.

SPECIAL MEETINGS ATTENDED

Seminar on Educational Planning - 14-19 May

This was attended on our behalf by Mrs Peggy Dalmer who was also our representative on the Committee of Inquiry.

The Education Priorities Committee

This meeting was held in Wellington on 15 and 16 August and was attended by Miss L. M. C. Ingram and Mr K. J. Hayr.

The National Council of Women Annual Conference held in Nelson from 18 - 22 September was attended by Miss L. M. C. Ingram.

The Annual Meeting of Play Centre Federation held in Hamilton was attended by Mrs S. Muir.

N.Z. Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association Annual Council Meeting held in Wellington in August 1972 was attended by Mr S. P. Bussell.

PAYMENT FOR TEMPORARY STAFF

Yes, you have guessed right! It is still under review! I have made some progress with payment for trained primary teachers working in kindergartens as untrained assistants. Formal authority is being sought for them to be paid as trained assistants. To be head teachers they would have to attend a special training course - such courses are under discussion.

PILOT SCHEMES

I have asked the Officer for Pre-School Education if she has a report, as the pilot schemes have all had much longer than the two years' trial. Her reply was that a written confidential report has been given to the Director of Primary Education as a basis for discussion. The Minister has received our report and I

now feel that we should ask for a meeting with him to discuss schemes which so many associations have requested. I do not think we should allow this just to drift on.

N.Z. FREE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

I have become more aware of the K.T.A. this year than any other year since I became President - it is because I have been to Wellington at least ten times since 14 January on the Kindergarten Teachers' Salary Claim meetings. It has been quite a time-consuming exercise keeping up with the reading and correspondence and often at very short notice going to Wellington and back in the one day so that proceedings would not be held up. The teachers are becoming restless and we all will be pleased when the findings of their claim are known.

The Government, by circular letter, would like us to encourage staff to have pay cheques paid into Banks or Post Offices. We could talk to staff about this as it has many advantages.

COLLEGE PRINCIPALS' MEETING

I have been asking for this twice a year since last they met - three years ago, I think. You will be pleased to know that a meeting was arranged and two members from each College attended on 13 September in the Department Conference Room. I am sure some useful discussion took place.

EXECUTIVE TRAVEL

The President, and members of the Executive as Ward members, have done a lot of travelling this year - you will know how much your member has done. It will take a year or two to find out just how much can be expected of these people both in time and expenses involved. As President, I have been away from home for 57 days since 14 January. I am fortunate that I am very interested in the work and am not tied to a job, as almost all of this time has been spent attending meetings, representing the Union on important matters. We have all attended Official Openings and Diploma functions - these we enjoy very much.

Finance for internal travel will have to be given further consideration to meet the minimum that each of us should do to keep the movement growing at the grass roots.

This year the Executive would have liked me to attend the Australian Pre-School Association Conference in Perth, Western Australia, but quite frankly I did not think we could afford all that money for such a short time away. These were my own thoughts and perhaps a pity, as the Executive would very much like to hold a Pre-School Conference here in New Zealand in the near future, and I could have made some overseas contacts. We should be making definite plans for such a conference and I have indicated to the Department that we are giving serious thoughts to this.

THE WARD SYSTEM

Just a few brief words - it does seem that ward meetings with an Executive member right in your midst are proving successful. No doubt you will have some opinions on this at Conference.

FINANCE

We record here our sincere appreciation of the generosity of the J. R. McKenzie Trust Board for a further grant of \$200, which will help to pay for the reprinting of the Handbook.

The Government grant towards office administration was raised, as from 1 April, to \$2000, and we had to ask for prompt payment of this to meet our commitments till the end of our financial year. The time is long overdue that something be done to alleviate the worry over finance at national level.

THANKS

It is a real pleasure for me to have an opportunity to place on record the sincere thanks of the Executive and all associations, I am sure, to Mrs R. A. Elliott, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union. To these I add my personal thanks, for I know better than most just how valuable she is to the free kindergarten movement. The inadequate remuneration she receives for the work involved is well known to members of the Executive. We are fortunate that her interest in kindergarten education has continued over the years.

During her absence overseas the affairs of the Union office were in the capable hands of Mrs H. Downer. We record our thanks to her for making it possible, in this way, for Mrs Elliott to attend the Olympic Games in Munich.

To the Hon. Auditor, Mr H. L. Wylie, and the Hon. Solicitor, Mr D. V. Henderson, we record our appreciation for professional services so readily available to us at all times.

In this report we have to record thanks to three gentlemen from the Ministry of Education, Hon. B. E. Talboys, Hon. G. Gair and Hon. H. L. Pickering - surely a record! We are indebted to each one for making time available for discussions and sympathetic understanding of our problems. We are sorry that Mr Pickering, who has a special interest in the pre-school field, is, for health reasons, finishing his term as Minister of Education this year. We wish him well in the future.

To the members of the Department with whom we deal, Mr A. N. V. Dobbs, Director-General, Mr B. M. Pinder, Director of Primary Education, and Miss I. J. Christison, Officer for Pre-School Education, we record our thanks for their help and understanding over the past year. We have met often and meetings have been long and tiring at times, but conducted in such a way as to get the best for the children we are trying to help.

We record here also our thanks to the Manawatu Association, hosts for the 1971 Conference, for hospitality shown in so many ways to us all.

Pre-School education is a very live topic of conversation today and free kindergarten, with its long and impressive history in New Zealand, plays a major role in the thinking in this field. The importance of our deliberations at this Conference could have the widest repercussions of any held so far. We must make sure that we ride this crest of the wave effectively so that no time is lost in bringing kindergartens within reach of all children who so vitally need the experience they provide. This is the aim of your Executive.

For the Executive,

Laura M. C. Ingram

President.

September, 1972.

NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN UNION (INCORPORATED)EXECUTIVE REPORT - 1970-71

Once again it is my pleasure to bring to your attention the activities of the Executive, in the form of an Annual Report. This, taken in conjunction with the Mid-Year Survey, will bring you up-to-date on kindergarten affairs.

Four new members joined the Executive at the last Annual Meeting, Mrs S. Muir, Mr P. Bussell, Mr P. Cutelli and Mr J. Dawson. We record with very grateful thanks the services to our movement, at National level, of Mrs L. Rea, Mrs A. J. D. Dearsley, Mrs D. T. Nicholson and Mr C. D. Fleury.

In the 1970 Report I said that some of the battles for our share of the educational vote were torrid - but this year has required even more determination. The year ahead will be a most important one for us. The report of the Committee of Inquiry into Pre-School Education is promised for the end of this year. We will have to be very vigilant at all levels to retain our rightful place in the vital education we have provided over the past eighty years.

One real pleasure for me is to record the thanks of the Union to the Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs R. A. Elliott. Another year of meticulous attention to the demanding affairs of our national office, at a salary falling far short for the hours involved in the professional service she gives, has been completed. We are indeed fortunate that she has such an interest in kindergarten education.

MEMBERSHIP

The number of associations affiliated to the Union is 67 and the number of recognised kindergartens 322. We offer our congratulations to committees who have gained recognition and have had official openings this year.

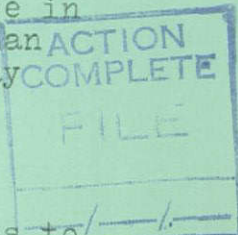
BUILDING PROGRAMME

You will have seen the list. Since the Survey, I have visited the Minister's office twice and have written copious letters. I was prepared to accept the programme as negotiated with Mr Pinder, (with Mrs Brayshaw present taking notes!!), eight, plus three on 1 December, in spite of the fact that Mr Pinder said, in a letter to me, that thirteen were really near enough to be included.

We were given to understand that Play Centre would not be getting as many as us. However, I was at my correspondence later and listening to Mr Gair, at the same time, speaking in an education debate and to my amazement he said "this year kindergarten will be adding 11 more kindergartens - eight now and three in December and Play Centre will be completing ten and thirty more (forty in all). I immediately wrote and asked for negotiations to be reopened. I am still not satisfied. Mr Gair said that his figures applied partly to last year and Mr Pinder said "the eight kindergartens authorised and three in December will in all probability cater for more children than the forty new play centres, because of smaller rolls of play centres.

BUILDINGS IN PROGRESS

Every year the strongest plea is made to all committees to uplift as much of their building grant as possible - as soon as possible! Quite a number of projects last year could have applied



for thousands of dollars but waited until the building was almost complete and left us to contend with a deficit of \$100,000. My urgent plea at the beginning of March missed, because the books are closed on 15th, not 31st, as I had always thought. You can see just what you have done to those who could not be included this year! Another point - your kindergarten does not count until you have applied for recognition to the Department. Please do this as soon as possible.

TRAINING COLLEGE COSTS

The amount outstanding is \$14,500 approximately and I considered this should be as a legitimate cost to the Department. Negotiations with the Department, which commenced in 1967 and through 1968, were for the Government to take over, entirely, training centre costs. I am sure the figures arrived at, to commence on 1 April 1969, were meant to do just that. Mr Pinder said so on numerous occasions when we raised the question with him and the Report of the Education Department for year to 31 December 1969 says "Additional financial assistance has been given to cover the full cost of kindergarten training centre maintenance and running costs, and furniture, equipment and library books. The full cost of the salaries of part-time lecturers and of part-time clerical staff has now been assumed by the Government."

Education Department Report 1971, for year to 31 December 1970, quote "In 1969 the Government agreed to pay the cost of maintaining and running the kindergarten training centres". These reports were adopted by Parliament, are now public documents and may be seen in any Public Library and elsewhere. The public is entitled to presume that all running costs have been paid. These costs have been quoted against us when negotiations have been taking place for extra buildings. We should not go back to the parents for this deficit.

RECRUITMENT AND PUBLICITY

1972

Auckland	75
Wellington	60
Christchurch	50
Dunedin	<u>40</u>
	225

You will note that the increase is only fifteen. This is not enough but we cannot make much headway at present. The whole question of training centre buildings must be the subject of urgent review to cope with more students. I have written to Miss Christison recently on staff vacancies and she assures me that of 658 positions, only 6.5% are filled by untrained people and that compares very favourably with other services. I know her sympathies are with those associations with vacancies - she would prefer to have all positions filled but that is impossible.

Publicity is everybody's business. I hope the Golden Kiwi will treat us kindly and we will be able to make some progress in this field.

NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

The Kindergarten Teachers' Association is not in favour of a 400 half-day year. The remit from last year was referred to them by the Department and the answer communicated to us recently, without comment. Where we go from here is over to you. We are doing all in our power to line their salary up with primary teachers and this must be a natural consideration also.

The Kindergarten Teachers' Association is presenting a new

salary claim this year and I will be representing the Union.

I. M. JAMIESON SCHOLARSHIP

The recipient of the award offered in 1968, Mrs Marie C. Rutherford, of Roslyn Kindergarten, Dunedin, was successful in passing four units at Otago University, Education III, Philosophy, Anthropology and Phenomenology of Religion.

The scholarship will be offered again in 1972 when it is hoped that many applicants will seek to take advantage of the opportunity to increase their academic qualifications. The scholarship has been increased to \$1,000, with an additional \$300 on the successful completion of a year's study.

EXECUTIVE TRAVEL

This year the President has done quite a lot of travelling - in the main to Wellington on negotiating business. However, a very profitable week was spent in Auckland and the Union is indebted to Auckland Association for refunding air fares - to Huntly and their contribution to travel expenses - similarly to Christchurch.

Official Openings have been attended by the President and members of the Executive and we are always thrilled to be invited to these happy occasions.

Executive members were also very pleased to be asked to present the Union's Diplomas at end of year training centre functions.

NEW ZEALAND PLAY CENTRE FEDERATION

The President was invited to the annual Conference in Wellington. As I was unable to attend, Mr Peter Bussell represented us and conveyed greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Union.

This year we have not met at National level, but I am sure that when the Committee of Inquiry report is made much will have to be done to give full consideration to what is recommended.

O.M.E.P.

In the Mid-Year Survey you were told that Mrs Downer would be representing us as an unofficial observer. I have heard from Mrs Downer and she will have much to tell when she returns. I have also heard from Dr Skard who remembers us "with affection".

I have written to the Secretary of O.M.E.P. in Wellington, who says that the Society contemplates going into recess for two years. He says also "You may think we have been in recess this long now from the results, and this is fair comment." My suggestion is that we should ask for the right to be associate members again in the meantime, as we were the only New Zealand body affiliated to O.M.E.P. before this Society was set up.

N.Z. COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

My most recent information from the Director of N.Z.C.E.R. was on 13 September and work is being carried out in the pre-school field by Dr Barney, Mrs Fay Panckhurst is working on the impact of T.V. on intellectual development of four year old children at kindergarten and Mrs McDonald is also working in this field. This is pleasing information.

FINANCE

Once again the Executive records its sincere appreciation of the generosity of the J. R. McKenzie Trust Board for a further

donation of \$200 for the printing of the Union's Constitution, By-Laws and Policy.

No increase has been received in the Government grant for administration since 1968 and a strong deputation should press for this to be raised to a more realistic figure to meet rising costs.

THE WARD SYSTEM

I have high hopes for the Ward System. It should prove an immense asset to the publicity that kindergarten education deserves and which at present is being over-shadowed by play centre. We are convinced that we provide education which compares most favourably with that of any other country. Educators visiting New Zealand have been loud in their praise and have also expressed this opinion. It is the type of education which we are providing, the number of sessions and the professionally-trained teachers that should be stressed. Statistics and cost have limited importance by comparison, but the emphasis placed on them is out of all proportion.

THANKS

We are sure it is because the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union has played such a significant part in early childhood education in this country that we have many distinguished people to thank for their voluntary service to our movement - the Honorary Solicitor, Mr J. D. Davys, the Honorary Auditor, Mr H. L. Wylie and to those people so closely connected with the running of our training colleges.

We are indebted to the Minister of Education, Mr B. E. Talboys, who has always made himself available for discussions and whose lucid and full explanations of information sought by letter is most appreciated. The Under-Secretary to the Minister of Education, Mr G. F. Gair, has had to listen to some forceful submissions and must be given full marks for his handling of some situations where the vote of money involved does not nearly meet the basic requirements as we see them. Publicity for pre-school education is growing and we hope that his influence will result in a greater percentage than about 1% of the Education vote being allotted to the under fives.

To Miss I. J. Christison and to Mr B. M. Pinder, of the Department, we record our sincere thanks for help and understanding over the past year. Theirs is not a very enviable position to be in at times. We know that they would like to be able to see more of our requests granted but they understand, also, that the battle is real.

We record here, also, our vote of thanks to Hamilton Association for hospitality shown in so many ways to us all at the 1970 Conference.

Annual Meeting draws together many people, from many walks of life, with a common motive - that of giving voluntary service to an age group of children, impressionable, habit-forming, and character-building. The future of New Zealand depends on how these foundations are laid - such is the importance of our efforts and the deliberations of this Conference.

For the Executive,

Laura M. C. Ingram

President.

September, 1971.

$$\begin{array}{r} 3,306 \\ 2,254 \\ \hline 1,052 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 161 \\ 322 \\ \hline 1052 \\ 526 \end{array}$$

4803

$$\begin{array}{r} 322 \\ 2 \\ \hline 2254 \end{array}$$

Subscription to Union is \$7 per recognised kindergarten.
+ Levies amounting to ~~about~~ \$12 p.a. per kg.