



Christian Early Childhood Education  
Association, Aotearoa Inc. est 1992

# Te Hono

## The Link

Welcome to the first edition of our termly newsletter. It is our hope that through *Te Hono* you will get a sense of, and feel linked into, what is happening within CECEAA as an organisation and in centres across the country.

### In this edition:

#### **THRIVE:**

**North Island and South  
Island Hui dates**

**Melody's Musings**

**Highlights from the  
THRIVE Leadership Hui**

**Faith the Fantail**

**Prayer Focus for Term 2:  
Praying for the regions**

**Post Graduation  
Scholarship Opportunity**

**Term 2, 2019**



**North Island & South Island Hui  
coming soon...**



### **Christchurch**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug 9am – 8pm - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 9am-1pm  
South West Baptist Church. (Balcairn Street Site)  
6 Balcairn Street  
Halswell, Christchurch

### **Auckland**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Aug 9am – 8pm - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 9am-1pm  
Laidlaw College campus  
80 Central Park Drive  
Henderson, Auckland

**Cost: \$285 (Member) \$325 (Non -Member)**  
(This includes two lunches and one 2 course dinner)

Please note: Accommodation is not provided. So don't delay book  
your accommodation today!

# Melody's Musings

## Children's Ability to Serve Others

I was so heartened recently, after a vibrant conversation with Claire van Niekerk the Head Teacher from Bethlehem College Kindergarten in Tauranga. The Kindergarten is involved in a Kahui Ako (Community of Learning) entitled Ngā Whānau O Karaiti that is focusing around the topic of Service Based Learning. In our conversation I was impacted by Claire's view of the child. She spoke with such passion about children's ability to make an impact in their communities from a very young age. If I am honest, I guess I had viewed it more like it is our role as educators to help build children's characters and ability to serve one another as a way to enable them to make an impact in the future. What an amazing perspective to believe young children can impact others now! Claire talked about the importance of building an attitude of gratitude and developing empathy. It has always interested me that these attributes are learned behaviours and not something we are automatically born with. I wonder what strategies you can put in place in your daily centre life to build these ways of being into everything we do?

We are often good at planning special events that in a sense demonstrate 'one off acts of kindness'. Service learning is about integrating ways to serve others in everyday life – little and often. In Service Learning the learning and the service activity carry equal weight or importance. Children learn through the act of serving and teachers need to plan for and assess the learning outcomes. Perhaps the simple act of encouraging a child to be brave and give Mum a smile when she says goodbye is a way of learning about how to think beyond your own feelings and emotions. Service learning is also about forming sustained and real connections with people in our community who we can help in a genuine and authentic way. It is about providing a space for children to hear about other people's needs and to support them reflect on what life can be like for others.

This approach is a fabulous model of Christian Education in action and it demonstrates to us that our youngest children can make a powerful impact in society.

We look forward to exploring this approach in more detail in a future CECEAA Hui. It is a privilege to part of a growing learning community where we can learn and be inspired by one another.



### Sponsorship

As an exec we would love to be able to gain sponsorship for CECEAA from some key businesses or business people. This would enable us to support centres and Christian Educators further.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in providing sponsorship please get in touch with Melody

[nco@ceceaa.com](mailto:nco@ceceaa.com)

### Membership

Membership renewal is coming up this term. Please keep an eye out for your invoices.

If you know of other Christian centres or Christian educators who are working in non-Christian centres, please encourage them to get in touch with us about membership. We would love to be able to provide support for them.

# Highlights from the THRIVE Leadership Hui,



It was wonderful to be able to get together in Wellington at the beginning of April for our inaugural Leadership Hui where we launched our THRIVE. We had approximately 45 in attendance from Kaitia to Dunedin and it was a privilege as a CECEAA executive to see connections being made and people engaging with what it means to 'thrive' as individuals and in our teams. We were blessed to hear from a range of speakers including Karen Haywood from InterLead, Cindy Hammond, Colleen Fryett, and Cathryn Bell. We also enjoyed a change of scenery as we had a short excursion to the Teaching Council offices to hear from Christina Thornley. There was a very clear message throughout the hui of knowing who we are and whose we are both as individuals and centres in order to thrive within an ever-changing and complex world.



It was exciting to be able to launch the THRIVE document at the hui, with Melody Stuckey sharing some of her background research into the area of well-being and organisational culture, and Karyn Robertson reminding us of why it is important for us as Christians to thrive rather than just survive. We are grateful for those centres that have been willing to be part of our pilot programme, trialling the document. Special thanks to Barbara and Merrwyn, from Rainbow

Preschool in South Dunedin, Barbara from Eden Kindergarten in Feilding and Olivia from Above and Beyond Early Education and Care in Tauranga for sharing your experiences with such honesty.

THRIVE is a joint project between CECEAA and BTI. It is a tool, written by Melody and Karyn, that can be used separately or alongside other documentation and processes such as appraisal and internal evaluation, for the purpose of engaging with teacher well-being and organisation culture within the Christian distinctive of our centres. If you were not at the Leadership hui and wish to find out more, come along to the North Island or South Island hui or contact Melody [nco@ceceaa.com](mailto:nco@ceceaa.com) or Karyn [k.robertson@bti.ac.nz](mailto:k.robertson@bti.ac.nz)

*"All the speakers were insightful, inspirational and realistic. Felt that God was in it all as the links and threads wove together between sessions. Loved that it fed our spirits and brought everything back to a Christ-centred calling and ministry."*

*"Well-being affects me, my family, my colleagues and the children in our centres. We need to be healthy on the inside and make deeper connections with our teams to be able to then connect with others."*

*"Loved the new set up of the leadership hui, connecting with executive team and networking with other centre members and sharing information in groups... Loved the speakers. Loved the realness of the topics with a focus on the heart of what we do. It was great on day two to have examples of what this looks like in practice to motivate and inspire us."*





## Faith the Fantail

For some years now, Faith the Fantail has been flitting around the country, visiting different CECEAA centres and having many fun experiences with the tamariki and their teachers. Some of you will have already had the privilege of having her in your centres and will have shared stories of Faith's adventures with us in the magazine.

Faith has been having a bit of a holiday recently but she is now ready to go again and is currently exploring the environment and getting to know the tamariki at Whanganui Central Baptist Kindergarten. We look forward to hearing about her adventures in the next newsletter that will come out in Term 3.



Faith would love to come and visit your centres, so keep a look out for her as she might just come flying your way.

### PLD Opportunities

The Exec are currently working on a PLD plan for 2020. We will be rolling out support for those that are working with or would like to work with the THRIVE document in their centres.

Alongside of this we are committed to ensuring we are providing support for you in the areas that are needed, so if you would like us to provide PLD support around specific topics please get in touch so that we can look at including this in our plan.

As an Exec, we would also like to help in any way we are able, so if you would like a visit or phone call please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please contact Melody [nco@ceceaa.com](mailto:nco@ceceaa.com)

# Prayer focus for Term 2

One of the greatest benefits of being a member of CECEAA is that we are able to build connections throughout the country and support each other as together, we seek to serve God, children and our communities. As an executive, we would love to encourage you to begin to pray for each other. To enable you to do this, each term we will focus on the centres in different regions. This term we will focus on centre in the Wellington Region.

*Throughout the rest of this term, please take time individually or as a team to pray for the following centres:*

## **Box Hill Kids**

Khandallah, Wellington

## **Discovery Early Learning Centre**

Kelson, Lower Hutt

## **Elim International Kids**

Wellington Central

## **Centre KIDZ Preschool**

Paraparaumu

## **Little Footprints Early Learning Centre**

Lower Hutt

## **Salvation Army Early Childhood Education Centre**

Newton, Wellington

### **Amazing Scholarship Opportunity at Bethlehem Tertiary Institute**

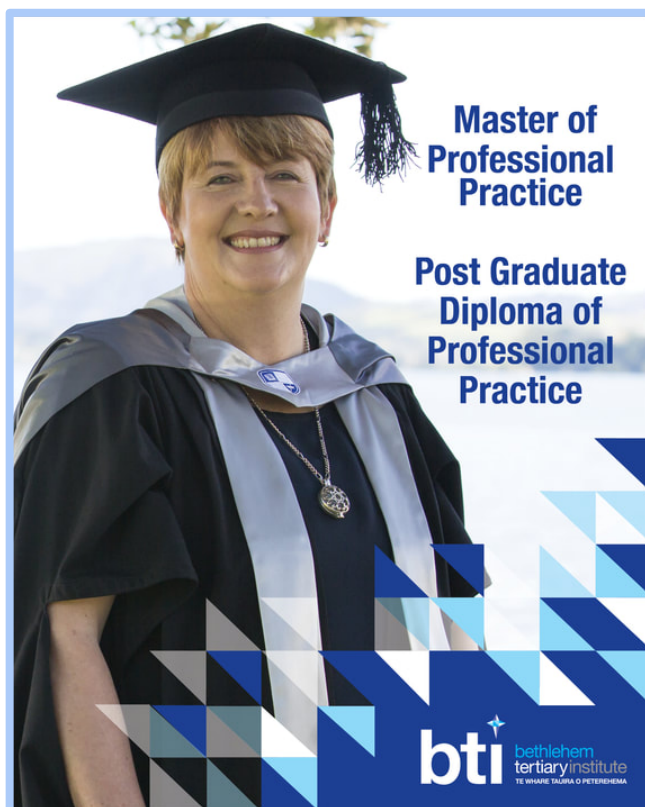
**Early Childhood Educator Scholarship:**

In recognition of the recently signed MoU with CECEAA, BTI is offering a scholarship for our

Master of Professional Practice to an early childhood educator who wishes to further explore the way their faith can more actively influence their professional practice.

The scholarship is worth just over \$10,000 and is for a start in the July 2019 intake. This covers tuition fees for the first paper, MPP841 Being Christian, Being Professional and then the cost of half of the tuition fees for each subsequent paper in the ensuing 18-24 months after that.

The scholarship recipient would be responsible for Levies (\$324 per paper).



If you would like to know more, please phone Chelsea on 07 562 2938 or Freephone 0800 BETHLEHEM.

Visit <https://www.bti.ac.nz//master-of-professional-practice.html> where you can hear and read what graduates say about the programme, read through some example courses and the creative assignments.