



# Happy Holidays

As we draw closer to the New Year, now's the time to start looking towards the 2017 EC-MENZ Summit, to be held in Auckland on the 5th to the 7th of May.

For additional information please see the below poster.



**5-7 May 2017  
Auckland**

**Presenting the 11th Annual EC-Menz Summit**

## Celebrating the many roles of men in ECE

With international guest stars **David Wright**, **James Lohead** (Practical science in ECE) and **Ron Blatz** (ECE World Forum).  
Also visits to local centres and quality networking!  
This is a great chance to meet others in the field, share stories, and be inspired.

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*To be held at:*  
**Karaka Learning Centre, 113 Harbourside Drive, Papakura**  
Marae-style accommodation available, BYO mattress etc.

*To register email* [ecmenzsecretary@outlook.co.nz](mailto:ecmenzsecretary@outlook.co.nz) or visit  
[www.ecmenz.org/summits](http://www.ecmenz.org/summits)



# President's Message

Kia Ora te whānau

We take this time to write to you all to wish you all a very merry Christmas and to thank you for the effort, the commitment, and your unfailing sense of doing the right thing in challenging the bias of being a male in ECE. We all know from our daily experience that early childhood as a sector and more importantly the thousands of children we interact with, need men as well as women as their teachers, their coaches and their nurturers. We also through our presence in ECE are helping to redefine societal norms and mores as roles rapidly change in the 21st century. So take a moment to reflect on the huge contribution you are making and have a drink to celebrate the redefining and reconstructing of what “maledom” in its infinite variety looks like.

Without your effort we as an organisation don't exist. It is you that we talk about when we meet groups or present seminars – it is you we fight for acknowledgement and it is all the other men that haven't yet discovered what a cool career teaching young children is, that we advocate for. We, like most small groups, are all volunteers who have busy other lives so we appreciate your efforts in gaining presence and pushing forward into groups, debates, chat rooms and any other media that highlights a male perspective of teaching and learning. Keep up the great work. As we look to 2017, there are some really exciting times ahead.

Over the past three or so months EC-MENz have met with a wide variety of groups within the education sector to try to gain some traction in our efforts to increase male teacher rates in ECE. Stu and I have met with the following groups based in Wellington in an effort to get increased presence and to try to find new ways to bring other organisations on board to help promote an active campaign to increase the number of male teachers. We have met the following groups ;

*Te Rito Maioha, New Zealand Kindergartens, The Ministry of Education, The Early Childhood Council, The Education Council, the Tertiary Education Commission, and NZ Principals Federation.*

Of the meetings we attended we considered there was a good level of support from most though we did suffer a bit from ‘you need to talk to these people’ which read more like the issue was not their priority or in their brief, especially if they were a government agency. However there was a very supportive reception from Te Rito Maioha, The Education Council, Principals Federation and The Early Childhood Council. NZ Kindergartens stated that men in ECE had never been raised as an issue at a national level which I find particularly hard to understand, but I guess the wero has been laid and there is a goal for our NZ Kindergarten employees to work on.

Peter Reynolds from the Early Childhood Council was particularly helpful and is willing to use his expertise, his contacts and vast knowledge of education systems and bureaucracy to act on this. His plan is to host an across the table, across the sectors of ECE/primary (who are also suffering reducing numbers of male teachers) meeting with all stakeholders to commit to action to address this unhealthy workforce gender imbalance. This include trainers, employers, recruiters .... everybody who has influence in the various stages of the journey to become a teacher. The idea of combining with primary makes a critical mass – ie. the more involved the more likely to get media interest and buy in.

There is a discussion paper to be drafted and delivered jan/feb with meeting planned to be in wellywood on June 27 2017. This is exciting and we thank Peter for his support and guidance. Another exciting summit is planned for the weekend of May 5, 6, 7 2017 to be held at Karaka Early Learning Centre , Karaka, Auckland. It is being held later next year to coincide with the Early Childhood World Forum that is being held in Auckland the following week. There is Men in ECE Leadership Group that usually attends this and by having our summit immediately beforehand, will allow some of them to attend ours as well. This will be a fantastic opportunity to meet leaders who are fighting a similar battle for recognition in other countries.

Our planning for the summit includes one of the most passionate teachers I have ever met - David Wright - presenting as well as James Lothead Macmillan sharing his passion for science. There has also been lots of opportunity for networking and sharing timetabled into the schedule – so it promises to be the best yet.

On behalf of our committee we also ask you to support our small organisation by renewing your subs – whilst there are some who are able to donate time and meet some of the costs of this, we still need financial support to keep our organisation moving. Renewal notices will be sent soon, so please pay these and encourage any other men in ECE to join and become part of this exciting momentum that is growing now.

So thanks to Stu for his great work setting all these meetings up and committing his valuable time for us all and to Robin/Childspace for his networking and their generous support through advertising and graphic and technical skills. Have a great Christmas and a safe new year and we will see you all in 2017

Russell Ballantyne

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It's that time of the year again to call of our annual subs for ECMENz. These subs allow for our awesome annual summits to take place annually, as well as general maintenance on our website.

The annual cost are \$20, with a reduced rate for students of \$5.

These subs can be paid to- Account number: 06-0901-0394801-00

If you require an invoice to pass onto employers please contact our treasurer, Stuart at [stuart@itocl.co.nz](mailto:stuart@itocl.co.nz)



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