

October 2015 ECMENz Newsletter



The end of the year is fast approaching, and we are seeing many positive changes in the ECMENz organisation following on from the success of the 2015 Summit. Planning is well under way for the 10th annual ECMENz Summit, which is already shaping up as possibly the best yet.

Since the summit held in Dunedin this year the organisation has had some kind donations going towards the 'ECMENz Scholarship' funds and significant changes made to the ECMENz website, special thank you to Cyrus Taraporvala for taking on this task. If you haven't yet checked this out you can do so at the link below, and see what's going on on our facebook page while your at it.



President's Message

Kia ora te whanau

Just a quick note to go with this newsletter re what's been happening with EC-MENz.

The survey was completed in April and I take this opportunity to thank the 41 men who replied (a 16% return). I will publish the full results on our website, but in summary we are a very diverse group with varying opinions on what we want from this organisation. Whilst I was initially disappointed with the return rate, we have at least provided an opportunity for you as members to have your views heard. I also believe that if members held strong views they would have responded. The survey highlighted issues with our membership system of updating, some challenges with the Facebook and website and the need for more work to be done in promoting our group. Like every organisation that is volunteer

run, there is never enough time to focus on all the possibilities and the challenges will now be on selecting the important aspects to focus on. The success of this also though will depend on the support we get from you as members. As an aside we are always looking for imagery to use to promote men in ece, so please if you are able to get photos with the written permissions of parents, we would love to have them to use in documents and publications.

In June I spoke at the Whanau Manaaki Kindergartens training day re diversity and this led me to think that we need to be really focussed on EEO reporting as far as initiatives for men go – more about this below.

Over the past few weeks we have been working with Bay of Plenty (Thanks heaps to Phil and Degen) ironing out a few details of the 2016 Hui (8 &9 April). We are pleased to announce that a venue has been chosen and the format of the hui seems to be taking shape. Although we have more work to do in selecting a couple of other sessions the bare bones are looking very strong indeed. In 2016 the hui will be held at the Bethlehem Tertiary Institute In Tauranga. Friday night will be a meet and greet session and will also host the AGM – a small but important formality and then the focus will be on socialising with other men. There are very few chances for men to get together and to discuss issues pertinent to them. We believe it is really important that every opportunity is made to do so over this weekend and this hui will have lots of moments where your work with young children will be celebrated.

Saturday will host the Summit and this includes sessions on the global perspective of men in ece – first with our guest Craig D’Arcy from Australia (who featured in an article in the latest Childspace magazine – thanks to team Childspace for their unending support of EC-MENz) who will present an update on the Australian context and then later in the day on the world context. This is important for us as we need to be aware of global initiatives which we can then use to support our calls for greater efforts to attract men into our sector.

We also have a really interesting session from the BOP on how “a virtues based programme supports children’s transition into school”. This something that is very topical at the moment and will challenge and confront participants which is so important.

There will also be a panel of experienced men to discuss topics, that will be raised from those attending, which will look at diverse approaches to embrace the challenges of being a male in ece. Again it is important to share stories to allow the diversity approaches to be explored and hopefully will encourage others to be affirmed in their roles and give a sense of context to our sector. On Sunday we are exploring the opportunity to visit a few centres to get an appreciation of the diversity that exists in the BOP.

Look out for more information on the hui and start to discuss this with pd approvers in whatever system you work. Remember men in ece are just 2% of the workforce and employers have a responsibility to support minorities to access support. Good organisations have EEO statements on how minority staff will be supported in their work – and one of the things I want to do is examining EEO reporting in large organisations. There should be statements on what initiatives they have made to reduce barriers to participation – and how minority groups have been supported over the past year.

Attendance at such events as our Hui will be one way of helping this – but also I would like to see organisations set targets and then report of achievement of this.....hmmm watch this space.

I hope you have all survived the winter and are looking forward to a warm and sunny spring

Russell Ballantyne
President EC-MENz

2015 ECMenz Annual Summit



In our last newsletter, we announced the Bay of Plenty is hosting our 10th annual summit. Since this announcement, the BOP team has been busy working on organising speakers and workshops to make it one to remember.

It will be held at the Bethlehem Tertiary Insitute in Bethlehem, on the outskirts of Tauranga on the 8-10th of April. If you have any questions regarding this summit contact Phil at; P.Ozanne@bti.ac.nz

Further information regarding next years timetable with be released both on our EC-MENz website, facebook and in a follow up newletteer. This update will contain information on speakers and the timetable for the event.

For the meantime, here is a beief bio on one of the international speakers headlining next years summit;

Craig d'Arcy



Craig d'Arcy is currently the Coordinator of a small community preschool in Northern NSW, Australia. Craig has a wide range of experience in the early childhood field, working in a diverse variety of positions with children and families. Craig's previous work roles include; Early Childhood Director / Teacher, Lecturer at University and TAFE in early childhood studies, Inclusion Support facilitator, Engaging Fathers Project community worker and casework consultant for children with disabilities.

In addition, he is also the Australian member of the leadership team for the World Forum on Care and Education project – Men in Early Childhood Education. He is the facilitator of the National Males in Early Childhood Network, which he established in 2002.

Craig's most important job is being a husband and dad to his 6 children.

For more information on what some of the males from across the ditch are doing, check out their website with the link below;

[Males in Early Childhood Network Australia](#)

A further reminder to those members with outstanding membership fees, these are now overdue. These fees are used to run the annual summits and fund the maintenance of the website.

Subs can be deposited into; Account number: 06 0901-0394801-00 with your name as reference. If you require an invoice please contact Stuart at; stuart@itocl.co.nz

Annual subs are \$20 and \$5 for students.

Furthermore, we are also seeking donations in order to continue to reach the goal for the organisation, to begin supporting new males in the ECE sector with scholarships. Any donations are greatly appreciated and can be deposited to the same account above.

Have your say;

If you would like to see particular items in these newsletters, contact James at; ecmenzsecretary@outlook.co.nz

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