



July, 2018

OMEP Australia News

WELCOME TO NSW

FIRST NEWSLETTER FOR NEW SECRETARIAT

INTRODUCTION TO
NEW
PRESIDENT

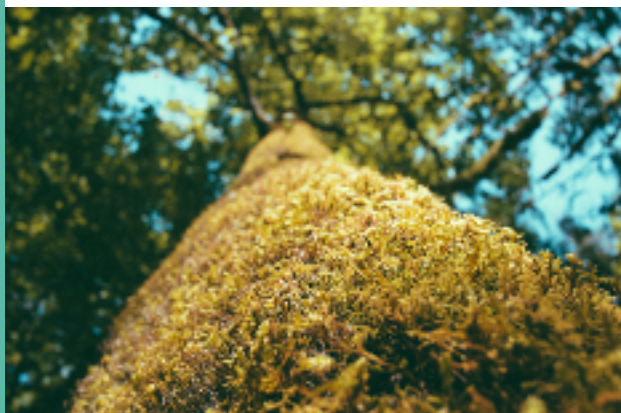
Dear OMEP members, Firstly, thank you for your patience! It has been a long time between newsletters. It has taken us quite some time to step into the 'shoes of the secretariat' but we are making progress – albeit a little slowly some times. As a result, some of the news from the states may not be the most up-to-date, but we thought we would release this newsletter so we could *soon* release a bumper issue about the recent OMEP World Assembly and Conference recently held in Prague.

Secondly, and probably more importantly, I would like to thank the outgoing secretariat for all their hard work over the years under the leadership of Dr Dawn Butterworth OAM. Leading and managing a national chapter of OMEP is no easy task and they have left big shoes to fill.

Just to let you know a little bit about me...

My name is **Frances Press** and I am the new national president. I am a professor of Early Childhood Education at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst NSW, where I teach in the area of children's rights and undertake research in early childhood education. I first became a member of OMEP when OMEP Australia held the international OMEP conference in Melbourne in 2004. My interest in OMEP was renewed some years later when **Sandie Wong** and I wrote a brief history of the organisation Early Childhood Australia. In writing this history, we came to realise the important role Australia played in the development of world OMEP and the very strong connection between the predecessors of Early Childhood Australia and Australian OMEP. Of course, much of our understanding was informed by the writing of one of the 'elder stateswomen' of OMEP Australia, **Joan Waters**, in her wonderful book *Sowing*

Seeds of Peace: Australia and the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education.



OMEP has always been at the forefront of advocating for children's rights and I hope that we continue that tradition into the future.

MEET THE TEAM

President: Frances Press

Secretary: Sandra Wong

Treasurer: Leanne Gibbs

Membership: Wendy Boyd

Communication: Arian Ploeg

More details on the Secretariat
at omep.org.au

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

WA REPORT

Sundowner

On February 24th, we kick-started the year with a Sundowner held in the garden courtyard of committee members Lis and Poul Mathiasen. There was wonderful camaraderie, delicious food and a fund-raising raffle enjoyed by all.

Early Child Care and Education Bursary

Judging of the applicants for an inaugural ECCE bursary of \$2000 and 1 year's complimentary membership of OMEP WA took place. On the basis of academic excellence, financial need and

"NEO TANDY WAS
PRESENTED WITH A
CHEQUE."

demonstrated commitment to the well-being of young children, the bursary has been awarded to a third-year B.ECS student at Notre Dame University in Fremantle. On April 23, Neo Tandy was presented with a cheque for \$2,000, a certificate and 1 year's complimentary membership by the

President and Secretary in the presence of her colleagues at Notre Dame. A power point presentation was given of OMEP and brochures and membership forms handed out before partaking in morning tea.

Advocacy and Professional Development

On behalf of OMEP WA, I have joined a joint early childhood working party to devise a play strategy for implementation in kindergartens and pre-primary centres in WA.

We are also liaising with the Minister for Child protection, Simone McGurk regarding a better coordinated and integrated outcomes-based approach to dealing with the horrific abuse and neglect of children and youth in the outback town of Roebourne.

Lis Mathiasen has given an interview to the UNAOWA on strategies she used in her Year 2/3 class to integrate Rights and Responsibilities into the curriculum and it has been placed on their website for others to emulate. I presented this project at the World OMEP Conference in Washington DC in 2015.

OMEP WA committee member, Tina Elsegood developed Rights and Responsibilities relating specifically to SDG4.7 in her pre-primary class at St Hilda's Girls' School in the last 8 weeks of 2017. This project, titled *Teaching Rights and Responsibilities in Preschool as a basis for a Sustainable Future*, was submitted to the World OMEP Sustainability

Award Committee and we have just heard from the coordinators of this Global Action Committee that it has received an honourable mention.

PNG Teacher Training

The tuition and accommodation costs of second year teacher training for Crispin's voluntary teacher, Joseph Aripa at Madang Teachers' College, PNG has been paid. Unfortunately, the second sponsored student, John Benda has withdrawn due to his father's death requiring him to return home to support the family. We are in the process of buying a computer to support Joseph with his studies and to enable him to stay in contact with us via email.

Goods to sustain Crispins Kindergarten, Kararata, PNG.

We have collected many boxes of stationery materials, books, curriculum materials, toys and 2 work tables and 12 chairs to help replenish Crispins kindergarten. In addition, we have collected boxes of clothes for children 3-12 years old and cooking utensils to be sold in PNG to raise some funds to assist in the transport of the materials. Having depleted our association funds, we are now faced with having to raise the very substantial shipping costs. To this end, we are organising a film fund-raiser to be held on Sunday, June 10 and an African Night to take place on August 11th.

**Dr Dawn Butterworth AO -
Director**

SA REPORT

In the second semester of 2017 difficulties arose with the Chapter's Vanuatu project. An alternative project was initiated through cooperation with Save the Children, Fiji. The tiny isolated Nasaucoko community was struggling to maintain its' kindergarten. Between August and November Save the Children supervised the installation of a 10,000 litre water tank, repairs to the toilet, purchase of tables and chairs and education packs, through funds provided by OMEP SA. The packs are housed in a special container which can be safely stored by the teacher in the event of adverse weather events. A delightful hand over ceremony was held on 21st November when the guest of honour was Iris Low-McKenzie, CEO of Save the Children, Fiji. The pictures show the special hand-over event and prize giving at the centre together with the installation of the much needed water tank. At the end of this year Alexandra Diamond, from the University of South Australia, is assisting in the provision of swimming lessons for Fijian children, with the participation of undergraduate Early Childhood



Education students. Some government funding will be provided for principal costs. OMEP SA has agreed to back-up funding of other costs such as transport and equipment. We understand that learning to swim is not usually a cultural expectation in Fiji and many drownings occur. In addition SA president Trevor Feder is working with two of Alexandra's fourth year Leadership and Advocacy in Early Childhood students, on advocacy in relation to the work and value of OMEP and the benefits of membership.

Dr Lesley-Ann Ey has received a grant from OMEP Australia to assist with her anti-bullying research and the development of a package for practitioners. Her work is nearing completion and she will make a

presentation at the OMEP Conference in Prague. It is anticipated there may also be an article in the journal. Lesley is grateful to be one of the three recipients of assistance through an OMEP travel grant, for the Prague Conference.

The chapter offers thanks and congratulations to the new National Executive for taking on leadership of OMEP Australia and salutations to the recently retired WA National Executive, for their tireless commitment to OMEP Australia.



"THE TINY ISOLATED
NASAUCOKO
COMMUNITY."

VICREPORT NSWREPORT

The Victorian branch meetings in 2018 have covered the revitalizing of the chapter and to Rosamonde's bequest (see page 7).

The Victorian Early Childhood Research Consortium has been giving a prominent voice to OMEP in the past few gatherings with a presentation, member presentation and conference notice.

Three Victorian members attended the OMEP World Assembly in June and brought back valuable information which will be shared with members and the wider ECE community.

A number of organisations in Victoria have been approached to build relationships between them and OMEP Victoria.

Joan Waters who has a long standing relationship with OMEP, has organised a gathering of ex colleagues who were previously members of OMEP.

The NSW chapter has spent much time in 2018 consolidating the change in secretariat from Western Australia to NSW. This involves the usual change of details, notifications, and becoming familiar with the new roles accepted by the team. After a term with WA, NSW is thankful to colleagues there for the work in supporting OMEP over the past years. NSW is also excited about the challenges ahead.

The focus in NSW has been on the creation of future events surrounding children in detention. After successful events previously, the NSW Chapter is focusing energy in this area. This is in alignment with the world OMEP focus on refugees across countries and the impact on children and families.

The NSW secretariat (see page 6 for photo and more information) has had many years of experience in the early childhood profession. See over page for more

information on the members of the secretariat.

The NSW secretariat are currently settling in new responsibilities, including the issue of this newsletter, membership renewals, finances and the OMEP website.

CHILDREN IN
DETENTION



NSW SECRETARIAT

Secretary: Dr Sandie Wong: Sandie (*B Ed [ECE], PhD, RN*) joined Macquarie University in July 2018 as an Associate Professor. Sandie has worked as an academic, manager, researcher, evaluator, educator, consultant and nurse, within a range of early childhood, academic and health organisations. Sandie's research is driven by a concern with the role early childhood education has in ameliorating disadvantage and reducing marginalisation both contemporaneously and historically. She is committed to working in collaborative, strengths-based ways, with academics from a range of disciplines, early childhood organisations and practitioners, and governments. She has an on-going interest in historicising early childhood through history of the present and oral history methodologies. Her current work investigates: early childhood practices (including inter-professional practice; workforce issues; educator well-being) and the history of early childhood internationally. She currently holds a three-year Senior Research Fellowship with Goodstart Early Learning.

Treasurer: Leanne Gibbs Leanne has worked in the early childhood education and community sector for over 30 years. Her experience is supported by qualifications in education, public policy, politics, leadership and management. Her roles have included teacher and director of long day care and preschool programs, advisor and manager with local, state and federal governments, teacher and lecturer within early education, management and leadership programs for TAFE and Macquarie University. She has been a manager of professional development programs for major providers and Chief Executive Officer for an Australian sector peak organisation. She is currently a PhD candidate at Charles Sturt University, consultant, Board Member and co-host of the Early Education Show podcast.

Membership: Dr Wendy Boyd Dr Wendy Boyd is the Membership Secretary for OMEP Australia. She is a senior lecturer in early childhood education at Southern Cross University, and was a Director of a large long day care centre for 25 years prior to joining academia. In this role she worked with all stakeholders to optimise the quality of children's experiences at the centre. Broadly Wendy's research has cut across the provision of quality in early childhood centres. She aims to make significant contributions to local, state based, national and international early childhood education practices to support children's education.

Communication: Arian Ploeg Arian is currently studying a Masters of Information Studies combined with research assistant work through Australian universities. After completing her Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood), she has been involved with primarily long day centres as teacher, advisor and consultant. In later years Arian was a moderator at NCAC after concentrated work in regulations and quality. From there she became involved with professional development and managed a registered training organisation which specialised in early childhood and leadership qualifications. This has led Arian to interest in supporting students at an academic level and work as a tutor and assessor.



Secretariat (Held by NSW) (Absent: Wendy Boyd)

Pictured L-R Arian Ploeg, Dr Sandra Wong, Dr Frances Press, Leanne Gibbs, Vivi Germanos-Koutsounadis

ROSAMONDE COMBES

Rosamonde Combes graduated from the Kindergarten Training College, Melbourne in 1941. She started her teaching experience in Canberra becoming the first Preschool Officer in the ACT. Cooperating with Gladys Pendred, Federal Officer for the Australian Preschool Association, she worked with parents to establish Preschool Play Centres and developed training courses for voluntary helpers.

Rosamonde had a particular interest in child development which, with the aid of a scholarship from the Creche and Kindergarten Association, she studied at University College London. On returning to Brisbane, Rosamonde became Preschool Officer for the Creche and Kindergarten Association and was responsible for Child Development lectures at the Brisbane Kindergarten Training College. She was subsequently appointed Senior Lecturer in Child Development and Early Childhood Education at the Melbourne Kindergarten Training College, retiring in 1982.

From the time of her professional work in the ACT, Rosamonde had a deep interest in, and actively supported in a voluntary capacity, the world-wide activities of OMEP. She represented Australia at the OMEP Conference in Vienna in 1950, and later, as a Regional Vice-President, in Helsinki and Geneva, allowing her to keep in touch with, and be inspired by, OMEP's progress at an international level. Rosamonde served as Regional Vice-President from 1981-84, during which time she was responsible for having the region's name changed from *Pacific and Far East* to *Asia-Pacific*. She established a regional newsletter that promoted links between the national presidents and committees through the exchange of ideas, research and concerns and which continue to this day.

Rosamonde died in 2016 at the age of 99 and will be remembered for her outstanding pioneering work in Early Childhood Education in Australia, as well as her dedication to the well-being of the world's young children.

CONTACT DETAILS

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OMEPAUSTRALIA TRAVEL AWARD

Rosamunde Combes generously left a bequest to OMEP Australia to assist OMEP members who have made a significant contribution to OMEP to attend a regional or world OMEP Assembly and Conference.

In 2018, the bequest enabled OMEP Australia to offer an **OMEPAustralia Travel Award** to three OMEP members to support their attendance at the World Assembly and Conference in Prague in June.

The Travel Award was granted through a competitive process, to the following recipients: **Joan Waters** (Victorian Chapter) **Vivi Germanos-Koutsounadis (NSW Chapter)**, and **Lesley-Anne Ey** (South Australian

JULY 2018

OMEPA Memberships
Due 2018-9

SEPTEMBER 2018

ECA Conference Sydney
19-22 September
ecaconference.com.au

Board of OMEPAustralia:

Frances Press (Chair of Board);

Dawn Butterworth (WA Director);

Vivi Germanos-Koutsounadis (NSW Director);

Karen Guo (SA Director);

Vikki Hopwood (VIC Director)

MEMBERSHIP

Become a member of OMEP at anytime.
Contact info@omep.org.au for more
information and application forms.



O.M.E.P. Aust Ltd
World Organisation for
Early Childhood Education

Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar

ACN 060 578 092

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/ RENEWAL FORM

Membership is due 1st July each year.

Please complete the following details and return with payment. Your payment will be acknowledged and our records updated.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2018/2019

NEW MEMBERSHIP
INDIVIDUAL:

☐

Individual:

RENEWAL

☐

Unwaged:

\$60.00

☐

\$40.00

☐

(Pensioners & self funded retirees)

Student:

\$25.00

☐

ORGANISATION:

\$100.00

☐

Donation to World Travel Fund

☐

amount

OMEP Aust Ltd is tax exempt – GST does not apply to this Invoice

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title:

Name:

*Organisation (*Only complete if organisational member and only one member per organisation)

Address:

Phone (wk)

Mobile

Email:

Signed

Date of Application:

Method of payment

Direct Deposit

☐

Name: OMEP Aust Ltd

Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia

BSB: 06 3210

Ac No. 10093711

Enclose Cheque

☐

Make payable to: OMEP Aust Ltd

If posting please send post this form with remittance to

Membership Secretary,
OMEP Aust Ltd
41 Browning St
Byron Bay, NSW, 2481

Please email copy of Direct Deposit and this form to the secretary wendy.boyd@scu.edu.au