

NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN UNION (INCORPORATED)

EXECUTIVE REPORT - 1968-69

This is my third Annual Report, and it gives me pleasure to present the activities of your Executive for the year ending 30 June, 1969.

It does not seem very long since I wrote the Mid-year Survey which brought you up-to-date with Executive and Union affairs and it is inevitable that the Annual Report, to a certain extent, will be repetitive. However, one significant difference is the opportunity it affords to record our thanks to the many people who have been most helpful to our movement over the past year. I would like to take this opportunity of recording our thanks to Mrs R. A. Elliott, Union Secretary-Treasurer, for another year of meticulous attention to the Union's office requirements. As the movement grows, so her responsibility and hours of work correspondingly increase - it is time to review her remuneration and the Executive will be giving consideration to this.

Two new members joined the Executive at the last Annual Meeting - Mr K. Hayr as the representative from Auckland and Mrs E. Martin of Palmerston North was elected one of the non-training members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Executive for loyal co-operation and helpfulness throughout the year. I feel the Union has been well served, and, together, we have advanced Kindergarten education in a number of ways.

The Executive meets on three occasions each year, before and after Annual Meeting, followed by a meeting in Wellington in March. This meeting is always an "endurance test" and hours of session are determined by the length of the agenda - the March meeting this year was a record for hours of "heads down", I think. The time may come when we may have to have two meetings between Annual Meetings, but while our financial status is borderline, it is out of the question. Letter writing will still have to be coped with.

MEMBERSHIP

The number of Associations affiliated to the Union is 66 - Wigram has now joined Christchurch - and the number of recognised kindergartens 290, fourteen more than last year. We congratulate those committees who have gained recognition and have had Official Openings this year. Nothing is more rewarding than to be present at an Official Opening day!

KINDERGARTEN BUILDING PROGRAMME

Once again I must record my grateful thanks to all of you who completed your building projects in time to claim subsidies before the end of the Department's financial year in March. The Executive appreciates the difficulties experienced by some Associations to accomplish this, but it really does help the President when the time comes to present the priority list. As you read in the Mid-year Survey, the list was a formidable one and twelve seemed to be the number the Department had in mind before the pressure was on. I was asked to put the list in order of priority - an impossible task - and the list was sent in, "in toto". We were delighted when a record number of eighteen were given the green light, and a special "Mini" Kindergarten agreed to for Orewa, making nineteen for the first half of the year. The Minister agreed to our making further representations in September and the number could be advanced still further when the Minister is seen again. Committees granted permission to call tenders were:

366

Apanui (Bay of Plenty)	Fordlands (Bay of Plenty)
Kawerau South (Bay of Plenty)	Hinemoa (Bay of Plenty)
Te Atatu (Auckland)	Pakuranga (Auckland)
Flat Bush (Auckland)	Paparangi (Wellington)
Karori (Wellington)	Paeroa
Raumanga (Whangarei)	Otorohanga
Huntly West (Huntly)	Glenshea (Putaruru)
Mill Street (Marton)	Henley (Nelson)
Holmes (Oamaru)	Redwood (Christchurch)
Orewa (East Coast Bays) Mini kindergarten	

RECRUITMENT AND PUBLICITY

We were told by the officers of the Department after our March meeting that the staffing position had taken a slight downward trend. We must all take part in presenting Kindergarten teaching as a very desirable profession to as many secondary pupils as possible. Numbers applying are still high, but we must endeavour to get our share of those who have qualified doing a professional course at school. Publicity of what the Kindergarten movement is doing and achieving could well be stepped up.

TRAINING

Wellington Training Centre is still the only one of the four to operate as a separate entity. A further Lopdell House course was asked for, for our professional Training Staff, and was promised for 1970. These courses are invaluable and we must see that this course is not lost sight of.

I. M. JAMIESON SCHOLARSHIP

This year the scholarship was offered to Mrs M. C. Rutherford of Dunedin. The selection committee was confident that Mrs Rutherford would benefit from full time University study and would become a very useful member of the professional staff later.

NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

This year the executive officers of the Kindergarten Teachers' Association have shifted to Dunedin. To Miss M. Just, President, and Miss P. Varcoe, Secretary, we offer congratulations and a happy and profitable term of office. The Teachers' Association is fortunate to have members of their calibre, and experience, prepared to take over this very considerable extra work. Associations should make every effort to see their teaching staff are members of the Kindergarten Teachers' Association.

So many changes are taking place in the Kindergarten movement that a "get-together" of representatives of the Executive, the Teachers' Association and the Department is a must in the near future.

EXECUTIVE TRAVEL

This year the President represented the Union at the Australian Pre-school Association Conference at Adelaide. Mrs R. A. Elliott, Union Secretary, Miss F. Cawkwell, Principal of Auckland Training Centre and in all a party of twenty-eight attended. It was good to see in the group so many young Kindergarten teachers showing such interest and prepared to meet the considerable expense involved.

The President was Guest Speaker and presented Diplomas at Christchurch and presented Diplomas at Wellington. Mrs Rea

365

was Guest Speaker and presented Diplomas at Auckland. The President, Vice-president and members of the Executive have been present at many Official Openings during the year.

The President and Mrs Ryan represented the Union at a very representative educational meeting convened by the New Zealand Educational Institute to discuss the setting up of an Educational Television Committee. Miss Ingram was elected to represent the pre-school groups on this committee. She also attended a special meeting of this committee and was a member of a deputation received by the Minister of Education.

PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The interim committee of O.M.E.P. has done little since it was formed last year - however, an Electoral College was set up and recently nominations have been called for members to stand for the first Executive. The wheels grind slowly but we are hopeful that when the Executive is elected more positive steps will be taken.

We are pleased to record that further meetings have been held with members of the Play Centre Federation Executive. One meeting was attended on our behalf by Mrs Rea and Mr K. Hayr - the President was unavoidably absent, and another recent meeting in Auckland was attended by Miss Ingram, Mrs Rea and Mr Hayr. These meetings are very valuable, and each one brings us closer to what will eventually be, we hope, a Pre-school Education Council. In the meantime differences are frankly discussed and points of mutual interest shared. We are grateful to the Play Centre people for being so willing to meet us at any time.

This report does not cover all the points raised in the Mid-year Survey, but discussion on both will be taken after the Annual Report is read.

An item of general interest is the growing number of Maori children attending kindergartens. It is most encouraging to know that our Maori people are becoming more aware of the educational value of pre-school experience.

THANKS

As I said at the beginning of this report, it is good to be able to record our thanks to special people who have made another year of progress possible. The Minister of Education, Mr A. E. Kinsella, has given us most sympathetic hearings and has dealt generously with our requests. His portfolio is a demanding one in every sense, but he has a full appreciation of the value of the pre-school field - for this we are both grateful and fortunate. To the members of the Department, Dr. K. J. Sheen, Mr B. M. Pinder and Miss I. J. Christison, we record our thanks for courteous hearings and understanding of our problems. Our thanks also to the Honorary Solicitor, Mr J. D. Davys, and Honorary Auditor, Mr H. L. Wylie, for their professional knowledge so freely available to us. To the Blenheim Association for their attention to detail for the 1968 Conference and to all who make up the Union our thanks for your co-operation - we can be well pleased with the year recorded here.

Once again "togetherness" is the word which sums up the success we have achieved for Kindergarten pre-school education.

I join with each member of the Executive in a spirit of confidence that the coming year will see us a step nearer to that goal when the three to eight-year-old school will be the New Zealand pattern.

For the Executive,

Laura M. C. Ingram
President.

September, 1969.

LMC