

NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN UNION (INCORPORATED)

EXECUTIVE REPORT 1972-73 (TIMARU)

The Annual Report, following so closely the July Mid-Year Survey, will have little to add, but it is a very important part of Annual Meeting when we are required to take stock of the happenings since last we met, in the recorded work of your Executive. This year, with a change of Government, we have a change of Minister of Education, the Honourable P. A. Amos, who, like his predecessor, has made known the place of priority he gives pre-school education. As was expected, further consideration of the Hill Report is very much in evidence. The National Advisory Council has met and the second meeting called for October 8 & 9. District Pre-school Committees have met in some Board areas - a seminar on Teaching and Learning was attended by the President and Secretary, and on 7 September the President was required to meet the Working Party on Organization and Administration of the Educational Development Conference to emphasise points in, or elaborate on, all submissions made on the Hill Report. It is obvious that 1973 and 1974 will see many changes in the whole pattern of education, and we must all see to it that the best in kindergarten education is retained.

MEMBERSHIP

The number of affiliated associations is 67 and the number of recognized kindergartens 356. We offer congratulations to the committees which have gained recognition and have had official openings this year.

BUILDING PROGRAMME (Mid-Year Survey, paragraph 19)

This is covered in the Mid-Year Survey - 20 plus 1 extension. However, the possible figure is 30 and already Maraeroa (Tawa) is an addition.

TRAINING COLLEGE COSTS (Mid-Year Survey, paragraph 3)

Just a word to those directly involved in this. Legitimate costs will be met and it is hoped that Associations and Councils have presented their cases to the Department's Chief Executive Officer, Finance - delays will not be helpful.

RECRUITMENT AND PUBLICITY (Mid-Year Survey, paragraphs 9 & 10)

Student grants for this year are 280.

Kindergarten student intake at the Primary Training Colleges in North Shore and Hamilton is a new experience and of considerable concern to the Kindergarten Teachers' Association. However, we are hopeful that teething troubles have been taken care of. We are grateful to the Principals of these Colleges for the keen interest that they have shown in the training of our students. Thought is now being given to the training of a further group of kindergarten students at Palmerston North.

The Publicity Committee Report will be presented by Mr Stan Gurnell (Whangarei).

RESEARCH

We have always shown great interest in research and kept in touch with Mr J. Watson, Director of N.Z.C.E.R. This year a pleasing addition in our field of education is Geraldine McDonald's "Maori Mothers and Pre-School Education" - the result of a comprehensive study made possible through N.Z.C.E.R.

Dr David Barney's work in Auckland continues and we look forward to meeting him again at a Conference. Research was one of the topics raised by the Kindergarten Teachers' Association at our July meeting, and their members were surprised to learn that we have been involved over the years.

NEW ZEALAND PLAYCENTRE FEDERATION

This year the Federation Annual Meeting was held in Christchurch and was attended at the Official Opening by the President, Vice-President and Mr J. H. M. Dawson. Miss Ingram and Mrs Brayshaw attended the whole Conference and were very impressed with the friendly atmosphere and wide variety of subjects discussed. Miss Ingram was invited to speak during the last session and she took the opportunity to stress our concern that the District Committees and National Council should not set out to control our movement. The Conference was told of our Pre-School Convention and that all interested would be invited to participate.

O.M.E.P.

We have not heard any more about the O.M.E.P. Committee. As we were the only members, prior to the setting up of the New Zealand membership, it is now time that we applied again for associate membership. This could, perhaps, be helpful with our National Convention as well.

EXTENDED ROLLS (Mid-Year Survey, paragraph 4)

A number of associations have applied, but movement in this area is very slow. We must press on with this, as it has been proved to have worked where staff have been keen and co-operative. 50% of a generation of children are missing the opportunity of pre-school experience.

NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (Mid-Year Survey, paragraph 8)

The Annual Meeting of the Kindergarten Teachers' Association was held in Wellington in August, and was attended, on our behalf, by Mr S. P. Bussell. He found the meeting most enjoyable. One comment by the Minister, the Hon. P. A. Amos, in answer to a question re more supervising head teachers "The door is not closed to the appointment of further supervising head teachers" was a very interesting one! The Executive was impressed with the meeting in July with the Kindergarten Teachers' Association Council members and decided that we would arrange further meetings when we meet in Wellington.

EXECUTIVE TRAVEL

A lot of travelling has been done again this year. Including days at Conference, as President I will have been away from home 57 days since 30 January. Executive members have travelled a lot throughout their Wards, and to meetings representing the Union. We have all attended Official Openings and Diploma functions, and enjoyed them very much. You will be pleased to know that the last kindergarten to be opened in Upper Hutt was named the "Doris Nicholson Kindergarten". We were pleased to send a message of congratulations to Mrs Doris Nicholson, a Kindergarten Union Executive member for six years, on her award of O.B.E. - an honour well deserved.

FINANCE (Mid-Year Survey, paragraphs 5 and 8)

Every time I have visited the Department or Minister the question of finance has been raised. With the 35% rise in the vote for pre-school, there will be something in it for us - the case has been made - it remains for the Minister to be successful

with his Cabinet colleagues.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

This year, for the first time in recent years, we have had two meetings between Conferences. We have all felt the necessity for this for a long time and we are agreed that it is essential for members to keep up with, and take their full share of, the responsibilities we have undertaken. In spite of this, very full agendas have been coped with.

A new member to the Executive for Ward 5 is Mr T. J. Parker, who replaced Mr N. McKay. We record our thanks to Mr McKay for his service at national level.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that advice has been received of the sudden death of the Union's former honorary solicitor, Mr J. D. Davys. Sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and members of his legal firm.

THANKS

Once again it is our pleasure to record our thanks to Mrs R. A. Elliott, Secretary-Treasurer, for her meticulous attention to the affairs of the Union Office.

To the Honorary Auditor, Mr H. L. Wylie, and the Honorary Solicitor, Mr D. V. Henderson, we record our appreciation for their professional services which are so readily available to us at all times. Our ministerial thanks are divided between the Hon. H. L. Pickering and the Hon. P. A. Amos - both were teachers and keen to help as much as possible. We look forward to working with Mr Amos, who now has a chance to see the Hill Report on its way.

We record our thanks to the members of the Department with whom we deal - Mr A. N. V. Dobbs, Director-General, Mr B. M. Pinder, who started off as "our man in the Department", and to Mr N. G. Leckie, Miss I. J. Christison, Officer for Pre-School Education, and her assistant, Mrs J. Coe. We have met often and meetings have been, as usual, long and tiring - so much is on the move. They are helpful people and I am confident that kindergartens will be made easier to establish in the near future.

We record our thanks to the Auckland Association for hosting the 1972 Conference - our first "live-in" one, and very successful it was. Hospitality was first class, and their Conference Committee was on the job at all times.

And finally, when we think about the rapidly-changing scene in education, we must give serious thought to the things that have given us the important place we hold in pre-school education today, that we exist by parent involvement, employ professionally-trained teachers, working in buildings specifically built and equipped for small children, and that our involvement is for normal children, with the addition of small groups of handicapped children where they can be integrated as part of the programme of the kindergarten.

We must be prepared for change where it spells progress, but we must be sure that our basic concepts are not given up lightly.

For the Executive,

Laura M. C. Ingram

PRESIDENT.