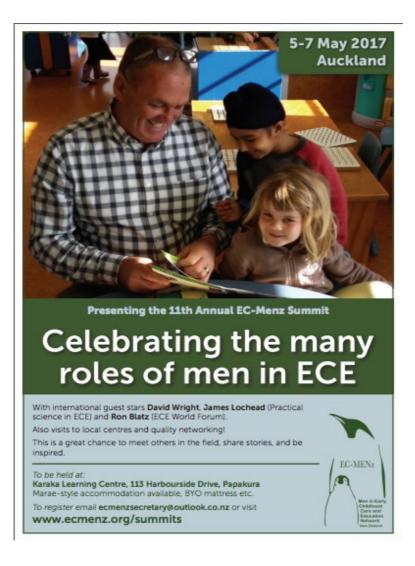


Don't Forget: ECMENz 11th Annual Hui



24 April 2017

PRESS RELEASE: EC-MENz - Celebrating the Many Roles of Men in ECE

EC-MENz is New Zealand's nationwide network supporting men in the field of early childhood education (ECE). Our eleventh annual national summit - Blokes in Auckland (Tamaki) is taking place in Auckland on 5 – 7 May 2017 at Karaka Learning Centre, 113 Harbourside Dr, Karaka.

Ec-Menz believes this is a wonderful opportunity for men (who make up only 2% of the population of teaching staff in mainstream early childhood education in Aotearoa/New Zealand) to meet others in the field, share stories, and be inspired.

Presenting at this exciting event are David Wright ('Learning at KLC'), James Lochead ('Practical Science in ECE'), and international guest stars Ron Blatz (Canada) and American Jerry Parr (USA) who are visiting our shores as part of the international World Forum on Early Care and Education. Interactive question and answer sessions are sure to be a highlight, with refreshments provided. All are welcome.

In 2014, EEO commissioner Jacqui Blue the labelled ECE as "the most gendered profession within New Zealand". She stated men in early childhood education have an important task as role models for boys and girls about what men can do, as role models for fathers having greater involvement in their children's lives, to affirm the identity of all the children attending ECE, and to contribute "their own male way of doing things".

Dr. Blue added: "Our young girls and boys need to see all of the community reflected in early childhood settings" and that the EEO commission recommended an "active recruitment campaign aimed at increasing the number of male carers" – and highlighted the work EC-MENz has initiated for early childhood education.

To achieve the above we need support to meet, to share with others and to advocate for more gender-balance in our early childhood teaching professionals.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information on 03 4701029.

Yours sincerely

Russell Ballantyne President EC-MENz

Positions within ECMENz to replace.

James Hamilton is stepping down from the Secretary position this year and we are in need of a replacement. If you wish to volunteer as secretary you can do so at the AGM on Friday the 5th of May. If you are not attending the Summit and wish to put your name down email James at **ecmenzsecretary@outlook.co.nz**

This job involves:

- Be part of history at this vital time early childhood education in Aotearoa
- Enjoy the chance to work alongside some of the leaders in your field
- Only a few hours a month, with a supportive, relaxed, and fun committee



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