



# ECMenz

The Network for Men in

April / May 2012



## ECMenz

President Adam Buckingham  
Auckland Kindergarten Teacher

Vice President Robin Christie  
Childspace, Wellington

Treasurer Michael Inch  
Christchurch Early Childhood  
Teacher and Centre Owner

Secretary Gerald Jacobson

## Kia ora koutou

Kia ora koutou – it has been a busy time for the network in 2012 already. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit of ECMenz has been held in Whanganui. At the summit the AGM of the network was held and a new President and Committee were elected. More details below, but first...

## What is ECMenz?

ECMenz is the national network for men in early childhood education with membership open to both men *and* women who share our goals. Some of the goals of the network are:

- To promote ECE as a great career for men;
- To collect and promote research in relation to men in ECE; and
- To lobby for initiatives to increase the numbers of men teaching in ECE in Aotearoa New Zealand.





## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit of ECMenz

The 2012 summit was held at Born and Raised Pasifika in Whanganui. It was an absolutely fantastic weekend. Our hosts were magnificent!

Born and Raised Pasifika in Whanganui is a unique early childhood setting, comprising pre-school education for three Pacific communities on the one site – Fijian, Cook Island and Samoan. Jason and Murray, two members of ECMenz, are teachers at the centre. Jason and Murray are highly skilled early childhood teachers, becoming fluent in the languages needed to perform their jobs, it is down to their efforts that the weekend was such a success!

Guest Speakers

The network was addressed by a number of guest speakers, including; Annette Main (Mayor of Whanganui); Chester Borrowes (MP, National, Whanganui); Tagilima Feleti (Lecturer in ECE, Te Tari Puna O Aotearoa); and Dr Lesieli Tongati'o (Ministry of Education). All speakers were enthused to be at the conference and were inspired by the efforts of the men in the network.

AGM

An essential talk of the summit is for the organization to conduct an AGM. At a lively meeting the organization elected a

new President – Adam Buckingham, from Auckland. Congratulations Adam! The organization would like to sincerely thank the brilliant Russell Ballentyne for all his hard work on behalf of the organization over the last few years. Thanks for all the hard work Russell!

ECMenz is a network of men *and women* working to increase the participation rates of men working in the early childhood sector in New Zealand.

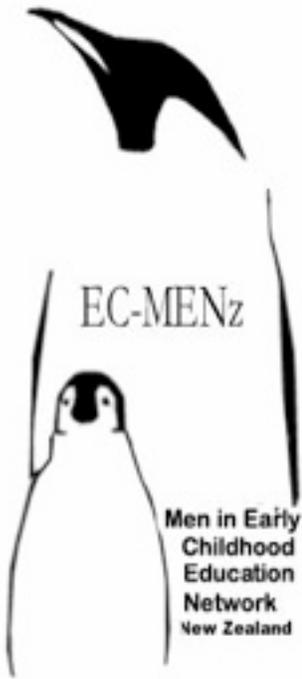
Annual membership to the organization is just \$20 with reduced rates for student teachers and a separate rate for

## Membership explained...

organizational membership.

Membership to the organization provides access to reduced registration rates to attend the Annual ECMenz Summit which is held in different parts of the country every year. Members are also able to access the ECMenz website, Facebook page and the Annual Summit Facebook page as well.





## News, Events, and Links...

One of the main aims of ECMenz is to effect change that will increase the participation rates of men working in the early childhood sector in Aotearoa New Zealand. With that in mind this year the organization will be working on a new strategic plan...

This year the organization will be working with Peter Visser on developing a new strategic plan to guide the future activities of the organization. ECMenz will be inviting all members to have some input into the strategic plan so that we can all move forward together, united in purpose and with a clear vision. Look to the ECMenz website and Facebook page for more information through the year.

In the news...

The organization has been in the news recently and I think we can take some pride in the fact that we are recognized as the spokes-group around what bubbles away as a story of interest in many parts of the country. Our new President, Adam, has already been interviewed on community radio

in Auckland, and penned a report on the Summit posted on the Scoop news site. Adam has also had conversations with TeachNZ around recent research from Germany on increasing the presence of men in their early childhood education system (links below) and the development of another brochure for tertiary studies providers in education promoting the recruitment of men to ECE programmes.

Links...

ECMenz on Facebook:

Members only

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/107588052656097/>

ECMenz Website: <http://www.ecmenz.org/>

ECMenz 2012 Summit page on Facebook: <http://>

[www.facebook.com/groups/209681649048485/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/209681649048485/)

On the ECMenz website and Facebook page there are a number of links to pages of interest, recent research, as well as correspondence between the organization and the MOE around the issue of increasing the participation of men in the early childhood sector.

We hope that you are able to display this newsletter at your worksite, perhaps add this into your correspondence section in staff meetings, and engage with the men who do come into your early childhood centre so that they know that early childhood education is for them too.