



Annual Report to the AGM of 2021

Co-chair Report

Kia ora koutou, ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

Tēnā koutou i roto i ngā ahuatanga i te wā.

Introduction

The last twelve months since the 2020 AGM has been challenging for EONZ, the outdoor sector and the wider education community. COVID-19 was the cause of significant disruption, but there is also a wider backdrop of change and uncertainty in education outdoors. EONZ has worked hard to negotiate this period, supporting practitioners, contributing to discussion and debate around the significant changes in progress, and represent the interests of educators who value the natural environment and the learning inherent in outdoor experiences.

Within EONZ we have reached the end of an era defined by the contribution of Catherine Kappelle, who stepped down from service as the EONZ Executive Officer in April 2021. Catherine's service to EONZ includes eight years as a National Executive member, a number of years part-time as the EONZ administrator and in recent years as the full-time Executive Officer. The growth in her role, its scope and her workload coincided with, and significantly influenced, the growth and expanding scope of EONZ operations and our positive reputation within the education community. As Executive Officer, Catherine has been the face of the organisation, managing memberships and partnerships, and guiding the organisation and its members through periods of considerable change and uncertainty. The EONZ Executive celebrates Catherine's considerable contribution; her efforts leave the organisation in a strong and future focused position.

EONZ finishes this financial year in a strong position. As the organisation moves through this transition, we take time to reflect on past learnings, efforts and achievements, as well as acknowledge the special people that made it possible. In this moment we also look to the future and consider how we can continue to grow and become a more inclusive, sustainable and dynamic organisation. We are really excited by the position EONZ is in now, and the things yet to come. Thank you for your on-going support. We look forward to continuing our relationships with you.

Changes to EONZ personnel

Over the past decade EONZ has experienced considerable growth. With Networks of Expertise funding and in partnership with the Ministry of Education, we have been able to offer greater professional development and support to our members and the wider education community. Projects include the National EOTC coordinator database, the National EOTC Study, Revisioning School Camps professional development and the 'Menstruation in the Outdoors' project (the latter which will be released later this year). EONZ has also been involved in and advised on important sectoral changes, such as the Good Practice guidelines, ROVE, NCEA Review, RAS, and the EOTC Guidelines refresh. To keep up with this growth, we have established three new roles.

With Catherine's departure, several new roles have been established that reflect the growing range of skills required to manage the organisation and its operations. Fiona McDonald stepped down from the EONZ Executive to take on an interim Chief Executive Officer role. This is a new position that has been established to allow EONZ some time to develop a permanent role, as a number of other roles are developed. These include an Office administrator and a Grants and funding administrator. Jo Hayes has been appointed to the position of Office administrator, working part-time to maintain memberships, provide support for PLD programmes, and act as an initial point of contact for the organisation. Rosemary Such was appointed as Grants and funding administrator in a project-based capacity to support the growth of the organisation.

Last year, we also welcomed Sharon White to the Executive as a co-opted member. Sharon is a Kaihautū (leader) at Te Pā o Rākahautū in Ōtautahi and brings considerable experience as an educator, school leader, and of Te Ao Māori. We are excited to have her as part of the team.

EONZ's Te Tiriti o Waitangi journey

In November 2020 the EONZ executive embarked on a journey to better engage with *Te Tiriti o Waitangi*, exploring ways in which the organisation can better align as a treaty partner. This Journey is still in its early phases, as the organisation seeks to identify opportunities to partner with Māori educators, schools and organisations in promoting, advocating and supporting education outside the classroom. Creating opportunities for engagement, dialogue and collaboration will be a significant focus of the next term of the executive.

Revisioning School Camps PLD

In 2020 a further round of Revisioning School Camps professional development was completed. This highly successful PLD has now delivered 20 workshops to over 200 educators. In July 2020, a review was completed of the PLD package. As a result, several changes were made to ensure content was current, engaging and inclusive of all educators. One of these changes include the introduction of a follow-up half-day wānanga that builds on the concepts introduced in the first workshop. This wānanga also strengthens local networks as non-participating schools are invited to participate. The PLD has produced some outstanding case studies - in both written and podcast form. The PLD also featured as an Education Gazette article and the PLD coordinator, Sophie Watson, was invited on to the RNZ 'Panel' to discuss the value of school camps and how schools are 'revisioning' their practices in response to wider educational changes. EONZ has secured another Network of Expertise contract from the Ministry of Education to deliver further Revisioning School Camp PLD, so watch this space.

EOTC Management initiatives

In 2020 EOTC and Effective Safety Management Systems 2-day PLD was delivered in 8 locations across the country (which is a testament to the flexibility and fortitude of both the facilitators and participants who had to deal with multiple delays and changes due to changing Covid Alert levels). Embedding Good Practice Systems for EOTC 1-day PLD was delivered in 6 locations.

The EOTC Coordinator Database continued to grow in registered members during 2020 with 986 EOTC Coordinators now registered. A monthly Zoom series for EOTC Coordinators was started and has continued with a different topic presented each month. Individual support via email, phone or zoom has also been provided as part of the EOTC Management contract.

The EOTC Management contract has been awarded to EONZ for a three-year period with a right of renewal for a future two years. This extended period of funding allows excellent long-term planning.

EOTC Conference 2020

In September 2020, EONZ delivered a 2-day EOTC Conference in partnership with TRCC. The conference kaupapa centred on the whakataukī, *manaaki tangata, manaaki whenua, haere whakamua*. EOTC is so beautifully reflected in the meaning of this whakataukī; it has a strong and essential place in our education system.

This event was the first EONZ-lead conference in 10 years! The conference was open to all educators from Early Childhood Education (ECE) to Secondary. We also welcomed a small number of secondary and tertiary students, tertiary educators, and external education providers. The conference was delivered using a progressive and innovative model. This included the concurrent delivery of the day one programme across five regional hubs (Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin) that were connected via livestream, and a localised programme for day two. Feedback from conference participants was incredibly positive. They not only found the conference format to be responsive to their needs, but adaptable to the dynamic situation leading up to the event (aka COVID-19). It was wonderful to see each hub respond to their local places, stories and people as they engaged in the day two programme. We also heard from five inspiring keynote speakers on day one. You can view their presentations on our website.

Huge thanks goes to everyone who was involved in organising and leading the conference, particularly the presenters, local hub leaders (Maika Hemara, Jane Townsend, Brook Rapson, Chris North and Jen Davy) and their organising teams, and to Sophie Watson as the Conference Director.

The Review of Vocational Education (RoVE)

The changes in Vocational Education continued throughout the year, with work to establish Workforce Development Councils and Te Pūkenga. It remains to be seen how and where the Outdoor Recreation unit standards used by schools and the EOTC Level 4 and 5 qualifications will sit in the future.

The NCEA review

The NCEA review was stalled in 2020 by the COVID19 'lock-down' and level changes, but as the year came to a close, the Review of Achievement Standards (RAS) resumed, with Subject Expert Groups (SEGs) convening and beginning work on the development of new achievement standards. The announcement of the level 1 subject lists was announced in late 2020, and Phil Washbourn represents EONZ on the Physical Education SEG. Draft standards and a learning matrix were released for consultation in April 2021, and work to finalise these standards in preparation for trials in 2022 will continue through 2021. EONZ, with support from a wide spectrum of schools, made a submission to the Ministry of Education for the inclusion of Outdoor Education as a level 2 and 3 subject. At the time of writing, we are still yet to hear the outcome of this, although an announcement is expected by June 2021. It is fitting here to thank the many schools and educators who contributed support to this submission, at a very busy time of year for many.

Menstruation in the Outdoors

Over the past year EONZ, with support from SportNZ, PPTA, Canterbury University and Leave No Trace Aotearoa, have undertaken a project focused on increasing gender equity in the outdoors. An open-source mixed media resource has been developed that includes online material, a video series, as well as five lesson plans for educators and outdoor leaders. The resource is intended to support educators to develop their practices, as well as to increase young people's understanding of gender equity outdoors. The resource addresses historical and ethnic perceptions and practices of menstruation, provides information on intersex, transgender and gender diverse people and ways to ensure they are included and supported in the outdoors, and offers practical strategies and tools for outdoor period management. The resource is in the final stages of production and is due for release in October 2021.

DIY Camping

In 2020 EONZ worked in partnership with Craft Lab and the Puriri project to develop a PLD package to support Primary schools to provide local, place-based camping experiences for their students. A pilot was run in 2 schools. This programme is currently being reviewed to see how it can best support the Revisioning School Camps PLD in the future.

Ngā mihi nui,

Phil and Sophie (EONZ co-chairs)

Financial Report

It is with pleasure as the outgoing EONZ Executive Officer that I am tabling a copy of the EONZ Annual Financial Statements for 2020 at the 2021 Annual General Meeting. The accounts have been circulated to the EONZ membership and will be publicly accessible on the [Charities Services website](#) following the AGM.

The accounts were reviewed in April by Zane Colville at Taxation and Accounting Services.

EONZ carried a net 2020 surplus of \$5, 026 forward into 2021, bringing EONZ total reserve funds to \$69,118 (see Owner's Equity in the Statement of Financial Position on P4 of the Financial Statements). Note that this surplus has been built up over time and while it's use is entirely discretionary, it enables EONZ to seed projects and to roll with downturn.

An example of how important it is to have reserves was highlighted during the year as the worldwide pandemic rolled out. We were fortunate in not having to utilise any reserve, though that could have been otherwise. EONZ history of good financial management and our agility and ability to roll with change, an attribute that cuts across all levels of our operations, saw a positive outcome from what was otherwise a hugely challenging year that has seen the world forced to change.

EONZ own surplus, combined with accumulated tagged funds of \$160,703, puts the organisation in a strong financial position. Moving into 2021 and with two significant long-term funding streams secured EONZ is in a very sound position to progress its mandate.

C Kappelle

22 April 2021