



Montessori

Aotearoa New Zealand

**42nd Annual General Meeting of
MONTESSORI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
Saturday 27th June, 2025
4.45 pm - 6.00 pm**

AGENDA

Chair: Gillian Somers, President of Council

Minutes Secretary: Cathy Wilson

Scrutineers: Marie Finkle and Sarah Dawson

#	Description	
1	Opening karakia Formal opening of AGM	Gillian
2	Confirmation of a quorum or not <i>14.5: 10 is required</i> Gillian confirmed that we have a quorum.	Gillian
3	Appointment of Scrutineers - Marie Finkle and Sarah Dawson	Gillian
4	Apologies: Heather Scelton , Lucie Hyatt Left: 5:10pm Helena Royden	
5	Confirmation of minutes for the 41st Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 6 July, 2024, 5.30pm at Waipuna Hotel and Convention Centre, Auckland and were made available by email to all members.	Moved: Rose Phillips Seconded: Emilie Neubauer <i>Carried</i>
6	Matters Arising from 2024 Minutes <i>None</i>	
7	Presidents and CE Report This was emailed to members prior to the meeting <i>No questions</i>	Moved: Rachel Dawson Seconded: Rose Phillips <i>Carried</i>
8	Financial Statements and Performance Report for the year ended 31 December 2024	

These were emailed to members prior to the meeting and provided in hardcopies on the tables at AGM.

MANZ started the year with an opening balance of \$320,545 and with the surplus of \$7,226 finished the year-end with a balance of \$327,771.

Of the accumulated funds, \$235,861 are in several fixed term deposits.

Questions

Anna McClean: Vision/plan for the short term deposits?

Gillian/ Cathy: Currently looking for the best place for short term deposits (best interests).

Our vision is to be a sustainable organisation. Looking to keep costs down. Aware conferences attendance are down, may not break even etc. Notice we're in turbulent times, want the reserves to ensure we're able to support big projects, and not put the burden onto members.

Worked/ing on:

Developing strengthened processes in place.

Work around the website.

HR Costs

Funding Model Review Terms of Reference (ToR) (presented to Min Seymour. This work has shaped the TOR which passed through Cabinet).

Pay Equity Work

Parry Field Lawyer work to update the constitution

The only reason MANZ's finances were in the black for 2024 was due to Cathy being on ACC for surgery otherwise we would have run at a loss.

PLD and conference registrations have also been held at the same registration fee for the last 4 years. To enable the primary workshop to be run each year it is always heavily subsidised due to our lower teacher numbers in primary compared with ece.

Twelve months of salary for staff is also ring fenced.

Membership fees have been held for the last three years. This has been very deliberate to support members however, it has meant that MANZ runs an incredibly tight budget.

Cathy: Open to suggestions for projects/ better investment from the membership.

Ava Szarbo: Value MANZ and Cathy and the work done for the membership. Appreciate the big work done at government etc, interested in grass roots back in the membership

	<p>around primary, ECE, secondary. Need someone to be the shining light of MANZ. Need more on the ground, with the members, that can't organise by selves. Would like something active happening with sectors and schools around the country. EG: All living in current world with challenges, facilitating ways to get together and come with ideas to face the challenges, PLD that might be subsidised by MANZ.</p> <p><u>Cathy</u>: Happy to run ZOOM online around direction. Suggested an online brainstorm about what we could be doing/ supporting. 3:30-4pm and a 7pm. Will do two different days with these times.</p> <p>Gillian: We need to know from you, our membership, what you need us to be doing more of to support you.</p>	<p>Moved: Rachel Dawson Seconded: Rose Phillips <i>Carried</i></p>
9	<p>Ashton Wheeler nominated to be the auditor for Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand Incorporated for the financial year ending 31 December 2025.</p>	<p>Moved: Anne Marie Love Seconded: Steven Arnold <i>Moved.</i></p>
10	<p>Nominations for MANZ Board MANZ Board have deferred Gillian's rotation for a year as per the constitution. Three Board members are restanding: Steven Arnold Krista Kerr Anne-Marie Love</p> <p>Nominated: Ashleigh Barnes Nominated by: Rose Phillips Seconded by: Paul Scanlan</p> <p>After members had voted and the votes had been counted Board members confirmed as: Ashleigh, Krista and Anne-Marie.</p>	
11	<p>Proposed Re-written Constitution Proposal to change the Rules of Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand Incorporated for re-registration under the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022. All members were provided access to the proposed resolutions and rationale via email. Hard copies were also provided on tables at the AGM.</p> <p>In line with the current Constitution a 2/3rds majority of valid votes cast is required to make any changes to the Rules as per Rule 21.1.2. Anne-Marie Love advised the total voting strength at this AGM and the requirement for a 2/3rds majority was 36 and the requirement for 2/3rds majority was 22, if all votes are cast. Abstentions are not included in the vote tally for the purpose of determining this majority, though they are noted in the record of the decision.</p>	

	<p>All of the proposed Rule change resolutions were discussed and agreed at a Council meeting held on 9 May 2025.</p> <p><u>Cathy</u> Any of the proposed changes are requirements of the new Act and are needed to either change a current Rule (for example the requirement that an AGM be held within six months of balance date rather than the eight months per our current Rules) or add new clauses to our Rules such as the requirement that a person must consent to become a member. Without such changes being adopted, MANZ will be unable to reregister under the new Act.</p> <p>Other changes are proposed to add clarity to our Rules or to reflect actual practice but without changing the meaning or intent of the Rules.</p> <p>The proposed Rule changes fall into several categories. These:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. are required by the New 2022 Act and must be made for registration under this Act. These do not change the intent of any current provisions in the Rules or practice. 2. Are proposed by Council to provide clarity and reduce ambiguity but without changing the intent of our Rules. 3. Changes that are required by the New 2022 Act but could be addressed in various ways. 4. Changes that add new clauses or change existing clauses and are not required by the New 2022 Act but have been identified by Council as useful or necessary changes to make. <p>Cathy took everyone through the proposed Constitution which was displayed on the screen.</p> <p><u>Vicky Lumsden:</u> 7.3a Talked about licenced Montessori education centres, oversight of omitting Licenced Montessori Playgroups. Cathy: Explained all Montessori Playgroups come into the membership free. See no reason why we can't add that into that paragraph. Will add into the resolution to be added before register. Any objections? None noted.</p> <p><i>Resolution was read that: Members endorse the Council's proposal that the changes required by the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 for reregistration under the Act and the changes proposed by Council to clarify or reduce ambiguity within the current Rules as presented to Members, be voted on as one resolution with the addition to 7.3a of adding 'licenced Montessori playgroups be added.</i></p> <p>Ava Szarbo and Dimitri Pantazis thanked Cathy and the team for the huge amount of work that this takes to update.</p>	<p>Moved: Carol Potts Seconded: Tania Gaffney</p> <p>In favour: 131 Against: 0 Abstained: 0</p>
12	<p>Honorary Membership nomination: Robin Wilkins Nominated by Ava Szarbo and Tania Gaffney [131] votes in favour; [0] votes against; [0] abstentions</p>	

13	<p>Open Forum</p> <p><u>Steven Arnold</u>: lots of school closures in Auckland. At what point do we say this is more than BAU. When do we start to look collectively to ensure that the quality remains high and more and more schools consider moving to Montessori? Any other initiatives where we can shine the light brighter?</p> <p><u>Emilie Neubauer</u>, : Capturing voices for Montessori through social media and sharing the success and beauty of our learning programme. Being better at communicating why we choose Montessori, how they're thriving etc, making these stories available to our community and across the motu.</p> <p><u>Ava Szarbo</u>: Not living in a climate that allows schools to get off the ground. So bogged down in what you're doing every single day, would be great to have someone who's the flag bearer. Wants a vehicle for holding and shining a light on great Montessori practices.</p> <p><u>Gillian Somers</u>: MANZ google groups is a unique opportunity to share and provide opportunities for connection and being inspired. Untapped potential. Anna: How do people get on it? (Google group). Cathy adds school email addresses to it as they come through but people do need to send them. Any PLD and conference registrations which come through as school email addresses are added as well.</p> <p><u>Mamira Ali</u>: Coming together as a community and MANZ as a platform, support.</p> <p><u>Carol Potts</u>: AMI Voices of Trainers. Can we tap into parents' voices? Have a whole raft of parents really passionate about Montessori sharing. EG One parent a month, across the age groups, speaking of the benefits of Montessori. Give them something positive to do and feel valued.</p> <p><u>Suzanne Eaddy</u>: Neighbour in Hawaii, said how sheltered we are as we don't have any neighbouring countries. We see it as being overseas. Children don't have the peaceful environment we have here. So consider how we support this. What an amazing alliance between Montessori and Kohanga reo. Is there an opportunity to better connect? Cathy. This is done through ECAC but is something that I could be more proactive in.</p> <p><u>Gillian Somers</u>: As our membership summarising that you want MANZ to work on the nuts and bolts, but also not lose sight on shining a light on Montessori and the bigger focus on Montessori as a peace movement. Want feedback from the membership so we can make sure that we're serving our community.</p> <p>ACTION: Cathy will set up two Zoom meetings for all to attend. The purpose will be for people to come with action points on what can be done to promote and support Montessori centres and school.</p>	
14	Closing karakia	

Attending School/Centre Members:

Auckland Montessori College - Panmure, Auckland Montessori College - Rosedale, BestStart Montessori Bethlehem, BestStart Montessori Johnsonville, BestStart Montessori Otumoetai, BestStart Montessori St Albans, Manaaki Montessori@Tawa Primary, Meraki Montessori, Montessori 3-6 Trilingual, Montessori at Otari Preschool, Montessori Children's House Wanaka, Montessori House of Children, Wa Ora Montessori School,

Montessori@Berhampore School, New Plymouth Montessori Assn: Westown School, New Plymouth Montessori School, Little Earth Montessori Kapiti, Eastern Suburbs Montessori Primary, Glendowie Montessori Preschool, Golden Grove Montessori Primary

Attending Individual/Organisation Members/Council Members:

Gillian Somers, Krista Kerr, Michela Homer, Steven Arnold, Emilie Neubauer, Mamira Ali, Anne-Marie Love, Carol Potts, Dawn Young, Dimitra Pantazis, Grace Boh Ang Ng, Hugh Markham, Rose Phillips, Tania Gaffney, Vicky Lumsden

Attending people:

Anna McLean, Sarah Dawson, Marie Finkle, Suzanne Eaddy, Cathy Wilson, Ashleigh Millar