



43rd Annual General Meeting of
MONTESSORI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
Monday 29th June, 2026
5.30 pm

AGENDA

Chair: Gillian Somers, President of Council

Minutes Secretary: Cathy Wilson and Krista Kerr

#	Description	
1	Formal opening of AGM	Gillian
2	Confirmation of a quorum or not <i>13.5: 15 is required</i>	Gillian
3	Appointment of Scrutineers Marie Finkle and Debbie Roy	Gillian
4	Apologies: Bronwyn Norman Tesneem Couper Jan Gaffney Claire Gribbon - Bellevue primary Dimitra Pantazis Debbie Senoff-Langford Roberta Coutts	Move that apologies are Accepted: Anne-Marie Love Seconded: Rowena Harper <i>Carried</i>
5	Proxy Votes: Tania Gaffney for Jan Gaffney Gillian Somers for Bronwyn Norman Rose Phillips for Tesneem Couper	
6	Confirmation of minutes for the 42nd Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 27th June, 2025, Millennium Hotel, Rotorua and were made available by email to all members.	Moved: Mamira Ali Seconded: Tania Gaffney <i>Carried</i>

7	Matters Arising from 2025 Minutes <i>Two Zoom meetings were held to get feedback from members.</i> These had lots of input from membership. Focus on discussing value and future membership of MANZ with participants sharing views around community support, connections. Concerns of inclusivity was also discussed. Montessori Primary - sustainability discussed. Following on discusses had with MMEF and SMT around supporting training in New Zealand. Thanked for having an involved and engaged membership. Floor opened. No questions or discussion.	
8	The Year in Review - CE Cathy presented annual CE report. Questions from the floor: Gillian thanked Cathy. Huge amount of mahi has gone on behind the scenes. Liked the optimism that rang through in this report. Steven: Looked at the video that Cathy had sent out. Harrowing news in massive decline in numbers across the board. Does MANZ have plans for this? There is a decline in tamariki coming through, and this is a concern for everyone in education. More of a reason to continue to promote Montessori so that whānau are aware of us as a valid choice as the way forward. Anne-Marie: This is reflective of the numbers across the country, not just Montessori schools. Steven: Young Māori mothers are having more babies. Are we going to do anything to be able to access this 'market'? Questions about primary training - with schools closing, is there a need for more teachers? We do not have enough. Vacancy ads are not attracting teachers as these are not out there at the moment. Also, looking ahead, we do have an aging workforce so we need to be looking at training future teachers.	Moved: Gillian Somers Seconded: Anne-Maire Love <i>Carried</i>
9	2026 Annual Report <i>This was emailed to members prior to the meeting.</i> The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 are contained in the 2026 Annual Report which has been pre-circulated to members. I am very happy to	Moved: Tania Gaffney

	report that the 2025 financial year yielded a total revenue of \$303,021 and a surplus of \$27,895 The balance sheet at 31 December 2025 has \$355,666. Opened to the floor: No questions or discussion	Seconded: Carol Potts <i>Carried</i>
10	Financial Statements	
11	Confirmation of Auditor Ashton Wheeler nominated to be the auditor for Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand Incorporated for the financial year ending 31 December 2025. Gillian explained that every few years we will have an audit, continuing on with a financial review for the other years, as per usual. No questions or discussion	Moved: Anne-Marie Love Seconded: Michela Homer <i>Carried</i>
12	Nominations for MANZ Board One nomination received - Gillian Somers Michela asks the floor if there are any other nominations. As there are not any other nominations, CE Cathy, announces that no ballot is required and congratulates Gillian on resuming her place on the board.	
13	Confirmation by members of Honorary Member Nomination Gillian outlines the importance of honorary membership, and announces that there has been a nomination for Pauline Harper, accepted by the Board. Cathy reads out a summary of Pauline's mahi in, and contribution to, Montessori education in Aotearoa. Vote taken: Any abstentions: no Unanimous for yes	Moved: Gillian Somers Seconded: Anne-Marie Love <i>Carried</i>
12	Disclosure of Interests This has been disclosed and included in AGM email out. Questions, comments, or concerns from membership: No	Moved: Carol Potts Seconded: Anna McLean <i>Carried</i>

General Business

There has been no general business notified to CE. Questions from the floor

Steven:

Feedback about decision about the book/recorded history of Montessori in Aotearoa. The feeling from the membership was that now was not the right time to invest that financial level into a project. Different ways of recording this history has been explored but nothing decided on that meets the needs and purpose as well as membership feeling. Helen May suggested that she do a smaller history (up to about mid-70's) but this was voted against by the board as they felt that this wasn't inline with what the membership mandated. Especially as many schools are financially hurting at the moment.

Steven: Surplus of \$27,000 announced. Any plans for this money to be spend on any projects. Cathy disappointed that this project is not going ahead as tupuna are passing on in coming years, but membership did not feel it was worth the proposed cost. We could revisit this, but we need a more concrete plan before taking it to the membership again rather than just continually asking the same question.

Steven: thinking about the way of the future, this could be a great marketing tool in the future to show what a big movement we are. Instead of asking What have we been in the past? We could ask What will we be in the future? This could include looking at where we have come from, and the inclusion of founding and important Montessorians in Aotearoa.

Rowena: Important that we do capture these voices. Wonder if the minority of membership had a greater voice. Perhaps a poll of membership would be better than a hui.

Carol:

Thinks that it was said at the hui that it was important to capture these voices, but it was the cost of the project that was the turn off. After the conference, could a sub-group be set up (including Steven) to have a look at what can be done.

Rose:

Doesn't know how ill Tupuna are, but is it possible for someone to go and talk with Pam and capture an informal interview. Cathy is going to see her tomorrow and has this idea but isn't sure how much information she will get. Perhaps this is an idea that we can look at for other prominent Montessorians. Cathy thinks that sending out a questionnaire will not gather the data we need as people are not good at singing their own praises. It would need someone to go and interview them in person to tease out information that flows out of conversation and Q and A type interviews.

Steven:

Would be happy to be included in this. Create a "Montessori Whakapaka" which would create a genealogy to give us turangawaewae.

Anna:

Honorary members would be a great place to start with in person interviews, as these people have already been identified as people who have offered a lot to Montessori in Aotearoa and have extensive experiences.

Cathy:

	Agrees with Anna. We do have the nominations of all honorary members from the last 10 years which outlines their experiences and contributions. Good starting points. Mamiara: Perhaps a plan can be implemented in stages. Gillian: Put back on the agenda to revisit, including what the intended purpose of the project is, and then going back to the membership. On agenda for next board meeting. Thanks for the discussion. Carol: Thanks Cathy for visiting Pam Shand and asks her to convey our thoughts and best wishes. Echoed by Gillian, going with the aroha from whole community.	
14	Closing Gillian closes at 6.36pm. Thanks all for attending, acknowledges that zoom is not the best forum for an AGM and we can possibly look at changing back to having it at conference. Steven added that some groups admit a breach, acknowledging and apologising for breach of not meeting the correct timing for AGM.	

Attending School/Centre Members:

Fountain City Montessori Tawa, Fountain City Montessori Brooklyn, Maori Hill Montessori, Glendowie Montessori Preschool, Eastern Suburbs Montessori Primary School, Montessori Children's Wanaka, Auckland Montessori College, New Plymouth Montessori school (Casa), NPMS - Westown School, Grey Lynn Montessori by Busy Bees, Wa Ora Montessori School, Montessori House of Children- Hamilton

Attending Individual/Organisation Members/Council Members:

Gillian Somers, Krista Kerr, Michela Homer, Mamira Ali, Anne-Marie Love, Carol Potts, Rose Phillips, Tania Gaffney, Ashleigh Barnes, Dawn Young.

Attending people:

Marie Finkle and Debbie Roy