

# Nancy Winter Early Childhood Centre

Governed by The Raetihi Early Childhood Education Trust (RECET)

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

### Philosophy

A nurturing home away from home in which to love, learn and play for tamariki, whānau and community.

When children feel secure in warm relationship they can relax into their play and learn.

I see you,  
I hear you,  
I know you.

Play naturally unfolds in young children and is the way they learn holistically.

Therefore, we believe that growing self-directed and unhurried play is best for our children's learning.



### Relationships

### Tikanga

### Play

### 2019 in Review

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# Governance Report

## From The Chairperson

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Tēnā kautau i runga i ngā tini āhuatanga o te wā, huri atu te pō, naumai te ao.

Tēnēi te reo o te poari o te kopae whakatupu nei o Nancy Winter, e mihi kau atu ana i runga i te aroha ki a kautau katoa.

### **Leadership**

As the Raetihi Early Childhood Trust, who govern the Nancy Winter Early Childhood Centre we continue to be committed to providing a sustainable quality early learning centre for the Waimarino Community, based here in the historical and wonderful township of Raetihi.

There were a couple of movements on the Trust again this year. We are pleased to see two new trustees join Monica Widmer, and Nikita Playle.

Leah Stuckey resigned from the Trust this year, we thank her for her time and contribution. Robbie Lilburn also left the Trust this year, and we thank him and his whānau for their contributions to the Centre and continued support. We wish them all well.

After six years on the Trust, nearly three of those as Chair I am stepping away from the group. It has been my absolute privilege to be a part of this trust and centre. I stand by my claim that this is the best trust I have ever been a part of, and I am so proud to have contributed in some small way to such an amazing legacy of the Waimarino Community. I inherited a strong trust with an amazing vision and I salute all those before me on this trust who have made it what it is. I particularly mihi to our staff/kaimahi who love and care for the children that come into the centre over the years, and wish you all well – I know the Centre and the Trust will continue to lead, to care and to offer a wonderful early childhood education for the families of our Waimarino Community and wider.

The current Trustees are Lauren Wikohika (Co-Chair) Sean Drinkwater (Co-Chair), Monica Widmer and Nikita Playle.

We are always seeking expressions of interest for other Trustees. Anyone interested is welcome to attend a meeting and see what they entail. It is a great trust, as noted built on from the solid foundations of others over the years.

We continue to provide early education leadership support to all our peer providers and local entities and are engaged and valued as a key stakeholder of the *Ruapehu Whānau Transformation* plan and the new *Kāhui Ako – Southern Ruapehu Community of Learning (COL)*.

### **Our Team**

Brenda Burnard continues to lead the business of the Centre and does an amazing job to balance our legislative requirements, with an overwhelming care for the children and whānau of the community and their education journey with us.

The Leadership Team continue to work tirelessly as they co-lead curriculum design and delivery at the Centre through an approach with dispersed responsibility.

### **Sustainability**

The Trust has been supporting Brenda to navigate some hard years. I am pleased to state that we have started to turn around our financial position positively, after the funding-freeze from the Ministry of Education had produced some challenging moments for us over the past 8 years.

Our policy framework and planned reviews continue to provide a solid platform for our growth and responsibilities. We continue to take small but purposeful steps toward changes that will ensure our long-term sustainability.

Our strategy with its wonderful vision, values and goals is a place-based grounding document with a view to the future and the overall sustainability of the Centre and everything we stand for. If you have not already seen it please look out for it on the walls.

### **Our Thanks**

As we continue to strive to provide experiential learning for our local tamariki based on our collective pasts, and their passions we want to thank our staff, management and especially the families and community who continue to share their beautiful and amazing children with our Centre. We are humbled by your decision to send your children to the Nancy Winter Early Childhood Centre where our staff provide love and quality care, alongside a curriculum that aims to inspire, grow and ignite their minds and curiosity which will set them up well to be confident, resilient, self-led Ruapehu learners as they journey through life.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the Centre or the Trust, please contact myself or Brenda Burnard – Centre Manager.

Naku iti nei,

Erena Mikaere (Departing Chair)  
Raetihi Early Childhood Trust

# Strategic Plan

## Trust Strategic Goals

1. Provide a Centre where learning and care is based on current theory and practice, underpinned with teachers' ratios that maximises the learning exploration of children and ensures their safety.

2. Provide an environment where children, community, whānau, teachers and Trustees needs and aspirations are identified and responded to. Communication is clear with open information and consultation sharing.

3. The Centre is operated in a principled, consistent manner underpinned by clear process and review.

4. The Centre is sustainable and an integral part of the Waimarino Community, forming strong collaborative meaningful relationships with local Iwi and Hapu and all other cultural groups within the Waimarino Community.

5. The Centre holds a strong, reputable, leadership position within the Waimarino Education Community.



# Manager's Report

Brenda Burnard

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Kia ora koutou katoa

As we ended 2019, I reflect that our Centre has been now open for 13 years and some of our first enrolments are now leaving school and moving into the big wide world. We are so pleased to have been a part of their learning journey and that our Centre continues to thrive in our community.

## **Enrolments**

As 2019 progressed our enrolments continued to grow which meant an increase in funds. We still have a number of children that attend both our service and Ohakune kindergarten. We have a good working relationship with kindergarten and are pleased that we can accommodate our families so their child can attend in two places to meet the needs of their families.

## **Sustainability**

We were pleased to see another 1.8% increase in Ministry of Education funding, however it still doesn't address the lack of funding from many years previous. We continue to access funds to help supplement our Ministry funding which is necessary to ensure that we remain sustainable.

We have been lucky to receive support from a number of funders including COGS, Lotteries, and Whanganui Community Foundation. We were also grateful to Simon Tupman for his donation to our Centre too.

Due to our increase in enrolments over the year and managing a tight budget we were pleased to finish the year with a surplus, a pleasing result after a couple of 'tight' years.

## **Staffing**

Kookie was the successful applicant for our permanent position at our Centre. We are pleased to continue supporting Kookie through her studies as she works out the final months of her study before she finishes her studies. Our Trust and team continue to actively support teachers in training as it is one of the goals for the Centre's strategic direction.



Jaime new to our area, joined us first as a reliever and then in a fixed term position to support our role growth. We wished Jaime well as she moved on to be with the some of our Nancy Winter children in the new entrants' class at Raetihi School.

### **Environment**

We were able to complete some maintenance at the end of the year within budget, which included some lighting changes throughout the Centre, replacement purchases and some repairs and maintenance to the Centre.

### **Whānau/Community**

Rawiri Community House (from Auckland), often share the love with our Centre and provided us with many items that we were able to share with our community. We appreciate the support they show our whānau and community.

I continue to represent our place in our local Kāhui Ako (Community of Learners). This group is represented by leaders and principals of schools from ECE through to College. It is the only forum that ECE is able to involved in (and the ECE voice shared) our area and I value the work that is being done for education in this group. We contributed to the achievement challenge which has now been successfully endorsed from the Ministry of Education. I look forward to continuing work in this space as we collectively create an action plan from this document for ECE to College education.

The strategic direction of the Centre was put into an infographic during 2019 and we are thankful to the Whānau Transformation Plan for supporting this. The infographic has a great visual representation of our Centre, the strategic direction and the environment we are based in. We have a number of clever parents who have made things to exhance our Centre. We live in such a skilled community.

It is great to be able to participate in events within the community. A favourite last year was the Cultural Festival at Raetihi School. We welcomed Ohakune kindergarten for a visit to our place last year and we also visited our local dinosaur house which was a favourite with our tamariki and whānau. We planned for an end of year gathering (a party at the park) but unfortunately the weather had other plans so we enjoyed shared kai one evening at our Centre with our families. There is such value in sharing these events with our whānau and wider community and we appreciate the support from our families.



## Thanks

I mentioned in my 2018 annual report that the list of thank you gets longer every year and 2019 was no different. As we continue to access different avenues for funds, we also have many clever people in our community that help us out in many ways.

Many individuals and groups have supported our Centre including: Bayleys, who have supplied us with reusable bags for wet clothing, Jono for the outdoor kitchen he made and donated, families and community members who have shared excess kai with our Centre that we've also been able use and also pass onto families. Please read our page of gratitude which we've tried to acknowledge our funders and kind donations throughout 2019.

I commend our teaching team who absolutely love and cherish the children that come to our place and their families. A special thanks to our relief teachers that help us out so our regular staff can be on leave – Kirsty, Aleisha, Karen, Aisha, and Tassia. Finally, I need to acknowledge our Trust, Erena, Sean, Lauren and Monica who provide governance to our Centre, steering 'our ship' for the betterment of ECE in our community. They give their time, effort and expertise to ensure that we have everything we need to provide quality education and care to the youngest people in our community. A special mention must go out to Erena our departing Trust chair. I'd like to thank and acknowledge the support, skills and awahi you have given our Centre in your time as a Trustee. We know we have been lucky to have you on board in this time and wish you well as you move on.

Ngā mihi,

Brenda Burnard  
Centre Manager



# Teaching Team Report

## From The Leadership Team

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The 2019 Strategic Plan continues along the same lines as last year – being largely influenced by recommendations from our 2017 ERO visit, with the three strong areas of focus and development being:

1. Planning
2. Appraisal
3. Internal evaluation

### **Planning**

We started the year off by keeping the Centre-wide plan of Moving to Learn in action (continuing from 2018), as there was continued interest. A representative from Sport Whanganui visited to show us resources they had available for use in Early Childhood Centres. She gave very positive feedback on the work we have been doing with the children, and was very complimentary of our outdoor environment as an amazing play place for our children.

In June, our Centre-wide planning was around Puanga. There was a great range of activities during that time that included harvesting potatoes, transplanting, cleaning up the garden ready for spring planting, a camp fire (with the all-important marshmallows!), various craft activities which included one morning with Mandy from REAP bringing her art supplies for the children to make stars and korowai. Puanga stories and songs were enjoyed, and the amazingly decorated Puanga room was a beautiful haven of quietness and soft music. Our Puanga Party was enjoyed by the children and a good number of parents and grandparents (and the staff!!)

Individual planning continued for each child, providing great opportunities to talk to parents and have their input in their child's learning journey.

Planning took a new direction in August after professional development work undertaken with Chrissy Lepper of Palmerston North. Planning begins with our Info graphic, Our Local Curriculum Priorities for Learning – Relationships, Tikanga and Play. These were the values identified in our discussions with whanau around what they want for their children. We can plan for the whole year under these three local curriculum areas with the plans evolving over the year.



We finished the year with our whole centre planning around Celebrations. Birthdays, Joining school, Powhiri, community visits (the Dinosaur House was very popular), Kindy visit, Cultural Festival and our Party in the Park (which ended up here at home due to poor weather).

Our centre wide celebrations included attending the Ruapehu Cultural Festival in November, hosted by Raetihi Primary School. Our daily Waiata - leading up to the culture festival has been very successful, along with our waiata and karakia learnt during our Marae noho of the previous year. Comments from the community have been very positive.

Our Transition to School activities, led by Sharon and Mairi, continues, taking a small group of nearly 5 year olds to visit Raetihi Primary School weekly. We thank the Trust for enabling this relationship to remain strong.

### **Appraisal**

Appraisal is the process we use to learn more and grow our teaching knowledge and skills to enhance learning outcomes for our children. The new policy and processes we set in place last year are effective and are working well.

### **Review (Internal Evaluation)**

We regularly review various areas of Centre life – always looking for ways to improve what we do.

We revisited a number of our policies to make sure we are providing quality care and education. The policies are reviewed on a three-yearly cycle with this year's reviews being:

- ☺ Kaupapa Here Tiaki Tamaiti / Child Protection Policy
- ☺ Kaupapa Māuiuitanga / Illness and Injury of Children and Staff
- ☺ Kaupapa Rongoa / Administering Medication
- ☺ Kaupapa Moe / Sleep
- ☺ Haumaruru I te hihī o te Rā / Sun Safe
- ☺ Ngau / Biting
- ☺ Emergency Plan

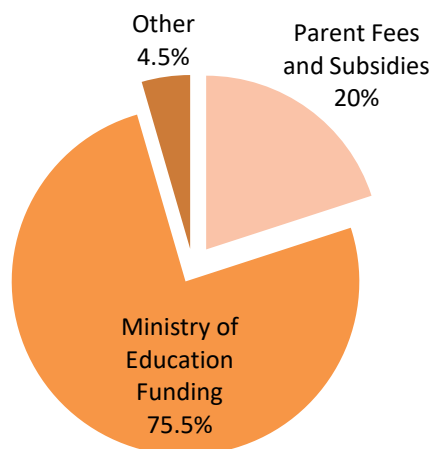
A reminder that the Centre policies are available at the office.

The Team Internal Evaluation we worked on this year asked the question, “How well do we support self-directed and unhurried play, indoors?” This was a valuable review of how well we are living up to what we say in our philosophy. We worked in small groups, each group looking at a different area of play, observing what was happening, researching how quality play in that area can be provided for, and the teachers' role. These groups reported back to the whole team and we set up an Action Plan to work on our recommendations. We were successful in an application for funds from Lotteries to spend on updating the resources of the indoor play areas, as identified during the review. The Action Plan will continue into the beginning of 2020 as we look at the Teachers' role in supporting play in these targeted areas.

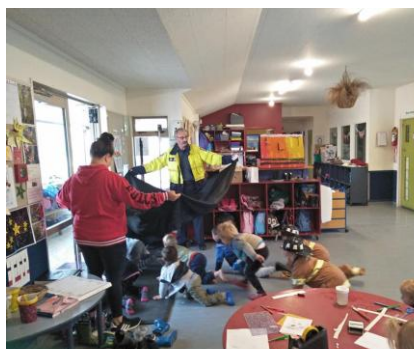
# Audited Reports

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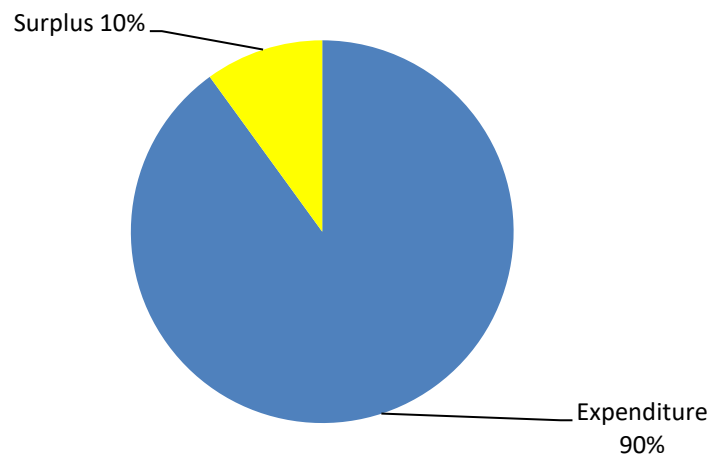
## Income



During 2019 our enrolments increased which meant our income was greater than the previous two years. Other sources of income are made up of successful grant applications and donations, as mentioned in our thank you page.

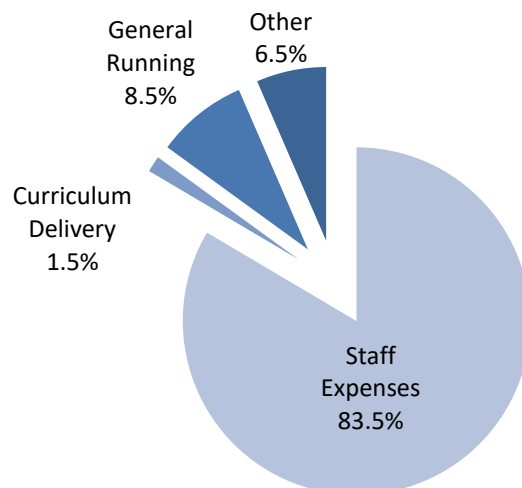


## Income vs Expenditure



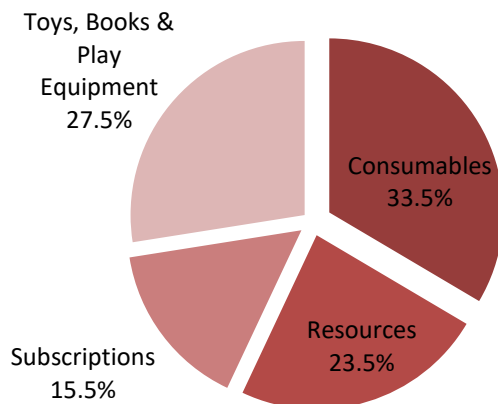
Ministry of Education gave a small increase of 1.8% and that combined with grants, donations and working to a tight budget made for a successful year and surplus, the first in two years.

## Expenditure

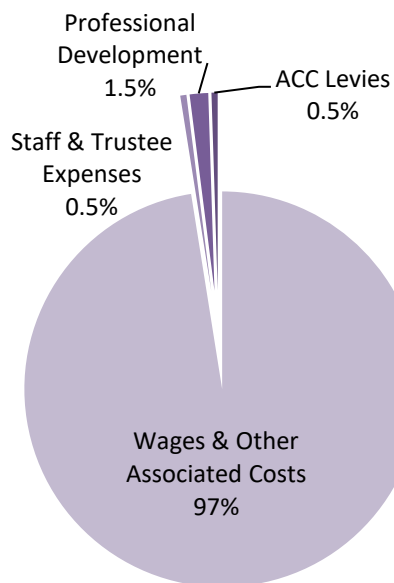


A full set of our audited financial accounts are available upon request. Our accounts are audited each year by an independent auditor.

## Curriculum Delivery



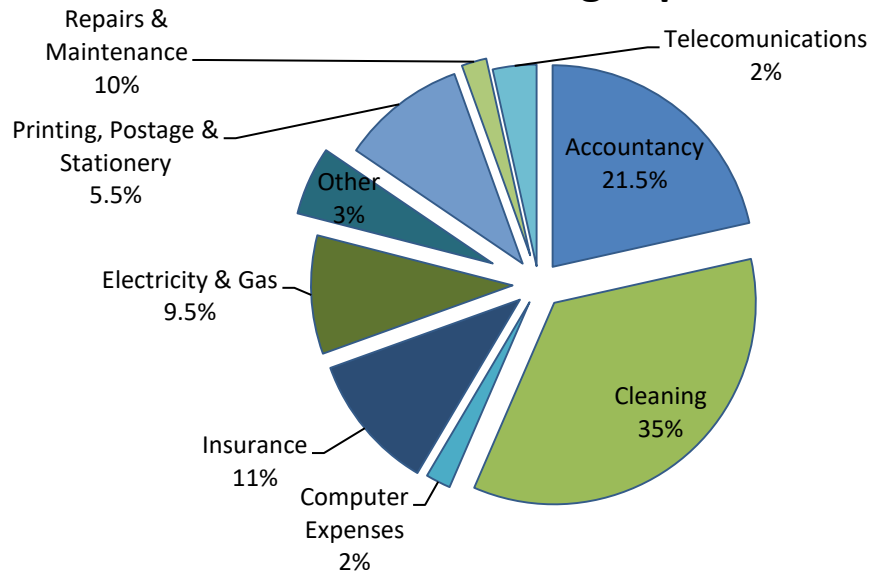
## Staff Expenses



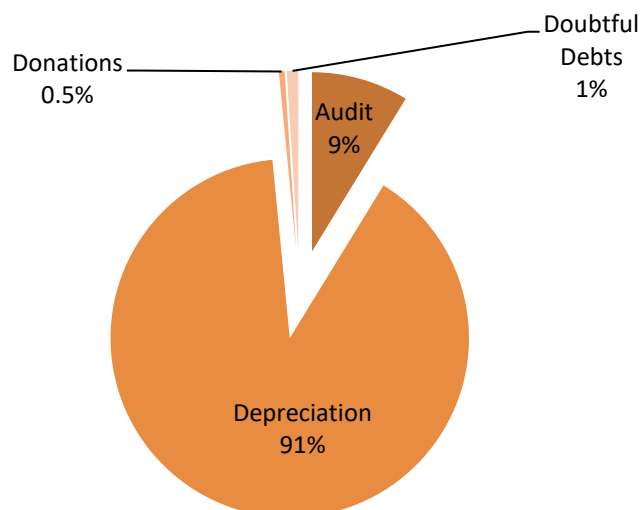
Expenditure at the Centre over the past few years has been very measured with a tight budget each year to ensure the sustainability of the Centre. Working closely with our accountant is very important to ensure sound financial guidance. Several grants enabled the purchase of new toys. We were also able to spend a little money towards the end of the year on computer upgrades, washing machine and lighting in some areas, supporting our local businesses where possible.

Of course our biggest asset and expense is our staff. We are proud to employ over and above the required amount of teachers by regulation.

## General Running Expenses



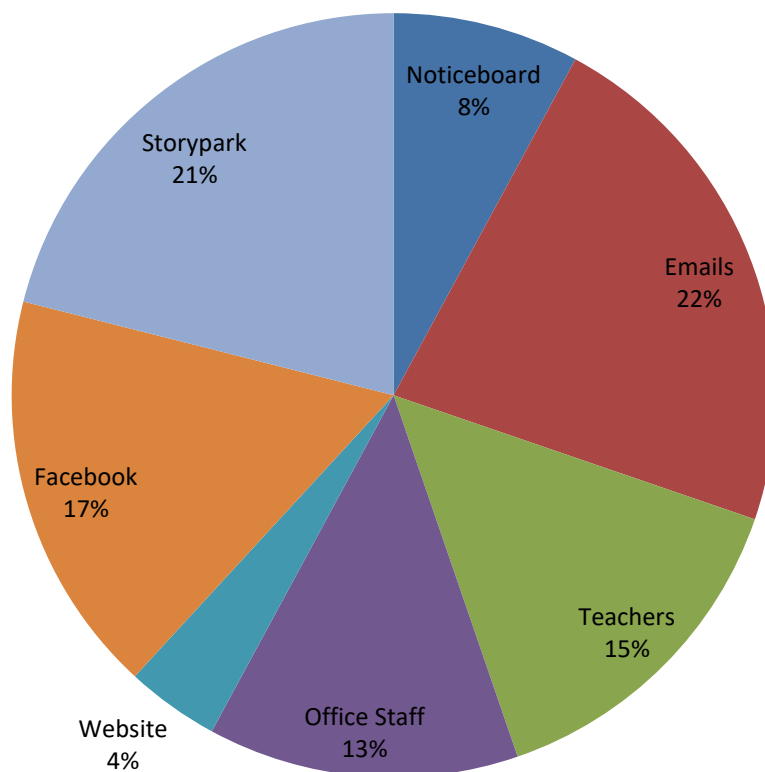
## Other Expenses





# Whānau Survey Results

## 6. How are you receiving information from our centre?



### Comments:

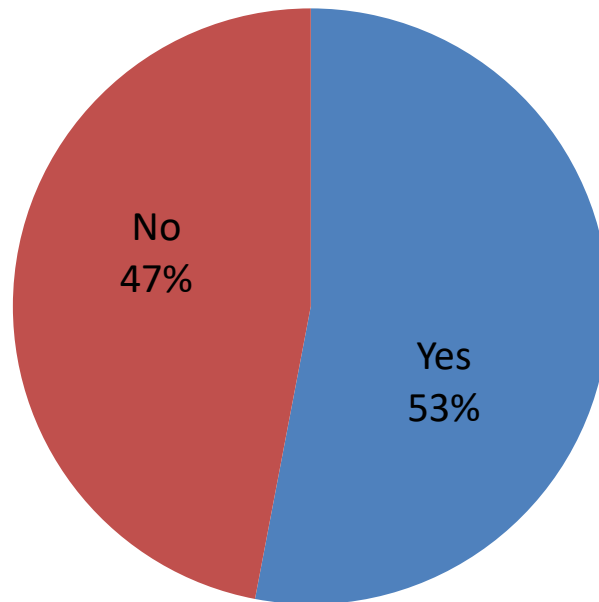
- Lots of information provided.
- Communication is awesome , Brenda is awesome with panui emailing to us and if I don't check that or log onto Facebook can always count on the Kaimahi for letting me know.

## 7. How could we share information with our families better?

### Comments:

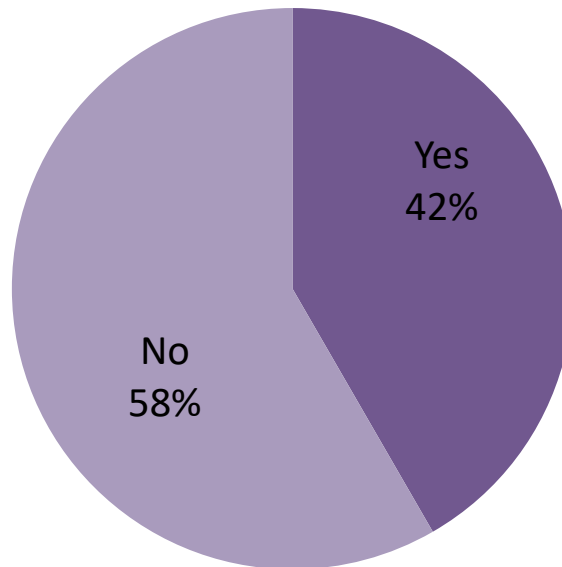
- I feel informed
- I feel you are currently doing a great job. I appreciate that it is delivered across multiple platforms.
- I think you do an excellent job of communicating with families.
- One on one catch ups with parents? It may not be practical, but as a parent I would love to get feedback on my child in a slightly more formal sense. Doesn't have to be long, maybe just a 10min catch up?

## 8. Did you look at our Annual Report produced in 2018?

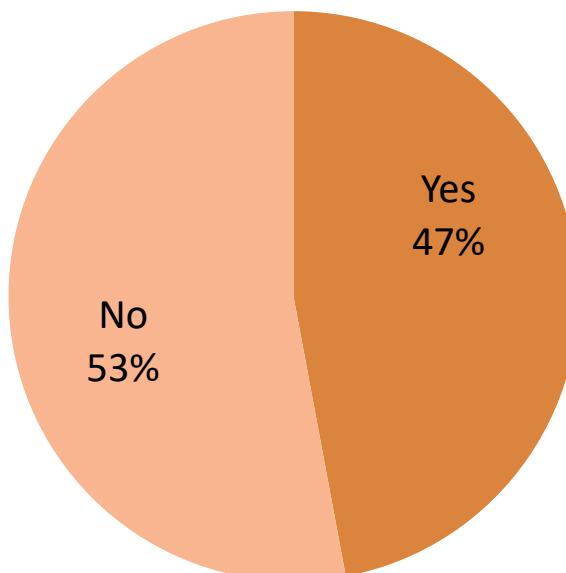


"Easy to read. Great info."

#### 4. Do you know our Trust Members?



#### 5. Would you be interested in learning more about The Trust?



**6. We recognize that you are your child's first teacher. How could we support you further in this?**

Comments:

- You guys are doing a great job.
- Communication in progress and development. Even verbal comments on drop off and pick up.
- Working closer with families to help support their development, asking the questions on what they are interested in, how they best learn, where they are at with their learning and areas they could help etc.
- I am happy with the current level of support.
- Access to parenting and learning resources. MOE bits and pieces, easy to send links. Access to books or a library of resources. Ask us quarterly what we might need to keep prompting parents.
- Maybe some feedback on what the child has been up to, and some ways to continue at home.
- Great support. Teachers are so supportive with either implementing routines or strategies from home, or sitting down to discuss potential new strategies and tools that work best both at home and at the centre.
- Being consistent in your reo Māori with all children.

**7. Do you wish to make any further comment on the education and care of your child or anything related to our Centre?**

Comments:

- Nancy's is just fantastic and my children just love being there.
- Thanks!
- I think the teachers and staff do a great job.
- The outdoors and free play is important to us, so we absolutely love the outdoor environment and the encouragement to explore the outdoors. The staff and the outdoor space is a huge asset to the Centre.
- Keep up the great work. Thank you all.
- No I think you do a fantastic job at Nancy's!
- We LOVE the centre. Passion and care for our tamariki shines through as the underlying focus of everything you do. I am grateful to all the staff for sharing their knowledge and expertise in supporting my child to explore and learn.
- We are so happy with the level of care, service and education that our children receive at the centre. We have received the highest standard of support from the staff. The communication is great and with so many ways to receive news, it is easy to keep up with what is going on. Individual needs are always met and their natural interests are encouraged and supported.

# Gratitude Page

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We would like to take the time to acknowledge and thank our local Waimarino Community for supporting us.

We have many people who we wish to extend our thanks to for the donation of their time, resources or funds. Below are some of those who have supported us during 2019. We encourage our community to support them as they have for us. If you're not listed below this **'thank you'** is especially for you!

