



The Natural Phenomena Conference, 18th – 20th November, 2016 Presenter Bios & Workshop details

Keynote Speakers

Helle Nebelong, Denmark

www.hellenebelong.com

Danish Landscape Architect and Master of Public Management – Natural Playgrounds.

She is a key pioneer of the natural playground movement and internationally recognized for her special philosophy and as a designer of nature play spaces where children thrive.

Based on her renowned playground design in Copenhagen celebrated Landscape Architect and author Helle Nebelong will share her focus on why it's essential that children are connected with nature and allowed to play not only in the so called 'risk-free', standardized playgrounds, which simplify play and teaches children a wrong lesson according to Nebelong. To prepare children to manage life and be strong, social and resilient individuals they need to practice in natural and asymmetrical playscapes. Helle will share her design ideas with asymmetrically shaped elements that forces children to develop the kinaesthetic sense used to find out how to move your body in a space, estimating distances, heights and risks. You will be surprised to learn that the recipe to draw children into adventures, exploration and imagination-driven free play is quite simple!

David Trubridge, New Zealand

www.davidtrubridge.com

Artist, Designer, Biographer - known for his iconic range of furniture and lighting.

David's Philosophy: "My ideas come from wild places, edges of turbulence and renewal, where seas break on beaches and headlands, where land and air meet on mountain ridges. I make forms of elemental simplicity, as the erosion of air and water on wood and stone, forms that speak of humanity's survival on earth, of life's fragility and dependence, of comfort in the ways of the past that have succoured us, and optimism for a sustainable and enriching future."

His designs have featured in countless international publications, including the most influential, as an instigator of the trend of 'raw sophistication' and as an exemplar of environmentally responsible design. In 2008 the French magazine Express listed him as one of the top 15 designers in the world, and in 2012 the Pompidou Centre in Paris purchased his 'Icarus' installation for its permanent collection.

Franchelle Ofsoské-Wyber, New Zealand

www.firstlightfloweressences.co.nz

Internationally recognised as a spiritual teacher and modern-day medicine woman

www.firstlightnaturalhealth.co.nz

www.medicinewoman.com

Franchelle Ofsoské-Wyber is a New Zealander of Russian and Native American descent and comes from a long line of traditional medicine men and woman. With a lifelong involvement in the ancient earth wisdom traditions, Franchelle Ofsoské-Wyber has spent over 45 years working with the nature power of Aotearoa and New Zealand native plants.

Franchelle is an award winning vibrational medicine specialist and New Zealand native flower essence creator. She is the author of the definitive ethnobotanical reference books The Sacred Plant Medicine of Aotearoa Volume One and The Sacred Plant Medicine of Aotearoa Volume Two. Franchelle is the recipient of the New Zealand Health Industry Research and Development Distinguished Services Award for 'pioneering, developing and establishing New Zealand native flower and plant essences to facilitate holistic healing.'

In recognition for her life's work to date Franchelle was recently adopted into Nga Uri a Maui and Nga Potiki tohunga wairuaruahine by Dr Rangimarie Turuki Arikirangi Rose Pere. As a tohunga tipua Franchelle has been fully initiated into the Kura Huna, the mystery school of the ancient people.

Over the years Franchelle has appeared in a number of international television programs and documentaries as an expert on the nature power of Aotearoa, indigenous wisdom, ancient earth wisdom traditions, vibrational medicine, sacred plant medicine, shamanism, spirituality and natural healing.

Rodney Ngawaka, New Zealand

www.gnatirehuangatiwaikiatea.co.nz

Master Story teller & Consultant for Indigenous Kaupapa, Environmental and Conservation Issues, Mauri World View and Youth Development.

Kaitiakitanga Journey

Tangatakaitiaki o Aotearoa and all of the rohe o Ngatiwai is my passion now having turned the corner from being a concrete worker in the city. I have discovered in my journey so far, that I find peace in nature, and that I have a comfortable affinity with our flora and fauna. I am passionate about keeping our waterways, our land, our airspace, our stories and our history, in a condition that we are proud to pass on to our mokopuna as our tupuna did to us. I believe we all have a responsibility to look after our waterways, our airspace and our land space, our Taonga Tuku Iho for the time that we are here. History tells us that our tupuna have bled for this area because if they didn't, then we wouldn't be here. We all need to be vigilant when taking care our legacy at all costs it's our responsibility for oku mokopuna. Because we are the mokopuna of our tupuna and we have to uphold the tikanga (which goes back to our Gods) the kawa (a way of doing and being), the Mauri (the essence, the life force of who we are), te ihi, te wehi, te wana,



Friday 18th November, 4.00 – 5.30pm
Workshop Slot 1

Becky Aud - Jennison, Whangarei, NZ, [Mind Body Practitioner, Inner Bliss]

Workshop title: **“Radical Self-Care for Educators— in and out of the classroom”**

We know that children learn better when they feel secure and at peace. As educators, we also function optimally when we are centred and feeling balance in our lives. Come learn and develop strategies to incorporate in and outside of the classroom that will not only have you feeling more content and heart-centred in your life & work, but will give you techniques to use in your curriculum and one:one interactions with children/students. Be ready to open your mind & heart and leave with a concrete set of strategies to facilitate optimal functioning for you and your classroom.

Let's face it— if we can facilitate children to self-regulate and feel secure and at peace, learning will come naturally.

Personal Bio: A fundamental knowing that our children's education suffers without optimal emotional health & wellbeing has driven much of Becky's work during her 30 years in human services. Becky practices as a Mind-Body Practitioner in the middle of nature in the Northland of New Zealand, specialising in the treatment of anxiety and stress related issues in women, children and families and assisting individuals in meeting their holistic goals to live their best lives— also providing clinical supervision and organisational support and consulting. Becky holds a Masters Degree in Child, Family and Community Services and is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counsellor (US), a Certified HeartMath® Practitioner, Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist & Certified Abundance Life Coach (NZ). Having a solid foundation in the socio-emotional areas of ECE and primary & secondary education, Becky has worked as a Parent Educator with Parents as Teachers in the US, a Mental Health and Disabilities Specialist with the US HeadStart ECE program for at-risk children, as well as a school counsellor for middle and high school students— also seeing families and children for therapy in her private practice. She has taught Infant & Toddler Development & Curriculum and has presented at the annual Illinois AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children) conference. Now in New Zealand for five years, she taught counselling here before starting her practice: Inner Bliss. www.innerblissnow.com

David Trubridge, NZ, [Artist, Designer, Biographer]

Workshop title: **“Observational Drawing - the foundation of all art.**

David and Linda (David's wife) will lead a workshop on observational drawing, which is the foundation of all art. The aim is to show how to draw more from feeling than from vision. We will work from nature outdoors, and the exercises will help to create a connection to, and immersion in, the environment, so that we are drawing from within, rather than looking on from without. We will begin with a brief yoga exercise to help with this connection and center ourselves.

Personal Bio: Davids Philosophy: "My ideas come from wild places, edges of turbulence and renewal, where seas break on beaches and headlands, where land and air meet on mountain ridges. I make forms of elemental simplicity, as the erosion of air and water on wood and stone, forms that speak of humanity's survival on earth, of life's fragility and dependence, of comfort in the ways of the past that have succoured us, and optimism for a sustainable and enriching future."

His designs have featured in countless international publications, including the most influential, as an instigator of the trend of 'raw sophistication' and as an exemplar of environmentally responsible design. In 2008 the French magazine Express listed him as one of the top 15 designers in the world, and in 2012 the Pompidou Centre in Paris purchased his 'Icarus' installation for its permanent collection.

David Spraggs, Gisborne NZ, [ECE Teacher, Consultant]

Workshop title: **“Earth, wind, fire (& water) – A disco eva band or is it something more?”**

Elemental Beings - We are driven by deeply seated urges. These urges are connected to the elements. As teachers are we providing enough connection to these inner urges? David will explore these

Personal Bio: David's passion is in provoking teachers to do more, and be more, when it comes to our children. Doing more sometimes means “doing less”. He is very focussed on sustainable practices and has had a number of opportunities to play in the woods in Europe.

He grew up with a father who believed that you teach your children skills and allow them the opportunity to utilise them. This comes through in his teaching.

David is married with four children and has been a teacher in ECE for the last 33 years. David founded his company "Early Childhood Science Experiences and Consultancy" over 20 years ago after seeing a need in ECE in New Zealand surrounding high quality professional development and sourcing equipment that could be used in ECE for science education.

Geoff Fugle & Lucia Swagerman, Open Spaces Preschool, Whangarei, NZ, [ECE Teacher]

Workshop title: **“Cheap Space: creating your dream outdoors environment.”**



This workshop offers you the chance to explore Open Spaces Preschool where we have worked hard to build a nature-rich environment on the smell of an oily rag. We will discuss as teachers our rationale for design and how, as keen DIY'ers, we did it. We want to inspire you to turn your Space Magazine wish list into reality!

Personal Bio: Geoff is a lead educator at Open Spaces Preschool with a 'previous life' spent in construction, landscaping and design.

Lucia is an educator, the lead gardener at Open Spaces and a keen proponent of DIY.

Sarah Sheenan, Auckland City Council, NZ, [Senior Advisor – Education for Sustainability]

Workshop title: **"Connecting to Nature"**

Come and spend an hour and a half filling your kete with tools to help children and adults connect to nature.

Fun, engaging and easy activities to help create a sense of awe, wonder and respect for the environment we are all a part of.

The activities can be done over and over again. Try them in different seasons, in different weather conditions and in different environments. Each time your children will see, hear, smell, feel, experience and notice different things. Enjoy!

Personal Bio: Sarah Sheenan has worked in the field of Environmental Education and Education for Sustainability for over 15 years. Much of this time has been spent taking children into the natural environment to explore the wonder of nature.

Sarah is currently working for Auckland Council as a Senior Education for Sustainability Advisor with a major focus on the development and delivery of experiential education programmes in Auckland's Regional Parks.

Wiremu Sarich, Kaitaia, NZ, [Educator]

Workshop title: **"Ako atu ako mai the reciprocal nature of learning/teaching from a Maori perspective."**

The workshop will begin with introductions and a brief history of Ako.

Wiremu will demonstrate and lead out a series of traditional Maori games designed to highlight the holistic perspective of traditional practices and how Maori relate to the natural world.

The workshop will include a resource building exercise using natural resources e.g. flax, manuka, karamu leaves.

The workshop is completely interactive and guaranteed to draw out the creative potential and collective experiences of all participants.

Ako has a virtually limitless potential as an educational tool for teachers and students alike.

Personal Bio: Wiremu Sarich is a Youth Educator working at Te Oranga for Te Runanga o Te Rarawa in Kaitaia.

Wiremu has been utilizing Nga Taonga Takaro (traditional Maori games/past times) to promote healthy activity in schools throughout Muriwhenua from North Hokianga to Te Kao. For the past year Wiremu has been developing a new initiative which draws on the same principals and pedagogies inherent in Nga Taonga Takaro he calls "Ako" (to learn, to teach or instruct)

Ako is a group activity derived from the Maori concept of reciprocal learning (ako atu. ako mai)

Ako activities/games are specifically designed toward the enhancement of the three core principals: 1 communication, 2 co-operation and 3 co-ordination. Earlier this year, Wiremu presented "Ako" at the annual conference for Toi Tangata (health and nutrition conference) he was later invited to attend and participate at Te Whare Tapere in Hauraki.



The Natural Phenomena

Saturday 19th November, 10.30am – 12.00pm
Workshop Slot 2

David Trubridge, NZ, [Artist, Designer, Biographer]

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Genevieve Simperingham, Ngunguru, NZ, [Aware Parent Instructor]

Workshop title: **"How to foster Emotional Intelligence in your Centre . . . and why that means a happier learning environment with less tension for all"**

With the tips and insights you'll gain in this workshop, you'll return to work inspired and ready to approach challenges amongst children with more confidence and a revitalized enthusiasm.

We now know that emotional intelligence reduces violence, increases self-esteem and social skills and provides the best foundation for learning and development.

Genevieve teaches the necessary skills that are needed to foster the emotionally safe and inclusive environment that allows children to operate (and co-operate!) at their best.

Learn more about;

- Forming, maintaining and repairing attachments with babies and young children.
- Transforming unhealthy behaviour by relating to the feelings beneath the behaviour.
- Listening skills that foster connection and trust.
- Setting limits while staying connected.
- Conflict resolution and problem solving skills.

http://peaceful-parent.com/peaceful-parent.com/Training_for_Early_Childhood_teachers.php

Personal Bio: Genevieve Simperingham is the founder of the Peaceful Parent Institute (PPI). PPI offer seminars for parents and educators, professional development for teachers and individual coaching for parents, families and early childhood centres. Their mission is to empower parents and teachers with the skills and awareness they need to create more harmony, happiness and peace in their families or centres. Genevieve shares her in-depth study of many renowned experts in the fields of early childhood development and neuroscience, as well as her experience with clients and groups over 22 years and as a parent working with this model for 19 years.

Genevieve has a Diploma in Psychosynthesis Counsellor, and is a Certified Aware Parenting instructor, having trained with Dr. Aletha Solter PhD, (psychologist and author of five parenting books based on attachment science). She is also a Heart to Heart Parenting Facilitator, trained by Robin Grille to teach his parenting programs. Robin Grille, psychologist and psychotherapist is based in Sydney and is the author of 'Parenting for a Peaceful World' and 'Heart to Heart Parenting'. She's a feature writer for The Natural Parent Magazine (NZ and Oz).

Kate Broughton, Ngunguru, NZ, [Food & Lifestyle Coach]

Workshop title: **"Food is Elemental."**

There may be more information than ever to reveal the mysteries of life, health and harmony, and yet the simple act of feeding ourselves is as confusing as ever! As we attempt to slow the pace of our fast paced lives we must not forget our food!

What we eat affects our ability to think and manage our behaviour. What we eat nourishes our future. Both ours and our planets. How foods are introduced to children lays a powerful foundation for their relationship with what and how they eat.

Together we explore ways to foster our childrens involvement in their food. To provide positive sensory based experiences using whole plant foods. We discover ways to mix food into the curriculum to help broaden their understanding and connection with the sacred cycle of life.

Let's return to the pleasure of eating. The savouring. And bring our mindful attention to the simple art of eating well.



Personal Bio: Kate is a food and lifestyle coach. She has a certificate in plant-based nutrition from Cornell University. A mother and former nurse Kate works with people to enhance their well-being through food and daily habits.



Kathy Quayle, Wintec, Hamilton, NZ, [Senior Lecturer, ECE]

Workshop title: **“Developing Creative individuals”**

Natural outdoor environments provide an ideal and irreplicable setting where children can develop lifelong skills, knowledge, and attitudes relating to creativity.

While we cannot predict the changing world our children will experience as adults, one thing is certain, there will always be a need for creative individuals to both drive and respond to changes effectively.

Natural outdoor environments present unique opportunities that foster creativity. This presentation draws on a research project carried out with three early childhood education settings in New Zealand and focuses on how young children respond creatively to elements of natural outdoor settings. The findings highlight some of the unique characteristics of these settings and how children’s creativity is supported through meaningful engagement with natural environments.

Personal Bio: I grew up in a family home that was surrounded by open pasture and mature woodland that led to the banks of the Waikato River. Most of my childhood memories are of time spent outdoors with my siblings and friends. We used the wood as our playground and our toys were the natural objects that we found there.

When my three children were very young, an opportunity arose to rent a house that was isolated in the middle of farmland with a small stream and wood outside the back door. Memories of my experiences of nature as a child were behind my decision to move to this house. Over the next five years my children could be found building bridges over the stream, climbing tall trees, running through the cornfields, dabbling in mud puddles, and sliding down grassy hills.

In more recent years, as an ECE teacher and subsequently as a senior lecturer visiting ECE settings, I have been responsible for supporting children’s creativity, and teaching adult students about creativity. My current research focuses on children’s creativity in natural outdoor settings, adult creativity in creative communities, and field-based tertiary education.

Mark Jones & Omine Ivatt, AUT, NZ, [Lecturer, Outdoor Education]

Workshop title: **“Crafting to Connect”**

This practical workshop will explore the principles and practice of using crafting as a medium to enhance student learning and connection. Crafting, or the use of natural materials found in nature to develop articles of utility, is age-old and still has an important role to play in the educational development of children and adults alike. Learn the knowledge, techniques and skills from two highly passionate and skilled practitioners to facilitate powerful learning through simple projects using flax, raupo, cabbage tree and wood.

Crafting is a powerful medium with which to:

- Engage people with one another
- Develop connections with nature
- Help participants stay connected to their learning
- Connect people to place
- Impart notions of sustainable practices
- Practice traditional skills

Personal Bios: Mark Jones lecturer in the field of outdoor education at AUT University. He has been an outdoor practitioner for more than 30 years, and instructed and lectured as an outdoor educator for 25 of those. One of his interests areas is the value of crafting as an educational tool. His experiences support crafting as a powerful medium to enhance a wide range of student learning events in the outdoors.

Omine Ivatt is the Steve Irwin of New Zealand outdoor education. He offers outdoor learning for schools and community groups through the Craft Lab and the Educators Tool-Kit. Omine is passionate about crafting as an educational medium and excited about sharing his knowledge and skills.

Wiremu Sarich, Kaitaia, NZ, [Educator]

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The workshop will include a resource building exercise using natural resources e.g. flax, manuka, karamu leaves.

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Saturday 19th November, 2.30pm – 4.00pm
Workshop Slot 3

Anna Gentry, Ngunguru, NZ, [ECE facilitator, Environmental educator, NaturePlay NZ]

Workshop title: **“The language of Nature – attune and enhance your connection with the natural world!”**

Nature speaks a universal language. Her language speaks of life sustaining, life enhancing principals. During childhood we develop our understanding of this language, and the ability to commune with her. Take the time to go a journey into nature to strengthen your relationship with the ancient teachings of nature. Enhance your sensory capacities through learning to work intelligently with her

Personal Bio: Anna is co-founder of NaturePlay NZ. An organisation dedicated to assist all the children and the earth to grow in a heart centred relationship in these precarious times. A teacher, mother, healer, her role is to assist the total wellbeing of the children, mother earth and all her inhabitants.

Joey Moncarz, the Kaitiaki Collective, Auckland NZ, [ECE Teacher, Consultant]

Workshop title: **“The Transformational Power of Nature?”**

The true power of nature is often overlooked, even in discussing rewilding our children. For the more time our children spend in nature, the deeper their connection to the natural world will be, and the more they will re-connect with the wisdom of the ancestors, of humans who lived fully sustainable lives on this Earth.

Our children will re-learn long-lost skills and abilities. They will become fully human. And with their connection to nature and their wisdom, they will be the ones most likely to transform our world from the way it is now to a truly healthy world. This is the transformational power of nature.

Personal Bio: I grew up in Miami Beach, Florida and have lived in Aotearoa now for ten years. I'm a NZ-registered teacher and taught various subjects in high school: English, drama, maths, social studies, media studies, horticulture & sustainability, and Spanish. I wrote and directed plays for schools – two of which won first place in Play market's Plays for the Young competition. I also designed and ran a Sustainability and Organic Horticulture course, and initiated and led Climate Change Action Groups at two schools. I quit mainstream teaching to focus on re-wilding children, first by starting the Kaitiaki Collective in Auckland, and now by working on New Zealand's first full nature-immersion school. After all, in re-wilding we can heal ourselves, our children and our world!

Dee Pignégué, Auckland, NZ, [Author of Feed Me Right and Passionate Organic Gardener]

Workshop title: **“Library of Nature: Developing literacy based on the natural environment rather than the digital fantasy world”**

Early childhood educators that use the “library of nature” methodology believe that nature is at the heart of literacy needed for 21st century living. The “Library of Nature” uses a child-centred discovery method every day while exploring the natural environment and then reinforces learning experience back at the centre/kindergarten with an abundance of New Zealand non-fiction books letting Nature tell her story.

Personal Bio: Dee Pignégué, a former school-teacher, is a dedicated science champion helping to cultivate wonder in our world and pass on nature nous to a new wave of mini scientists. Read her well researched science based books and you will find her views on gardening, nutrition, nature and well-being are inspired. Dee's books are incredibly informative, demonstrating the importance of conservation and sustainability.

Dee is a keen observer of life and she believes Exploring Nature's Pattern Magic will help people engage with nature and realize just how important the natural environment is to sustaining our own life here on Planet Earth

Nature's Techno Tricks is a ground breaking new Kiwi book for readers of all ages. Stunning photographs introduce Biomimetics, a scientific revolution that emulates Nature's best technology. Internationally, scientists are studying natural systems and their technology to solve many environmental problems.

Geoff Fugle, Open Spaces Preschool, Whangarei, NZ, [ECE Teacher]

Workshop title: **“Teacher's Teaching in the Wild Woods.”**

At Open Spaces we made a conscious decision to move our teacher practice from the role of observer to adopting a socio-constructivist approach to teaching with modelling and guided participation being key strategies. Now we balance opportunities for free-exploration with intentional teaching. We have worked to create a teacher practice guide that is built upon place-based education and the work of Ann Pelo and ecological identity. This workshop offers you the opportunity to see how we engage with children in ways that maximise the learning potential of our natural world.

Personal Bio: Geoff is a lead educator at Open Spaces Preschool with a ‘previous life’ spent in construction, landscaping and design.



Helle Nebelong, Denmark, [Danish Landscape Architect and Master of Public Management – Natural Playgrounds]

Workshop title: **“Open your senses.”**

With a key focus on connecting children with nature, we will open our eyes, prick up our ears, widen our nostrils and give full rein to our curiosity and experience an outdoor space full of surprises, where we can make use of all our senses.

We will focus on the five senses: sight, smell, touch, hearing and taste and discuss how to balance the outdoors for children to create stimuli they can experience and explore when they come out to play in early childhood centers.

The Outdoor Sensory Experiences Tool created by Helle Nebelong is useful for educators, parents, designers etc.

Personal Bio: Helle is a key pioneer of the natural playground movement and internationally recognized for her special philosophy and as a designer of nature play spaces where children thrive.

Based on her renowned playground design in Copenhagen celebrated Landscape Architect and author Helle Nebelong will share her focus on why it's essential that children are connected with nature and allowed to play not only in the so called 'risk-free', standardized playgrounds, which simplify play and teaches children a wrong lesson according to Nebelong. To prepare children to manage life and be strong, social and resilient individuals they need to practice in natural and asymmetrical playscapes. Helle will share her design ideas with asymmetrically shaped elements that forces children to develop the kinaesthetic sense used to find out how to move your body in a space, estimating distances, heights and risks. You will be surprised to learn that the recipe to draw children into adventures, exploration and imagination-driven free play is quite simple!

Julia Trim, Childspace, Wellington, NZ, [ECE Teacher]

Workshop title: **“Education is not the filling of the pail but the lighting of the fire.”**

In a generation that has become highly averse to risk, toddlers and fire are not something that you would normally associate together. During this workshop we will explore how we trusted our toddlers enough to integrate forest walks and fire into our weekly rituals and the benefits for children's play in 'getting back to nature.'

Personal Bio:



Sunday 20th November 10.30am – 12.00pm
Workshop Slot 4

Helle Nebelong, Denmark, [Danish Landscape Architect and Master of Public Management – natural playgrounds]
Workshop title: **“Appropriate Space?”**

This workshop discusses how we are influenced by the space we are in and which spaces we choose to be in depending on our choices and mood. We are all different and experience spaces differently. Depending on physical facts as the size and the design of the place but also our mental state influence how a place is experienced. There are closed spaces that make us feel safe or claustrophobic, spaces that open up to the world around us, open spaces where everything is uncovered and spaces of infinity. All spaces can be experienced physically and mentally and either positively or negatively. We will share knowledge and experience on how spaces can stimulate and strengthen children's development.

Personal Bio: Helle is a key pioneer of the natural playground movement and internationally recognized for her special philosophy and as a designer of nature play spaces where children thrive.

Based on her renowned playground design in Copenhagen celebrated Landscape Architect and author Helle Nebelong will share her focus on why it's essential that children are connected with nature and allowed to play not only in the so called 'risk-free', standardized playgrounds, which simplify play and teaches children a wrong lesson according to Nebelong. To prepare children to manage life and be strong, social and resilient individuals they need to practice in natural and asymmetrical playscapes. Helle will share her design ideas with asymmetrically shaped elements that forces children to develop the kinaesthetic sense used to find out how to move your body in a space, estimating distances, heights and risks. You will be surprised to learn that the recipe to draw children into adventures, exploration and imagination-driven free play is quite simple!

Louise Hoggart, Kids First, Christchurch, NZ, [ECE Teacher]
Workshop title: **“Establishing a nature programme within an urban area.”**

A Kindergarten team's journey into the unknown world of nature pedagogy with a desire to provide more unique and authentic learning experiences for children through self-directed exploration. The presentation will outline the journey they have travelled, the discoveries made and the challenges they have overcome.

Personal Bio: I originally trained as an Early Childhood Teacher and graduated from Auckland College of Education in 1993. I completed the first 16 years of my teaching in a range of West Auckland centres and kindergartens, both community based and private, prior to moving to home-based care for a time. In 2009 I relocated to Christchurch with my family and returned to centre-based roles. I joined Kidsfirst in 2012 as a Head Teacher and have begun a journey that has challenged me to become a more pedagogically focused teacher and leader. In 2015 I completed a two year Post Graduate Diploma in Early Intervention while also gathering research around nature play. A personal desire to create a nature focused environment and programme and provide more authentic natural learning experiences for children and their families has developed into a passion to provide children with an appreciation for our Natural World.

Loren Hope, Ngunguru School, NZ, [Earth Ed Primary School Teacher]
Workshop title: **“earthEd - To feel grounded and connected to ones people and place; Practical steps Towards Ecological Literacy and Kaitiakitanga in Schools and Early Childhood Centres”**

This presentation discusses how the earthEd programme has been set up, the successes, and challenges and how to overcome these. It gives a 'how-to' guide around developing an environmental education programme specific to your children and to your surrounding habitat/eco-system, with ideas around accessing financial, knowledge and resource support. Come along and learn about easy, practical steps you can take to integrate kaitiakitanga into your everyday learning and/or use your local habitat to reach out to young people and their families, through connecting and taking action for their environment on large or small scales. Participate in a mini action planning session to hit the ground running when you return to your school or centre.

Personal Bio: I grew up under the protection of Mount Taranaki where I spent my days, as many others of my generation, exploring and enjoying the riches of the natural world here in Aotearoa. We lived, to swim in rivers, go eeling, climb trees, make huts, camp at the beach, explore for critters, forage in gardens, go tramping, and sit by fires under stars. These childhood experiences shaped my values as an educator, in an era that has changed dramatically for young people. I am a primary school teacher at Ngunguru School, currently designing and facilitating an ecology and kaitiakitanga programme for students from Yr 1 to Yr 8.

The earthEd programme provides rich and real opportunities for young people to enjoy, connect and develop empathy with the natural world. It aims to inspire kaitiakitanga as an innate way of life and develop ecological literacy, using strong scientific methodology in monitoring and taking action for habitat. I also have an interest in permaculture, holding a design certificate, and have presented at various teachers workshops around Education for Sustainability and learning in, about and for the environment.



Mark Jones & Omine Ivatt, AUT, NZ, [Lecturers, Outdoor Education]
Workshop title: **"The Fire within"**

Since time immemorial fire has been an integral part of the human experience. As human beings we have an inherent fascination with fire and the focal point and ambience of the campfire can enhance relations not only between individuals but also with nature. The ability to kindle flame using friction brings a primal satisfaction that is hard to exceed and Omine Ivatt has developed a number of adaptations to the traditional bow and drill method making success almost guaranteed for student groups. For team building outcomes he has found that fire by friction is a powerful medium. Producing flame from coordinated effort inevitably requires students to display cooperation, communication perseverance, tenacity, and self-belief. The workshop will begin with the Maori legend of Maui and Mahuika. The traditional narrative describes how certain trees came to hold the potential to produce flame and the session will attempt to do just that. Learn how to unlock the fire within by taking part in this practical workshop delivered by two passionate outdoor educators.

Personal Bio: Mark Jones lecturer in the field of outdoor education at AUT University. He has been an outdoor practitioner for more than 30 years, and instructed and lectured as an outdoor educator for 25 of those. One of his interests areas is the value of crafting as an educational tool. His experiences support crafting as a powerful medium to enhance a wide range of student learning events in the outdoors.

Omine Ivatt is the Steve Irwin of New Zealand outdoor education. He offers outdoor learning for schools and community groups through the Craft Lab and the Educators Tool-Kit. Omine is passionate about crafting as an educational medium and excited about sharing his knowledge and skills.

Pennie Brownlee, Thames, NZ, [Education for the Head and the Heart, Accomplished author & early childhood educator]
Workshop title: **"Coming to our senses"**

In this experiential workshop we will explore why the outdoors is SO important to the human child. For tens of thousands of years Homo Sapiens evolved in partnership with the natural world, childhood was completely nature based. It is only in the last 40 years (not even a blink in evolutionary terms) that children have been 'kept in captivity' for most of their waking hours and the results are dire. Join us and explore how easy it is to redress the balance.

Personal Bio: Pennie's mother had a Sacred Mantra which she used regularly on her kids: "Get Outside And Play!" Pennie has joined her mother's brand of spirituality and believes every parent, every teacher and every kid should "Get outside and play". Our future as a species depends upon it.

Waikarere Gregory, Northland, NZ, [Earth connected Home-school mother]
Workshop title: **"Sounds of this whenua"**

In this workshop we will listen to and explore some Maori stories, interspersed with the reo/voices of various taonga puoro/maori musical instruments. From these we will identify ideas about the world we live in and ways of relating to it and placing ourselves in it. The importance of telling these stories, keeping them alive, I hope, will become clear to the participants.

Personal Bio

Ko Tinana te waka

Ko Tumoana te tangata

Ko Taumatamahoe te maunga

Ko Tangonge te wai

Ko Te Rarawa te iwi me te marae

Ko Ngati-Te-Ao te hapu

Ko Waikarere Gregory toku ingoa

I was born and raised in Pukepoto, on my ancestral lands, close to our marae in the Far North, where the storytelling of my father brought my world to life and helped 'educate' me.

I am now a te reo speaking, home-schooling mama of two tamariki, living back on my Nannies whenua and am passionate about sharing these stories with anyone who will listen!