



The Natural Phenomena Conference 25th – 27th November, 2011 Program

Friday 25th November 2011

3:00 pm Powhiri
4:00 pm Keynote – Dr Rangimarie Turuki Rose Pere
5:00 pm Workshops - [1](#)
7:00 pm Dinner
8:00 pm Informal Presentations

Saturday 26th November 2011

9:00 am Keynote – Marcie Oltman
10:15 am Morning Tea
10:45 am Workshops - [2](#)
12.30 pm Lunch
1:30 pm NACC / Keynote Toni & Robin Christie
2.30 pm Workshops - [3](#)
4:00 pm NaturePlay – Feeding your Soul – Hands on participative workshops
8:00 pm Entertainment

Sunday 27th November 2011

9:00 am Inspirational Speakers – Toi Te Rito Maihi
10:00 am Morning Tea
10:30 am Workshops - [4](#)
12:00 noon Closing



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Keynote Presenters

Keynote Speaker - Friday 25th November 2011 – 4:00 pm

Dr Rangimarie Turuki Rose Pere, Waikaremoana, NZ

Dr Rangimarie Turuki Rose Pere has been strongly influenced by teachings that go back over 12,000 years. Her book *Te Wheke - A Celebration Of Infinite Wisdom*, is an introduction to these teachings. Rose has been on lecture tours on Te Wheke throughout Europe, including Germany, Austria and Italy. She has represented Aotearoa New Zealand internationally as an educationalist; written a monograph called *AKO: Concepts and Learning in The Māori Tradition*; held a Visiting Teacher Fellowship at the University of Waikato, Hamilton New Zealand in 1982; taught from preschool to tertiary; and researched ancient teachings in the Americas, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Great Britain, East Asia and the South Pacific.

Rose is a holder of the New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal and was honoured as a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire 1996. She attained a Doctorate of Literature at Victoria University Wellington, New Zealand 1996. Rose has her own consultancy called *Ako* which focuses on global learning. She is also a Director of the Four Winds Foundation - an international body that works with indigenous and non-indigenous people.

Keynote Speaker - Saturday 26th November 2011 – 9:00 am

Marcie Oltman, Minneapolis, MN, USA

Marcie Oltman is an Early Childhood Nature Education Specialist from Minneapolis, MN, USA. Recently, she served as the Director of Early Childhood Education at Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee, WI, overseeing the expansion and restructuring of the early childhood nature education department. Previously, she was the Director of Tamarack Nature Center White Bear Township, MN where she oversaw the development of a multi-year project designed to transform Tamarack from a traditional nature center with a cognitive approach to environmental education towards an interdisciplinary center that encourages visitors to discover the value of nature through art, play, exploration, and inquiry. She is also the creator and designer for Tamarack's natural play area, The Wild Place and My Nature Preschool.

Marcie is the founding chair of the Minnesota Early Childhood Environmental Education Consortium and editor of *Natural Wonders: A Guide to Early Childhood for Environmental Educators*. She has also published articles *Environmental Education at the Early Childhood Level*, *Legacy*, and *Cooperative Learning* magazines. Marcie has a BA in Biology, an MS in Environmental Education and is a state certified early childhood educator with an M. Ed in Early Childhood Education.

Marcie is also a principal in the exhibit design/build firm Kidzibits, LLC. in Minneapolis where she develops exhibits for children's museums and nature centers around the country and serves as a consultant on exhibit and building design, early childhood outdoor environments and early childhood environmental curricula.

Keynote Speakers - Saturday 26th November 2011 – 1.30 pm

Toni and Robin Christie, Child Space, NZ

Childspace Early Childhood Institute is recognised as leading the way for excellence in early childhood education and professional development. Toni Christie is the Oceania representative on the Nature Action Collaboration for Children – an international group concerned with re-connecting the world's children with nature.

Robin Christie delights in designing natural playscapes for children throughout Aotearoa.

Inspirational Speakers - Sunday 27th November 2011 – 9:00 am

Toi Te Rito Maihi, Waimate, NZ

Toi is a great grandmother whose attempt at retirement is a total failure. She continues to follow her interests: people, particularly children, the education of both in the broadest sense; all things Maori and the environment, expressing her perceptions verbally, and as a writer & poet, artist & weaver.



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Workshop Presenters & titles

Workshop No. 1 - Friday 25th November 2011 – 5.00 – 6.30 pm

Lorna Douglas, Whangarei, NZ [Senior Lecturer, Northtec]

Workshop title: **Climate change: what does it have to do with early childhood education?**

Anna Murphy, Whangarei NZ, [Eco Solutions]

Workshop title: **“Sustainable Centres“**

Emma Deering & Antoinette Jordan, Whangarei NZ [ECE Teachers, Open Spaces Pre School]

Workshop title: **“The Real Wild Woods“**

Brent Mawson, NZ, Auckland, NZ [Principal Lecturer in School of Science, Faculty of Education, The University of Auckland]

Workshop title: **Affordance of outdoor areas**

Jonny Holtom, Wellington NZ, [Early Childhood Educator, Childspace]

Workshop title: **Building an environmental Art Table**

Workshop No. 2 - Saturday 26th November 2011 - 10:45 - 12:15 pm

Pania Baxter, Whangarei, NZ [ECE Teacher]

Workshop title: **“Flax resources for infants and toddlers“**

Lisa Ford, Naenae, NZ [Head Teacher, Naenae kindergarten]

Workshop title: **Inclusive means everyone**

Justin Naish, Dunedin, NZ [ECE Teacher, Early Childhood on Stafford]

Workshop title: **Resiliency with infants & toddlers. The outside opportunities.**

Roger Caughley, Whangarei, NZ, [ECE Teacher, Open Spaces Pre School]

Workshop title: **Strike a light**

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

Workshop title: **Growing in Spirit – a childs journey with nature.**

Workshop No. 3 - Saturday 26th November 2011 - 2:30 – 4.00 pm

Kathryn Hart & Annette Sheehy, Tauranga Kindergarten Association NZ

Workshop title: **It’s more than a “nice time in the Bush”**

Pennie Brownlie, Thames, NZ [Accomplished author & Early Childhood Educator]

Workshop title: **Calling All Earthlings...**

Marcie Oltman, Minneapolis, MN, USA

Workshop title: **Real Experiences for Real Kids: How to bring authenticity into your nature programme.**

Genevieve Simperingham, NZ, [Peaceful Parenting Institute]

Workshop title: **How to foster Emotional Intelligence, & why that means a happier learning environment**

Mandy Sunlight, NZ, [Tutor in flax weaving, a tikanga (protocols) Maori perspective at maraes]

Workshop title: **Traditional Flax weaving**

Workshop No. 4 - Sunday 27th November 2011 - 10:30 - 12:00 noon

Anja Geelen, Wellington, NZ [Little Earth Montessori]

Workshop title: **Earth teach me**

Toni & Robin Christie, Wellington NZ, [Childspace Institute]

Workshop title: **Human Sundial**

Claire Maley-Shaw, Fiordland Kindergarten, Te Anau, NZ [ECE Teacher, Fiordland Kindergarten]

Workshop title: **So why a Nature Discovery Programme?**

Marcie Oltman, Minneapolis, MN, USA

Workshop title: **Real Experiences for Real Kids: How to bring authenticity into your nature programme.**

Mairtown Kindergarten, Whangarei NZ, [Kim, Christine & Donna]

Workshop title: **A Natural Journey.**