



## The Natural Phenomena Conference, 22nd – 24th November, 2013 Presenter Bios & Workshop details

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### Keynote Speakers

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#### **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 *Ao 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.

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#### **Griffin Longley, Nature Play WA, Australia**

Griffin Longley is an award winning journalist, a weekly columnist with *The West Australian Newspaper*, the manager of a program for at risk kids in the Midland area called *Midnight Basketball*, a father of two girls and the CEO of *Nature Play WA*.

In 2010 the WA Department of Sport and Recreation gave Griffin the task of building an incorporated association, *Nature Play WA Inc.* to promote the importance of unstructured play outside and in nature. *Nature Play WA* was incorporated in January 2011 and secured independent funding in the June 2011 WA State Budget.

*Nature Play WA* is now a successful organisation with an international reputation for innovative programs that increase awareness of the benefits of unstructured play outdoors. The organisations flagship program, the *Passport to an Amazing Childhood*, provides hundreds of outdoor activity ideas and bridges the divide between the digital world where modern children spend so much of their time and outdoor play and has been delivered to more than 100,000 WA children in less than two years.

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#### **Steve Gurney, Christchurch, NZ**

Steve Gurney is an adventurer, inventor and motivation expert. Amongst world-wide racing success, he won the *Coast to Coast* a record 9 times, has an engineering degree, and was awarded the *MNZM* for services to endurance sport. He has now turned professional motivational speaker and trainer and has written 2 books, *Lucky Legs* and *Eating Dirt*. They contain stories and yarns of his racing and adventures, but are inter-twined with research and strategies on success, resilience and mental excellence.

#### *From edited extracts of Eating Dirt:*

Steve reckons Kiwi kids are increasingly bubble-wrapped in an over-regulated society. In his new book (*Eating Dirt*) Gurney argues that children need to learn about risk-taking and our super-cautious approach is dumbing down .....

New Zealand used to be a fantastic country to grow up in as an outdoors kid. Nature, the wilderness, the hills and the beaches are so easily accessible. Consequently, Kiwi kids have typically grown up confident and at ease in the wilderness because we've spent so much of our childhood playing in and exploring the nooks and crannies of *Godzone*.

**Let kids** go back to being kids... Get rid of the unwieldy burden of control. Nature already has a system that automatically works.

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#### **Marghinita Hughes, BC, Canada**

*"Each child is a beautiful and unique being; And should be treated with tenderness and respect, as an equal. I have always had the desire to share the joy of creating art and the awe and wonder of nature with children. I believe in nurturing the whole child-body mind and spirit."* – M.H

Marghanita Hughes is a nature art teacher and an award winning children's author and illustrator. Founder of the "Let's Go Outside" Revolution with a mission to change the way children spend their time. Marghanita is passionate about connecting children with nature through ART. Throughout the year, she runs nature-based art classes for children and "hands on" workshops for educators wanting to learn how to actively engage children with nature through ART. Marghanita has been bringing nature-based art activities into schools for over 10 years and is a member of *ARTSTART*.

Marghanita's nature-art activities are based on the spirit of sharing and caring and connecting with our natural world.

Marghanita's latest book "Children Actively Engaging In Nature" ...

"Nature nurtures creativity. Here's a beautiful book that illuminates the crossroads of nature and art. It's a wonderful toolkit for natural teachers and natural artists everywhere." — Richard Louv, author of *The Nature Principle* and "Last Child in the Woods"



# The Natural Phenomena

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## Presenter Bios & Workshop Details

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### Workshop 1: Friday pm

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**Anna Murphy, Whangarei NZ, [Eco Solutions]**  
Workshop title: **Wonderful Wiggly Worms**

Does your centre have a worm farm but it needs some TLC?  
Would you like to set up a worm farm but don't know how?  
Learn all about wonderful worms and how they live.

- Demonstration of how a worm farm works.
- Harvesting vermicast
- Making liquid fertiliser from vermicast

**Personal Bios:** I am an environmental educator specialising in waste minimisation. I work for a community organisation called CBEC EcoSolutions that works throughout Northland to provide sustainable solutions for communities.

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**Antoinette Jordan and Brenda Allbon, Whangarei NZ [Teachers, Open Spaces Pre School]**  
Workshop title: **"Experiencing Safety and Trust in an Interactive Way"**

Antoinette and Brenda will explore children's self management with respect to physical challenges, risk taking and control of own safety in the outdoor setting. Together we will discuss how we scaffold children to help themselves feel safe and how this can be applied in your own centres.

Through an interactive journey you will explore the different ways in which you can discover our natural environment, then consider ways in which teachers and educators can adapt activities to suit workplaces with limited access to natural surroundings. Antoinette and Brenda will share insights into working with the children in the context of the Wild Woods and their own experience with the Open Spaces Pre School Program.

**Personal Bios:** Antoinette Jordan is a lead educator at Open Spaces, working in Early Childhood Education for 20+ years. She enjoys working with children in nature and looks forward to sharing her experiences in the Wild Woods with you.  
Brenda Allbon has been working with children for many years, recently finishing her graduate diploma in Early Childhood Education. She thoroughly enjoys embracing the philosophy at Open Spaces and is excited about taking an active part in the Natural Phenomena Conference.

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**Griffin Longley, WA, Australia [CEO, Nature Play WA]**  
Workshop title: **"The challenge of modern childhood"**

We are right in the middle of the single biggest change in the experience of childhood in history. Australian children now spend, on average, less time outdoors than our maximum security prisoners and that great gem of the human legacy (an active and creative childhood) is in danger of being lost to future generations.

So what do these changes mean for our children? What do they mean for the task of parenting and educating them? How can we affect growing trend of childhood being comparatively sedentary and isolated? And does technology need to be the enemy of a creative, active and resilient childhood, or can it be an ally in the campaign to keep our kids engaged in the real world around them?

**Personal Bios:** Griffin Longley is an award winning journalist, a weekly columnist with The West Australian Newspaper, the manager of a program for at risk kids in the Midland area called Midnight Basketball, a father of two girls and the CEO of Nature Play WA.  
In 2010 the WA Department of Sport and Recreation gave Griffin the task of building an incorporated association, Nature Play WA Inc. to promote the importance of unstructured play outside and in nature. Nature Play WA was incorporated in January 2011 and secured independent funding in the June 2011 WA State Budget.  
Nature Play WA is now a successful organisation with an international reputation for innovative programs that increase awareness of the benefits of unstructured play outdoors.  
The organisations flagship program, the Passport to an Amazing Childhood, provides hundreds of outdoor activity ideas and bridges the divide between the digital world where modern children spend so much of their time and outdoor play and has been delivered to more than 100,000 WA children in less than two years.

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**Pania Baxter, Whangarei, NZ [ECE Teacher]**  
Workshop title: **"Flax weaving, a taonga to take home. Ideal for infants & toddlers"**

Learn the protocols of flax gathering before preparing the harakeke for the creation of a taonga. We will make our toy using a weave that can be used in the creation of many things, such as mats, mobiles and more.

**Personal Bios –** Ko Pania taku ingoa. I grew up in a small maori community where my passion developed for nature and Te Ao Maori. I work in a small mixed age centre and continue to be inspired by the children I work with. I am still on the path of enhancing my knowledge and skills with children, harakeke and in nature. I hope I can share my passions with you.

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# The Natural Phenomena

**Susan Karels, Whangarei, NZ** [Enviroschools Regional Co-ordinator, Northland Regional Council and Paula Shaw, Teacher, Comrie Park Kindergarten]

Workshop title: **"EnviroSchools in the Early Years"**

**The Enviroschools Programme is perfect for Early Childhood settings. Through exploration and discovery, tamariki (children) develop learning and language, care and creativity, relationships and responsibilities suited to their developmental stage. What emerges is a connection with nature and a sense of belonging to the environment and community.**

**Dip into the Enviroschools kaupapa (philosophy) and take part in activities aimed at engaging children in experiencing their environment. Take-away ideas and actions to carry out with the children at your place.**

**"The world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful." - E. E. Cummings**

**Personal Bios:** Susan is a teacher-by-trade environmental educator. She heads up Enviroschools Northland and co-ordinates projects across the education sectors at Northland Regional Council.

Paula is a teacher at Whangarei's Comrie Park Kindergarten, the first kindergarten in Northland to become a Bronze Enviroschool in the Early Years



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## Workshop 2: Saturday am

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

Workshop title: **"Secrets of Tane"**

**Myth and legend said that Tane, Atua of the forest went to and returned from the heavens with 3 kete of knowledge. Knowledge of infinite wisdom to assist earth and all of her inhabitants in future times. Being an Atua he safely hid this wisdom for the discerning seeker, teacher, healer, to discover when the earth needed to remember nature is the greatest teacher. Where did he hide the wisdom? How can you re-discover and access it? What is the potential of tapping into this infinite wisdom for the teacher of the 21st century? What taongas can be discovered to assist the children of today?**

**Personal Bios:** 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 and to remember we can and will live as one again.

**Carol Hartley, Pat Rogers, Jemma Smith, Auckland, NZ** [Teachers, Mangere Bridge Kindergarten, Auckland]

Workshop title: **"Kindergarten at the farm on Mondays": Knowledge, challenge and play in an affording environment**

Mangere Bridge Kindergarten has developed a relationship with Ambury Regional farm park which is located on the peninsula at Mangere Bridge. Over the last two years every Monday the children spend the morning exploring the various learning environments at the farm. This kindergarten which was a COI (2006 - 2008) has a history of research and innovative practice and has now chosen to use action research to understand learning in the very different environment that the farm spaces provide.

In a contemporary world the changing nature of access to the outdoor environment provokes challenges for early childhood educators. We have found in our teaching lives that access to, and enjoyment of, the outdoors has been continually eroded by changing lifestyles and the pace of daily life for children and families. Many young children currently spend most of their time indoors, both in their home environment and in their wider educational and leisure contexts.

The goals of Contribution and Exploration of the early childhood curriculum Te Whariki reinforce a requirement to engage children with the environment, to foster a sense of place and responsibility to that place. One of the teachers in our teaching team had visited forest and farm schools of Scandinavia and Germany and seen children outside in diverse environments. The philosophies of these early childhood centres have influenced education in many western countries advocating for children to experience the outdoors fully and on a daily basis (Knight, 2009). However this does not happen in practice in New Zealand and highlights the tension for us as early childhood educators who believe that formal structured educational practices are increasingly encroaching on the teaching and learning in early childhood centres.

**Personal Bios:** Carol Hartley, Head Teacher and Lead Researcher of the three-year action research project undertaken as a Centre of Innovation (COI) at Mangere Bridge Kindergarten during 2006 – 2008. Carol has been Head Teacher at Mangere Bridge Kindergarten since 1993 and completed study for Master of Education in 2010. She is a recent recipient of a 2012 NZ national NEiTA Leadership award. Co-author of "Crossing the Border," published by NZCER Press in 2012 and several earlier articles from the COI research.

Pat Rogers, Teacher and Researcher, of the three-year action research project undertaken as a Centre of Innovation (COI) at Mangere Bridge Kindergarten during 2006 – 2008. Pat joined the team at Mangere Bridge Kindergarten in 2007 and is currently studying for her post-graduate Diploma in Education. Co-author of "Crossing the Border," published by NZCER Press in 2012 and several earlier articles from the COI research.

Jemma Smith, Teacher and Researcher, of the three-year action research project undertaken as a Centre of Innovation (COI) at Mangere Bridge Kindergarten during 2006 – 2008. Jemma joined the team in 2008. Co-author of "Crossing the Border," published by NZCER Press in 2012 and several earlier articles from the COI research.



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**Marghanita Hughes, Kelowna, BC, Canada**

Workshop title: **"Nurturing the child's spirit through Nature Art"**

Actively engaging children in nature through Art provides children with a better understanding of their connection with nature and in ways that are fun and encourage them to explore and celebrate their unique sense of creativity.

During the workshop we will create beautiful and meaningful nature art: Empowerment Pebbles, Clay Turtles and Owls. These activities help children to see qualities in animals, birds and insects that we'd like to develop in ourselves: love and compassion, sharing and patience, respect and strength. The beauty of the journey of empowerment play is that it brings the animals alive for the children in a way they'll long remember.

Time in nature opens our hearts and makes us realise we are part of nature. Children need to be given the opportunity to play and be creative outdoors in the natural world in order to discover who they really are.

**Personal Bios:** Marghanita is a nature art teacher and an award winning children's author and illustrator. Founder of the "Let's Go Outside" Revolution with a mission to change the way children spend their time.

Marghanita is passionate about connecting children with nature through ART. Throughout the year, she runs nature-based art classes for children and "hands on" workshops for educators wanting to learn how to actively engage children with nature through ART. Marghanita has been bringing nature-based art activities into schools for over 10 years and is a member of ARTSTART.

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**Vanessa Lloyd, Wellington, NZ [Childspace]**

Workshop title: **"How to promote real life experiences with children"**

In this workshop Vanessa will share her experiences of developing a programme that creates opportunities for children to cultivate a strong connection with nature and the outdoors. This workshop will inspire practical activities to implement and explore practice in developing a programme embodying forest school concepts. Together we will explore this innovative approach exploring ways to use local spaces within the community for outdoor learning and play.

**Personal Bios:** Throughout my teaching journey I have had many opportunities to explore my passions through my work. This has led me to follow and implement my beliefs about education and to promote a loved based, egalitarian and geomantic inspired education programme that encompasses learning in partnership with nature.



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## Workshop 3: Saturday pm

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**Griffin Longley, WA, Australia** [CEO, Nature Play WA]

Workshop title: **"The challenge of modern childhood "**

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**Personal Bios:** Griffin Longley is an award winning journalist, a weekly columnist with The West Australian Newspaper, the manager of a program for at risk kids in the Midland area called Midnight Basketball, a father of two girls and the CEO of Nature Play WA.

In 2010 the WA Department of Sport and Recreation gave Griffin the task of building an incorporated association, Nature Play WA Inc. to promote the importance of unstructured play outside and in nature. Nature Play WA was incorporated in January 2011 and secured independent funding in the June 2011 WA State Budget.

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**Nikki Sands & Denise Ditchburn, Auckland, NZ** [Milford Kindergarten]

Workshop title: **"Step into the outdoors, learning just doesn't get better than this "**

A practical workshop on 'the outdoors as the third teacher' using Forest Kindergarten as a base program. Tips for making your program fit your kaupapa and environment, and having a willingness to try and explore until you succeed. Come and join us for an inspiring, fun practical, hands on workshop that gives ideas and activities that will engage your children in the outdoors and help them to connect and develop respect for nature.

**Personal Bios:** Both Nikki and Denise have been brought up in the outdoors and they have always been inspired by the harmony and challenges it brings, and the learning opportunities it provides. We are part of the Enviroschools program and run our own Forest Kindergarten Program once a week for our children.

Nikki was originally trained in Primary where she taught in a variety of different schools for 8 years before re-training in ECE. She is now Head Teacher at Milford Kindergarten. At the beginning of this year she did her L# Bush Schools Practitioner Award training run by a UK company called Archimedes.

Denise was a builder prior to doing her ECE training. Last year she went to Norway to visit some Forest Schools and gain ideas for our current program. She plans to complete her Bush Schools Practitioner training when Archimedes return October.

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**Pennie Brownlie, Thames, NZ** [Education for the Head and the Heart. Accomplished author & early childhood educator]

Workshop title: **"You hold the Key"**

People think a spiralling recession is the worst thing that can happen to us short of war or natural disasters – it isn't. The worst thing that can happen to Life in this land, and to our people, is if we were to raise one more generation of 'virtual earthlings', children who 'interact' with nature through the Discovery Channel. Two generations of virtual earthlings and the wisdom of care and interaction is lost, gone forever. We hold it in our hands to grow children who are in relationship with Nature, children who are at home on the Earth. It is we adults who must lead the way, they cannot do it. The good news is it is simple!

**Personal Bios:** A Mother, Grandmother, artist, teacher, facilitator, photographer (among other things) who is in love with the Great Mystery of Life on this Earth, in this place we call home.



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**Anna Scott-Davidson, Whangarei, NZ** [ECE Teacher]

Workshop title: **"Nature's Musical Curriculum"**

Build knowledge and a musical curriculum from the gifts of nature and our natural environment. Create opportunities for all from the world around us. Opportunities that inspire and grow the dramatic experiences. The knowledge of orchestration, the joy of participation. And, the power of birthing a passion for the diversity of music outside the marketed form.

**Personal Bios:** The path I am travelling is long and twisted....and with the occasional bump!

I am an active learner and have journeyed through Early Childhood alongside my children. I have experienced and visited the diversity of learning philosophies and curriculums from which I continually re-create my own. I hold a B.Ed ECE & Dip A.A-Drama.

During my studies I focused on *music*. Not the formal framework but the music that grows from conception to the day we die. The music that lies waiting for us to nurture it. To support this I completed tertiary papers directed to the Music experiences from 0-8yrs.

Within community I have actively promoted Music education through; interactive music workshops for adults, childrens music programmes and promotion of EC focused Theatre. I wish to acknowledge Pennie Brownlee, Helen Willburg and Hirini Melbourne for being integral in my musical development and the love of musical experiences of our tamariki.

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**Erin Robertson and Amanda Dobson, Wellington, NZ** [Te Puna Reo o Nga Kakano]

Workshop title: **"Our Concrete jungle"**

You can create nature experiences with a Maori worldview for tamariki even in urban contexts nestled between buildings and concrete.

We are an urban kaupapa Maori centre located in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington City committed to fostering aroha/love and tiaki/care for the natural environment within our tamariki. Our programme offers a Maori view to the curriculum, is strongly linked to Ngā Atua Maori and weaves tikanga Maori throughout daily life.

We will share with you, our journey from concrete to garden, how we have grown, brought in and visit out into nature, to provide an education rich in nature experiences and connections, which is in itself inherently kaupapa Maori. Take away some new ideas for what possibilities you could explore in your own urban neighbourhood.

**Personal Bios:** Erin and Amanda both grew up in a natural suburban environment in Te Whanganui a Tara/Wellington, where they had regular access to unsupervised play in local natural settings. Their combined passion to provide our tamariki with a connected relationship with nature, to make an impression on saving our world, has taken root very naturally in kaupapa Maori Early Learning settings, being strongly entrenched in traditional Maori tikanga.

Amanda, Ngati Pakeha, has a rich background that includes primary and early childhood teaching in contexts of home educating, Kohanga Reo and Kaupapa Maori classes/centres. She has a passion for gardening and anything that supports sustainability and environmental education. Her current roles include working with schools as an EnviroSchools facilitator, teaching at Tawa Montessori Preschool and at Te Puna Reo o Nga Kakano, parenting 3 young adults and one mokopuna.

Erin has a background working within a range of Early Childhood management structures in both mainstream and kaupapa Maori. She believes strongly in a centre culture based on mutual respect which is driven by tamariki interests and needs. She has held professional development workshops based on her passion for revitalisation of reo Maori through language planning. Her current role is Tumuaki at Te Puna Reo o Nga Kakano and parenting her five year old.

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# The Natural Phenomena

## Workshop 4: Sunday am

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

Workshop title: **"The Souls Education as nature intended"**

The soul, is the part of us here to learn, evolve and grow. The heart is sometimes referred to as the seat of the soul, the place the soul resides. Come, lets explore the understanding that when our childrens hearts are in right relationship with everything that exists, the soul can express in the life and the child can experience a world of beauty. Lets enter the souls classroom and walk together amongst the mighty forest teachers in the wildwoods, deepen you own connection with soul, listen to the wisdom of the elders, the trees and plants of Aotearoa. Let your relationship with soul education evolve and grow to new levels of understanding. We will be going on a walkabout so bring your barefeet!

**Personal Bios:** 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 and to remember we can and will live as one again.

**Anja Geelen, Wellington, NZ** [Little Earth Montessori]

**Kimberley Crisp, Clive, NZ** [The Nest]

Workshop title: **"Beware to be aware"**

Children are naturally aware and take in all their surroundings. For many children this awareness fades during childhood due to the demands of our society and modern life. How can we encourage children to build on their natural gifts and enhance their sensory awareness? How can we teach our children to follow their hearts and live fully?

Connecting our children with nature, not just with words and pictures, but providing them with authentic experiences, is one of the most precious gifts we can give our children. Beware of the pitfalls, learn to see the obstacles to your own awareness. Anja & Kimberley will take you on a journey to learn what NOT to do, when you take your children into the woods.

**Personal Bios:** Anja is the founder and principal of Tawa Montessori Preschool and Little Earth Montessori, two enviro nature preschools that are now nationally and internationally recognised for their beautiful natural outdoor environments and enviro-nature programmes. With a passion for reconnecting children with nature Anja is on a mission to give young children more opportunities for unstructured play in the natural outdoors. Having had a free range childhood in the southern region of the Netherlands, Anja believes that our children today deserve that same magical childhood in the outdoors, we had, not so long ago.

Kimberley is the founder of The Nest Private Kindergarten and with her committed team has established a unique kindergarten. Believing that the soul grows when surrounded in beauty the focus has been on creating a beautiful, absolutely natural and forest-like environment for children and parents to thrive in. Conscious of leaving a 'light footprint', the environment is resourced with retro preloved furnishings, renewable resources and play spaces and things are designed for authentic experiences not contrived activities...no plastic water troughs in site!

Impress the child with a sense of wonder, awe, joy and discovery through real life encounters with the natural world and you will have a human being who expresses these attitudes to all living things. Just what this world needs! Children 'absorbing' their environment...literally building a 'body of knowledge' ...growing in conscious 'awareness' of the natural environment as a 'living place full of living creatures and things'.

**Jessamin Bone & Linda Ojala, Whangarei, NZ**, [Teachers, Open Spaces Preschool]

Workshop title: **"Bringing the Rhythm of the Seasons Alive in Your Centre"**

This workshop combines hands-on learning with some background theory. We are focussing on how to bring the rhythm of the seasons alive in ECE centres. We will talk about how to create soul-full experiences for tamariki which will create lasting memories. We want to remind you of the pleasure in the rhythms of the seasons. Included in our workshop will be a planning template and inspiration list to help support with seasonal planning when you return to your centre. Our session will include a craft activity for the Summer season, which you may take away with you.

**Personal Bios:** Linda Ojala: Working at Open Spaces I'm simply in awe of our Wild Woods and the opportunity our tamariki have to deeply engage their imaginations in play while held in the silence of these magnificent trees. I'm passionate about providing continuity between the sacred beauty of these woods and a warm nurturing environment at our Centre... to foster each child's creativity, vitality and wonder of the natural world – so our children can establish solid roots on Papatuanuku. I hold my GradDipTchECE from the University of Waikato, an Honours BA in Art&Art History and Steiner ECE training from Toronto, Canada.

Jessamin Bone: I've been working at Open Spaces since 2007, and I just love the freedom we can give the children in our Wild Woods- really enjoying and appreciating life in the present moment. Growing up on a farm with hundreds of acres of native bush, I truly appreciate how these wild spaces are good for the soul and spirit. I will hold a BEd in Early Childhood (specialising in Steiner Education) from AUT University, Auckland, in July 2013, and I also have a Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Qualified Nanny).



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

Workshop title: **"Nature's Patterns"**

Patterns are all around us, they can be described, they are repeated and they come in many variations as they form the world around us. Nature's patterns can give children their first introduction and understanding of mathematics, while building a whole new vocabulary. Nature uses basic patterns but modifies and adapts them to the environmental conditions. Dee's workshop will introduce you to these patterns and where to find them in nature – starburst, packing, spiral, net, branching, explosion, ripples, helix and fractal patterns.

**Personal Bios:** In all her education work Dee weaves together the skill of gardening with the critical link of food and nutrition. In helping to communicate the bigger picture of "taking responsibility" of our own food security in a changing climate and an economic recession Dee runs gardening workshops at community gardens and out of her own backyard garden. She works with schools to establish and maintain school gardens, runs nana-technology workshops and speaks to many groups as diverse as gardening, food security and bio-mimetics.

Dee believes in localised food production, organic growing, practical hands on food growing and people empowerment.

Dee is an author and her books Feed Me Right – nutritional Know How and Body Science, Nature's Techno Tricks: Biomimetics – science mimicking nature, Gardening for Planet Earth and Sonja's Kitchen: Sustainable Cuisine in the Cook Islands help people to take responsibility for themselves.

**Steve Gurney, Christchurch NZ,** [Adventurer, Inventor, Author and Motivation Expert]

Workshop title: **"How to keep the inspiration alive..."**

In this workshop Steve will share personal and group motivation techniques. You will discuss how to stay motivated to keep the inspiration alive. This can be applied throughout your life including; how to remain inspired after the weekend at The Natural Phenomena when you get back to your workplace.

**Personal Bios:** Steve Gurney is an adventurer, inventor and motivation expert. Amongst world-wide racing success, he won the Coast to Coast a record 9 times, has an engineering degree, and was awarded the MNZM for services to endurance sport. He has now turned professional motivational speaker and trainer and has written 2 books, Lucky Legs and Eating Dirt. They contain stories and yarns of his racing and adventures, but are inter-twined with research and strategies on success, resilience and mental excellence.