

With 24 kindergartens throughout the Manawatu, Pahiatua, Foxton, and Rangitīkei, Ruahine Kindergarten Association is a not-for profit society offering high quality and affordable early childhood education to 3 and 4 year olds. Set in the heart of communities - we're not for profit, we're for children.

## Media contacts

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### Background

- Established in 1949, RKA have been inspiring young minds and supporting children to be successful learners for over 60 years.
- 24 kindergartens throughout the Manawatu, Pahiatua, Foxton, and Rangitīkei regions.
- RKA's total land is approximately 35,000m<sup>2</sup>, with 24 kindergarten buildings equating to over 6,000m<sup>2</sup> and a replacement value of \$17m.
- Well equipped, offering an abundance of stimulating and interactive resources including extensive outdoor environments that contribute to self-directed learning and exploration.

### Employees

RKA employs over 150 people including:

- 10 Head Office staff from General Manager, Facilities, Operations and Finance Managers, to Senior Teacher and Pou Whakarewa Tikanga Māori.
- 110 kindergarten teachers and 36 support staff such as release teachers, teacher aides and administrators.

### Community

- Governance Board, responsible for setting and monitoring Ruahine Kindergartens' strategic direction and goals, consisting of six elected members from the wider community.
- Individual kindergarten committees and parent groups.
- Volunteers.
- Primary schools.

### Teaching and Learning

- RKA programmes focus on innovative learning through play guided by Te Whāriki, the Ministry of Education's early childhood curriculum.
- Delivered by 100% fully qualified and registered teachers.
- Each kindergarten reflects the rich and diverse communities in which they are located; working closely with whānau, nearby schools and local professionals.
- Differing session times, with operational models responding to the needs of each community.

### Fees and Funding

- \$8m annual revenue made up from government funding, investments, successful grant applications and generous assistance from families, communities and businesses.
- Funded by the Ministry of Education on a per-child, per hour basis, which is used to pay teachers and cover a portion of our day-to-day operation costs.
- RKA offers 20 free ECE hours, with additional hours also free if entire subsidy used at one RKA kindergarten.

### Stakeholders

- Ministry of Education.
- NZ Kindergartens Inc.
- Local City and District Councils.
- Contractors and suppliers.

Ashhurst, Awapuni, Bulls, Campbell St, Cloverlea, Feilding, Follett St (Marton), Foxton, Hokowhitu, Holyoake (Pahiatua), Kelvin Grove, Linton, Makino (Feilding), Manchester (Feilding), Mill St (Marton), Milson, Milverton, Pahiatua, Parkland, Riverdale, Roslyn, Somerset, Takaro, West End.