



*there is great purpose, beauty, joy, challenge, flexibility, intentionality
and emotional engagement when working alongside children*

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Dear New Horizons Community,

After 18 years dedicated to founding New Horizons from a small home-based service, into a progressive and contemporary educational setting for Tasmanian children, I have decided to step down as Principal at the end of the 2021 school year.

I am writing this open letter of gratitude to all our New Horizons community, as it is a near impossible task for me to personally thank all of the children, parents, educators, professional colleagues and community members that I have had the privilege of meeting along this incredible journey.

New Horizons is currently home to over 160 children and their families, shared between 2 campuses and 25 staff. I am so proud of our many accomplishments over the past 18 years, and congratulations to our amazing team of dedicated educators who represent our community so incredibly well. I am extremely proud of the authenticity, obvious commitment and spirit of collaboration which prevails within the walls of this extraordinary school.

I am looking forward to a new chapter in my life and career, enjoying a (slightly) slower pace, and balancing an abundance of time and energy with my continued commitment to advocate for children; engaging and collaborating with others to influence and inspire early childhood education within Tasmania.

Following on from a short period of leave in 2022, my role at New Horizons will scale back to an administrative, financial and operational function, ensuring that New Horizons continues to exceed regulatory and governance frameworks. Although I will be reducing my hours to work in a part-time capacity, it is very much my intention to continue to stay visible and connected amongst our children, families and preschools.

It is my pleasure to announce that our Educational Leader, Lou Kirkwood will take on the leadership role as our new Principal, with overall responsibility for the daily operation of New Horizons; and continuing to provide leadership in relation to the school's philosophy, teaching and learning. Lou has over 20 years' experience working in Early Education in Tasmania and overseas, and is an advocate for collaborative dialogue with staff, children, families and the community.

Lou has completed a Bachelor of Arts, Diploma of Education and a Graduate Certificate in Education from the University of Tasmania. She is currently working towards her Master of Education in Leadership. Lou has published several articles and co-authored a book chapter on Early Childhood Education, The Reggio Emilia Approach and Inquiry Projects. She has also co-authored and conducted professional learning sessions for New Horizons, along with other professional learning events for Reggio Emilia Information Exchange, Australia.

Lou and I are currently working together to facilitate a seamless transition for 2022.

Once again, I extend great thanks to you all. It has been an honour and privilege to work alongside you all, and most especially your children.

With sincere gratitude

Norma Panagakos