



August, 2017

Tena Koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa,

We are excited, as the children enjoy and participate in the 'polka dot' room within Aroha by adding dots daily, to change it into their own work of creativity. We are all learning more about being creative while becoming



informed on a particular Japanese artist, Yayoi Kusama. Kusama became a fixture of the New York avant-garde during the 1960s where she became associated with the 'pop art' movement.

I pray with all of my love for tulips
installation by Yayoi Kusama at the [National Museum of Art, Osaka](#), 2012

The teaching team of Aroha ELC attended a recent Hui at the Otago University and College of Education, facilitated by Michael Gaffney (lecturer). Six of us attended. Lynda MacDonald participated in the early morning panel, sharing her experience on the early childhood curriculum 'Te Whāriki'. The curriculum has been updated (from 1996 to 2017) and so this was a time to gather together and celebrate New Zealand's vision of having an early childhood curriculum unique to New Zealand, which recognises children's learning through play and exploration. Dr Helen May, part of the original team of four authors of the 1996 Te Whāriki, was the end of day key note speaker.



There are a few changes happening at the Aroha ELC with the resignation of Barbara Leonard. Barbara has been a valuable member of our team with organising frequent visits into the

Hamilton walkway forest, organising a working bee to change the Aroha ELC outdoors environment, contributing to the setting up of the 'junior area', ensuring there are fun holiday programmes and contributing to stories on Storypark, sharing your children's learning journey. Barbara began at the Centre in March of 2013. She will be missed but is not too far away, where she will be teaching at Little Oaks in Clinton. There will be a going away party for Barbara on Friday, 1st September. Come dressed in polka dots and have a wonderful 'dotty' extravaganza.

Noho ora mai. Lynda and team.

