



Geena Fagan

(Bachelor of Teaching ECE, Postgraduate Diploma in Leadership ECE)

Nominated for: Early Childhood Sector, General Membership

RELEVANT SKILL, ATTRIBUTES AND QUALIFICATIONS:

I am an experienced early childhood kaiako from Ōtepoti Dunedin, and have been teaching for the last 9 years. I am currently employed as an Early Childhood kaiako, teaching and nurturing our youngest pēpi within our Otago University community. I enjoy being an associate teacher for students, I work hard to challenge myself to be the best supporter and mentor that I can be for our future kaiako.

I am deeply passionate about people, community and kotahitanga. He tangata, he tangata, he tangata. I believe in our education sector, and in genuine, high quality, well supported early learning nests where tamariki and kaiako have the freedom and whakamana to thrive exactly as they are and are becoming. I hold values such as āta, manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, aroha, and pūmanawatanga close to my heart in everything that I do, always. With everything that is hurtling our way, it is critical that our Te Kahu Kiwi representatives are knowledgeable, passionate, leaderful, and committed to making hard yet important decisions to drive our incredible union in the right direction, and I believe I am one of these people for you, and for our union.

NZEI TE RIU ROA EXPERIENCE:

I have been actively engaged in NZEI Te Riu Roa mahi for the last 3 years as the National Leadership Group representative for the wider Ōtākou region. I have enjoyed every moment of my time as a member of Te Ope Kōhungahunga and the challenges that this role has brought with it in these challenging times for education. Along with my NLG, I have represented NZEI Te Riu Roa and early childhood kaiako and kaimahi across the motu as a member of the Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC) for the last three years alongside the Ministry of Education, as well as the Early Education Federation (EEF). I have been a member of the recent Early Childhood Education Collective Agreement (ECECA) negotiating team, and am an active member of the ECE touchstone group that came together during our fair pay agreement campaign. These roles have allowed me to grow my leadership capabilities, and my knowledge and experience in political spaces in these polarising times in Aotearoa, allowing me to hone in on my true passions for growth and progress in our education sector, and for bringing kaiako and kaimahi together in kotahitanga within NZEI Te Riu Roa.

OTHER BACKGROUND AND PERSONAL INFORMATION:

My partner Devin and I live in our first home that we purchased a week before Covid-19 struck back in March 2020 which we are slowly renovating, and we have two beautiful but slightly crazy kurī fur babies; Korra and Ace who keep us busy with early morning walks and doggo play dates in the weekends with our many family dogs! I have been an active senior volunteer firefighter and secretary with the Wakari Fire Brigade here in Ōtepoti Dunedin for the last 6 years alongside Devin. We are a big family rather than simply a brigade, and doing life with people who share the same values that I do and who volunteer their time for their communities is something that I am forever grateful for, and is a perfect example of why I am so passionate about the future of NZEI Te Riu Roa and what I can bring to the table as a member of Te Kahu Kiwi.

In my spare time, I am an avid hobbyist and crafter! I love to read, journal, sew anything from cross stitch to embroidery, and cleaning my house when I there is too much on my mind! I am currently learning to crochet and up cycle some of our old furniture to spruce up our space.