

## Welcome to the ECC Conference 2026!

We're delighted to have you joining us in Wellington. We encourage you to arrive early to register yourself, get familiar with the venue, and settle in before the conference officially begins. Taking time to orient yourself will help you make the most of the two days ahead. Wellington offers plenty of opportunities to explore, relax, or catch up with colleagues at your own pace, making Thursday the perfect chance to ease into the conference experience.

TIME	SESSION
11:00am	Registrations open at Tākina (until 5pm)
12:00pm	<b>ECC Members' Lunch – With Guest Speaker Ellen Macgregor-Reid</b> Connect with other ECC members over lunch
2:30pm	Lunch ends, free time to explore Wellington
4:45pm	Check in for Centre Tours
5:00pm	<b>Centre Tours</b> depart Tākina
7:00pm	Centre Tours return to Tākina



TIME	SESSION				
8:00am	Registrations and barista cart open				
8:30am	<b>Conference opening</b> Mihi Whakatau and welcome				
9:00am	<b>Tell Me the Good News</b> Jehan Casinader				
9:45am	<b>Positive Leadership in Uncertain Times</b> Panel hosted by Jehan Casinader				
10:30am	Morning Tea				
11:00am	<b>Sharon Zollner</b>				
12:00pm	Lunch				
1:00pm	<b>Living the Story: What Happens When Storytelling Becomes the Heart of Pedagogy</b> Del Costello	<b>Helping Kaiako Identify and Support Tamariki with Developmental Differences</b> Venus Wong & Alison Leversha	<b>Leading with Purpose: Strategic Decision Making in ECE</b> Nikki Joyce	<b>Understanding Parent Choice: Childcare Customer Opportunities for 2026</b> Mita Bedi	<b>Progressing in Meaningful Ways for an ERO Visit</b> Bev Trim
2:30pm	Afternoon Tea				
3:00pm	<b>Three Gals One Beehive</b>				
6:30pm	Gala Dinner pre drinks				
7:00pm	<b>ECC Gala Dinner and Awards 2026</b> at Tākina				

TIME	SESSION				
8:00am	Registrations and barista cart open				
9:15am	<b>Welcome back</b>				
9:30am	<b>A Story of True Grit - A Journey Across Continents &amp; Cultures</b> Abbas Nazari				
10:30am	Morning Tea				
11:00am	<b>Ako takiwā: Exploring place-based education</b> Krystal Taiapa	<b>The Balance Between Purpose and People in Modern ECE Services</b> Todd Painter	<b>The Power of Choice: Reclaiming Agency in Leadership and Pedagogy</b> Laurayne Tafa	<b>What Hat to Wear? Making Better Choices in Your ECE Centre</b> Judene Edgar	<b>The Ripple Effect of You</b> Preety Sehgal
12:30pm	Lunch				
1:30pm	<b>Beyond Compliance – Rediscovering Your Why in ECE</b> Himal Randeniya				
2:15pm	<b>Te Kete Rangimārie: Building Life Long Social and Emotional Health in Tamariki</b> Elise Walton & Erin Rush	<b>Growing a Centre with Purpose: Nature, Community and a Load of Faith</b> Bridget Gifford	<b>Small Shifts, Big Results: The Financial Power of Everyday Decisions in ECE</b> Mark Salmon	<b>Building High-Converting Websites: Practical Principles That Help Parents Say “Yes”</b> Grant Johnson	<b>Rough and Tumble Play: Facilitating Big Movement, Big Emotions, and Big Learning</b> Max Christie
3:00pm	Afternoon Tea				
3:30pm	<b>The Power of Energy</b> Lisa O’Neill				
4:30pm	<b>Major Prize Draw and conference close out - conference ends at 5pm</b>				
5:30pm	Farewell dinner (TBC)				