

Family, Team Work, Quality, Life long Learning, Fun!!!

Week : 7
 Date : 11/03/2015

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On behalf of staff, families and children we would sincerely like to thank the following people who are leaving the Management Committee. We have certainly appreciated all you have contributed and we will miss your expertise.

Andrea Keane, Ali Paulett, Linda Redden, Kimberly Blacksell Kate Wandel and Tash Quinton

Thank you to those families who were able to join us to celebrate 2014 achievements. A copy of our Annual Report which was presented at the AGM is available on the front counter in the foyer.

Congratulations to your new 2015 Management Committee

Director – Amanda Narroway
 Chairperson – Karen Slattery
 Finance – Alicia Wood
 Vice Chair – Shelley Tregilgas
 Secretary – Laura Waldhuter
 Outdoor – Kirsten Schocroft
 Health Safety and Welfare –Kylie Jaeschke
 Parent Voice – Helen Flannery
 Promotions – Ruth Lewis
 Market – Alexia Prokopec and Lauren Honan
 Policy – Bronwyn Stedall
 Kindy Rep – Julie McInnis
 Childcare Rep – Michelle Mengersen
 Public Officer -Sarah Smith
 Grievance officer – TBA

We are looking for more families to join our subcommittees, in particular the **OUTDOOR COMMITTEE**. This group looks after our outdoor areas, plans working bees and works with staff to provide an environment that will enhance and promote curiosity, investigation and wonder for our children. As you walk in the front door of the centre there is a board you can add your name to. There is more information about the committees and the meeting commitment. Thankyou to Paul and Belinda who have already added their names.

DIARY DATES :

MARCH
 Mon 16th- Friday 23rd – **Harmony Week**
 Thursday 26th – **See us at the Master Games street parade**
 Monday 30th –**Management meeting 7.30pm**
APRIL
 Wednesday 8th -**Bloke's Night 6.00pm**
 Friday 10th – Last day of kindy term (early dismal)
 Mon 27th – Kindy resumes
MAY
 Friday 22nd – **Walk to school Day**

HARMONY DAY

Our Harmony week starts next week (16th – 20th March), we have three families joining us with some cooking and the children will have the opportunity to engage with origami. It is still not too late to share your culture with us, even if it is photos or an item from another country, we would love to hear from you.

During the week we invite children to wear a splash of orange. Perhaps an orange t-shirt one day and an orange hat the next, you are welcome to go all out and have everything orange but please do what is manageable for your family.

FUNDRAISING and PROMOTIONS:

BULB FUNDRAISER

Last chance to get your bulb orders in this closed last Friday but we have extended it for another week. We definitely need it in by this Friday the 13th March as Ruth will be collating these very shortly.

PHILOSOPHY

Each year we review our philosophy statement and ask for family input. Half of our families have already had the opportunity to add a word that is important to their family to their rock. These are displayed on the table leading in to the kindy room. Thankyou so much to those families who have returned their rock- it is not too late if your rock is still sitting at home. I have been waiting for another order of rocks to arrive so I can pocket to the rest of the families. You will receive these shortly. I will collate this information when all rocks are returned.

NUMERACY

Numeracy is one of our focuses this year and together with Brinkworth and Snowtown Kindy we are surveying families to receive base line data. It should only take a few minutes, we would like these back as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR NEWS

Jo Kelley, our Community Development Coordinator has organised a coffee afternoon at 2.30pm every Wednesday. These are going well, with new faces each week. It is a great opportunity to meet others and have an informal chat about anything not just the centre. The cake is a hit with all!!! --- We have one child who now asks for cake every time he enters the centre.

Jo is also organising a Dad's evening. Many Dads don't get an chance to visit the centre, so we thought this could be an opportunity for the male carers of our children to come together to meet others, have a tour and hear about the types of things their child does at the centre during their day. A free crèche will be provided. Look out for your flyer. Our afternoon tea had a teabag attached to the flyer to gain attention, what would the Dad's flyer need???

CENTRE EQUIPMENT

From time to time children take a liking to certain equipment that the centre has, either in their pockets or bags. This is quite normal and we don't expect a big deal to be made about it, but we would **really, really** appreciate it, if these pieces could be returned. Thankyou in anticipation.

GATES OPEN

This term we have been trialling having the outside gates between the over 2 and over 4 yards open in the afternoons from 12.30- 2.00pm. This is working well with siblings and friends playing together. The younger children enjoy entering the kindy yard and engage in lots of imaginative play and the older children enjoy the bike track and the different experiences the yard has to offer. Staff will review this at our next staff meeting

SETTLING YOUR CHILD

SOME HANDY HINTS TO MAKE GOODBYE TIME EASIER FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD.

FEELING CONFIDENT

Your child will be able to sense if you are confident about leaving them. They will feel a lot more secure and settle more quickly if you show that you feel this is a good place to be.

SAYING GOODBYE

When the time has come to leave your child – do it confidently, quickly and with a minimum of fuss.

Your child may seem upset when you leave but most children settle down quite happily as soon as their parent is out of sight. Spend some time with them doing a puzzle or reading a book. Let them know that you will do *one more puzzle* and then you must go. Reassure them, "You'll have lots of fun and I'll be back later. Good bye"

- ❖ MAKE YOUR GOODBYES QUICK -DON'T DRAG IT OUT
- ❖ ALWAYS SAY GOODBYE, NEVER SNEAK OUT

- ❖ PLEASE DON'T ASK YOUR CHILD IF IT'S OK FOR YOU TO GO. (It's your decision not theirs)
- ❖ LET THEM KNOW THEY WILL BE SAFE AND THEY WILL BE OK DON'T ASK THEM, 'WILL YOU BE ALRIGHT?' (This immediately puts doubt in their mind. Of course, they will be alright).

These habits only cause your child further anxiety and it takes longer for them to settle.

THE SETTLED CHILD

Your child will soon learn the routine of our programme and will learn that when you leave, you have not deserted him or her forever but will return at the end of the session. It is very, very rare that a child experience separation anxiety for prolonged periods. Speak to the staff if you are concerned. We often find that once their parents have left the children become more social, outgoing and independent.

THE ROLE OF EDUCATORS.

It is understandable for some children to be unsure in their early days away from their family. Staff will endeavour to take over from you as you leave if your child is looking upset. Catch our attention if you want to leave and need some help. Our best strategy is to say goodbye to you with your child and then as you leave, quickly divert their attention to a game or other interest. Don't hesitate, go. If you are worried about how your child has settled down, you are very welcome to ring and find out. We will of course contact you if your child becomes too distressed and we are unable to settle them.

Thanks for reading Amanda



Mt Remarkable National Park

9-16 March 2015

Parks Week is an annual celebration of the important role that our parks play in contributing to the health of our communities. A range of fun & free events will be held at Mt Remarkable National Park. Whether you are camping or live locally, come along - there is something for everyone!

Friday 13th March:

Time: 4pm onwards

Meet the Rangers

Where: Mambray Creek Campground

Come along & meet the rangers to get all your questions answered & find out more about the park & all the things you can do! Make sure you grab one of the many fun activity sheets to complete as a whole family over the weekend.

Saturday 14th March: Alligator Gorge Walk

Time: 10.30am

Where: Alligator Gorge Car Park

Join Rangers on a guided walking tour of the Gorge pointing out special attractions, species and plants on the way!

Saturday 14th March: Mambray Creek Walk & Activity

Time: 5pm

Where: Mambray Creek Day Visitor Area

Join Rangers on a guided walking tour of the Park pointing out special attractions, species and plants on the way. Includes a fun Ecosystems activity suitable for the whole family!

Sunday 15th March: Water Wirra Loop Walk

Time: 10am

Where: Mambray Creek Day Visitor Area

Join Rangers on a guided walk of the Water Wirra Loop & see what special attractions you can spot along the way