

## IN THIS EDITION

**Director's Report, Staffing Updates, THE BIG MOVE IS ON!!! Board matters, Housekeeping, Farewell to Luisa, Kinder, Expansion Update, Outdoor area, Save Holland Park (we did!), Farewells in the Park**

At the time of writing, we have 91 children attending KCCC and the number is growing everyday. These numbers do not include the Rosellas, Kingfishers & Kookaburras groups.

## STAFFING UPDATES

We need to update you on a number of staffing changes. Firstly, the sad farewells. Maria, who was on maternity leave, has decided to continue in her role as a fulltime mum. The family has moved to Geelong and are building a new home. We wish her and her lovely family well as they continue on life's journey. Luisa has also decided the time is right to spend more time with her family. (See *Farewell to Luisa*).

We have also welcomed the new assistant director Rachel Davies, who has had a baptism of fire. Rachel has been busy working through the waiting list, ordering equipment, assisting with interviews etc. She has already proved to be invaluable.

We are welcoming a number of new staff: Sophie, Amanda, Kakali, Hoa and Melissa are all Level 3's and we are currently deliberating between a number of wonderful Level IV's - we will keep you informed.

The room break up are as follows:

Yarra Gum Room - Donna and Sophie and Gumnut Room - Gloria and Imelda are aged 2 months to 12 months.

Wattle Room 12-18 months - Mai and Melissa  
Banksia Room 18 to 25 months - Amanda and Norma

Waratah Room 26 to 30 months - Silvia, Cherie/Amina and TBA

Boronia Room 30 to 42 months - Kate, Amanda and Holly

Acacia room 3 ½ to 5 years - TBA and Hoa  
Tea Tree room 3 ½ to 5 years - Bernadette and Kakali.

These age groupings are approximate as we wanted to be flexible around children's needs.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*The following is an email I sent to the board at the end of last year and I wanted to share it with you....*

'Just wanted to share with you the wonderful night we had at our final staff meeting for 2008.

It takes the form of a feast prepared by Heather and her pixie helpers and everyone is invited(including casuals). The majority of staff attended (and those who didn't, had family commitments). The last staff meeting for the year, in its current form, was something I started when I commenced in November 2005, I wanted the staff to simply relax and enjoy each other's company and celebrate what they had achieved throughout the year.

It has now become a lovely tradition. As well as the Kris Kringles, another (short) speech from me and lots of laughing, we go around the table and talk about the highlight for the year for each individual staff member. They were varied but all positive: from Cherie whose highlight was a child who always calls her 'Shugary,' Morag who talked of the fantastic support she had received from all her co-workers, the new Bernadette who said she had come from a really expletive experience and was so happy to find somewhere so accepting, Donna, the beautiful children in her care ..... and the list goes on. The staff lingered until 8.30 - 8.45, had a group photo and then everyone pitched in with the clean up and headed off.

This night was a wonderful example to me and everyone that this is a very special (and I don't use that word lightly) group of staff. I feel very proud and yet very humble to work alongside such a wonderful, diverse team and I felt I just had to share with you the fact that we (the staff) really are in very good shape to take on the challenges ahead.'

## HOUSEKEEPING

Just a reminder to parents about our Sunsmart policy.

During these hot summer months we have a 'no hat, no outdoor play' policy so please ensure your child brings an appropriate, named hat everyday to childcare.

KCCC hats are available from the office at the low cost of \$5.00.

It is also important that children shoulders are covered to avoid exposure to the sun's harmful rays. Unfortunately singlet tops and sundresses with thin straps are not appropriate attire for child care.

In March a representative from Sunsmart is coming to speak to the staff to ensure we have up to date information on best practice.

## NEWS FROM THE KINDERGARTEN

This year (because we didn't have enough to do) we took on a third kinder group.

I am pleased to say that all three groups are nearly full and we are very excited to be able to meet the needs of our community in this way.

Mai decided toward the end of last year that she would like to return to long day care and we have appointed a new assistant.

Kelly, who many of you have met as she has been doing some relief work for us, is the kinder teacher for the Kookaburras .

Morag and Kelly will return officially on Wednesday to prepare the new, improved kinder for the children. Kinder will commence on 2/2 with a gradual orientation for the children.

The entrance for children attending kinder is through the gate opposite the pool, near the current office through the key coded door and down the corridor. We will be sure there is signage



Some of our beautiful Boronia boys and girls!

*Mia Devine, Sienna Cag, Grace Hollow, Chloe Sturzaker, Ava Bentley, Noah Wallwork (now living overseas or is that Ballarat!!), Macsen Davies and*

*Jack McKenny (hiding in his KCCC hat).*

*All heading off to school in 2009.*

*We will miss all our lovely children as they head off to school. I say 'our' because we always feel so privileged to be involved in some small way in the journey that takes little babies to independent, happy, secure children, ready for their next challenge in life. They are all wonderful (of course I'm a little biased - but I'm sure parents would agree)*

## Board Matters.....

We have had a couple of resignations from the board over December/January. Sylvia Dwerryhouse who was responsible for fundraising and generally promoting a community feel to KCCC for the past two years. Sylvia brought such passion, dedication and commitment to everything she did. She focussed on what we could do better and how we could embrace the community of parents and staff- taking on a footy tipping comp. when she knew nothing about footy, organising really interesting and successful fundraisers; Sylvia has left a wonderful legacy for others to build on. Congratulations, well done and thank you.

Paula Hart took on the treasurer's role after the AGM but found work commitments were going to make it difficult to continue. Thank you for your willingness to take on such an important role, all the time you spent on reports and your tenacity - it is really appreciated

## FAREWELL IN THE PARK

**Where:** Holland Park

**When:** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of January

**Time:** 5.30pm onwards

BYO food and drinks - we will be ordering Pizza on the night for those interested.

A chance to say good bye to KCCC friends, staff and families.

*'One might take children's philosophy to heart. They do not despise a bubble because it burst; they immediately set to work to blow another one.'* Edge Keynote



# KCCC newsletter January 2009

## SAVE HOLLAND PARK!!

Congratulations to all those who fought so hard to ensure Holland park remained the valuable public space that we all enjoy. It was very gratifying to see that sometimes common sense does prevail and inspiring to play a small role in the victory. Hopefully my media career is over!!

## FEBRUARY 2 THE BIG MOVE!!!!

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> the move is on!!!

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of January from 4.30, all permanent staff will be involved in organizing the new rooms in order for the children to move in on the Monday. We are all very excited - if a little nervous and rather exhausted.

If after reading the age groupings in the Staffing Updates you are unsure of which room your child will be in please ask your current carer or Liz or Rachel - lists are available in the rooms.

The entrance to the two new older rooms which are Tea tree and Acacia are, until final works are completed, the same as the entrance for the kinder i.e. through the gate opposite the pool, near the current office, through the key coded door.

Thank you all so much for your patience over the last few weeks. I have been trying to get this information to you for some time (therefore this newsletter is being written at 8.00pm on Friday so forgive any mistakes).

## THE OUTDOOR AREA

*As you can see the outdoor area is undergoing a change. Some of the development is funded by the City of Melbourne as part of the expansion but we hope to use some of the fundraising money to create a really interesting space for the children - watch this space.*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

## FAREWELL TO LUISA

It is very sad to say farewell to Luisa (and believe me there have been a lot of tears from both of us).

Luisa was the one that showed me the 'kccc way' when I first started here. She was patient and kind and I remember saying to her at that first Christmas, when I had been here six weeks 'you may be little in stature but you have a big heart.' We both had tears in our eyes as we had been on a bit of a journey over those first few weeks. I know many parents and children have also felt the benefits of that big heart. Luisa's confidence envelopes you with reassurance. I know Luisa has agonised over the choices between her KCCC family and her immediate family over the past couple of years and I am sure she has made the best decision for her family even though it is hard to say good-bye but we all know at KCCC it is never forever...

PS. Luisa will be at the farewell in the park.

## THE EXPANSION

I am a little nervous to put this in print but I think we could be on the homeward stretch.

The builders now need to complete the final stage which involves the planning room, a small meeting room, and a spectacular entrance.

Currently Rachel and I have been busy employing staff, ordering equipment, working our way through the waiting list and then starting the cycle again. It is a really wonderful feeling to see the expansion come to fruition and be able to offer places to parents with confidence that their children will receive a high standard of care from professional, caring staff in a beautiful facility.

*'One might take children's philosophy to heart. They do not despise a bubble because it burst; they immediately set to work to blow another one.'* Edge Keynote