



# KCCC newsletter OCTOBER 2008

## IN THIS EDITION

**Director's Report, Staff updates,  
House Keeping, Important Dates,  
Farewell Donnie, Accreditation Results  
Thank you Susan, Trivia Night Results.**

It has been a couple of months since our last newsletter and therefore this is a bumper edition. A special welcome to our new families.

## STAFF UPDATES

After nearly nine years Alma Cruz has left KCCC. She has found a new position closer to home. Alma started at KCCC when her child attended kinder here and over the years she has become well known within the Kensington community. Alma has cared for many of the families at KCCC and I know her warm, friendly manner and her dedication and commitment to KCCC will be missed. We wish her well for the future.

Helen from Select Agency has been working in the Banksia room but is about to return to England (I tried to persuade her that Australia has so much more to offer i.e. us; but the lure of family is too much). The position has been advertised.

Kim Nguyen who held a variety of positions at KCCC, including cook, has decided to take a different career path. Kim will certainly be missed by all (and so will those yummy spring rolls) and we thank her for all her valuable contributions to KCCC.

Caterina and Tony have had a beautiful, healthy baby girl, Carla Yolanda, and all are doing well.

Vanessa and Maria have popped in with their beautiful babies and it appears motherhood is suiting them both, as there is smiles all round from both mothers and babies.

Leah also popped in today. She is still enjoying Byron Bay (of course) but is very much missing 'her' babies.

Several staff have been away on holidays and I am spending a few days with my dad this week down at sunny (?) Port Fairy.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

I apologise it has been so long between newsletters. I must say I had a chuckle to myself when parents apologised for misplacing the last few newsletters, I had to confess that they hadn't misplaced the newsletters; the newsletters just hadn't been produced!!!

A lot has happened in the last few months both internally and externally. The expansion continues and we now have three beautiful new rooms that are all nearly operational, and we move into the third and final stage.

The AGM was a wonderful affirmation of all the great achievements that have occurred at KCCC over the last year. If this meeting was any indication, KCCC is in good shape to take on the huge growth intended for next year.

The power point presentation, financial reports and my speech (yes it was a soapbox speech rather than a report) are accessible to any member who would like a copy.

## THANKYOU TO OUR RETIRING CHAIR

The following is an extract from my speech, delivered, at the AGM, thanking Susan Rushworth our retiring chair:

'To Susan our retiring chair – well what can I say? Firstly you had the challenge of managing me and you patiently listened to my emotional stand on issues and endeavoured to find practical solutions and realistic outcomes while trying not to compromise the principals around quality. You took on a mammoth task of guiding a successful enterprise through quite radical change and you did so with passion, vision and tireless energy. Few people witnessed the zeal with which you continually addressed CoM and it was inspiring to work alongside someone who cared so much. KCCC certainly wouldn't be where it is today without you and we, the community of KCCC, owe you more than many members would ever know. Thank you.'



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KCCC End of Year Celebration/Christmas party will take place on 12/12 . Details to follow.

The last day for children in long day care will be 23/12. Kinder 17/12. Children will return on 8/1. The Animal Farm will be in here on 25/11.

## FAREWELL DONNIE

The wonderful Donnie has only just returned to us and he is now leaving permanently to take up a position teaching in Arnhem land. Donnie has meant so much to the children and staff at KCCC. He has provided a wonderful introduction to the world of music, theatrics and artistic expression. He has added a depth to our programs (who can forget the last two years at the Christmas parties!!) and we like to feel that he views KCCC as part of his extended family. We all wish him well whatever path life takes him and hope he will always know that he is welcome at KCCC, where we would enjoy hearing of his adventures. A GRATEFUL THANKYOU TO DONNIE from all at KCCC.

## Share your thoughts

I suppose I view the words 'Community Cooperative' as more than just a legal title, but as families and staff working together in a positive manner to ensure workable solutions and quality outcomes for the children. I have endeavoured to be approachable, honest and available (and yes I do have a home to go to) at all times so as to ensure issues are dealt with fairly and promptly and this I think has been valued by the members of KCCC. I feel I must add that it is difficult to resolve issues or explain decisions if they are not discussed with me in an open, fair and respectful manner.

As I quoted in my speech at the AGM 'feelings of worth can flourish only in an atmosphere where individual differences are appreciated, mistakes are tolerated, communication is open and rules are flexible - the kind of atmosphere that is found in a nurturing family and I hope in the KCCC community.' Please don't hesitate to discuss any concern/issues with me or the appropriate board member

## HOUSEKEEPING

The weather is warming up and the KCCC Sunsmart Policy requires all children to wear a broad brimmed sunhat (as available at the office for \$5.00). Children who repeatedly arrive at KCCC without a hat will receive one from the office and a \$5.00 fee will be placed onto the parent's account.

Clearly named water bottles are also required. They are a convenient hygienic way to ensure children have access to water at all times. Please no reusable pop tops as they are clearly marked as single use items only.

## ACCREDITATION RESULT

Our results are in and we are pleased to say we past. Our overall graph was a little lower than last assessment; this was mainly due to the fact that we (the staff and I) were quite tough on ourselves when we filled out our questionnaires. Despite this, we all feel quite proud of ourselves, as since the last visit we have totally changed the way we plan experiences for the children and the centre was in the middle of a construction site during the validation visit.

We have a Centre Improvement Plan that identifies area we would like to focus on and we will now turn our attention to this as we continue to strive to provide the highest quality care possible. We are also now eligible for a Spot Check, where centres are randomly chosen for a visit, in order to verify high

**TRIVIA NIGHT raised well over \$10,000. Thanks to all who contributed their time, donated and purchased - a great time was had by all and a fantastic result. If you want to be involved in the spending see Mai (in kinder) or Sylvia Dwerryhouse**