



For the latest news and information about KCCC and what your child has been up to this month...

The KCCC Monthly



Update from Sigi



Welcome to the final edition of the 2015 newsletter. It has certainly been a busy year and this month was no exception.

Our Children's Christmas Party was a buzz last Sunday, with over 200 people attending. It was great to see children and adults getting together and enjoying the community spirit of KCCC and the festive season. Read more about this on the community chalkboard.

Thanks to all the families and staff who helped out with the working bees throughout the year, our last working bee for 2015 was held in November which focussed on a general tidy up of the yard in preparation for our playground refurbishment works in early 2016.

As a Community Co-operative, we draw upon the support of a range of internal and external stakeholders. I would like to acknowledge the City of Melbourne, our landlords for their provision of maintenance support and ongoing commitment to improving our centre.

As a Cooperative, its very name requires all stakeholders to work together for its common purpose, to support children and their families within the context of a caring and supportive community. We currently have some casual vacancies for Board members, as well as positions on our subcommittees. Further information about how to get involved can be found on page 3.

Lastly, and most importantly, I would like to thank all staff and volunteers who have worked so hard to make 2015 such a successful year for KCCC. There have been many successes and reflections and I commend the staff on their dedication and professionalism providing quality education and care.

We sadly farewell some of our children and families who are moving onto school next year or out of the area. Best wishes to you all, and thank you for your contribution. It has been a privilege to have been part of your child's education and care during your time at KCCC. Thank you all for your support and commitment contributing to the success this year!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year!
Sigi Hyett, General Manager

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Stay connected @ KCCC

Communication with you is important.

Over the coming months we will be focusing on our communication channels. If you have any feedback on this newsletter, this can be sent to info@kccc.org.au

Join us on social media today!



Community Chalkboard

What's on and how you can get involved



Redesign of the KCCC Website Have your say

We're working on launching the new KCCC website in the new year. The purpose is to create a useful and user-friendly destination for current and future families, staff and other community stakeholders. We've already gathered ideas from staff and **would love to have parent input too**. To provide your input on the proposed site and ideas, please take 5 minutes to complete ONE of the surveys below.

<http://tinyurl.com/qglpcot>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/kccc2>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/q4b6ej9>

The surveys will be open until the end of December. Thank you all.

Important dates for your diary

Long Day Care Information Night

Postponed to early 2016

Centre Christmas Closure Dates

Last day of operation for 2015 :

Wednesday 23rd December

**The service will re-open
for children on Monday
11th January 2016.**



Long Day Care information Night

Due to low RSVP numbers this session has been postponed until early 2016.

Stay tuned in the new year for date and time.

Community Chalkboard

What's on and how you can get involved

The Board

The 'Board Board' in our foyer, is where you will find information about your elected KCCC Board members. It also provides an overview of our Governance structure, roles and subcommittees.

We are sad to farewell Board members Andie Carr who led our FACE subcommittee, and Sarah Coleman, our Assistant Treasurer. Both Andie and Sarah have contributed enormously to KCCC on the Board and through their involvement on the FACE and Finance Subcommittees they will be sorely missed.

As a result we currently have a number of casual vacancy for Board members.

A position on the board is open to any members of the co-operative and we strongly encourage anyone who is interested to contact one of the Board members. Board vacancies can be filled on a casual basis prior to elections being held at our AGM which is scheduled for March 2016.

Being on the Board is a terrific opportunity to learn new skills around governance, strategy and business operations, along with giving back to your community. Having a say in your child's education and it also looks good on your resume!

Anyone interested in joining the Board can either speak directly to one of our friendly members or email kcccboard.3031@gmail.com

Quality Improvement Subcommittee

We are excited to announce the establishment of our board subcommittee known as the Quality Improvement Subcommittee, previously referred to as the Operations Subcommittee.

The role of this subcommittee is to review and identify actions for our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). This will assist us in evaluating current practices through self-assessment against the National Quality Standards.

Fundraising and Community Engagement Subcommittee (FACE)

Our FACE subcommittee work with the community and members to support the fundraising and community engagement at KCCC. This year the FACE committees helped organise our Trivia night, Bunnings BBQ, Urban community Festival and our working bees just to name a few. The parents on this subcommittee are a dedicated and committed team. We are sad to farewell Andie Carr, Morelle Bull and Cleo Westhorpe who will be stepping down from this subcommittee this year and thank them for their enormous commitment and contribution to KCCC and the community as part of this subcommittee.

We are calling for members to join both our Quality Improvement subcommittee and our FACE subcommittee. Being on a subcommittee is also another great way to contribute and a terrific opportunity to learn new skills, as well as making lots of new friends and connections.

Anyone interested in joining a Subcommittee can either speak directly to one of our friendly members or email kcccboard.3031@gmail.com or contact Sigi directly (email generalmanager@kccc.org.au).

Community Chalkboard

What's been happening across the centre and wider



Thank you

A massive THANK YOU to the Gill family. Mathew has been working hard with his son James from the Wattle Room to refurbish the much loved KCCC Aeroplaner. Since its return, the children have been thoroughly enjoying this experience.



KCCC End of Year and Christmas Party

What a great day was had with over 200 children and adults attending at our KCCC Christmas party this year. A fun-filled day was had by all, with plaster fun, arts and craft, and jumping castle and Daryl's animal farm. The highlight of the day was a visit from Santa who got all the children singing and dancing and sharing the gift of friendship and community.

Thank you to the YMCA for their generous donation of the jumping castle, Carla Tatts for donating the icy poles, and all of our wonderful staff and families who assisted with preparations prior and on the day.

Thank you to the families who have donated to the Wishing Tree appeal. All the donations shall be provided to the Kmart wishing tree to assist children and families in need.



Kitchen Refurbishment

We are continuing to work with the City of Melbourne on the Kitchen Refurbishment project. Plans are well underway with the preliminary sketches and design in progress. The expected time frame for installation is estimated to be February 2016. We will provide you with more information closer to the date and are excited about the renovations!



Playground refurbishment

Thank you for all the parent contributions and input we received for the concept plan of the playground refurbishment. The draft design plan is now out on display. We are working with the City of Melbourne on the timelines and roll out of the works intended to commence in early 2016.



Room to grow

What's been happening in some of our rooms this month

Park Ranger Kindergarten

The Lorikeet Kindergarten Group experienced "Park Ranger Kinder" during the month of November. This program is run in three parts by the City of Melbourne. The program offers insight and knowledge into the living creatures of the park and the importance of looking after our park lands.

Supporting Outcome 2: Community, of the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework, as through this experience the children are developing an awareness of the impact of human activity on environments and the interdependence of living things.

During the sessions, the children learned about water bugs, land bugs and flower and leave bugs. The children were invited to try and catch water bugs that 'Park Ranger Michael' had captured prior to the session.

After each session, the children enjoyed some time to explore the playground and enjoyed a picnic lunch. What a great way to celebrate children's week in November by providing children with a great educational experience!



A Farm Visit for KCCC!

In November, we had 'Leighs Farmyard Friends' come for a visit– the children loved patting, feeding and carrying the animals. We had a number of cheeky animals who appeared to have a blast exploring our fantastic yard and climbing and jumping from all sorts of equipment, as the children and educators watched and giggled at their antics!

This experiences as certainly ignited an interest with the children about living animals. This has supported the children to develop an increased understanding of the interdependence between land, people, plants and animals alongside exploring relationships with other living and non-living things.

KCCC Staff news

Update on KCCC's "Quality Improvement Plan"

Our "Quality Improvement Plan" (QIP) is a working document that helps us reflect and assess the quality of our service against the National Quality Standards. It identifies our strengths and potential improvement areas.

PLEASE ADD YOUR COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK TO OUR QIP IN ACTION BOARDS AT KCCC. You can find these down the hallways with sticky notes for your thoughts. Alternatively you may wish to join the Quality Improvement subcommittee.

What are we working on at the moment?

1.2: Each child's learning and development is assessed as part of an ongoing cycle of planning, documenting and evaluation.

The outcome we are seeking is:

For educators to have a clear understanding of the outdoor program planning and contribute to this. For the outdoor environment to be reflective of children's current interests and linked to the early years learning framework.

Through reflective discussion in room leaders meetings, educators have voiced that they would like to move toward a more consistent approach to the planning of the outdoor environment.

The actions listed below were decided on to achieve this goal:

- Set up an outdoor planning area that is visual
- Design planning sheets for permanent learning areas
- Continuously discuss with team leader what is working and what is not
- Develop an outdoor plan for set-ups and link to current interests
- Observe children and use the cycle of planning
- Set room responsible for set-up and pack up, ensuring the space is visually appealing
- Reflect on routines and how the staff can ensure effective high quality indoor / outdoor programs are running

The educators have already begun to work toward this and you can see their efforts on the outdoor planning board and through the planned experiences in the outdoor environments.

We will continue to reflect on the outdoor planning and programming alongside reviewing other identified areas throughout 2016.

Staff Professional Development

'Educational Program and Practice. Program Design and Delivery that is focused, active and reflective of each child'

Profession development was delivered this month by Heather Barnes to all staff.

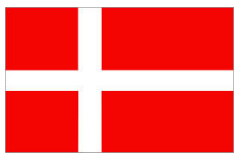
We have been fortunate enough to have been working with Heather this year who has been supporting our staff.

This month our Professional development session was specifically designed to support and extend our educators knowledge about educational programs and practice to assist educators with their planning and programming in our transition to the multi-age model for 2016.

'Centre visits'

All of the educators were provided with the opportunity to go on either one or two visits to a our neighboring services across Melbourne that have successfully implemented multi-age grouping.

The educators were provided the opportunity to see multi-age grouping in action and ask questions with fellow educators about their experiences and the advantages.



Project: Denmark Update Up Up and Away!

Welcome back Hayley!

Hayley returned to KCCC from Denmark with a wealth of knowledge and a number of practices and ideas she is eager to share with our KCCC staff.

During Hayley's time at the Forest Kindergarten she was able to recognise a number of fantastic practices happening that she is looking forward to sharing with KCCC. Hayley also recognised that there are a number of wonderful things we do at KCCC that she was able to share with the services in Denmark.



Below are some areas Hayley was able to proudly share with the services in Denmark:

- Sustainability practices:

NQS Standard 3.3 The service takes an active role in caring for its environment and contributes to a sustainable future.

- Use of natural materials within rooms.

- Use of natural and recycled materials with the service and yard.

- Aesthetically pleasing set ups within spaces:

NQS Standard 3.2 The environment is inclusive, promotes competence, independent exploration and learning through play

- Cultural diversity:

Practice Principal: Equity and Diversity: Children learn when early childhood professionals respect their diversity and provide them with the best support, opportunities and experiences. Early childhood professionals: promote cultural awareness in all children (VEYLDF).



What Hayley has to say about multi-age grouping:

"The multi-age grouping seems to run perfectly. Through watching interactions between children, most tend to have formed closer friendships with children of a similar age. During play, the children all interact with one another and there is no segregation between the older children and younger children. Older children take on leadership roles and the younger children learn from the older children. They help in packing up the rooms at the end of the day."



Hayley has shared some of her knowledge and what she has gained from the experience at this month's staff meeting and is thinking about some of things she can implement here at KCCC in 2016.



Thank you to all of the wonderful staff, children and families from our sister school, Frederiksberg, Denmark for their commitment and hospitality in hosting Hayley. We are already working on 2016 program, where we hope to do the full exchange. Frederiksberg is working on having some of their staff attend KCCC as part of the exchange program to broaden the children and staff's local-to-global perspective, enhance communication between global cities and to cultivate the next generation of global citizens.

Education Sector News

\$840 million to extend 15 hours of preschool for all Australian children

November 2015 Media Release [Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham](#)

Minister for Education and Training

The Turnbull Government will provide \$840 million to ensure that all Australian children have access to 15 hours of high-quality preschool education in the year before they start school, Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham announced today.

Senator Birmingham said the Turnbull Government had made a formal offer to state and territories to extend the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education in 2016 and 2017 and looked forward to their agreement.

“We know that preschool is critical in laying the foundations for future learning, including children’s school readiness and future school success,” Senator Birmingham said.

“The Turnbull Government is committed to ensuring that Australian children and families receive the appropriate support when and where they need it – particularly in the year before they start school.

“While states and territories are responsible for the delivery of preschool education, this \$840 million commitment recognises the immense benefits a quality preschool education provides.”

Senator Birmingham said the Agreement set nationally-agreed benchmarks to drive performance and reward improvements including specific programmes for Indigenous, vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians.

“The extended agreement clearly set out agreed benchmarks to encourage and reward states and territories that demonstrate improved enrolments and access to preschool programmes that benefit Australian children,” Senator Birmingham said.

“This National Partnership Agreement also requires states and territories to support preschool programmes in long day care centres as well as dedicated government and community preschools.”

Senator Birmingham said the Commonwealth had been consulting and working with the states and territories since May to formalise this agreement.

The Commonwealth Government has written to states and territories with the \$840 million offer. The Commonwealth now calls on the states and territories to sign up to the Agreement to provide certainty to families and services ahead of the 2016 school year. This commitment brings the total Commonwealth investment through Universal Access since 2008 to \$2.8 billion.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Chicken Rissoles

Ingredients

- 2 Kg Chicken Mince
- 1 Large Carrot
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- ½ C Sweet Chilli Sauce
- ¼ Cup Soy Sauce
- ½ stick of Celery
- 1 Zucchini Grated

Method

Mix all ingredients together, roll into balls, dust with flour.

Then fry till golden. Place in 150 oC oven for 10 minutes.

Serve with veggies, rice and homemade salsa.



Week One	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning tea	Cereal Mixed fruit platter	Cheese on toast Mixed fruit platter	Toast and vegemite Mixed fruit platter	Scones & cheese Mixed fruit platter	Sweet potato muffins Mixed fruit platter
Lunch served with	Soup and Roll	Chicken & vegetable pasta bake	Thai-style fish curry Rice and yoghurt	Risotto a la Bolognese Peas and carrots	Beef Casserole Couscous and yoghurt
Afternoon tea	Scones	Cake	Pancakes	Sandwiches with cheese & vegemite	Salads and cheese
Week two	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning tea	Bran and prune muffins Mixed fruit platter	Cereal Mixed fruit platter	Toast and vegemite Mixed fruit platter	Chopped banana, yoghurt and muesli sprinkles	Cheese on toast Mixed fruit platter
Lunch served with	Tuna and macaroni bake Salad	Meatballs in tomato sauce With greens	Barley and vegetable soup Wholemeal roll	Chicken cacciatore Rice	Shepherd's pie with vegetables
Afternoon tea	Pancakes	Salads with cheese or jam	Sandwiches with cheese & vegemite	Scones	Cake & fruit yoghurt
Week three	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning tea	Toast and cheese Mixed fruit platter	Cereal Mixed fruit platter	Bread and butter Fruit salad and fruit yoghurt	Cubed fruit skewers and fruit yoghurt, mixed fruit platter	Mountain Bread, cream cheese, saltines Mixed fruit platter
Lunch served with	Fried rice with mince Broccoli with cheese sauce	Soup and Roll	Chicken Rissoles Mixed veggies	Tuna & cheese pasta	Beef burger & roll With salad
Afternoon tea	Sandwiches with cheese & vegemite	Scones	Pillets	Cake & fruit yoghurt	Cream cheese, saltines and croutons
Week Four	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning tea	Muesli Mixed fruit platter	Corn muffins Mixed fruit platter	Baked beans on toast Mixed fruit platter	Toast with vegemite Mixed fruit platter	Carrot Slice
Lunch served with	Lentil Soup Rolls	Chicken and vegetable patties Salad of greens	Spaghetti bolognese & vegetables	Cheesy Pumpkin Ricotta Bake Roasted root vegetables	Fish cakes Tostitos, salad and roll
Afternoon tea	Pancakes	Salads with cheese or jam	Scones	Cake & fruit yoghurt	Sandwiches with cheese & vegemite
Colour key	Chicken	Vegetarian	Fish	Grains	Red Meat

Menu Review

We have compiled all the feedback from families , children and educators, thank you to those of you who contributed to this.

We are now in our final stages of the review and have been fortunate to have Dietetics Students from Deakin University, undertaking their studies on the menu.

The students monitored the nutritional food intake in the Yarragum and Gumnut Rooms.

Thank you to Avril and Eileen from Deakin, who presented their findings alongside a pictorial menu to some of the staff. This was shared at the October Staff meeting for all staff to view. This will assist us in our final review of the menu and its nutritional values.

Look out for more information the new menu in 2016..



Photo Board

KCCC Christmas Party



Yarragum learn about growing edible plants.



Teatree Grandparents Day



Cooking for Oaks day breakfast



Diwali celebrations



Waratah extend fine motor skills and sustained focus through sewing



Number recognition in Boronia Room



Acacia explored recycled materials for art in the new outdoor art station