



Staff Representative Report

Annual General Meeting – 20th September 2018

What busy year of transformation we are seeing of our Centre. This year we have seen renovations to the Staff room, office, baby sleep rooms and a space created for a programming room. Everyone is very pleased with the result and the make over has uplifted the look and feel of our Centre. Next on the list is to upgrade the outdoor environment into a nature play space providing areas for all weather play and exploration researched and designed with collaboration of our community by Kylie and Nick Thwaites.

We have seen a couple of staff changes. Lilly now works sporadically between her busy dance studio days and Chelsea has taken on her floating shift, working in all the rooms at different times of the week getting to know a large variety of children and families. Karilyn begins 4 days in the Kangaroo Room, joining Kim and Rachel on a short-term contract as the number of children rise.

A focus in the Centre this year has been sustainability. We purchased fitted sheets for beds and cots, not only for easier bed-making but by having our own sheets onsite we can wash them ourselves instead of employing a linen service. We have also changed to using re-washable flannels for nappy changes instead of yellow cloths. This saves the Centre money and ensures we are sending a lot less waste into the environment. Each room is growing herbs, vegetables or fruit to teach and promote sustainability with these often used by Kim in the preparation of lunch.

Each room has changed their environment and practices to best suit the children. The Baby room has swapped all plastic high chairs for wooden and these sit at the height of the wooden table promoting inclusion for all the babies to sit together at the same height for meals. The Kangaroo room have introduced a staggered morning and afternoon tea and children have the choice to come and eat or not ensuring children's play is not interrupted. Kangaroo children are serving their own lunch promoting choice and independence.



As numbers of children in each room change, educators are sharing care and being flexible to move into other rooms to help where needed reducing the need for relief staff where possible. Kylie and Em have been looking into changing the way we document children's learning, seeking feedback from other educators and families to best suit the developmental needs of the children and show this in the easiest way.

As a Centre we have enjoyed P.J. day, dressing up and 'finding our treasure' for Book Week and enjoying sensory exploration for International Mud Day. The children have learnt and explored science week and NAIDOC week. We have fundraised for our nature play space with Kyton's at Easter and Mother's Day/Easter raffles raising a total of \$770 this calendar year so far with other fundraisers coming up. This year as a Centre we promoted awareness and fundraised for White Balloon Day for Bravehearts during Child Protection Week.

Educators have made use of the double pushers (donated and purchased) on days with lower numbers of children and nice weather going for nature walks around the neighbourhood. This has been a great opportunity for learning with the children, looking at street signs, local flora and fauna and helping Sarah pick up the children from Kindy on occasion.

Room teams continue to collect natural and upcycled resources to enhance their environments and engage children in more open play such as loose parts. These can include a collection of buttons, corks, stones, shells or materials such as ribbon or fabric scraps just to name a few. They are placed in a box or pile on the floor and the children approach when/if they choose to and use them however they wish.

Thank you to Sarah and Lisa for their hard work in all they do and to the Board (Josh, Paul, Mitch, Daisy, Emily and Holly) for their many contributions to the Centre.

Jessica Butler

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