



Mountain Community Children's Centre

Family Newsletter

July/August 2016

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News from Louisa ...

Bunnings BBQ THANK YOU

Thank you so much to all our wonderful volunteers who helped out on this day. I very big thank you to Charlene and Renee who were on the BBQ all day!

We cooked over 85 kg of sausages!

Thank you to our wonderful committee helpers- Kelly, Yolanda, Therese

Thank you to our staff volunteers (especially on your weekend) – Kathy, Belinda, Mary, Judy, Kristy, Ryan, Bri, Sarah, and Alicia

Thank you to our fantastic families – Claire, Malcolm, Anne, Nick, Joanne, Justine and Angela.

Thank you Joanne for the onions, Mary for the drinks and Renee for the great deal on the sausages!

Transition to School Afternoon Tea

I'm in the process of organising a transition to school afternoon for all of the children heading off to kindergarten next year. I have invited the local schools to attend this session. I will advise you of the date once it is confirmed. We are looking at a Wednesday in the next month.

Staff Leave

During the month of August Kathy, Kristy and Judy will be having holidays. Our wonderful casuals will fill these shifts for us!

Student Teacher

We have a student teacher Grace from the University of Newcastle here on placement. She will be in both the snake and Joey rooms. Please make her feel welcome!

Vacancies

We have limited vacancies in all of the rooms. If you would like an extra day please see either myself or Michelle.

We have an open door policy. So if you have any friends who would be interested in the centre please send them to visit. They are welcome anytime. We have limited vacancies but please contact the centre if you would like more information.



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News from Louisa ... cont

If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to come and see me. Or if you would like to contribute in any way to the experiences with the children please come and see me or email suggestions to louisa_f@bigpond.com.

Kind Regards, Louisa Foxford
Nominated Supervisor

Joey's Room News ...

Room Leader – Mary Todd (Monday to Friday), Judy Brown (Tuesday to Friday), Trainee – Rhiannon Hines (Monday – Friday)

Welcome to our new Joey friend, Finlay! We hope you enjoy your time with us!

Congratulations to Eliza, Bernadette and Matt on the birth of their new baby brother and son, Eddison.

Thank you so much to Tjandamura and Yulara's dad and uncle who came along and shared some aboriginal dances and music with the children. They really enjoyed the experience. We would love for other family members to share some of their cultural heritage and experiences with the children. This could be in whatever form you feel comfortable with i.e. cooking, craft, music, dance etc.

We have been continuing to support the children's developing self-help skills particularly putting on their own shoes and socks and sitting on the toilet in preparation for toilet training.

Regards! Mary, Judy and Rhiannon



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Lizard Room News ...

Room Leader – Belinda Stark (Monday to Friday), Ryan Piper (Monday to Friday)

In the Lizard Room the children enjoyed wearing their pyjamas in the second week of the school holidays! Lots of beautiful bright colours were seen! As a treat, we watched some movies and ate popcorn. Thank you to Charlie K-G and Leonard for bringing in some movies to share with us.

To celebrate the diversity and culture of the Aboriginal people during Naidoc Week, we had one of the Joey Room's dad and uncle come and play the diggeridoo and teach us some aboriginal animal dances. We painted some boomerangs and Aboriginal flags too. We spoke to the children about what the difference colours on the flag represented.

We have recently changed home corner into a construction zone which the children have been enthusiastically participating in. They have been dressing up in the work shirts and hard hats and placing the witch's hats around the room. The Lizards have also been pushing the small trucks around with the small rocks in the back.

Cooking in the sandpit is still popular with the girl Lizards. They are socialising, taking turns and using their imaginations to create.

Until next time! Belinda and Ryan

Snake Room News ...

Room Leader – Kathy Rawsthorne (Monday to Thursday), Kristy Hirons (Tuesday to Friday)

Our African interest centre in our room made way for our dinosaur discovery centre. This was in response to the interest of the children who love all things to do with dinosaurs! We are learning about meat eating and plant eating dinosaurs and the correct names for them – carnivore and herbivore. We are also discussing and learning about fossils and how they come about, as well as the dinosaur scientists who dig up the fossils – our new word is "Paleontologist" – now that's a big word! We have been participating in dinosaur arts and crafts and even dinosaur bingo!

We would like to say a special thank you to Harriet and Charlie's mum, Rebecca, who to the Centre to give us a special talk all about Africa. She had lots of interesting African things to show us including African bowls, masks, instruments and woven baskets.



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Snake Room News ... cont

We love to encourage family participation in our programme. This reflects directly with our philosophy of working in partnerships with our families.

Other family members who came to the Centre to enhance our programme was Tjandamura and Yulara's dad and uncle who came to play the didgeridoo for us to help us celebrate Naidoc Week. The children were all interested in listening to the didgeridoo and the music it made. They also experienced face painting with ochre and participated in tapping stick music and dance. What a wonderful opportunity for our children to experience cultural diversity and respect for the different backgrounds, heritages, cultures and traditions that exist within our community!

To extend on this we provided the children the opportunity to participate in Aboriginal crafts including hand painting, tracing around our hands, painting overheads to resemble rock/cave paintings and we cut and painted rainbow serpents. We examined and discussed the aboriginal flag and learnt what each colour on the flag means. We also listened to dreamtime stories.

Our children have also been spending a lot of time involved in dramatizing the role of Police Officers. One of our boys hid in the bushes on his bike, waiting to book the speeding bike riders as they sped past! He handed out a lot of tickets! In response to this we organised a local Police Officer to come to the Centre to talk about the roles of Police Officers and how they help us. She also incorporated road and car safety issues into her talk, i.e. seatbelts, holding hands to cross the road, as well as stranger danger. She even put her police car lights and siren on especially for us! Very exciting! This was another great example of us working in partnership with the people in our community for the benefit of the children.

If you have any suggestions for our programme, please don't hesitate to talk to us!

Until next time! Kathy and Kristy

News from the Office ...

Resignation of Treasurer

It is with sadness that we have received the resignation of Krysten Radmanovic as the Management Committee's Treasurer due to family commitments. Thank you so much Krysten for all your hard work and assistance to me especially, and the committee over the last couple of years. It has been greatly appreciated!



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News from the Office ... cont

A new Treasurer will be sought and elected at the next Management Committee Meeting on Monday 15th August.

Financial Situation

It is with great pleasure to inform you that the Centre is now heading in the right financial direction after the changes we made back in April to ensure the future viability. This is great news and we thank you for your support and understanding during this time.

Kind regards!

Michelle Stone

Dates for your Diary ...

Thursday 11th August – In Centre Show “Wuruniri” with Matthew Doyle at 10.30am

Monday 15th August – Management Committee Meeting at 7pm

Management Committee News

Next General Committee Meeting

Monday 15th August 2016

7pm

All welcome to attend!

All of the cakes for our special occasions here at the centre are donated by ...

Dolce Charlene Catering

Dolce Charlene can cater for all your special occasions

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