



# Mountain Community Children's Centre

## Family Newsletter

**April 2018**

### News from Louisa ...

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I would like to warmly welcome you to our April newsletter. We would also like to welcome our new families and children, Jackson and Melinda. We hope you will enjoy your time here with us.

We welcome Alix to the centre. Alix is our new trainee and the children are already loving her. Please make her feel welcome, say hello and introduce yourself.

We also welcome Naomi, who is an early childhood teacher. She will be with us to replace Kathy while she is on leave this month and for some further casual work in the future. We also have a new casual Mutsumi, who has been helping out in the centre.

Please make them all feel welcome.

#### **Driveway repairs**

With the wet weather we experienced last month, our driveway exiting the centre turned into a mud pit. With the extremely generous donation of road base from Hanson and the help of the owner of the cows next to our paddock who helped to spread the material, the driveway is now safe again! We are very grateful to be part of such a giving community!

Please ensure that you continue parking in the paddock, exit the centre via Nyah Road and drive at walking speed when on our premises.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM will be held on Monday, April 16 at 7pm at our centre here in Somersby. Please come along for an informative evening with nibbles and drinks.



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### News from Louisa ... (cont.)

#### Demolition of the Centre

I am excited to announce demolition has begun at the old site. I will be meeting with the builders out there within the next week to plan the new building. Demolition should be finished by Thursday and the engineer will check the slab to see if it can be salvaged. If not, the building will be started from a new slab.



#### Clothes between seasons

With the unpredictable temperatures, could you please ensure that you send a mix of clothes in your child's bag, i.e. lighter jackets etc. That way we can make sure your child is comfortably dressed in any weather.

#### Sunscreen and hats

If you drop off your child at the centre when the staff and the other children are already playing outside, could you please ensure you apply sunscreen to your child and get them to wear a hat before taking them outside to join their friends.

#### Sharing your skills or talents

Do you or someone in your family have a skill or talent that you could share with the children? This could be playing an instrument, cooking, gardening or anything else. We would love to have you join us and share this talent with the children. We love supporting and encouraging our partnerships with families.

We have an open-door policy. If you have any friends who would be interested in the centre please send them to visit. They are welcome anytime.

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 experience with the children please come and see me or email suggestions to [louisa\\_f@bigpond.com](mailto:louisa_f@bigpond.com).

**Kind Regards**

**Louisa Foxford**

**Nominated Supervisor**



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### Joey's Room News ...

Room Leader – Mary Todd (Monday to Friday), Ashley Lillecrapp (Monday to Friday), Alix Mear (Trainee, Monday to Friday), Judy Brown (Tuesday to Thursday) and Kristie Rahkola (Monday, Friday)

Welcome to our newest staff member Alix. Congratulations to our friend Sam and his family on the arrival of their new baby Marc.

The children have really started to make the new centre here at Somersby their own. Their confidence is soaring as indicated by their increasing confidence and language as they seek out their peers and educators for companionship.

The children have noticed the seasons starting to change, they are bringing us different coloured leaves etc to examine. This has led us to start to talk about seasons and colours, particularly brown and green tones. Please have a look at our Autumn display next time you are in the centre.

Digging, mixing and stirring has been another of the children's main focus areas. This has given us the opportunity to introduce new language using words such moist, damp, cool and squeeze. We have extended upon this interest in the room by including cooking experiences such as making pikelets and playdough as well as playing with the kinetic sand (again encouraging language and social skills).

Catch and throwing is also another activity the children are actively seeking us out to play with them. Catching and throwing/rolling offers the children the opportunity to develop hand-eye co-ordination as well as turn-taking and sharing skills.

We have introduced the doll's house to outdoor play area to encourage the children to share their own cultural experiences and language as well as the dolls, high chairs and cradles within the room.

We will be very busy over the next few weeks as we commemorate Anzac Day, participate in Nation Simultaneous Reading day and prepare for Mothers' Day. Over the next few weeks we will be sending out a brief questionnaire requesting information about your children's interests and strengths.

The children are very proud of all their artwork and would like you to take a look next time you are in the centre.

Thanks from Mary, Ashley, Alix, Judy and Kristie



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### **Lizard Room News ...**

Room Leader – Belinda Stark (Monday to Friday), Alison Monaghan (Monday to Friday)

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, we celebrated Harmony Day at the Centre. Parents and staff kindly brought in food from their cultural background to share with everyone.

It was a lovely day! The children enjoyed trying all the different foods and we all ate together in the lunch room.

We had a visit from Captain Crackers and his Marine Life Sea Creature Show. All the children had the opportunity to hold the different sea creatures and learn a little about each one.

We then followed this experience with painting our own rainbow fish and going crazy with the glitter (the children's favourite part).

For Easter we used cotton buds to paint some Easter eggs and sprinkle them with glitter (developing our fine motor skills).

We also coloured a page with different coloured crayons, painted it black and then scratched some paint off to make some rainbow coloured eggs. The children liked getting all messy with this craft experience and took their time drawing their picture in the paint.

The children were making their own music by banging their hands on a box during inside play. So we brought out different musical instruments for the children to play, including Belinda's African Djembe drum. We learnt to play fast and slow, then loud and soft. All the children had an opportunity to play as many instruments as they wanted.

Fun was had by all, laughing and shouting as they played.

The Mixed Up Caterpillar story has been a favourite at group time. So we decided to let the children make their own sock puppets; similar to the finger puppet story one.

They glued googly eyes on, wool for hair and treasures. Through this activity they are further developing their fine motor skills (pincer grip) and increasing their attention span.

We have also recently set up a puppet show which they have been enjoying immensely. They have been putting on shows for their friends and using their imagination to make up stories.



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Please can we seek your assistance in taking your children to the toilet before you leave the centre in the morning? Especially if we are outside as we have had a few children having accidents lately. Thank you for your assistance.

Until next time,

Belinda and Ally

### Snake Room News ...

Room Leader – Kathy Rawsthorne (Monday to Thursday), Rhiannon Hines (Monday to Friday)

We have been very busy in our Snake room. We recently celebrated Harmony Day which acknowledges and celebrates the diversity of all the cultures within our families and community. Many of our wonderful families contributed some delicious food for our Harmony Day lunch.

As an extension to Harmony Day we initiated a world map cultural phot display designed to show what part of the world our families originated from.

Our families are so diverse!

Some of the countries are China, Serbia, Germany, Scotland, Ireland, Finland and India. If you haven't placed your child's photo on the map yet, please do so next time you're in our room. It's located on the wall behind the 'lockers' pews.

We also participated in some creative hand print craft displayed around a world map – this also depicts our cultural diversity. We are also learning a multi cultural greeting song, increasing our vocabulary for different ways of saying "Hello" from all around the world.

(Harmony Day relates to Learning Outcome 2 of EYLF, where the children are developing an awareness of the diversity of cultures and backgrounds).

The children initiated our new hospital dramatic play corner when they found a small medical kit. They have been having a great time cooperating together as they negotiate the different roles of being doctors and patients.

We added bandages, so they could bandage all the injuries as well as some notepads and pens for writing their doctor notes. This assists with their literacy learning and prewriting skills and relates to practice 2 where our curriculum relates directly to the children's initiated interests.



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### Snake Room News ... (cont.)

We also recently celebrated Easter – with lots of Easter craft, Easter stories, Easter games and even an Easter egg hunt outside! That sneaky Easter Bunny hid some eggs in our yard each day for us to find! That was fun!

Enjoy the upcoming school holidays!

Until next time,

Kathy and Rhii

### News from the Office ...

#### Transition to Child Care Subsidy from July 1 – **YOUR ACTION IS REQUIRED**

As you know, the Australian Government is replacing the child care rebate and benefit with one single payment, the child care subsidy from July 1 and this will affect your gap payment for child care.

To continue to receive government assistance on child care fees, it is essential to have a **myGov account**, link **Centrelink** services to it and then **complete the set task – your Child Care Subsidy assessment**. This is a 5-minute task you can do from home at your earliest convenience. The screen looks as below, and you need to click on 'complete your Child Care Subsidy assessment' which will then take you through the necessary steps (updating your income, stating your level of activity, i.e. hours worked and accepting Mountain Community Children's Centre as your child care provider).

The screenshot shows the Centrelink myGov account interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the Centrelink logo, navigation links for 'My Profile' and 'Make a claim', and a user greeting 'Welcome back, Hannah'. Below the header, there is a search bar with the text 'Don't know where to start? We can help.' and 'Use the search below to tell us what's happening'. A red arrow points down to a task card titled 'Tasks (1 remaining)'. The task card has a blue background and contains the text 'Complete your Child Care Subsidy assessment' and 'You need to update your details to move to the new Child Care Subsidy.' with a right-pointing arrow.



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### News from the Office ... (cont.)

It is essential to get this done as soon possible as you will otherwise be liable for full child care fees from July.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Hannah

### Dates for your Diary ...

#### APRIL

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April – 7pm Annual General Meeting – All welcome

## Management Committee News

Next Committee Meeting AGM

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

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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