



# KCCC newsletter April 2010

## IN THIS EDITION

**Director's Report, Staffing Updates Staff Training, A Friendly Reminder, Room Reps, Fundraising Dollars, Update of Statistics, Occupancy.**

At the time of writing, we have 193 families and 221 children attending the Centre, including the Rosellas, Kingfishers and Kookaburras at Kindergarten.

## STAFFING UPDATES

*Status quo for staffing this month i.e. no major changes so we thought families might be interested in learning a little more about our staff members through a staff profile. Let's start with Michelle Tilahun who is the Level III childcare worker in the Boronia room.....*

'I have been working in early childhood since 2005. My work in early childhood ceased temporarily while I was living in India until 2006, but on my return to Australia with my husband I tried to enroll in a Bachelor's of Early Childhood and Primary. Because we arrived so late in the year, I missed out on admission and simply because I didn't want to waste the year, I enrolled in a Diploma of Children's Services course for 2007. Once the year was complete and I was admitted to the Bachelor's course for 2008, I studied for a semester before realising that my passion really was not wrapped up in a teacher's lifestyle of marking and planning for a classroom of children. I loved the little ones and more enjoyed the role that my TAFE training brought me. This is what brings me here to KCCC as a room assistant, loving the role of sharing in the delightful moments of three year old discoveries. I'm hoping to soon complete my few remaining Diploma subjects.'

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

I was very fortunate to be chosen to participate in a leadership course run through DEECD. Networking provided me with an opportunity to confirm what an excellent service we provide and how fortunate we all are to be employed at KCCC with such committed and caring parents and up to date resources.

The content has given me cause for reflection (in fact there was a component on reflection) on the many challenges faced in managing such a diverse service. Part of being accepted to the course was that you need to partake in a research project of your choosing. The topic I have chosen is around competing priorities and being available to support staff in a meaningful way.

## A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Parents please note that KCCC promotes a 'nut free zone' within the centre. Due to the high risks associated with peanut allergy and anaphylaxis, we ask all families to refrain from bringing peanuts or derivatives of peanuts i.e. peanut butter, muesli bars etc. into the centre to ensure the safety of the children. This approach is supported by our Anaphylaxis Policy.

## STAFF TRAINING

Over the last month:

- Liz attended the City of Melbourne network meetings. She also attended training provided by DEECD 'Leading People in an Early Childhood Setting'.
- Morag attended a Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) meeting.

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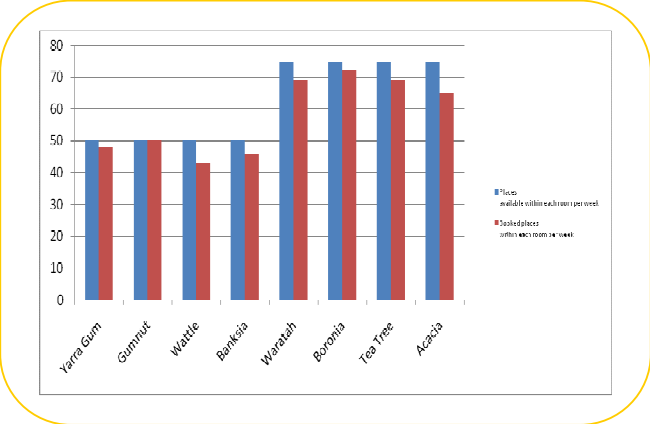
## INDUSTRIAL NEWS

As a follow on to the last newsletter regarding the Multi Business Agreement, in an anonymous vote the majority of staff have voted to accept the Agreement. The Agreement has now been forwarded to the Fair Pay Commission for their endorsement. Upon receiving notification of this approval, it will then be adopted by KCCC.

## CAN YOU HELP?/ROOM REPS.

Thank you to our room reps who have organised a number of very successful get togethers to date, (although the weather has been somewhat unkind.) Please check our up coming display in the foyer where photos of the room reps will be displayed. Feel free to approach these reps. if you have any ideas on future get togethers. We are still looking for a room rep for our Gumnut room; please see Liz or Jordana Hunter on 0412 291 377 or [jordana.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:jordana.hunter@gmail.com) if you would like to get involved.

## OCCUPANCY



## FUNDRAISING DOLLARS

The Pies and Hot Cross Buns drive cleared \$228.28 which leaves us with \$591.87 in our fundraising account. This money has been spent on outdoor blocks and two water troughs.

## WHY IS THAT ROOM NOT FULL??

Ever asked this question..... The issues around occupancy are very complex and there are a number of factors to consider. For example our tea tree and acacia rooms currently have vacancies on a Monday and a Wednesday. We have worked through our waiting list and no family on the list wants to take up these days. This could be due to the fact that the child we are offering the place to has a sibling on the waiting list in another room and we can't help the family with the sibling, the family needs more than two days or their preference is for a different day in the week or the family also requires kindergarten and we currently have no places in kinder. It is also important to note that these rooms currently sit slightly above budgeted occupancy levels. Another reason for lower numbers could be that a particular room has already orientated a large number of children and the children and staff need an opportunity to get to know each other and the new children need time to build trust and confidence within a settled environment. Currently we are working through the Banksia room waiting list. Last week Rachel contacted approximately 30 families on our list for this room and currently none have translated into bookings due to the issues outlined above. Approximately 15 have remained on the list and 15 were removed. And so the process continues with the next 30 families.....

We currently feel that we have the right mix, a healthy waiting list and occupancy meeting budgeted targets for this entire financial year. We are on track to continue this trend.

