

# NEWSLETTER

ALBANY CREEK 16 ERNIE STREET PH 07 3264 1838 ABN 41 791 546 406

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 20 FEB 2024

**Directors Report Year 2023** Welcome to our community Kindergarten. I would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal people, the traditional custodians of the land on which our Kindergarten is placed. We acknowledge and pay respects to all elders' past, present and future.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our special guests and to our current Educators. Teachers Janelle Bull, Robyn Taylor and Carli Wilson. Our teaching assistants Sandra Gascoigne, Toni Creeley, Anna Canning, Heidi Bird, Meaghann McDermid and Krystal Hill. Our administrators Deonne Ehlerth and Jennie Downes.

The staff would like to thank the Management Committee for the year 2023. Each Committee member provided valuable input, and we appreciate your time, effort and dedication. Staff also valued the support given by the Committee to enhance our educational program and the opportunities for staff.



In March we welcomed artist Wendy Rix, descendant of the Yuwaalaraay (U-raa-lar-i) People, who painted the symbols for our entry to represent our connection to Country and our Kindergarten community. This came about from the workings of our Reconciliation Action Plan and provided the opportunities for our children to learn new perspectives and views.

## 2023 IN BRIEF

Throughout 2023, our major stakeholders (Children, Families and Educators) were involved in the following:

**Children** The children participated in a variety of experiences throughout the year. Each class explored many varied interests at different times including, but not limited to; sea creatures, community helpers, First Nations Peoples, eco systems, science, outer space, other cultures and many, many more.

We also continued and extended our Bush Kindy program, predominantly in Terms 2 and 3 with our 4 year old groups. They participate in the Bush Kindy program once a fortnight and we invited families to be part of this activity. We saw the children make discoveries, connect with nature and Country, build resilience, gain confidence, demonstrate skills as Active Citizens and show an ability to resource and guide their own learning.

All children had the opportunity to explore items borrowed from the Queensland Museum and have a visit from the Albany Creek Librarians throughout the year. The 4 yr old Kindergarten classes enjoyed the incursions from Admiralty, reptile adventures, Evergreen theatre, Wantungaa dreaming, local paramedics and "Hello Africa".

We also had many special days and charity opportunities including donations to the pyjama foundation.

All groups participated in the Premier's Readers Challenge, where they tallied their shared literacy experiences across the week at home and at Kindergarten. All children received certificates of participation. The children were also able to participate in National Simultaneous Storytime.

The 4 year old Kindergarten children headed off to Prep with their Portfolio documenting their journey throughout the year and a “transition statement” to share with their future Prep teacher and school.

**Families** Our families were involved in many ways throughout the Kindergarten in 2023. Many families participated in our program by sharing their interests and occupations, contributing to portfolios and feedback opportunities, spending a day on roster, assisting in working bees and maintenance, becoming part of our Bush Care Group or joining our Management Committee.

2023 saw families enjoy opportunities for End of year celebrations, Mother’s/ Father’s/ Family Day celebrations, Grandparents Day visits, Parenting talks about language development from a local speech pathologist, access to hearing assessments for their child and a Pizza and Movie night.

As a Community Kindergarten, our families play a major role in the running and maintenance of our centre and 2023 was no different. We were also very grateful to the kind voluntary donations to our Building fund which supports us immensely. Our Management Committee made huge contributions to the decision making and organisation of events at the centre. Support in our garden and maintenance allowed us to continue to provide our children with wonderful outdoor and nature experiences, including participating in QLD Nature Play’s Outdoor Classroom Day.

This year we ask you to consider assisting us in our quest to expand our learning environment beyond our Kindergarten and a place where the Community can gain greater connection with the Natural environment. Our Bush Care group known as “Wolter Park Bush Care” was established in 2016 and will host four events this year with the support of the City of Moreton Council. Our next gathering will be on Sunday 3rd March from 8-10am and coincides with Clean Up Australia Day.

**Educators** The Educators at Albany Creek Kindergarten always go ‘above and beyond’ and for that I am extremely grateful. Every year our team faces new challenges, but it is through their dedication, resilience and commitment that these challenges turn into new knowledge, new strengths and new opportunities to reflect and grow as professionals. In 2023 we saw the announcement of “Free Kindy”, which has been a huge investment by the QLD state government and highlights the value of a Kindergarten education for all children.

As a team we pride ourselves in keeping up to date with the latest developments in curriculum and early childhood research and initiatives. Professional development opportunities go a long way in achieving this. During 2023 our team participated in training opportunities such as AUSLAN training. Play seminars, revising National Quality Framework changes, unpacking the new version of the National Early Years Learning Framework. Compliance training and Nature training.

Educators were also involved in networking forums with support services, cultural cluster groups and networking with our local primary school staff and executive teams.



## OUR MISSION

Albany Creek Kindergarten has been servicing the local community since 1972.

It is our mission at Albany Creek Kindergarten to provide children with a PLAY enriched environment and build PARTNERSHIPS with families and the community. We strive for HIGH QUALITY early childhood education and care where we support children to become LIFE-LONG LEARNERS.

Our quality early childhood programs are based on the National ‘Early Years Learning Framework’ (EYLF) and the ‘Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines’ (QKLG) which reflect the latest research in early childhood education. These documents provide teachers with a framework for an effective and challenging Kindergarten curriculum, and recognise the important role parents and carers play in their children’s learning. They recognise the importance of engaging children’s interests and curiosity, and encourage the provision of abundant natural environments, learning spaces, resources, experiences and knowledge. We have also continued to embrace the C&K Curriculum Approach: Listening and Learning Together. This approach embodies the principles outlined in the National and State curriculums and builds on the high-quality focus that C and K are renown for.

We hope your family’s stay and involvement with the Centre will prove to be happy and rewarding, and will leave you with many happy memories.



Educators continue to work with the Kindergartens' "Quality Improvement Plan" (QIP) with input from parent surveys, Management committee members, staff self-evaluations tools and feedback from families and children. We will seek the input of our 2024 families to update and continue this process.

We continued our close affiliation with C and K in 2023 as our CGB (Central Governing Body). We received on-going support from the organisation and input from our Wellbeing and Inclusion Advisor, Miranda Slape and Early Childhood Education Consultant, Katie Johnson.

We maintained full enrolments throughout the 2023 year.

**Purchases** As a not-for-profit organisation we continue to be cautious with our budget spending. During 2023 most of our purchases were made through funds gained from fund raising, community grants and efficient budgeting.

These included: Books, child portfolios, craft and stationery from Scholastic book club vouchers and fund raising.

Fire pit, woodwork materials and Bush Kindy resources from the Mother's Day raffle.

Digital camera, sensory toys, flexible seating, storage equipment and craft supplies from further fund raising activities.

The most significant upgrade to our Kindergarten in 2023 came to us thanks to the hard work, lobbying and commitment of our past and present committee members. Alongside staff, these members helped us in gaining the support of the City of Moreton Council to replace our "end of life" roof. We are extremely grateful to the Council, especially John, who got the ball rolling and then Nick, Hannah and Terry from Sensus. This team not only managed to replace our roof in extreme heat and wet weather in just 7 weeks, but improve our guttering and drainage systems, replace solar lights, plaster and repaint the entire ceiling, improve the insulation and carry out electrical works. In the event that our Kindergarten would have had to achieve this outcome on our own would have meant ten plus years of grants, multiple disruptions and a minor miracle. Once again huge thanks to those involved in making this project a success and minimising the disruption to our Kindergarten Community.

## FUTURE PLANS

Continue to provide quality early childhood programs.  
Maintain full enrolments and the operational viability of the Centre.

The following, via grants:

Playground upgrade  
Expansion of solar energy

The Centre would encourage those families who are able in 2024 to contribute to the Building Fund (which is Tax Deductable) to continue to boost the Centre's funds.

In conclusion, I would like to once again thank the Committee and Staff for working together so well to achieve so much. We look forward to 2024, to see what new challenges and achievements await us. Thank you for your attendance here tonight.

*Tracey Wilson*

Nominated Supervisor for 2024

Keep up to date and share our wonderful Kindy with our local community.

Find us on  
Facebook at Albany  
Creek Kindergarten  
or scan the QR code



C&K COVID-19 Response Level  
**GREEN**  
(Low response)

**EMERGENCY CONTACT**  
**0456 747 547**

**Admin Office Hours**  
Contact Deonne or Jennie  
Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday, Thursday  
**P** 07 3264 1838  
**E** admin@albanycreekkindy.com.au