

# NEWSLETTER

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## COMMITTEE MEETING: 16 JULY 2024

### Directors Report

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome everyone back to the second half of the Kindergarten year. As you would have seen through our recent communications from Queensland Health there has been and will be a huge rise in RSV, Influenza and COVID cases in the coming weeks. As a Kindergarten we take such communications very seriously and continue to implement high levels of hygiene control measures. We ask that you too support us in this by ensuring all hands are washed/sanitised upon arrival, keeping children at home if they are unwell, wearing a mask if you are recovering or suffering from illness and consider taking up the free flu vaccinations available to all families.

Recently our major stakeholders have been involved in the following activities:

## CHILDREN

Within our Kindergarten philosophy we state and embed daily:

We recognise and empower children as thinkers and theorists who thrive in an environment which values creativity, flexibility and connections with nature. We believe that the power of PLAY is the pathway to life long learning.

This philosophical statement linked well to this year's under 8's theme "Connecting to culture through play".

Through their fortnightly Bush Kindy experiences they become active citizens and connect to nature and the Community around them.

On Wednesday 22nd May we also participated in National Simultaneous Storytime by reading this years' book "Bowerbird Blues".

This story linked well to our fortnightly excursions to Bush Kindy and the connections we make through nature in our daily program.

In May the four year old Kindergarten classes had the opportunity to learn about Aboriginal culture with guests from Gubbi Gubbi Country.

The children were able to connect with and through cultural aspects of music, language, story and traditions.



Our program continues to view children as thinkers and theorists. It is with this belief that many of the children's interests form and this then facilitates their learning. Each group shares:



**Mrs Carli Wilson shared:** Over term 2, the Red group have enjoyed a camping and fishing game that evolved further in the bush kindy setting where lots of friends participated in 'real' fishing at the creek (with a stick and yarn). The colour monster has been a favourite book and the children have played many games and participated in art experiences to support them in identifying their emotions. 'Biscuits the kindness bigfoot' has been visiting the red groups families and loves to witness the acts of kindness he sees there. In the last weeks of Term 2 we enjoyed a 'train game' that took us to amazing places like an aquarium and an ice cream shop. We finished the term with a fun silly sock day!



**Mrs Robyn Taylor shared:** The Young Kindy children have been exploring many dramatic play ideas including playing hospitals, being fire fighters, camping in the playground, setting up an office and having a vet hospital. We all enjoyed a pyjama day as our end of term celebration. We had pyjama games, songs and stories and a picnic lunch. The children continue to learn important social skills such as sharing and turn taking. We have also been talking about and using books about feelings. Everyone is also taking turns bringing something to Kindy in a 'Show and Share' box and developing the ability to speak in front of a group. We are very proud of all the wonderful learning that is taking place.



**Mrs Janelle Bull shared:** The Blue and Yellow groups have enjoyed our fortnightly Bush Kindy days as we have extended our classroom interests further in nature. For example, after seeing a rainbow one morning, we looked for the colours of the rainbow in the bush. We have looked for tracks after noticing vehicle tracks on the grass. We have also made an obstacle course in the bush replicating our daily challenge course. We have extended the length of time we are outside now till all day with the Yellow Group resting in nature as well. This has all been led by the children.

When Uncle Rob from the Gubbi Gubbi performance group visited, he told us lots of information about his indigenous background and life. The children practiced dancing and singing. Our dramatic play, Vets, Hospitals, Police and Firemen have allowed opportunities for the children to build their knowledge of letters and numbers. We continue to further develop fine motor skills through music, finger rhymes and manipulative equipment.

**Mrs Tracey Wilson shared:** The Green group utilised discussions from the Dentist visit to explore Healthy eating and community workers. This led to play around hospitals, vets and fire fighters. The group also extended their knowledge of Indigenous culture through stories, art and songs. This further led to games, writing and discussions about other cultures and languages. The Green group finished the term with a teddy bears picnic which was decided through a vote the child had following the story "Say Yes: A story of Friendship, Fairness and a Vote for Hope", which is about the referendum vote to change laws to create equality for Aboriginal people in 1967.



## FAMILIES

Mother's or special guests came to visit Kindergarten to celebrate Mother's Day. The special visitors were involved in a range of experiences such as singing, dancing, craft, involvement in the program or sharing a snack. All in all the children loved sharing their Kindergarten with their special people.

On June 8, we welcomed 63 families to our Kindergarten Open Day. This was a highly successful event with 17 new waiting list applications gained (4 for 2025, 3 for 2026, 5 for 2027 and 5 for 2028). We continue to ask for your support in spreading the word about our wonderful Community Kindergarten to help build awareness within the Community that a) we exist, b) it is never to late to add your name to the waiting list and c) you won't find a better learning environment in Albany Creek for your child to be prepared for their future education. Our enrolments for 2025 are in full swing and positions have been taken up very quickly. We hope to be able to confirm and finalise all groups in the very near future.

Bush Care with the City of Moreton Council continues to be something that we are passionate about. Our last event was hugely successful with the attendance of 5 staff, community members and over 8 Kindergarten families. We enjoyed a morning of weeding to clear and clean the bush area behind the Kindergarten which is not only a space for the community to appreciate, but where we love to go for Bush Kindy. There was also time for the children to connect and play. Next date is Sunday 4th August from 8-10am.

At the end of May we were delighted to host Samantha from You and Me Occupational Therapy. This provided those in attendance a wealth of information about child development, when to seek help and how to support children on the learning journey.



At the end of term 2, 33 families took up the opportunity to have their 4 year old child's hearing tested. This again proved to be highly beneficial with 61% of children passing or receiving advise to monitor inner ear function and 39% being referred to GP or for further hearing investigations.

## EDUCATORS/STAFF

Our dedicated team have been engaged in a range of Professional development opportunities and team mentoring to work through Dr Kaylene Hendersons "A dose of Awesomeness" package. We hope that you have benefited from information we have shared with you thus far and we will continue to share the many useful resources from this package. We have also secured an annual membership with the Korri Curriculum and look forward to accessing the many resources and webinars it has to offer as we continue to utilise our Kindy Uplift funding and develop ways to continue to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives within our program.

At the end of term 2 all staff have worked through annual compliance training related to child protection, workplace health and safety, fire training, workplace bullying and sexual harassment and privacy.

Finally, it is with mixed emotions that I share the news that Mrs Robyn Taylor will be retiring from part time employment at our Kindergarten at the end of this year. Robyn has been a highly valued and respected member of our team for 15 years. We are grateful for the dedication, skills, kindness, friendship and knowledge she has given our team and will always welcome her back to relieve or volunteer when she can. We all wish her well as she embarks on the next chapter of her life with her family, grandparent adventures and personal pursuits.



## PURCHASES

Thanks to the success of our Easter Fundraiser we have been excited to purchase a range of amazing resources for the children.

These have included: outdoor volume and measurement kit, headphones and headphone jack, magnetic marble run, Tuff tray resources (trucks, bamboo tea set and gems), wooden peg dolls, sequencing activities, lego marble run, Connetix magnetic tile extension packs, zen water art canvas' and a rainbow peg board.

Further to this through efficient budgeting we have also purchased new outdoor mats, an outdoor shade sail replacement, Bluetooth speaker, a digital camera and many regular supplies to support the program.

*Tracey Wilson*

Nominated Supervisor



## FUNDRAISING

A big thank you for your support of our **Grill'd Local Matter Campaign**. We came in runner up and are looking forward to putting the funds into fresh materials in our classrooms. Another thank you for purchasing your **Picture Plates**. Delivery of the plates is expected by the end of August. Term 3 events to mark in your diary ...

**Saturday 3rd August** Get ready to dance the night away at our Kindy Dance Party! **TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE** - This event has been made possible with the support of Councillor Cath Tonks and Lauren Ellis (Mum of Cooper from Young Kindy) of Ray White Bridgeman Downs.

**Sunday 18th August** Join us at Bunnings Stafford 9am - 3pm as we host the much loved sausage sizzle! Bring the whole family and enjoy a delicious sausage while supporting our kindergarten! It's a perfect opportunity to show your support for our kindy. We can't wait to see you there!

Keep your eye out for an email to register to lend a hand at the Kindy Dance Party or the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. An exciting raffle is also on the way for Term 3.



# A Dose of Seriously Awesome Parenting



## Bringing out the best in your child (ages 0-12)

What an awesome thing you're doing - learning how to be the best parent you can be!

**Here are the tips you'll need to remember.**

- ★ Some parts of your children's personalities (their temperament traits) are determined even before birth. That said, you are in an important position to bring out the best in each of your individual children through your interactions with them.
- ★ Based on differences in our own upbringing, we often have differing expectations and approaches when it comes to parenting. The strategies featured in our parenting 'autopilot' might vary from those supported by research. It's great to learn about these helpful, research-based approaches as these are linked with both short and long term benefits for our kids.
- ★ Never underestimate the importance of connecting with your children. Have fun with them; Be curious; Listen to the little stuff; Touch and hug your kids. Be sure to see the good in them.
- ★ Delight in your children using your eyes, facial expression and body language. This helps our kids to develop a healthy self esteem.
- ★ Help your kids 'just enough' in both practical and social situations.
- ★ To teach your children to problem solve, firstly clarify the problem and acknowledge your child's feelings. Then explore options for a possible solution before empowering your child to decide upon one of these.
- ★ Build resilience in your kids by allowing them to experience challenges, take non-dangerous risks and face the ups and downs of life.
- ★ Provide comfort by responding to your children's upsets with connection and empathy.
- ★ Try to get the balance right so that you can be in charge (providing your kids with a much needed sense of safety and security) while also being their kind, nurturing 'go-to' person.
- ★ Avoid power struggles and instead, align with your children against problems.

**After a while, these approaches will be incorporated within your new and improved parenting 'autopilot'. It's never too late to starting having the kind of relationship your children need to reach their full potential in life. Thank you for all you do. You've got this...**

*Dr Kaylene Henderson, Child Psychiatrist*

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



### Admin Office Hours

Contact Deonne or Jennie

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C&K COVID-19 Response Level

**GREEN**

(Low response)

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