



## Welcome to our December newsletter!

Dear Families!

### TOP NEWS

**Enrolment Forms 2018** – as you complete your enrolment documentation for 2018, please ensure that EVERY question is answered, and every signature INCLUDED as we must have COMPLETED enrolment forms for your child to start in 2018. This is a legal requirement.

**Account payments** – Please finalise payment of your account before the end of our year – Thursday 21 December 2017.

### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

**Christmas Party!** This was a great night that I hope you all enjoyed. Thanks must go to the Committee who amongst all the business and busy-ness of their own and their children's lives have managed to organise the Christmas Party and food and cooking with a bit of amazing support from we at the Centre! AND a Special General Meeting! Truly a great way to close off the year. Merry Christmas.

Congratulations to Chris Cook – the big raffle winner on the night.

### LONG DAY CARE Centre

**Rating and Assessment** – By the time you are reading this, our Rating and Assessment (R & A) visit will be over! There is a great deal of compliance involved in the operation of a children's service and preparation for R & A gives us an opportunity to revisit the various areas of compliance and ensure that our processes are holding up! We expect a report either just before we close off for the year or first up in January after we re-open.

**In the Kitchen** – We say goodbye to Bruce at the end of this year also. Bruce has been offered an Executive Chef's position in Daylesford. So, we wish him and his family well on their new adventure. Thank you Bruce.

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Rebecca Wade into the position as Centre cook. Rebecca has been one of our casual fill-in cooks (Taofi our other while Bruce was away). Rebecca comes to us with a wealth of relevant and current experience and very transferable skills from her previous work. We look forward to working with Rebecca in 2018 and beyond!

## Important Dates

**Completed enrolment forms DUE  
back before  
21 December 2017**

**Last day for 2017 is  
Thursday 21 December 2017.**

**We reopen on  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Australia Day Public Holiday  
26<sup>th</sup> January 2018 CLOSED**

## Please Remember

To advise us of absences, a  
text message to

**0472 698 513**

or call

**5470 6284**

or email

[carinya@castlemainechildcare.com.au](mailto:carinya@castlemainechildcare.com.au)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**OUR CURRENT TELEPHONE  
NUMBER IS 5470 6284 or call  
mobile 0472 698 513**

**5472 3665 IS NOT FUNCTIONAL.**

**Rooms 2018 – Our orientation night** was a great success and many of you were able to take the opportunity to attend and learn more about your child's room for 2018. Educators look forward to welcoming you and your child to their new room for 2018. See you in January!

### **FAMILY DAY CARE Scheme**

Sally Foran is retiring after providing care and education in her home to the children of the district for the last 10 years. Sally has supported families and children and other educators over this time and we will miss her contribution to our family day care community and meetings. We wish you well Sally in your retirement whatever it brings. See you around town!

### **The Value of Sensory Play**

Each day at Carinya, children are happily engaged in sensory play – sand, water, mud dirt, clay, finger paint and more. Sensory play has many valuable educational benefits, but I would like to share with you the emotional benefits.

Young children can be easily frustrated due to their emerging language skills, the intricacies of relationships with their peers, the pressure to share and turn taking and their own development. Many children are also dealing with home situations from the usual everyday situations we expect in family life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to more complex situations. Natural materials and sensory play prove a relaxing release of tension and frustration and promote harmony and tranquillity for the child and within the group. Sensory play is especially spontaneous, free and directed by the child, there is no right or wrong, it can be individual play or play with a friend. Sensory play is always available to the children at Carinya. (Hot tip! Washing the dishes is sensory play, so is cleaning the bath...). Are there opportunities for sensory play in your home?

Rose, Director

**A huge thank you to you all** for welcoming me into this beautiful centre. I enjoy coming to Carinya and working with an interesting and vibrant community of families and educators and children. I am very excited about 2018 and what new adventures it will bring to us. Wishing you a restful, peaceful, wonderful festive season and all the best for a great start to 2018.

Cheers, Rose

## **Educational Leader – Sarah**

Well another year is (nearly) done and dusted and we're already looking ahead to some exciting projects in the New Year. I'm pleased to share that our service has become a registered participant in the Kids Matter initiative. Current research has shown that 1 in 5 children are already at risk by the time they start school. Kids Matter have developed a framework that supports positive mental health and wellbeing in young children by implementing a range of support strategies. We hope that this will see improved outcomes for children, as we guide behaviours, support self-regulation and socialisation within our setting.

On a lighter note, I would like to extend my warm and merry wishes to all our Carinya families and staff. Thank you all for an excellent year and I hope the Christmas break brings some well-earned rest and merriness.

Take care and I'll see you in 2018!

## Committee of Management News



Busy little working bees last Sunday morning creating our wicking garden beds. Thank you to, all the families that have assisted us in all the diverse ways. In 2018 to we would love to hear from you if you have a hobby, interest, skill or interesting work that you can share with the children. Some families fix toys or sew for the centre, join the committee, assist with fundraising and / or attend working bees. You can contribute in a way that suits you. Merry Christmas to you all and have a happy and safe 2018



### Koala Room with Gemma and Nat

This last month in the koala room we have been focusing on transitioning the children into the Possum room. We do this to give them opportunity to become familiar with the new room and educators, which helps them to settle in with ease at the start of 2018.



Nat and I would also like to take this opportunity to say that we feel there is nothing more rewarding to us than having the opportunity to watch all of your children grow and learn. This year has gone so quickly we can't believe the end is already here. You are all so amazing with the biggest hearts and the greatest personalities, we hope you have a fantastic Christmas break with your families and come back with lots of excitement for what 2018 has to offer.



**Possum Room with Demi, Cedella, Sally B and Melody**

**To our beautiful Possum children,**

We would like to say how lucky we feel to have been given the opportunity to be your educators for the year and what a fun year it has been.

We have loved getting to know you all and watching you grow and develop over the year. It has been such an achievement to see you all become ready for the kangaroo room over the last couple of months and we hope you are ready for much more learning and a new adventure.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Love Demi, Dell, Sally and Melody



## **Kangaroo Room – Felicity, Lisa, Sue, Peter, Emily and Ange.**

Hello Everyone,

Well here we are at the end of the road and the last newsletter from Kangaroo room for the year!

Kangaroo children have been busy planting out into the garden the seeds we have grown and still expressing an interest in our nature table. We have some plants propagating in water and our bird seed has sprouted too! We have enjoyed harvesting our herbs from our garden for use in the kitchen and taking them home for cooking.

Our last month's focus has been working on extending our independence skills and social skills as we are preparing for moving up to the Wombat room next year. The children have had many enjoyable visits to the Wombat room and 3-5-year-old yard over the last month.

Familiarizing the children with their new educators, bathroom, play equipment and the room has been an exciting confidence building experience.

Kangaroo staff feel at this point our children are well prepared for their transition to Wombat room next year. We expect this process to be a smooth one, remember we will still be here to support you if the need arises.

Due to our focus on transition visits, children have not been on our regular excursions to library, the hub, the oval, and the train station. In our last two weeks we will revisit all these places of interest as children have expressed the desire to continue our outings - the Train station especially.

We have had an amazing and exciting journey with all the Kangaroo children this year; it has been a pleasure educating & getting to know your child and families. We wish you all a peaceful, restful and safe holiday period and look forward to seeing those that are returning to Wombat room next Year!





## Pre-Kinder Wombat Room News from Heather, Sally and Carolyn.

Over the last two months, we have been building on our knowledge about animals that lay eggs. This has been an interest that began with a story that Tara brought in for us to share. The story was about an animal hatching out of an egg and the journey the animal went on to discover his mother. Throughout the story there were many animals introduced that also lay eggs. This encouraged great discussion. We made a list of animals that lay eggs and created an environment for the animals we had identified: Birds, lorikeets, snakes, chickens, crocodiles, frogs, fish, penguins, platypus, turtles, anacondas, plovers, lizards, emus, dinosaurs, alligators, ducks and owls. Collectively, the children demonstrated they had a good understanding of which animals lay eggs. We held a small egg that was found with one of the nests. We documented some of the discussion.

“Chickens lay big eggs. This is a small egg.”

“It has spots.”

“My Dad cooks eggs to eat it.”

“My dog has puppies.”

“Like cats too, they have kittens. “

Over a period of time we added to the collection of animals as our knowledge increased. As we read many references both fiction and non-fiction we gained a greater understanding of how the animal develops and grows within the egg. Our collection and focus on eggs led onto nests and environments that are created to protect the eggs. We created a collection of different bird's nests and discussed their differences and similarities. We identified the materials that had been used and compared the different sizes. We noticed that some birds had used poo to hold their nest together and some used cob webs. There was a variety of materials used; sticks, straw, feathers, dirt, wool, string, leaves and cob webs. We practised having gentle fingers when we were playing with the nests and animals. We learnt about how some penguins put their eggs in a burrow, some keep them warm on their feet and some create a nest using stones. We discovered that turtles bury their eggs in the sand and that frogs lay them in a jelly substance, so they float on the surface of the water and stay together. The jelly like substance also provides food for the tadpoles when they first hatch out of their egg.

It is hard to believe we are now in our last week at Carinya for 2017. This last term of the year has gone so quickly. As we reflect over the year, we have been able to see an amazing amount of growth and development in all children in their own unique ways. They have developed greater respect and consideration for their peers when interacting in group experiences. They have learnt to negotiate and consider others' ideas and feelings. They have developed greater strength and control when manipulating a range of tools, equipment and materials. This is so wonderful to see. The children have proudly shared these moments and successes with us throughout the day.

We wish all the children and their families a wonderful holiday, sharing special moments together and creating wonderful memories.

Cheers Heather, Sally and Carolyn.

## Different nests we have observed.





## Echidna Room – Kristy and Ray

The year is nearly over and both Ray and myself wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our families this year. Your support, humour and commitment to our program has been greatly appreciated and for those of you who have children moving onto school, we wish you all a smooth and stress-free transition into 'big school'!

For all our families we wish you a wonderful end of year break and a happy start to the new year.

Our end of year excursion will be to the Ice-cream Factory on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December. All non-Thursday families receive an email on Monday. All Thursday families will have received a consent form in their child's bag on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December!

Here are some highlights from December!

Harry invited his friend Pepo the Clown and Marg to teach us some magic!

We had our crossing education session and joined Castlemaine North for a munch and crunch and Q&A session all about starting Prep!





### **Reminders for 2018:**

- ❖ A reminder to please send an appropriate change of clothes with your child.

It's Hat time! Please remember to pop your child's labelled sun hat into their bag. If you could also assist your child to apply some sunscreen on arrival that would also be gratefully appreciated. Remember to stamp their hand so we know this has happened.

- ❖ A reminder for packed snacks that we have nut allergies in the Echidna room. If everyone packing food could just remember to check to make sure that it is safe to come here before packing it. Many thanks

Please remember Healthy options only.

- ❖ Please bring a piece or two of fruit.

- ❖ Please remember to sign in and out on arrival and departure.

## Farewell

As my time as a Family day care educator draws to a close, I am pausing for a moment to reflect on the journey.

Over the last 35 years, I have worked in a variety of areas in early childhood, perhaps the most profound was in becoming a parent myself!

Family day care has been a fitting place to end my “being with children” journey, as it is a reflection of all I have learnt and hold dear to me.

It reaffirms with me, the importance of community, connection and ongoing support for each other. The value of allowing children to have time and space to connect with each other and the natural world around them.

I have been blessed to have made good friends with parents (and grandparents!) and have treasured the special moments with many precious children.

They will hold a place in my heart forever.

Thanks go also to the FDC family of educators and support/administration folk, who sit at the table as part of a great shared experience.

Warmest wishes to you all!

Sally (Foran)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 DEC	18	19	20	<b>21 LAST DAY OF CARINYA</b>	22	<b>23</b>
24	<b>25</b> <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27	28	29	30
<b>31 New Year's Eve</b>	<b>1 January Happy 2018</b>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Welcome Back to Carinya	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	<b>26 AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b> 	28



**Castlemaine  
Child Care Co-operative**

Carinya Early Education Hub

## **To the families and staff of Carinya**

I have been blessed for the past 19 months to be able to meet all of you and cook healthy edible art for your children! Meeting all the children and discovering their individual personalities has been priceless.

The past few years have been full of joy for me raising my own children and going through the day to day fun and responsibility of parenting. Working in this centre has given me so much joy watching all the children grow stronger and wiser and is rewarding in so many ways.

But I have decided to return to fine dining and have been offered an executive chef position in a private health retreat in the Daylesford hinterland. This is my passion and my craft, so I am super excited on my return to the world of edible art!!

I'm sad to leave Carinya, yes indeed; will miss your children and all the fun talks through the kitchen window!!

Thanks again for all the support and awesome conversations so many of us have shared. My big smiles to all. Have a great, safe 2018 and looking forward to running into you all around Castlemaine.

Thanks again!  
Chef Bruce Pauly