



CARINYA TOP NEWS

Enrolment Forms 2018 – Huge congratulations to the Carinya community for completing an enormous percentage of enrolment documentation COMPLETELY at lodgement and the next high percentage that were almost completely completed! Your enrolment documentation is a legal document and therefore it is essential that all details are complete for us to remain compliant with regulations. With thanks.

Account payments – Thank you for your patience as account payment processes are implemented. It is not always easy at this time of year as payments in advance are required and payments for any arrears as well. We at the coalface are grateful for your understanding as the year gets underway.

LONG DAY CARE Centre

In the Kitchen – Each day our fantastic Centre cook Rebecca prepares enough lunch to ensure that the children's needs are met. Some days there is food left over in the pot that does not go out to the children's rooms and is not required and this is then decanted into containers and refrigerated ready to be bought and taken home by parents. Look out for the note on the door! If you would like to purchase meal/s, please see one of the office staff who will be very pleased to help.

Rating and Assessment – We received our Rating and Assessment report just before we closed at the end of last year and I am happy to report that we have received an **EXCEEDING RATING!** Here's what the assessor had to say:

- *The program, including routines, was organised in ways that maximised each child's involvement and engagement in learning.*
- *Educator's purposeful planning demonstrated an understanding of children's strengths, abilities and current interests...*
- *Each child's comfort was provided for throughout the service*
- *Healthy eating was promoted....and appropriate for each child*
- *Educators enhanced the learning environment for children*
- *The physical facilities of the service were creatively organised*
- *Sustainable practices were embedded in service operations*
- *Educators spoke to each other, children and families in a professional, caring and respectful manner*

Important Dates

Monday 12th March CLOSED

Saturday 24th March WORKING
BEE. 9am – 12pm

Good Friday 30th March CLOSED

Easter Monday 2nd April CLOSED

Bush Kinder will be commencing
Monday 16th April for all Monday
kinder children.

Wednesday 25th April ANZAC day
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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Great News - 03 5475 3665 is now up and working again. We have three phone numbers in which you can contact us on.

03 5470 6284 and 0472 689 513. Thank you for your patience's through this transition period.

- *Collaborative learning opportunities were effectively facilitated*
- *The service took an active role in collaborating with families and valued parent's contributions*
- *Governance and leadership arrangements were well established and regularly reviewed*
- *The service consistently demonstrated strengths in providing an environment that responded to the needs and interests of the children*

FAMILY DAY CARE

After school care programs are currently operating for students from Chewton primary school, Maldon primary school, Winter's Flat primary school and Castlemaine North school. Two of the programs operate on school premises, one at an educator's home and the other in a community venue. If you or anyone you know requires some after school care assistance, please contact our Family Day Care Assistant Director Lisa Girvan on 5472 3665.

Cheers, Rose

Educational Leader – Sarah

On the 3rd of March, the centre will be holding a professional development for both our long day care and family care services. This gives educators an opportunity to come together to discuss and identify new goals that we would like to take on in our everyday practice. This year Philip Butler from the highly esteemed Semann and Slattery team will be facilitating the day. Philip brings a wealth of knowledge with him and the topic of the day will be 'creating a culture of learners'. Looking into this further we will be exploring how we can ensure we are embedding a strength-based approach to our team, where educators feel supported to reflect, inquire and challenge themselves, in all aspects of our practice.

A big thank you to The Association of Graduates in Early Childhood Studies who awarded the centre with a professional learning grant and made this day possible.

Committee of Management News

THE ROLE OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The parents elected at the Annual General Meeting become the board of directors with legal and decision responsibilities in consultation with members about:

- the purpose of Carinya
- what will happen at Carinya
- how finances will be organised to achieve the purpose of Carinya
- the staff to be employed at Carinya

These key functions can be translated into the following tasks:

- endorse policies
- oversee the financial governance of Carinya
- employ and dismiss Educators as required
- ensure that the Centre adheres to policies, regulations and laws
- ensure, through the Director and Assistant Director, that all Educators operate according to their job description

If you think that you would like to be on our Committee, please see the office for details.

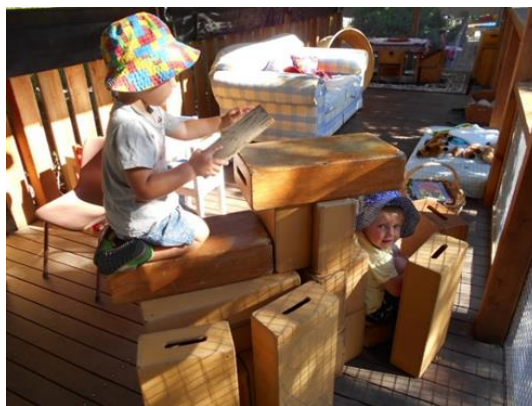
Carinya Kitchen

The Carinya kitchen has kicked off the year with buzzing excitement and a fair bit of clanging and banging! With so many hungry mouths to feed, there is always fruit to be cut, bread to be buttered and pots of seasonal veggies to be spiced up with cumin, coriander and a bit of creativity. It is with great enthusiasm that I take on the challenge of preparing food that is both nutritious (to fuel all the growing and learning) and delicious (to please the budding critics). My goal this year is to provide positive food experiences for the children and help build community connections through the growing, harvesting, cooking and sharing of food. The Carinya kitchen garden has already provided delicious basil and beetroots and promises so much more in the future. We've also received some beautiful produce from families and staff including home-grown grapes, heirloom apple varieties, zucchinis and herbs. So, if you have an over-abundance of something in your garden it can certainly find a good home in the Carinya kitchen.

I would love to try to incorporate some 'family favourites' into the menu. What's your foolproof family favourite meal that everyone devours within minutes? Come and let me know! I'm always up for a chat, or you could write the recipe down and send it sailing to me as a paper plane as you rush out the door to go to work!

My final note is about the sale of leftovers. When there is extra food in the pot after all the hungry bellies have been filled, we pop it straight into tubs for you to purchase. Not only does this reduce food waste, it can be a quick and easy way to sort out dinner on those days when you're too busy or tired! There'll be a note on the front door to let you know what's available each day, and also a list outside the kitchen of what's been stored in the freezer. Payments can be made through the office.

Happy eating everyone!!



Koala Room with Nat, Melody and Emily

Firstly, I would like to start off by saying what a pleasure it has been getting to know you and your precious children. The first few weeks of transitioning into care can be daunting for families however Melody, Emily and myself are here to make this as gentle and smooth as possible for all. Myself (Natalie) as Room Leader, Mon-Fri 9am-3:30pm, Melody Mon, Tue and Emily Wed, Thurs, Fri. Spreading our hours out across the week allows the three of us to maintain a healthy home work life balance and provide exceeding education and care to our Koala children.

It has been lovely to have some children come in for visits as we chat with parents and make discoveries about routines and interests from home. It is important to keep the relationship between home and care strong for children to feel secure and settled. Our aim is for all children to feel safe and secure in their new environment and with their educators. Our goal is also for babies to be extended and encouraged in their learning environment as they develop wonder and excitement through their learning opportunities. We look forward to the year ahead full of excitement, intrigue, milestones and achievements.



Possum Room with Maddy, Gemma, Sally B and Ange

This year in the Possum room we have Myself, Gemma, Sally and Angie.

My name is Maddy and I hold my Diploma of children's services. I will be covering Demi's maternity position this year. I have been in the industry for over 6 years and am very excited to have this opportunity at Carinya. I am 25 years old and have been in the area for about 2 years.

We as a team look forward to caring for your children and assisting in their learning and development throughout the year. We aim to provide a nurturing and stimulation environment that all children can feel safe and secure in.

I as an educator strive to encourage children to make their own choices and decisions and I work to ensure all children are happy, safe and feel secure and supported in their environment.

I believe that each child is an individual and that they learn in different ways, I program for each individual child to suit their needs, interest and abilities.

My passion is to be a part of each child's life journey and help shape and support their needs, beliefs and ideas.

Demi and I have been group leading together for the past 4 weeks but we have now said "goodbye, see you soon" to Demi as she heads off on her new adventure. Demi will return during the year.

In the possum room over the past few weeks we have been concentrating on developing our relationships with the children and families and ensuring children can feel at ease during the transition at drop off time.

The possum room educators have been engaging the children in small group activities to help the process of forming relationships with each other, the children have been engaging in story time, songs, play dough, puzzles and lots of outdoor play.

We thank all families for bringing back our information sheets to help us get to know your children better, this additional information will help us discover your children's interests and assist in the transition at drop off times.

Please read the information placed around the possum room on the walls, this is valuable information that will assist you as a parent and us as educators.

If you have any questions and/or feedback please talk to any of your children's educators, we look forward to getting to know all of the families.

Kangaroo Room – Felicity, Lisa, Sue, Peter and Cedella

Welcome to all our new Kangaroo children & families! We have experienced a pretty amazing start to our year with children demonstrating signs of settling into our room and routine very quickly. The children who were Possums last year have been enjoying having the Kangaroo room as their new home to explore and re-connect with friends and acquaintances from last year. We have welcomed some new children and families to our centre also; they seem to be settling into our group smoothly.

As is usual for this age group some children have not yet worked out how to separate from their family member at drop off time, this can be very distressing for all and we assure you we will always notify you if your child doesn't settle quickly or is not coping with their day. Please leave a contact number for us if it's different to your usual one.

At this stage of the year we are focusing on building secure trusting relationships between your children and all educators within the room. Once your child feels safe, secure and supported with their environment they grow in confidence to explore and learn.

We will be supporting the children in understanding and predicting our routine for the day so they feel confident to contribute to our program and have a sense of belonging whilst with us.

We appreciate the time & effort spent to fill out and return our background information sheet; if you need another one please let us know. This information gives us a great start in getting to know your child, helping us to build meaningful relationships & greater understanding of your child's individual needs likes & dislikes. This feedback from you gives us further information to guide & support your child to achieve the goals you have in mind for the year.

EMOTIONS: This is an important topic for this age group and part of our intentional teaching topics -we will be focusing on naming our emotions, recognising emotions on others, talking about how those emotions make us feel & how did this emotion come about. What makes you upset? What makes you feel happy? We will be talking about what is appropriate behaviour while expressing our emotions and how we can help others deal with their emotions. What can we do if we see someone is sad? The favourite answer from 2yr old's is "give them a hug" If that doesn't work we will "tell a teacher" We have been enjoying some books at group time that demonstrate "good friends" behaviour which the children have enjoyed listening to as well. It's a very complex topic which will start of a lot of conversations.



Self-regulation of emotions is a critical life skill that develops in early childhood and underpins all future learning and wellbeing. Early childhood education and long day care settings play a key role in supporting this development through reflective practice, strong relationships with children and families, and embedding self-regulation support in all programming: our play, stories, language, group games, music and movement are important contexts for this work. We are happy to have further discussions with any parents who may have any concerns or information about their child which can help us support your child's emotions on a daily basis.

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

A big welcome to our wombat families.

Hoping you all had a wonderful break and the chance to enjoy some special time together. The children are settling in well, feeling comfortable and developing greater confidence in their new environment. The children are quickly becoming familiar with the days routines and rising to new challenges. The children are enjoying the larger spaces to play outside, exploring new equipment, taking calculated risks and developing greater body awareness, strength, coordination and balance as they challenge themselves with jumping, climbing, riding, swinging, digging and running. All of these exciting new opportunities can result in our bodies becoming quite tired through the day. After lunch we have a quiet time on cushions, a chance for our bodies to rest and reenergise. For some children this is an opportunity to close their eyes and have a sleep. For others resting their bodies quietly, is all their body requires. As we are all relaxing at the same time in the same space, this has been a new adjustment for some children. With continued support the children are becoming more comfortable with it. We have had some discussion with the children about what they are enjoying in the wombat room. The excitement of playing in such a large space is something that is shared by many of the children. We have mentioned to the children how much our bodies are moving throughout the day and the large spaces we are exploring and how our bodies need some quiet time throughout the day to rest. We strongly believe in encouraging children to become familiar with recognising when their body feels tired and what their body requires. As this is a developing skill, some children still need some assistance in recognising when their body needs to rest. By encouraging some quiet play throughout the day and a more formalised quiet/ rest time in the middle of the day, the children will experience the feeling of relaxing and slowing their bodies down. Further discussion at home around this topic may assist with the children's understanding of responding to our body's needs.



The images below give a snap shot of the coordination, strength and balance that is developing, as they explore the wide variety of equipment available to them.

As we discussed at our information evening last year, the children are developing more complex social skills, as they learn to interact with their peers and become involved in shared play experiences. It is wonderful to see and hear the children developing the skills to cooperate with others and negotiate roles and relationships during play and group experiences. The images below have captured great discussion, listening and sharing of ideas as well as problem solving.





We celebrated Pancake Tuesday with some delicious pancakes made by Bec in our Kitchen. We sang a song about cooking pancakes with a bean bag as our pretend pancake in the pan.

We have begun yoga and dance on a Wednesday with Belinda from Over the Moon. This activity provides a wonderful opportunity to develop body awareness,

coordination, balance, strength, concentration and an understanding about pattern and rhythm.

Just a reminder about naming all items of clothing and belongings that come to the centre please. We have already started a collection of items that are not named. If items are named, we are able to return them to their correct home or bag. Thanks for your cooperation here.

Wombat Educators



Heather Bissett,

Hi, I'm Heather and I am coordinating the Pre-Kinder program in the Wombat room. My career began as a Primary School Teacher and absolutely loved the path I had chosen. Once I had my own family I realised how amazing the Early Years were and volunteered whenever I could in my own children's Kindergarten Program. I discovered a new passion and completed a Post Graduate Course in Early Childhood Teaching. How children see and interpret the world around them intrigues me. During the Early Years children often use the creative arts to explore, discover and express their ideas, knowledge and feelings. I have a particular interest in the visual and creative arts and feel passionate about nurturing and encouraging these early forms of expression.

I love getting to the snow each winter for a ski, collecting shells at the beach, as well as walking through our local bushland and having picnics. Recently I have developed a bug for traveling and I am very keen to explore some more.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday am.



Sally Quinn

Hello, my name is Sally Quinn and my relationship to Carinya started ten years ago when I began a placement at the Centre as part of a community service course I was studying. During that time, I discovered how stimulating it was to work with young children and how every day presented not only new challenges but also new inspirations and many opportunities for creativity. This set me on a totally new course and I began studying early childhood starting with my Cert 3 and Diploma and last year was able to complete my Bachelor of Early Childhood Education through Monash University.

My interests include Music Literature and the Dramatic Arts, and I enjoy spending time in the outdoors and learning about the natural world. I feel very fortunate that I am able to work in a profession where every day I get to draw on my interests and together with the children and their families continue on a journey of learning that I believe never ends.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday



Carolyn

Hi, I'm Carolyn. I have been working in Early Childhood Education for over 15 years, most of this time has been as a team leader. I am very passionate about Childcare cooperatives and the collective/ inclusive community that they foster. I have been fortunate to have always been employed at a childcare coop. I have a 4-year Bachelor of Early childhood education 0-8 years (Honours) and will be coordinating the Pre-Kinder program on Thursdays along with Sally. This year I hope to bring to the program lots of natural science investigations, discoveries and learning about food through our centre veggie garden and cooking experiences.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

Echidna Room – Kristy, Ray and Louise

We're off to a great start in the Echidna Kindergarten room so far. For many children, they are getting used to a new routine, environment and educators.... which is no easy task.

Our morning group time involves a discussion about the day ahead as well as a chance to revisit any important messages from the previous day. The children are encouraged to bring their drink bottles to this group in order to instil the importance of water to help our brains and bodies function at their best. This important morning group enables children to anticipate

what will be happening as well as what educators they can expect to see in their room. This group happens at 9:30am every morning so if possible, please make sure your child has arrived and settled in by then.



Our midday group time involves coming together for a story and a short relaxation after lunch. The children are encouraged to bring in favourite stories from home for us to read. In this picture we were re-enacting the Very Hungry Caterpillar after investigating a caterpillar Ray had brought in from his home.

The children are encouraged to eat their munch and crunch at any time. The round 'snack table' works beautifully for this purpose and ensures our carpet space is keep free of food and drinks, allowing more space to play and learn.

An elaborate design of the children's remained in the room for two days. This was the result of an afternoons collaboration between several children with educators on hand to offer suggestions.



The development and maintenance of the kitchen garden requires some hard-manual labour. The children are encouraged and supported to use purpose-built tools and work as a team.

Bec our chef has been able to use various home-grown herbs and vegetables in our daily lunches. The children harvest what is needed with the help of an educator and then deliver it to Bec. Talk about paddock to plate...you can't get much fresher than this!

Thank you to all our families who have been incredibly supportive of helping children to remember the routines in the Echidna room.

One last note, just a friendly reminder that we are a **nut-free centre**. This includes all nuts (not just peanuts) so please avoid putting them in your child's munch and crunch box or using them as an ingredient in cooked foods for your child.

More dates will be made available for parent / educator meetings so please keep an eye out for the parent meeting register next to the sign in folder.

Thank you,

Kristy, Ray and Louise



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.
- ❖ Please bring a piece or two of fruit daily.
- ❖ Please remember to sign in and out on arrival and departure.





Mt Alexander

Family Day Care
Carinya Early Education Hub

Family Day Care at Sheridan's

The start of the year brings, incorporated school holiday programmes, new little babies finding the feet and exploring the new wonderful experience's in the environment around them. Old friends leaving, all grown up, ready for school and kinder.

2018 brings the start of making new friends, creating new bonds and feeling part of a group which can be a big step for some. This is where the team building activities come in to play, the children created treasure maps and obstacle courses in the early mornings before the heat of the day.



planning the run



adding the climb

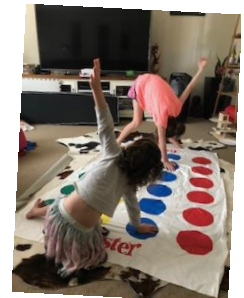


hiding



and escaping fast!

On the days when the heat was too much and inside time was required or even just for some down time, the children came together with laughs and giggles through physical learning and play. We played twister, created games from cranium and doing our daily Yoga.



As the weeks settled and children's interests began to emerge, by this we followed the child's love of dinosaurs. To nurture this, we have spent the whole month exploring ways to experiment, create with textured clay, plaster moulds even melting ice (with science) extracting dinosaur with coloured salt. Even using soft brushes to remove sand away from fragile fossilised bones. The children took great care as we discussed the need for care and preservation, so we can work understand what dinosaurs ate, where there lived and how old they were.



coloured ice extraction.



Science at play with hypothesising and experimentation. Rubbing salt, pressurised water, cutting, bashing and chipping away the children worked out using brushes and rubbing the salt onto the ice began to melt the ice quickest.



Creating fossils from playdough, plaster of paris and excavating from rice. Team work, patients, and learning all in one. Fun day boys...



The children are creating their dinosaurs that they would most want to meet using wet clay. As I read them snippets of the facts and figures as the questions got fired at me. How long ago, how did they, what did they and so on this pay lasted about 40 minutes with detail and interest.

Thank you for taking an interest in our growing developing and free play learning.

I currently have two places available one on a Thursdays and one on a Friday if you require Care please contact the office. I'm in Lockwood South.