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Welcome to our April newsletter **LONG DAY CARE Centre News**

From 2 July 2018, the LDC daily fee will increase to \$106 from the current \$101.

The Committee emailed families in April 2017 to advise of the fee increase to \$101 for July 2017. Information was also provided that the next fee increase would occur in January 2018 and subsequent fee increases at the beginning of each new year after that. Since then, with savings in our budget through the installation of many more solar panels, the subsequent associated installation of split systems throughout the centre, savings in wages and other budgeted areas and some additional funding, we have held the increase off for this extra six months.

Under the Child Care Management System (CCMS), the Federal Government has increased the amount paid to families in July each year based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). With the introduction of the new Child Care Subsidy, the CPI continues to affect increases in payments made to families. ***The long day care daily fee increase will be somewhat ameliorated for most families by this CPI linked increase to payments. Use the estimator to find your costs from July 2018.***
https://www.centrelink.gov.au/custsite_pfe/pytmfinderest/paymentFinderEstimatorPage.jsf?wec-appid=pytmfinderest&wec-locale=en_US#stay

In the Kitchen – Our take home meals are very popular! Call in at the office if you are interested and we will be very pleased to help! Amazing value at \$6.

The Kitchen Garden – is coming along beautifully, and there are small and larger tasks if you would like to assist. Look out for the **Jobs List** and see what will work for you or **speak to Becc in the kitchen, Ray** or one of the other 3-5 years staff.

“The Walk-off” – A great big thank you to our families for your most awesome support! The union continues to work to improve wages to at least meet parity with workers with similar levels of education and continues to invite the government to provide the funding. Stay tuned.

Account payments – Please remember we are UNABLE TO ACCEPT CASH payments into the office. As per our fee policy, it is preferred that fee payments are made through our direct debit system organised through All Quality Child Care via our own office. Please read the excerpt from our Policy.

Payment is preferred through the service’s own direct debit system and staff at the Centre can provide the appropriate paperwork. Families can also set up their own direct debiting from their own banking system. Payments may also be made at the Centre office using EFTPOS. Cash payments can be made in person at the Centre’s bank. **No cash can be received at the Centre.**

**All accounts are to be paid in advance and as always,
thank you for your prompt payments.**

Important Dates

Bush Kinder commenced
Monday 16th April for all Monday
kinder children. 9am – 2.30pm.

Centre photos 9.00am-11.30am
Tuesday 8th
Wednesday 9th
Thursday 10th

If your child does not attend on
one of these days, please contact
the office to arrange a time for
them to attend for photos.

Please Remember

To advise us of absences, a
text message to

0472 698 513

or call

5472 3665

or email

carinya@castlemainechildcare.com.au

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

From 2 July 2018, the LDC daily fee will increase to \$106 from the current \$101.

Regarding all the New Child Care package changes - Please make sure you have a MyGov account and that it is active. It will be your responsibility to confirm enrolments, changes and view subsidies via this app.

FAMILY DAY CARE Scheme News

We have been successful! Community Support Funding has funded part of our administration costs to ensure that we can provide a Family Day Care service in a rural area. This funding administrative stream is being replaced with the **Community Child Care Fund** and we have just received notification that our **application to continue to receive financial support has been successful**, therefore the Administrative fee will not increase for the remainder of 2018.

New Software – Family Day Care is moving to new software. Austral will no longer be supporting FDC schemes into the new Child Care Subsidy, so we are returning to Harmony. You will receive one more account from Austral and the next account after that will be with Harmony. We are working hard to minimise the teething problems but hope you will be patient while we embed the new system. Please contact us if you experience any issues.

Direct Debiting – The new software means the existing direct debiting system will expire. BUT we have a new one! Hopefully new paperwork will be sent out to you next week. Please ensure that you complete and return as soon as possible after you receive it so that we ensure that payments can happen on time. Thank you!

AND FOR ALL FAMILIES

Fee Payments – One of the most important ways in which you can continue to support your not-for profit parent owned and governed co-operative is to **pay your accounts on time**. This ensures our continued financial viability and minimises the amount of time that administration spends chasing up late or non-payments, thereby increasing the amount of time that can be spent on continuous improvement and extension of the educational programme for children. Please help by doing your bit. If you are experiencing trouble meeting your financial obligation, please contact us to advise of any delay to payment.

EFTPOS – A 2% fee when paying fees using EFTPOS will be introduced from Monday 4 June. This provides a month of lead in time should families decide to change to the way they make payment. Any queries, please speak to Lisa or Bec in the office.

Regards, Rose Lavery, Director.

Educational Leader – Sarah

Kids Matter is a national initiative focusing on children's mental health and wellbeing in early childhood education and care services. The framework consists of four learning areas and is designed to work in conjunction with the National Quality Frameworks. To ensure we foster children's development holistically, it is important that we understand how we can support children in their wellbeing and mental health.

Taking this into consideration, we have been trying to understand better what mental health means in early childhood. There are many contributing factors but one way to look at it is by breaking it down into risk and protective factors. Risk factors are a range of circumstances that may lead to children experiencing trauma or stress and challenge their emotional and social wellbeing. On the other hand, we look at protective factors that are tools that we can help children to obtain to build resilience and to use when they meet with challenging situations. We see this in action every day as children learn how to understand, express and manage their feelings, establish respectful and secure relationships with others and establish a sense of belonging within our setting.

We anticipate the Kids Matter framework will take approximately two years to implement into our curriculum and look forward to sharing our progress and collaborating with families during this time.

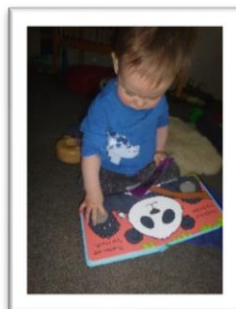


Koala Room with Nat, Melody and Emily

Hello Koala Families,

We trust you all had a very enjoyable Easter break and ate way too much chocolate like me. We would like to welcome Ella, Archie, Jarvis, Lilah and their families to the Koala Room as we now have all positions filled. It is lovely to have a settled room and see how welcoming our Koala children have been towards our most recent beginners. Over the past weeks we have noticed children very much exploring their senses throughout the program. The addition of some bubble wrap, paint pouches and a treasure basket have been well received and investigated by all.

When babies explore sensory experiences together, they are given the opportunity to interact with one another and to develop a new social-emotional awareness about themselves in a positive and supportive environment. They will be naturally curious about what the other children are doing with the materials and will take time to observe their peers, which helps them learn about different perspectives and might even inspire them to use the materials in a new way. And while babies are in the beginning stages of language development, even infants and young toddlers will increase their communication skills by expressing themselves to their peers while playing and exploring together. Sensory activities also promote a community of cooperation as babies work together to manipulate materials and share their ideas with each other. Last, but not least, these types of experiences help babies learn to navigate challenging social situations, such as taking turns, sharing materials, and dealing with frustrations.



Possum Room with Maddy, Gemma, Sally B and Ange

In the Possum Room:

This month we have been focusing on developing relationships with other children and educators. We feel the children have settled into the environment well and have been developing strong friendships with the other children. The educators have watched these special bonds form over the last few months, as they have engaged in beautiful moments together.



The children and their educators have also formed strong relationships and now are able to feel safe, secure and supported while at Carinya.

We have been working on the parent nominated goals that we collated at the beginning of the year and documenting the children's personal development in relation to these goals.

What have we been doing:

Before Easter the children loved making Hot Cross Buns! Bec Prepared the dough and we got to shape them into whatever we imagined before sitting down together to eat them for afternoon tea, YUM!

The children have been engaging in some wonderful art and craft as we are getting started with our Mother's Day Gifts.



We have been loving the excursions, heading to the Oval, Victory Park and the Train Station. We will now begin heading to the Hub Garden and the Library.

Please Note:



In the Possum Room we have a Communication Board on the window as you walk through the door. Please feel free to write down what you did on the weekend, anything you would like us to share with the children and or interests of your child, etc. We use this board to help plan experiences based on parent input and child interest.

We had a family head down to Sovereign Hill on the weekend, so we decided to create an experience to find gold.



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

Hello to Kangaroo parents

Firstly, we would like to say a very big “Thank You” to Peter for his dedication to the Kangaroo room program so far this year; his musical input will be greatly missed as he leaves us as a permanent staff member to pursue other work. We may see Peter back as a casual throughout the rest of our year!

This last month has been very busy with planning and implementing excursions into the community. Children have enjoyed the regular Wednesday visits to **platform 3** to view the steam train arriving, watching closely as they uncouple the steam engine to go down to the turn-table, turn, then steam back to the other end of the train for the return journey back to Maldon. We have viewed this procedure from the little balcony of ‘Tambo’ carriage quite a few times now or while waiting on one of the stationary carriages. A recent visit was made even more special when we were allowed access to climb aboard the engine (2 children at a time) for a sit in the driver’s seat!

We have also been visiting the **Library** to choose books to complement our program and the **Hub garden** to learn seasonal garden information - the chooks and worms are the children’s favourite aspect of these visits. The **Football oval** has been visited a few times also for free running, ball sports, safe somersaulting and our last visit we tried to get our kite up and flying but it ended up broken! If anyone has a kite they no longer want, we would love to give it a try.

The excited children have demonstrated increased confidence in their abilities with each outing; the conversations are interesting and varied, being great practice for all but especially helpful to those still learning the art of conversation and communication.



We are regularly encouraging children’s independence skills by allowing safe challenges daily and embracing resilience. The children have been very interested in serving their own drinks and food at the table recently; this increases children’s confidence in their abilities and enhances their self-esteem. When a child feels safe secure and supported in these daily actions we notice an increased development in their emerging autonomy, independence, resilience, interdependence and sense of agency.

We invite & encourage you to take time to read our monthly program on the wall (just inside door) and our display/reflection book that is written in regularly with detailed information about our topics of interest and current investigations and learning. A conversation with your child relevant to what is happening for them at

Carinya strengthens your child's connection & belonging. This will also help develop your child's confidence in language, communication skills and the art of conversation.

A message to any parents who feel inclined to offer time to share their own **'special powers and interests'** with the Kangaroo children in the future. The children are a great respectful audience and staff are always interested in learning new knowledge, techniques, experiences and strategies! Please see staff if you feel you can contribute to our program!

If you have any queries or topics you would like to discuss, please come and talk to your child's educators.



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

We have been enjoying some music sessions in the outdoors and this has given us an opportunity to invite some of the kinder children to join us. We are having so much fun singing some of the children's songs they know from home and one in particular – **You are my Sunshine** has inspired the children to start their very own Carinya band! We have also had some families offer to come in to extend the children's interests in music and singing, so we look forward to this.

We are learning some new lullabies (**Sleep Baby Sleep** and **Where do you sleep**) that we sing when we want to create a calmer relaxed mood such as transitioning to rest time or prior to lunch. And when we want to get moving we have a South African freedom song called **Sin Jen Jen, which brings us a lot of joy** and we sing it with gusto!

Welcome back after our lovely much-loved Easter break. We do hope that you all had a chance to enjoy some family time together, relax a little and catch up on a few things that you may have been missing out on. We all enjoyed our break; a chance to recharge and reconnect.

This leads onto one of many important things we will be focusing on this term, our families! We place a strong focus on developing strong connections with our children and our families within our centre. We understand the wide diversity of families and would like to continue to support each families culture and their values. Traditionally we have celebrated both Mother's and Father's Day with activities and by assisting each child to make a gift for their parent or parents. To celebrate the importance of all members of our family both immediate and wider generations, we would instead like to embrace National Families Week. This week is held 15–21 May 2018. Prior to this week, we will be asking each child to share their ideas on how they would like to celebrate the important members in their family. During our group times we will be reading literature with a strong focus on families. If you have any favourite books at home that we may read to the children, we would love to borrow them. Could you also please send in a picture of your family, to incorporate into our program and share with the rest of the children?

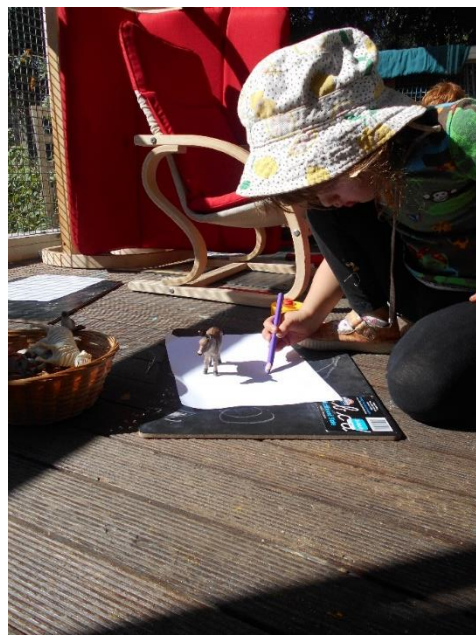
"Families are society's most important building block. Strong families equate to strong communities because they embody caring for others, connectedness with people and providing hope, support and comfort." (Dr Brian Babington, Chief Executive Officer. National Families Week - Families Australia).

The parent meetings have been a lovely chance to catch up with you all. It has been great to have a relaxed chat and discuss what we feel is important for each child. If you have missed out on this opportunity and would like to still catch up, please mention it to us next time you are in, so we may make a suitable time.

The change in season has brought a new sense of wonderment in the Wombat Room, especially regarding natural phenomenon. *"Being curious about the world is very important for children's development. Their curiosity helps them to problem solve and make connections between ideas"* (Everyday Learning Series, 2008). The children have been noticing and marvelling about the changes around them and a puddle of light on the floor created questions and investigations which has led to ongoing investigations and learning about light and shadow. The children have been enjoying testing their theories and expanding their thinking about light and shadow through using the overhead projector, as well as other experiences such as shadow drawing and testing our theory about whether not the yellow light will stain the paper.

The children have also been noticing changes in the outdoor environment leading to discussions about wind and trees and allowing for an understanding and a building on children's everyday thinking. Some of the children's thoughts about wind; *"It's something in knots", "It's something that blows and when it's finished the leaves are not moving", "It's air, air's wind", "The leaves are blowing and blowing all the leaves and toys and the trees and the trees are moving.....that means the air is moving.....that means the air is the wind"*. To build on our understandings about trees, we have set up a natural science discovery table, which we will continue to add to over the next month and beyond.

Thanks, Heather, Sally and Carolyn.



Reminders for all:

- ❖ A reminder to please send an appropriate change of clothes with your child.
- ❖ Please bring a piece or two of fruit daily.
- ❖ Please remember to sign in and out on arrival and departure.

Bush kinder has started:

Our first day of bush kinder on Monday 16 April was a great success. The council were able to access the site beforehand and remove several dead and hazardous trees which provided new opportunities for exploration, play and collaboration. Several ideas were explored by children during the day including Fungus



The children are encouraged to document their own investigations in the moment in the 'Bush Book'. This is a space where conversations, ideas and questions are recorded by or on behalf of the children and this then helps to shape the direction the bush program takes. There was significant interest in what

Fungi could be found and a local Fungi brochure was used by the children to help identify what could be seen. This interest carried through to the children's play back at Carinya and has prompted us to contact a local Fungi expert Bernard Slattery and ask him to join us and share more information.

Waterproof clothing for the cooler seasons:

As we notice the seasons slowly beginning to change we remind families to remember to send their children in with waterproof clothing. This applies to the entire program across the week as we do operate an indoor / outdoor program in the 3-5 end at Carinya.

We have waterproof pants that children can use however as winter descends (possibly soon!) please ensure your child can access the outdoors throughout the day by packing a waterproof jacket and waterproof footwear as well.



New Families:

We have three possibly four new families joining our program this term which is exciting. These children will be attending on Wednesdays and Fridays at this stage and we wish them a warm Carinya welcome.

Patsy's After School Care

Hi, I'm Patsy and I run an After-School Program at the Chewton Primary School on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3.30 – 5.30.

The last term was a very busy start as term 1 in schools are always very busy. I have had three new children join our group and the children have been warmly welcomed into the group.

The program which I follow is, My Time Our Place which is mostly about the social and physical outcomes for the children. I link the children's learning development and outcomes to The Victorian Early Years Learning Framework.

Everyone enjoys sitting around having their fruit break discussing what they have been doing during the day.

Then it is time to go outside and join in as a group with some of the games which the children usually choose. They then usually get a basketball, soccer ball or the tennis rackets out and have a game. This time is very important as the children have been in a structured indoor environment for the past 6 hours.

I also offer a range of different art and craft activities which the children really enjoy including construction, card making, origami, painting, drawing and jewellery as some of the activities. The children are also lucky enough to experience different musical instruments which the school generously lets us use.



'IntaCare'

Mt Alexander Family Day Care



After School Care Program and Support during School Holidays



I studied my certificate III in Early Childhood Education in late 2016. In October 2016 I started to run my own after school care program for parents that required care for their children after school. I struggled to find reliable care myself when trying to balance work and parenting. My main motivation is to provide quality care that is consistent and dependable, that supports growth, connection and autonomy. Family Day Care has given me the options I needed to support my family along with supporting the families of others. To me, this scheme provides the opportunity for children to develop in a smaller and more realistic domestic setting compared to other options. Each individual is valued and pathways for healthy and positive relationships can continue to be formed. I

have a background in many creative studies and hold a Bachelor of Arts (Fine art and culture). Please feel free to check out my Facebook page (search: @intacareFDC) and Instagram (search: intacare) for further knowledge and pass it on for those in need.

