



Ph: 5472 3665/5470 6284 Mob: 0472 698 513 www.castlemainechildcare.com.au Newsletter June 2018

carinya@castlemainechildcare.com.au

Welcome to our June Newsletter

News for everyone!

LONG DAY CARE News

Hugely important – please read asap

All Long Day Care families will now have received an account issued through the new software system. This will show your eligibility for the **new Child Care Subsidy** through reduction of fees in the same way that CCB and CCR was applied previously. No doubt there will be some teething problems as all the information and nuances are addressed. If you are having trouble with your account, **please contact us as soon as possible** so that it can be sorted in advance of the next account. **If you have not received an account**, please check your **junk mail** or the **KidsXap** app. If you have not had the Child Care Subsidy applied in any way to your account, please contact **Centrelink immediately** or go on to **MyGov** to confirm your eligibility.

Remember that from 2 July the new fee of \$106 will also apply.

Peter – formerly in our Kangaroo room and now a casual Educator at Carinya - and his partner, have welcomed a new little boy into the world. Our congratulations are extended and we wish them all the best for their future.

FAMILY DAY CARE Scheme News

Welcome to our new families and new educators!

I hope you enjoy receiving and reading our newsletter. Family Day Care Educators take it in turns to provide a newsletter contribution so look out for when it is the turn of your child's educator and their service that is being highlighted and celebrated.

North School after school care program – Congratulations to Monday/Friday FDC educator for the North school after school care program Stella Robinson who is expecting her third child in November. Joanna Muller who is the FDC educator for the program on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday and will step into the breach when Stella takes maternity leave, operating the program in its entirety from Monday to Friday until the end of 2018.

Important Dates

**Bush Kinder every Monday of
Term Three for kinder children.**

9.00am – 2.30pm

Fee increase 2 July

**New Child Care Package
implemented 2 July**

PJ Day Friday August 17

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

**LDC daily fee increased from 2 July
2018 to \$106 from the current \$101.**

**New Child Care package changes -
Please make sure you have a MyGov
account that is active. Only you can
confirm enrolments and changes and
you can view subsidies via this app.**

Educational Leader – Sarah

Dear families,

I have just returned to Carinya after a short secondment to the Department of Education and Training, where I acted in the Early Childhood Performance and Planning Advisor (ECPAPA) role. This portfolio included Maternal and Child Health Services, Kindergarten Programs and Services, Early Childhood Intervention Services, Aboriginal Early Years Services and Children's Facilities Capital Program. As you can imagine it was a lot to take in, in such a short amount of time. However, it did provide me with a rich opportunity to change my lens, focusing on a range of perspectives in relation to early childhood development.

This experience has allowed me to expand my professional capacity. Specifically, I have returned with a deeper understanding of the Early Childhood Reform Plan and the changes that we can expect to see within early childhood settings and how 'big data' can be broken down and the information used to guide our practice to ensure better outcomes for young children.

As I continue to absorb all my learnings, I look forward to applying these new-found skills to my Education Leader role.

Regards, Sarah

Committee of Management News

2018/19 Budget – The Committee of Management has approved the 2018/2019 budgets for LDC and FDC. It is pleasing to note that the LDC budget allows for some updating of resources for children's rooms and sees us well placed going into the new financial year. The FDC budget includes funding from the Community Child Care Fund to support the Coordination unit working with and supporting Educators.

Strategic Planning - The Committee is undertaking the development of a new strategic plan with the expert guidance of committee member Keira McDonald. Keira will ensure that all stakeholders are able to be part of this process. Please look out for the communication from Committee as this gets underway.

What's in a name – The issue of names has been occupying the Committee on and off for a number of years. While we will never look to do away with the formal and legal name - Castlemaine Childcare Co-operative Limited (formed in 1979), the fact is the Long Day Care service has long been better and affectionately known within the community as Carinya, and Mount Alexander Family Day Care has caused, and continues to cause confusion about what organisation it belongs to (the Council??) and where the boundaries for this service start and finish. So, to address these issues, the Committee has taken an in-principle decision to formalise changes to the names by which our long day care and family day care services are known. Many variations have been considered. Finally, the Committee has settled on **Carinya Early Education** (LDC and FDC respectively). We would welcome your feedback.

AGM – Get your funny hats ready because the AGM is only three months away!

A note from the Carinya Kitchen

Along with the seasonal changes, the weekly menu has changed to reflect the need for comforting meals including soups, curries and stews to warm those busy bodies and keep them energised throughout the day. One of the most popular meals has become Spanakopita, so I've included my recipe below.

Thank you to everyone for continuing to remember to bring two pieces of fruit. It is more difficult at this time of year, but if possible, bringing a variety (not just apples!) is very helpful in ensuring the children have a selection of fruit to choose from.

Meals continue to be available and make for an easy dinner solution on busy days. Drop in to the office if you're interested to find out what's on offer.

Spanakopita

Ingredients:

- 1 bunch English spinach, stems removed, shredded and wilted OR 250g frozen spinach
- 300g Danish feta (or thereabouts)
- 250g ricotta (or thereabouts)
- 1/2 cup Parmesan (if you have it)
- A handful of finely sliced spring onion
- 4-5 eggs
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- Pepper
- Breadcrumbs
- Filo pastry
- Olive oil

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180degrees. Thaw filo pastry if frozen.
2. In a bowl, combine spinach, cheeses, spring onions, eggs, nutmeg and pepper.
3. Brush baking dish with olive oil and then create base by lining the dish with 4-5 layers of filo, brushing each layer with olive oil before adding the next.
4. Sprinkle a small handful of breadcrumbs over the base to absorb any excess liquid from the filling.
5. Place the filling in the dish and spread out evenly with the back of a large spoon.
6. Create the top by again adding 4-5 sheets or more (if you are feeling decadent!) of filo brushed with olive oil.
7. Make a few fork holes in the top to allow air to escape, brush with a bit of olive oil or milk, add sesame seeds if you wish!
8. Bake for 45 mins to an hour, until golden and puffed up. Allow to cool for 20 mins before serving. YUM!

Koala Room with Nat, Melody and Emily

Hello Koala families

Wow - half way through the year already and look how much our Koala children have grown and developed. We have witnessed children move physically from crawling to walking, from lying to sitting to crawling. Language and communication are also developing both verbal and non-verbal as all children have a very strong sense of belonging to our room and are confident to express themselves.

You may have noticed we have removed one of the cots from our room through to the Possum sleep Room and replaced it with a small table. The table has brought much pleasure, especially during meal times which are routine rich with meaning that combines the basic needs of emotional nurturance and physical nutrition. While the table isn't being used for meals we have the opportunity to provide a more permanent art area for the children to explore if they choose.

Winter is now here!! Although it can be quite cool outside it is still important that we get some fresh air and escape the indoor germs, even for a brief time. Thank you all for bringing such wonderful warm clothing allowing us to get out and explore what Winter has to offer.

It is a real privilege to educate and care for your children and although I don't always physically see our Koala parents due to my shorter working hours, I hope you are enjoying the Communication Books as much as we do creating them.

Nat, Mel and Emily.

Possum Room with Maddy, Gemma, Sally B and Ange

At 11am, Sarah began reading the story 'Hickory Dickory Dash!' with the rest of the nation!

On Wednesday the 23rd of May, we were lucky to have Sarah join us for National Simultaneous Story time! We all sat down in the Possum Room and sang songs together and the Kangaroo children joined us. Sarah engaged us with different tunes and actions before getting ready to read the story! What a wonderful experience for the children to be involved in! The children showed great happiness and enjoyed having Sarah visit for this special occasion.



Reconciliation Week

On Thursday the 31st of May as part of Reconciliation Week, the Possum Room children and Educators headed down to our local market building to explore the week-long exhibition which included Indigenous artefacts, a traditional Possum skin coat, bush tucker, native Indigenous plants, historical displays and much more.



Goodbye Gemma, See you Soon! & Hello Demi...

In a few short weeks we will be saying 'Goodbye, see you soon' to Gemma as she is off on Maternity Leave. For Gemma's last week on Monday the 2nd & Thursday the 4th of July we are heading down to the local café, The Coffee Bean for a Bubba Chino! And on the Wednesday the 3rd, we are off to the oval for a picnic.

Demi will be returning Mid-August and I'm sure the children will be very excited to have her back.

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

Hello to all our Kangaroo Families.

Kangaroo staff would like to say a **"BIG THANK YOU"** to our lovely parents who have volunteered their time to enrich our children's program with their knowledge, skills & enthusiasm recently.

Thank you to Rachel – (Paisley's mum) for her wonderful dance class recently. The children had a fun time gaining confidence in their abilities and learning a lot of new dance skills!

Thank you to Kaitlyn- (Frankie's mum) for bringing another Paramedic and an Ambulance for the children to explore and familiarize themselves with in a relaxed and safe setting - they enjoyed the rescue bed, heart monitor and of course the lights and siren (which one child worked out how to use on their own!) Exciting!

If any more parents out there have the time or inclination we would love you to come and arrange a time that suits you to share your great skills, enrich us with your knowledge, or mesmerize us with your special powers!

The past month we focused on many of the children's interests by either setting up experiences to extend and support this interest, but, at the same time re-visiting many learning experiences that we introduced at the beginning of the year.

We have felt recently that some of the children have been overwhelmed by their own development and what is expected of them. By revisiting a more simplistic programme where we talk about "what is next", our emotions and how to deal with them in appropriate ways has been beneficial to all, the children have settled back into our familiar routine.

The children are leading their learning, becoming more resilient and independent and with this often comes feelings of being overwhelmed and our goal recently is to ensure all children are feeling safe, secure and respected in the nurturing environment of the Kangaroo Room.

We have implemented new strategies to support children who are not sleeping at our routine rest time but still benefit from a quiet time.

We have had many team meetings over our down time when most are sleeping, to brainstorm strategies that will support your child and get all educators on board including the educators that cover staff during our breaks.

The Hospital dramatic play area has been highly popular. We are learning about our bodies and we have had many injuries and illnesses to cure. Poor Tarryn was in a pretty bad way with a sore tummy and leg and hadn't eaten for 5 days. She was fed penguins to help her get better!!

Children are confidently choosing experiences that appeal to them from the many activities on offer.

Autumn and leading into winter is a time of discovery for children as they notice the differences in our yard and the wider community.



We introduced "Safety around dogs" recently as we often come across our canine friends outside cafes when on our local excursions. The purpose of this program is to teach children best behaviour strategies when they come across an unfamiliar dog.

We have started all our group times recently with a short song that we learnt at story time at the Library and this settles the children into group time. We follow this with the song Wind the Bobbin up that the children have heard Sally sing in the 3-5 yard.

We give children opportunity to lead our group times and give choices, book or song. Many discussions spontaneously come from this shared time.



We welcome any feedback and input from our families and will be happy to arrange a meeting time if you would like the opportunity to discuss your child's development.

Please let us know if your child is not 100%, many children have colds at the moment and may not be sick enough to stay home, but if we know that information it gives us the heads up if they are "not their usual self". Sharing information about your child's wellbeing especially at this time of year is so helpful.

Please note that we are all getting such a great deal of pleasure from caring for your child and seeing their personalities develop and having such great conversations with them all. We feel very privileged to be a part of your child's life.

Stay warm.

Regards from the Kangaroo Team. Cedella, Josie, Lisa, Felicity and Sue



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

What a wonderful month of celebration and activities we have had - National Family Week, National Simultaneous Storytime as well as Reconciliation Week.

Thank you to all the families who participated in our family week activities. At Carinya, we place a great deal of importance on building strong connections with our children and their families. Embracing family week has an important focus, as we celebrate each family's uniqueness and diversity, as well as acknowledging and supporting each family's culture and what they value.

The Ecological Model, (Bronfenbrenner 1979) recognises the significant role the family plays in the development and learning of each child. The family provides the first experiences that shape each child's sense of belonging, being and becoming. Leading up to the week we had a discussion with the children about what a family is and what it means to them. Many of the responses involved doing things together, enjoying each other's company. The events and places varied but the general thread running through was the same.

We had a busy week of activities with many families joining in, both parents and grandparents. We enjoyed afternoon tea together made by the children, we sang and played music together, shared a favourite story with the children, we painted a family plate as well as spending time playing together. We also had a family picnic day at the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens.

The day started with a bus ride from the Castlemaine Railway station to the Botanical Gardens. This was a very exciting experience as we had a magnificent view of everything going on sitting so high in the bus. As we walked through the gardens we noticed many things about the trees; some trees had leaves, some didn't have any at all, some were green, and some displayed a range of autumn colours.



We touched the different tree trunks and felt the different textures of the bark. We collected some more items to place on our tree table. We were amazed at how tall some of these trees were and how wide their trunks were. One tree was so large that we needed many arms all joined together to go around the entire base of the tree.

We enjoyed playing at the playground and shared a delicious lunch together. We then walked back through the Garden, crunching our feet through the dry leaves to the bus stop. The bus drove up past the hospital and down a very steep hill. We loved riding in the bus.



National simultaneous Storytime was held at the Castlemaine Library. We listened to the story titled Hickory Dickory Dash, that was read by Mayor Bronwen Machin. The story had a funny spin on the traditional nursery rhyme with which we are all familiar. The story describes the antics that happen throughout the house as the mouse faces new challenges along his journey. The story focuses on mathematical concepts related to time and location, as well as a strong focus on rhyming vocabulary.



We then embraced Reconciliation Week. Our focus was to encourage greater cultural awareness, acknowledgement and respect for Australia's First People's. We acknowledge that reconciliation is about moving beyond regret to respectful action. It is also about valuing and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and strengths. We discussed with the children what the flags represent and how a flag can give a message of feeling welcome and valued in our community. Some of the children attended the opening ceremony of Reconciliation Week at the Market Building. The children saw and tasted some indigenous bush foods and traditional artefacts. We shared several Indigenous stories with the children, with the focus on the appreciation, respect and connection with the land. One story was written about our local Tarrengower and Lalgambook area.

Hope you are all keeping warm as we embrace these lovely frosty mornings.

Cheers Heather, Sally and Carolyn.



Echidna Room – Kristy, Ray and Louise

Bush Kinder:

We hope our Monday families are enjoying the bush updates that are emailed out each month. If you are not receiving them, please check your inbox or junk folder to respond to the invitation to join the **Bush Kinder 2018** group. Alternatively, a copy is pasted in the *Bush Book* situated near the Echidna sign in folder.

Just a reminder to families that we don't run bush kinder over the school holidays. Therefore, the children will remain at the centre on **July 2nd** and **July 9th**. Bush kinder will resume on **Monday July 16th** and we will visit the **Campbells Creek** site.



A range of excursions, including visits to the Library for Storytime, the Market Building for Reconciliation Week, the Football Oval and Victory Park, along with our regular Bush Kindergarten treks have seen our Echidna children building up their knowledge of the local area this past month. They are certainly visible when out and about as we negotiate road crossings in our bright orange vests.



We have enjoyed having Hayley work with us over the last month as she undertakes her studies and wish her well with future plans. We now welcome Sarah to our program and look forward to working with her in the coming weeks. New students often bring new and exciting ideas with them and we look forward to these ideas.



The children have been learning how to navigate and use our new tablet, as we incorporate a language program into our daily routine, as well as using it to investigate ideas as they arise throughout the day. Already, conversations around language have unearthed a number of linguistically diverse members of our Carinya families. We hope to enrich our program through the use of technology, while balancing the opportunities for both indoor and outdoor learning.

Our Kitchen Garden is continuing to develop, with thanks to *Bec in the kitchen* as she incorporates what is harvested into our meals and maintains a constant dialogue with the children about healthy eating and the use of fresh foods. The recent arrival of seedlings courtesy of the Us2You Community plants Program sees us overflowing with a variety of new plants to sow over the coming weeks.



With the cooler weather and winter chills starting to set in, it was the time for our campfire to be reignited. Conversations in the Kinder room about the use of fire to keep us warm and safe and as a place to share knowledge and stories have lead us to prepare a small campfire space to hold our first winter fire.

The preparation for this has included many stories while seated around a candle (after Lunch as a part of our routine), discussions of personal experiences with fire, locations of different types of fire and the management and safety concerns related to having a campfire on site.

The purpose of our first fire was made clear to all children, staff and families, as a place to gather, to share stories and to stay warm and feel safe, all of which occurred, prompting shared understandings and experiences.

Initially all children were seated around the fire and after the first flames appeared and a story had been told, some chose to remain while others continued with their morning play.

With the fire safely extinguished and the coals removed at lunch time, the afternoon play reflected some of the morning activity as children continued to gather and play around the firepit, cooking up wombat stew and dancing around the now cold fireplace.



Our second campfire for the year had a slightly different focus than the first, having established the boundaries and safe behaviours around the fire with this group, we were all set to explore some campfire cooking. It was a wonderful team effort, as Educators, Parents and children worked together to ensure that the damper was cooked and shared by all involved. Our one negative from this experience was that the cook reported a large amount of leftovers following lunch.

Thank you all for remembering warm coats, boots and beanies during the cold starts, as these allow the children to access all benefits of our program. We do have a few of these hanging outside the door; please check if they belong to you.

As always, any feedback on aspects of our program is welcome, either look for the sticky notes near our wall program or make some time to chat with either Kristy or Ray. Keep warm and stay safe,

The Echidna Team



Reminders for all:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Make sure that you have uploaded the KidsXap App on your phone to receive updates on your child's day.
- ❖ Ensure you have confirmed your enrolment on MyGov.

Dear Families,

For the next five weeks Cedella will be in the Possum room with Maddy, Ange and Sally till Demi Returns mid-August. Tarryn will be covering Cedella's shifts in the Kangaroo room. Gemma has now commenced her maternity leave and will return January 2019. We will keep you posted on her news!!

KidsXap is up and running! To access KidsXap via your computer, use the guardian portal <https://castlemainechildcarecoop.kidsxap.com.au/> or via the app on your phones. Login details were emailed on Thursday 28 June. If you have not received this email, please let me know ASAP.

Using the app or guardian portal, you can view your invoices, change and update personal details and banking details. You can notify Carinya of absences - just mark absence; there is *no need to provide a reason until you reach the 42-day limit*. (It is always a good idea to ask for a doctor's certificate if you visit the doctor when your child is ill, so you have them if needed).

Please ensure that you continue to contact the Centre directly if your child is unwell, especially if your child experiences raised temperatures, vomiting, diarrhoea, other infectious illnesses or issues such as head lice.

We will be slowly implementing changes to the way we provide you with information about your child's education using KidsXap. This will include updates on your child's day, their adventures and photos. Down the track, we expect to provide daily information of food consumption, sleep times and nappy changes. We will use the app to post events, flyers, newsletters and other essential information. Through KidsXap, we will introduce digital sign-in and out. We will provide families with further information closer to implementation.

Thank you for your support and understanding during this transition from Austral Cloud to KidsXap and CCB/CCR to CCS.

We are all going to become very friendly with the MyGov app and the KidsXap app will become second nature to us all (fingers crossed!!!!)

Many thanks Rebecca



Mt Alexander

Family Day Care

Carinya Early Education Hub

Sheridan's Family Day Care

Loving and living the flexibility of family day care. Watch your children grow shine and become part of the community as we adventure, learn and develop all the while having fun.

One of our adventures took us on a cultural trip through time.

First stop, the Bendigo gold mines, took us through the history of how Bendigo was built on the gold rush and the children were able to explore the museum, climbing on the old tram and role-playing being a miner from a long time ago. We experienced pulling levers and trying to push the big heavy carts full of rock along the train track that the miners removed all by hand. We also got to squeeze into an old elevator shaft and experience how hard it must have been and what a tough job it was.



While there, we saw the model of the Bendigo mines and the children pushed the buttons to activate the model, so we could watch the whole production unfold. This allowed us to hear all the sounds of the steam driven engines which was very loud.

We were invited to try our luck panning for gold. What a lucky group we were! Thank you, Bendigo Gold mines.

Next stop was our Aboriginal tram ride which was complete with the history of Bendigo's fauna from the conductor's stories of the dream time. The paintings on the tram and on the inside created great topics of conversations to fill inquisitive minds and answer great questions inspired by the surroundings.





Our adventure took us to our next stop the Chinese history museum and Rosalind park for lunch and to play.



What a wonderful day with our play group friends.



Sheridan's Family Day care. Now taking bookings for 2018 Tuesday to Friday 6:30 am till 5:30pm

Please call 5472 3665 for more information.

Have a lovely day.



**Stay in your PJs to help
raise money for asthma.**

Our PJ Day:
Friday AUG 17

asthmaaustralia.org.au/pjday
#pjs4asthma



Asthma
Australia