



## Dates for the Diary

- 8 April (Fri)** End of Term 1
- 27 April (Wed)** Start of Term 2
- 4 May (Wed)** Mother's Night at Preschool – 5.30-7.00pm.
- 10 May (Tues)** Parent Committee Meeting at preschool – 7.00pm. Come and get involved – it would be great to see some new faces!



## President's Report

I hope everyone enjoyed the Family Night. I know it gave the parents who don't normally do pick up or drop off a good chance to spend some time at the preschool and meet the staff and their children's friends. The children singing together at the end is always such a treat as well!

A big thank you to our social events coordinator Ana and to Pauline and our staff for making it such a lovely evening. Next term is our mother's evening – hope all mother's can make it.

I'd also like to thank those who baked or made lolly bags for the Election Day cake stall – everything sold out before lunchtime! Clearly voters were hungry or simply impressed by our wide range of goodies.

The working bee was held last Sunday and I'd like to thank Bettina Warne (our maintenance

coordinator) and all the families and staff who came along to help (Pauline will cover the full list in her report).

Things like the cake stall and the working bee reinforce what being a community-based preschool means in practice. We are always grateful for your support.

It's hard to believe that first term is almost at an end – it always goes so fast! Enjoy the school holidays and the Easter/Anzac break. We have no major projects planned at preschool during the holidays, so fingers crossed that it stays that way!

As always, thanks to all our families, staff, and community members who make Mittagong Preschool a truly wonderful place.

Cheers, *Deanna Pagnini*

## Director's Report



As we finish term 1 and look towards term 2 after the break, I note that we will change to the autumn/winter program. This means we start the day indoors before venturing outside at 11am when it has warmed up a bit.

The Election Cake Stall was a great success. Thanks to all cooks and a special thanks to Deanna Pagnini, Heather James, Paula Williams, Annie Di Natale and Nicole Smith-Bertram for helping me to man the stall.

Most children had the opportunity to see an informative and hands-on Wildlife Show on 29 and 31 March at the preschool. Ranger Anthony really knows how to encourage the children to develop a love of animals and the great outdoors.



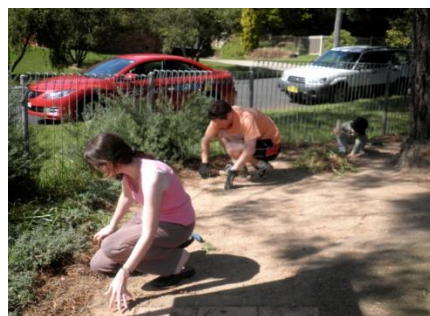
Most staff attended a professional training conference at Sydney University on 2 April: "Building Quality Practice: Implementing the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) & the National Quality Framework & Standards." The conference covered very important parts of recent early childhood reform.

We heard from members of the original consortium who decided about the reform and worked on the EYLF. We also heard input about literature, language, the creative arts, connecting with the natural world, exploring the environment and early mathematical thinking.

It is always important for staff to come together to hear about new thoughts in early childhood practice and become reinvigorated in our drive to provide quality programs for the children. As professionals we are always learning, engaged in critical reflection on our practice and open to pondering the bigger questions regarding the way we do things. We thank the Committee for providing the financial support to enable us all to attend.

On the topic of preschool maintenance, the working bee was held on 3 April, with quite a few helpers – big and small! We managed to achieve most of the jobs we had planned, so a big thanks to:

- Katie, Mike, Matilda & Lucy Contre;
- Bettina, Brad, Rianna & Sibella Warne;
- Ana Mino-Cruz, Sebastian & Alexander Cruz;
- Paul, Paula, Thomas & David Williams;
- Kate & Owen Sarty;
- Jane Boadle, Matthew, Jacob & Patrick Munn;
- Dean, Luke & Ben Pendlebury; and
- Annie Di Natale, Jackson & Joshua Haylock.



Thanks also to Sarah Stokes and Sonia Reekie for taking books to cover in the holidays, as well as the Warne and Jones families for offering to wash down and oil the bridge over the break. Thanks again, as always, to Deanna for cooking cakes for the working bee morning tea and the meetings.

Several students have been around the preschool over the past few weeks:

- Our own Simone Rossiter has been doing her last TAFE Diploma practicum,
- Rachel Swang in the Koala room doing her Certificate III placement,
- Shaye O'Connor in the Possum room doing her first Macquarie University Bachelor of Education (ECE) practicum.
- Ellen Craig will be starting her TAFE Diploma practicum this week in the Koala room until June.

Just a quick reminder regarding the Mother's Night on Wednesday, 4 May at 5.30 – 7pm. We will be having a light supper for the Mums and a sausage sizzle for the preschoolers. By now you should have received your invitation so please return your attendance slips by Friday, 29 April.

Thanks to Ana Mino-Cruz for the concept for the night and for helping with the arrangements. I would also like to thank the staff in anticipation for helping the children with the presents and preparation for the night, as well as volunteering their time for cooking, serving and facilitation of the night.

From all the staff, we would like to thank you for a successful term 1 and wish you a happy Easter break.

Thanks, *Pauline Iacono*

## Maintenance Notice



### **\*\*Call for Handy Parents\*\***

To all handy parents out there, we need your help with a number of maintenance jobs around the preschool:

- Painting old lockers.
- Removing a shelf in the Possum music room.
- Installing child safety locks for Koala room kitchen cupboards.
- Repairing the following:
  - Possum room apron stand
  - Outdoor home corner sink
  - Dress up rack in Koala room

If you can spare some time to help, please see Pauline or Leanne before the break.

## Community Notices

### Looking for an experienced Babysitter?

I am a year 12 student at Oxley College, with lots of babysitting experience. I can arrange my own transport and also supply character references upon request.

Please contact Amelia Chapman if interested on 4872 4682.



### The Body Shop At Home is coming to the Southern Highlands!

If you're looking for a great night in with pampering for you and your friends, this is a perfect time to host a Body Shop at Home party. Sample beautiful products *and* receive free products, all while having a night in with the girls!

Also if you are looking for an opportunity to run your own business – *part time, full time or big time* – we are looking for girls in your area to join our team.

For more information please contact: Amanda Karipidis on 0410 334 666 or [amandakaripidis@inet.net.au](mailto:amandakaripidis@inet.net.au)

**We are putting the following advertisement in the local newspaper & we wondered if any Preschool family members or relatives may be interested in helping**

### **Volunteers Wanted for Charity Bush Fun Run**

Mittagong Preschool's 4th annual Bush Fun Run is being held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August at Welby Hockey Fields and the surrounding Mt Alexandra bush fire trails. As a community-based, not-for-profit organisation we rely on the support of our local community, and are calling for volunteer Marshalls to help on the day. With three tracks (10km, 5km and 2km) and over 400 registrants we'd love some help with track marshalling and drink stations. For more information on the Bush Fun Run, or to register your interest in Volunteering, please contact Mittagong Preschool on 4871 1109 or email: [mposfunrun@hotmail.com](mailto:mposfunrun@hotmail.com) Website: [www.mittagongpreschool.org.au](http://www.mittagongpreschool.org.au)

**Volunteers will need to complete a "Working with Children" check.**