

Director's Report *(as presented at the Parent Committee Meeting, 15 March 2011)*

Firstly I would like to thank outgoing committee members for all their hard work and dedication to the preschool over the past year.

I would especially like to acknowledge Sonia Dunn's contribution in her many roles at the preschool – Publicity / Newsletter, President and Fun Run Coordinator. Her diligence, level of commitment and support of the preschool and staff have been inspiring.

Thanks especially to Deanna Pagnini for her calm but effective manner as President, Heather James for her hands-on approach as Vice President, Christine Cockburn for her diligence and attention to detail as Treasurer and Susie Webster for her support as secretary.

Thanks also to all other committee members, particularly those who have agreed to continue in 2011. We fully appreciate that these positions are voluntary and there can be stress involved at times. However, I believe that involvement in your child's education is a priceless gift you can give them. Rest assured that your child, other children, families, staff and community benefit from your dedication. I have enjoyed working closely with you all and hope you have enjoyed the experience as well. As a community-based centre we could not operate without you.

We have had a very busy year with special events like family nights and celebrations for Mother's and Father's Days.

Our staff continued with journal-style programming based on children's interests, incorporating the new curriculum framework put out by the Australian Government: "Belonging, Being & Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia" (EYLF).

We also continued with individual portfolios to maintain children's records, as well as writing six-monthly and annual developmental summaries to ascertain appropriate directions for facilitated growth and as a tool for informing ongoing programs.



Mid-year parent/teacher interviews were introduced as a forum for focusing each individual child's development with parents/families. Based on positive feedback, we will continue to offer individual meetings mid-2011.

Annual staff review sessions have continued with the aim of setting professional goals, working towards growth and arranging appropriate training.

Speaking of training, I was lucky enough to attend the Early Childhood Australia National Conference in South Australia in October 2010. Covering topics such as leadership, environments and the arts, the event was informative and truly inspiring. I am gradually sharing input with staff through our meetings.

Last year we continued the review process of all preschool policies, upgrading them to reflect recent policy and practice – this will continue throughout 2011.

The preschool had full enrolments throughout 2010 with a healthy waiting list. There were some staffing changes to reshuffle staff combinations to ensure a distribution of skills and expertise.

Sarah joined as a teacher in 2010 and continues in the Possum Room. The new Outdoor Programmer role created in 2010 continues as an important innovation, raising the profile of the outdoor program. I thank Sandra & Sue for continuing with this role and congratulate them on the wonderful gardening and cooking project borne out of it.



The “Munch & Move” program was also introduced with a ‘fundamental movements’ session outdoors each day. It has been wonderful to see how the children’s skills have grown with this repeated practice.

I would also like to take this opportunity to speak on behalf of the parents and committee to thank

each staff member for all their hard work and dedication – it certainly doesn’t go unnoticed!

Parent involvement is very important and this was evident in 2010. From weeding to painting to covering books to mending and the ‘end-of-year’ clean-up to washing & oiling blocks. Thank you everyone for your involvement in so many ways, large and small. Please remember that we are not asking for a huge commitment of time, but if everyone does just a little, then the whole task is more manageable.

Our staff are committed to consulting and involving the whole family within the preschool program, so please remember we have an open door policy to discuss any issues you may have.

Good luck to incoming committee members and I look forward to working with you all.

Thanks,

Pauline Iacono

Parent Management Committee 2011

President:	Deanna Pagnini
Vice President:	Heather James
Secretary:	Susan Webster
Treasurer:	Christine Harrison
Fundraising Officer:	Jane Boadle
Fun Run Committee:	Jane Boadle
	Kate Sarty
	Sylvia Brandmayr
	Caroline Verity
	Nicole Smith-Bertram
	Katie Contre
	Sharon French
Social Events Coordinator:	Ana Mino-Cruz
Publicity/Newsletter:	Emma Keen
General Maintenance:	Bettina Warne
Book Club Organiser:	Amanda Mackay
General Member:	Paula Williams

President's Report (as presented at the Annual General Meeting, 15 March 2011)

Thank you to all staff, parents and committee members who came to the AGM.

As president, I have the privilege of working with a dedicated (and fun) group of committee members. On behalf of the preschool, I'd like to express my gratitude for all their work and support. We couldn't remain a community-based preschool without parents stepping up and taking on key roles. I really appreciate everyone's efforts and thank in advance those who are returning and/or taking on new roles.

I would also like to thank 2010 committee members who are moving on and wish them well: Kat Gonzaga (general member), Christine Cockburn (treasurer), and Sonia Dunn (fundraising/fun run coordinator and past president).

If we had a parent committee hall of fame, there is no question that Sonia would be right up there, thanks to her dedication, leadership and years of blood, sweat and tears. We are sorry to see her go, but she should be proud to be leaving the preschool in a much stronger physical and financial state than it was when she first came on board.

Looking back over the past 12 months, we have accomplished a great deal as a preschool. In particular:

- Operating within budget.
- Staffed at levels above regulation requirements.
- Preschool is full with a healthy waiting list.
- Fee reduction last year by a \$1 a day (and keeping at that level so far this year).
- Supporting the ongoing professional development of our director and staff.
- Rebranding the preschool with a new logo, stationery, sign and website.
- Family and social events: family night, Mother's and Father's Days, room-based Christmas parties, Christmas family night, twilight market, morning tea weeks and drinks at The Briars.
- Physical upgrades, including work funded by the NSW Government Climate Change Grant (water tanks, low-flow toilets, energy efficient lighting and new tiling for the toilet installation); outdoor floodlights so evening events are safe; and insulation funded by a Wingecarribee Shire Council Grant.
- Appliance upgrades, including new fridge and coffee machine.
- Upgrading two computers and replacing the photocopier.

- Outdoor area upgrades, including replacement of the old stage area; a new big shade tree and other plantings; making path to the top room safe and installing stairs; and adequate sandpit storage.
- Purchasing new toys and craft supplies.
- Participation in "Munch and Move" program (staff training, resources, parent workshop).
- Successful fundraising events – Fun Run (major event raised about \$6,000). Mini-World Cup Soccer event, annual bulb sale and the Federal Election cake stall (together raised more than \$9,000).



These accomplishments are the result of the efforts of a number of families, staff members and the wider community, not just the parent committee. I would like to thank everyone who has helped over the past year (there are too many to thank individually).

At the end of the day, these accomplishments either benefit the children directly or indirectly by supporting the wonderful work that staff do on a daily basis.

I cannot thank the staff enough for the care and dedication they show in their work with the children and through their involvement with families.

Our director, Pauline Iacono, deserves special acknowledgement for her leadership and devotion to the preschool. I hope she knows how much we all appreciate her!

Our priorities for the next year include:

- Upgrading the fairy garden to make it a truly magical place for the children.
- Preparing to document the great work we do for reporting against new Quality Framework standards in 2012 and identifying any areas for improvement
- Keeping up general enthusiasm and good will!

Thanks again,

Deanna Pagnini

AGM REPORT MITTAGONG BUSH FUN RUN 2010

(as presented at the Mittagong Preschool AGM – 15 March 2011)

Mittagong Preschool Bush Fun Run was held on 22nd August 2010. With 2010 being our third year for the Fun Run it has once again proven itself to be a fabulous fundraiser for the preschool and wonderful community event involving the Southern Highlands and beyond.



We raised \$6000 for the preschool and had close to 440 registrants for the races. The 10 km event had 68 runners (up from 45 last year) and although a very challenging run it was enjoyed by all. (*Comments from competitors: Wow what a day and what a race that 10km was. Sydney residents come on down to Mittagong Preschool's Fun Run 2011 – Heart Break Hill never looked so easy until I took up this challenge! That was harder than the "City to Surf" We are all really looking forward to coming back next year and will be recommending it to everyone.*) Some runners travelled from as far away as Sydney,

Canberra and Wollongong. We have had wonderful feedback from the registrants including how well designed the tracks were, the wonderful atmosphere up on the hockey fields and an overall well organised event.

A special mention must go towards Jane Boadle and Paula Williams who worked solidly since March to help me organise the 2010 Bush Fun Run. Thanks also must go to our team of helpers (parents, teachers, aunts, uncles and grandparents) that helped on the day to run the registration table, time keeping, administration table, cake and drink stall, entertainment, track maintenance etc. We couldn't have had such a successful event without your support.

The organising of the "Mittagong Preschool Bush Fun Run 2011" is well underway with many small jobs already being undertaken. As a community based preschool we rely on and require everyone's support to ensure the preschool remains viable, so please contact any of the 2011 Fun Run committee members to grab a small job to do.

Thank you,
Sonia Dunn – Fun Run Committee 2008-2010

