

## News from the front desk!

Another busy month flies by and we have been faced with a particularly busy Easter period. Due to unforeseen personal circumstances, we have had a number of changes in staff over the past month. Lena from the Possums Room finished up with us on 30<sup>th</sup> March. From Friday, we have Maureen joining our team. Maureen comes to us with a Diploma qualification and years of experience in child care. Rebekah from the Wallaby Room had her last day on 5<sup>th</sup> April. Danielle, one of our relief staff, commenced in the Group Leader position from 10<sup>th</sup> April. Danielle has a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education teaching qualification and also brings with her many years of experience working in child-care. Laurae will also no longer be with us as she moves along in her pregnancy and path to motherhood. Dianne & Jodi join us as relief assistants and are both studying toward their Certificate III in Children's Services. The director position will now be shared, with Leesa now working Monday, Tuesday and every

second Wednesday, with Michelle working every other Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Please bare with these changes, as although change can be daunting, it is inevitable and it also encourages resilience in all of us.

### Upcoming events:

The Platypus children will be off on an adventure to Truscott Trains next Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> April. Any assistance from parents will be greatly appreciated, as we need to maintain excursion ratios which are 1 adult:4 children. We plan to commence leaving the centre at 9.00am and return around 11.30am. Morning tea will be provided at the venue, with adults being provided with morning tea, which is always delicious! Ask Mrs. Truscott for her secret recipes - they are a treat! By the way, make sure you have completed your excursion form and paid the gold coin donation to avoid disappointment. If your child doesn't attend on that day but you still wish to join us - please advise and we will provide directions to the venue.

Mothers' Day is coming up soon - better get your orders in quick, Mums. We will be having our traditional

Mothers' Day morning tea on 10 May commencing at 9.00am. All of our special Mum, Aunts, Grandma's and significant others are invited. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Dept of Communities are currently reviewing the qualifications provisions outlined in the Child Care Act 2002 and Child Care Regulations 2003 as part of a commitment to support the provision of quality child care to Qld children & families. As part of this, they are submitting a parent survey to seek feedback from parents. We received a limited number of 28 surveys to distribute. If you have received one, could you please complete.

### QUOTE FOR THE MONTH –

"He who never made a mistake never made a discovery." - Samuel Smiles.

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## Acorn Child Care Centre

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### Don't Forget!

- ☺ Please mark all of your children's belongings
- ☺ Send your child with seasonally appropriate clothes and shoes for the day
- ☺ A hat (wide brimmed or legionnaires style hat only)
- ☺ Call us on 41530333 if your child will not be attending for any reason.
- ☺ Please encourage your child to leave their toys at home.
- ☺ SIGN YOUR CHILD IN AND OUT FOR THE DAY!

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## Pieces from the Possums

We do apologise for the change in staff members in the room over the past few weeks, however, as we have utilised staff who are familiar with the Possum children and families, we believe we have been able to offer a stable program for the children. We welcomed Maureen last Friday with excitement to the full time position of Group Leader.

We have been following the children's individual needs and interests over this time and have established that—if it's



19/04/07: Spaghetti play.

The children enjoy the tactile experience, eating, throwing, squashing and tearing the pasta. What fun this experience was!

messy, then it's good. Some of us have gone home with fingerprints on our shirts (and not just the children); but at least we can say we had fun getting messy. Consequently, this week we have been and will be doing a lot more messy stuff like spaghetti play and squeeze bottle painting. Miss Haley will be off on holiday from the 30/4 for a week, however, we will have Miss Lee-Ann as a familiar face in the room with Miss Maureen. Until next month, Miss Lee-Ann, Miss Leesa & Miss Haley.

## Quotes from the Koalas

Another busy, fun-packed month has passed by so quickly. We have started reading books that have shapes and colours as a focus and we look around the room to find similar objects and colours which makes an interesting 'game' for our Koala children. This develops their cognitive skills as it involves thinking and reasoning abilities. Last week we brought the stepping buckets inside and the concentration was evident on their faces as they navigated their way, carefully balancing on the buckets. Through this experience, children develop their gross motor ability with the use of the larger muscles in the body.

The Koala children have made some exquisite colourful collages which can be seen in the foyer. These collages allowed the use of small muscles to develop fine motor skills while using their eyes, fingers and wrists.

During our music sessions this month, the Birdie Dance and the 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' have been popular. Ask you child to show you the ac-

tions and sing with you - it's fun!! We hope you have all had a happy and safe Easter and remember, that if you have any queries or any special talents to offer our program, please do not hesitate to speak to either of us.

Keep smiling, Miss Irene and Miss Renee.



## News from the Platypi!

We have had a fantastic month. The children really loved learning about fire engines and pretending to be fire fighters. We have been learning our numbers and practicing our counting skills.

The children have particularly enjoyed using their imagination to create some amazing houses, horses, motorbikes and spaceships.

Please don't forget our excursion on Friday the 27th to Truscott Trains. If any parents can help it would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, if you have any activity, idea or skills you would like to share with us, we would be very keen to add it to our program.

Thanks,  
Miss Harriet and Miss Debra



## News from the Wallabies!

What a busy start to the month, this has been. Not only have we said our goodbyes to Miss Rebekah, and hellos to Miss Danielle, but there has been an explosion of fun and new activities in the Wallaby Room. The children have been very busy together with Miss Ro and Miss Danielle, to create a positive and engaging learning environment. Over the past week, we have seen the inclusion of sensory activities such as play dough, water and sand play. The new office-literacy area has been popular with many of our friends practicing their writing skills. We have also seen an increased interest with reading. Group times have been a wonderful experience, with "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" felt story being most popular. We have also been concentrating on reading stories which talk about our feelings. This has led to many discussions about how we should treat our friends, look after each other and our environment. The children have also been discussing rules for the Wallaby Room. With all

of these exciting activities and discussions, there has been an increased awareness for the environment and we have seen a positive approach toward taking care of our friends. Over the next few weeks, the room will continue to develop and activities will be extended to promote new learning. The children will be involved in activities such as growing vegetable seeds, looking at where we live and many other experiences which will promote numeracy, literacy and social development.

As our room begins to develop, we would like to see the inclusion of box construction. So, instead of recycling your cardboard boxes, we would greatly appreciate you bringing them in for us to create with. We would



also encourage you to bring in a family photo to go on display in the room.

We have also been trying a new rest time approach. During this period of the day, the children have been resting quietly on their beds whilst listening to a story tape. This is then followed with 5-10 minutes of relaxation music. Once resting has finished, quiet activities or reading is offered on their beds. This gives the children who need a sleep a chance to do so, and also allows the children to rest their bodies after a busy morning, ready for the afternoon. Please let either of us know if you would particularly like your child to sleep or not to sleep or if there are any ways we can improve your child's time with us. Also, due to prior commitments, Miss Danielle will be on holiday from 23-27 April. Miss Lee-Ann will be in the Wallaby Room during her absence. Miss Danielle & Miss Ro.

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### Care, Nurture & Growth



23-27 April - Danielle on holiday (Lee-Ann)  
25 April - Anzac Day Public Holiday - closed  
26 April - Truscott Trains excursion (Platypus)m  
30 April - 4 May - Haley on holiday (Lee-Ann)  
4-11 May - Renee on holiday (Jodi covering)  
10 May - Mothers' Day morning tea  
13 May - Mothers' Day  
17 & 18 May - Debra on holiday  
19 & 20 May - Irene & Leesa (C&K Conference)

## Kitchen Capers

### Upside-down Date Pudding

(This is one of the yummy deserts that our children have enjoyed for afternoon tea!)

1&1/2 c. chopped pitted dates  
1&1/2c. Boiled water  
3/4c. White sugar  
3/4c. Brown sugar  
2 eggs  
3 Tsp. butter, melted  
2&1/4c. Sifted enriched flour  
1&1/2Tsp. Baking powder  
3/4Tsp. Salt  
1&1/2c. Chopped walnuts.

### Policy 3.1 - Hygiene

#### Policy 3.1.1 - Hand Washing

The centre requires staff and children to thoroughly wash their hands using liquid soap provided at each hand basin at the following times: **Staff**

When arriving at the centre.

When entering the kitchen.

Before handling food.

After changing a nappy or helping a child to toilet.

After any cleaning activity.

After handling animals.

After using the toilet.

After handling cleaning products.

After touching blood.

After wiping a nose. (when outside, Aquim Gel is used )

#### Children

When arriving at the centre

Before meal times

After using the toilet

After handling animals

After wiping nose

Before assisting with food preparation

Combine dates and water; set aside. Blend sugars, eggs, and butter, Sift together dry ingredients; add to sugar mixture. Stir in nuts and cooled date mixture. Pour into two 8 inch square pans. Top with brown sugar sauce: combine 2&1/4 cups brown sugar, 1&1/2Tbs. Butter and 2&1/4 cups boiling water. Bake in a 375 oven about 40 minutes. Cut into squares, nine to each pan. Invert squares on plates and serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream.

Parents, if you have any questions or recipe ideas that you feel would be a good idea for the children, please feel free to discuss them with Kathy in the kitchen!!!

