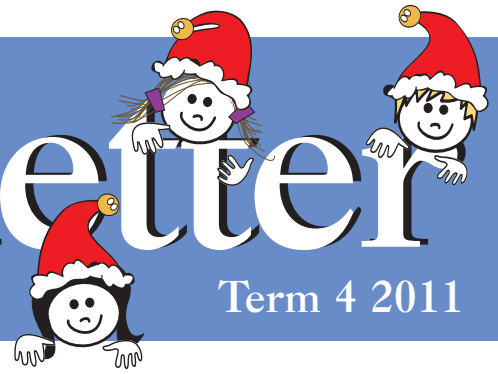




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## Diary Dates

**Platypus and Wombats Groups**  
Children's End of Year Party and  
Last Session for the year:

- Thursday 15th December - Platypus Group
- Friday 16th December - Wombats Group

Don't forget to bring your child's Party Food Basket filled with food and drink. The children will not be sharing food and they will only eat the food that you provide. Please remember not to send any nut products or whole egg.

**Koalas and Kangaroo Groups**  
Children's End of Year Celebrations

- Thursday 15th December - Koala Group  
Parents are invited to join our session at 11.15am for a few songs and other surprises.
- Friday 16th December - Kangaroo Group  
Parents are invited to join our session at 11.30am for a few songs and other surprises.

**Children's Christmas Party**

- Monday 19th December - Kangaroo Group  
Children's Christmas Party from 1.30 to 4pm. This will be our last session together.
- Tuesday 20th December - Koala Group  
Children's Christmas Party from 12.00 to 2.30pm. This will be our last session together.

Don't forget to bring your child's Christmas Party Food Basket filled with food and drink. The children will not be sharing food and they will only eat the food that you provide. Please remember not to send any nut products or whole egg.

- On Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd December the Teaching Team will be tidying up the kindergarten and leaving it ready for 2012.
- Term 1 2012 starts in the first week of February, if you are returning in 2012 PLEASE CHECK YOUR 2012 INFORMATION PACKS for information regarding your information exchange sessions and start dates and times for your group, and other important information before kinder resumes in 2012.

### Waiting in the Foyer

Many other people use the Family Care Centre building, of which our kindergarten is a part. It is important that we supervise our children at all times in the foyer area and that we are quiet and considerate.

- Thank You for your Co-operation



## A Word from the President

Whoosh! That is the sound of 2011 rushing by. Everyone seems to be counting down to Christmas but quite frankly I'm counting down till the end of the school year. All I can think

about are six weeks of summer bliss ... sleeping in (as much as you can with kids), imaginative play in the backyard, spontaneous picnics, going to the beach and spending some quality time with the kids.

Don't get me wrong, it's been a fabulous year but as you know it is always very busy at kinder and a good rest will do us all good - kids, parents, committee and teachers!

There is a lot that goes on in the day to day running of the kindergarten and most of this goes unseen by the wider community. However this year many of you would have heard the Committee updates about Universal Access. In recent weeks we have had what seems like some success which is great. I'll leave our Secretary, Andrew Parnell to expand on this further in his report.

One thing of which we are certain is that the National Quality Framework is definitely going ahead next year. Basically, this is a fancy name to describe a strategy set up by the Government to make sure early learning centres like our preschool continue to make improvements across a wide range of areas. These areas will include:

1. Educational program and practice
2. Children's health and safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements, including staff-to-child ratios and qualifications
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Leadership and service management

However, after an initial assessment of the guidelines, we believe our preschool is already doing most of these. It really comes down to both the Committee of Management and staff ensuring we complete all the paperwork that is associated with these areas.

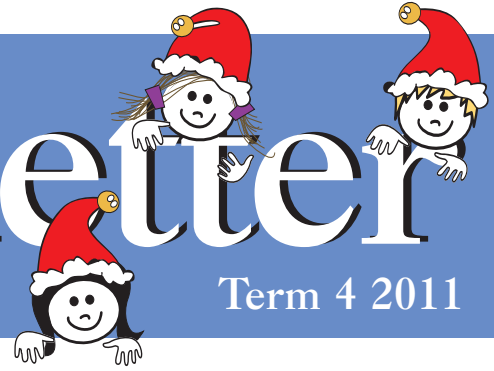
We've also made many purchases including new books, a new slide as well as other playground equipment, a reading



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couch, and lots of indoor play equipment.

We've reviewed and updated a number of policies, including our very own Website Maintenance Policy, implemented and facilitated parenting information nights and raised over \$10,000 through fundraising initiatives (which we're hoping will go towards a sensory garden and play area).

Our AGM was also held on November 24th and was well attended with over 40 of our families, new and old. We had another great presentation from Kathy Walker who spoke about "Setting up our children for success" which was very thought provoking. We were also able to fill all vacancies on the Committee of Management which is a huge bonus heading into what looks like a busy 2012.



Did you know that Monday, 5th December was International Volunteer Day? I realise it's slightly retrospective but please take a moment to thank your Committee of Management and Fundraising Committee for doing such an amazing job of running and raising money for

your kinder. Our Committee members - Matoula, Chris, Andrew, Kate, Trish, Annie, Sue, Sharon, Andrew, Sharon, Vanessa, Joanne, Julie, Jenny and Nadezna - you're an asset to this kinder and I am personally proud to have spent the last two years working alongside of you.

In late October we also had the sad news that Leanne Maloney would be resigning at the end of the year. As a result we have had to organise a recruitment campaign and will be interviewing before the end of the year. Judging by the candidates we have seen so far, we are hopeful that our 3 year old teacher for 2012 will be a great addition to our already fantastic teaching staff.

Pam, Leanne (who is leaving), Keron and Jackie continue to provide quality, play-based learning programs for our children. And as always, their support is diligently extended to kinder families and the Committee of Management throughout the year. We are fortunate to have them.

And finally, amongst the Christmas cheer, celebrations and rollover into a new year, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families attending the kinder for the first time in 2012 - its great to have you as part of our community. We hope you enjoy it as much as we have. We

also say goodbye and good luck to those families who are moving on to the next phase of their lives - primary school. And for those of you who will be remaining at the kinder, we hope you enjoy yet another year of the wonderful world of preschool.

**Lou** (Isabella's Mum - Kangaroos)

**President**

## Saving three year old Kinder

In 2008 the Federal and state governments agreed, under a policy called Universal Access, that by 2013 all children will be offered 15 hours of pre-school/kindergarten in the year before starting school (four-year-old kinder). Many kindergartens in Victoria lack the space and/or teachers to offer both 15 hours of four-year-old kinder and their current three-year-old program. If the policy stands, many will be forced to drop three-year-old kinder groups.

Due to concerns that our kinder would be forced to drop a three-year-old group, the Committee decided this year to undertake a campaign to try and have the policy changed so kinders can offer the 15 hours over two years. We established a sub-committee and sent out two surveys: one to kinders in the City of Whitehorse, and the other to parents. The results were unequivocal; three-year-old kinder is considered important by both teachers and parents. We also found that there would be a 19% fall in the number of three-year-old places in 2013 if the policy went ahead.

You might have seen the results of the surveys were reported in both The Age and the Whitehorse Leader. In the latter we had articles, photos and letters over seven consecutive weeks. I have never previously seen a single issue so dominant in the local media; such is the strength of feeling about saving three-year-old kinder.

We wrote to the Victorian and Federal Ministers, and the Federal Shadow Minister advising the survey results. The Shadow Minister, Sussan Ley, indicated to us the Opposition's policy is to allow kinders flexibility in offering the 15 hours. While this is pleasing, we have not yet received a direct reply from the Federal Minister, Peter Garrett, who really is the key decision-maker. We did have a meeting with a senior member of the Department of Education who has briefed the Minister.

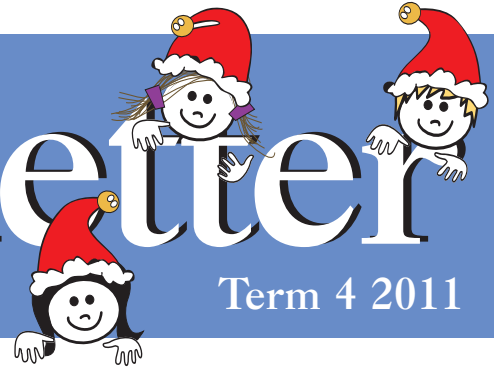
I am very pleased to say there has, at last, been a positive



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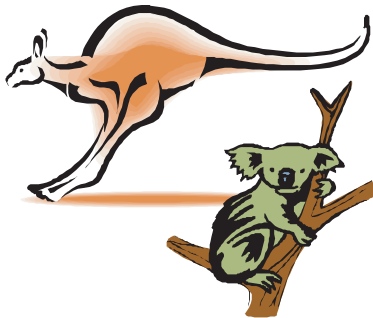


response from the Victorian Minister, Wendy Lovell, who recently wrote to all kinders in Victoria asking that we not discontinue any of our three-year-old groups while they continue to negotiate with the Federal Government for "a more planned approach" to implementing UA. We felt this was an excellent outcome: It means we are well on the way to saving three-year-old kinder. While we can relax and not worry about the 2013 deadline, the requirement for 15 hours is still in the agreement and we would like to get it changed.

I would like to thank my fellow sub-committee members, Amanda Hamilton and Zoe Ferdowsian for all their wonderful work and support. Thank you also to the rest of the committee, especially Lou Fogg and Matoula Romeo, and to Indra Pre-School who gave us great support with the surveys.

**Andrew** (Scarlett's Dad - Kangaroos)  
**Secretary**

## Kangaroos and Koalas News



It's hard to believe we only have a few sessions left till the end of this term. At present we are all very busy enjoying ourselves and celebrating many things including a great year together!

Looking at the children now and thinking back to the beginning of the year, is really a very pleasing experience, reflecting on the wonderful progress they have all made! I think writing their Transition Statements and Development Statements has really highlighted this for me. Your teaching team is indeed very proud of them all and their accomplishments individually and in group contexts.

Thank you everyone for all the work you have done for the kindergarten over the year. Working together as partners (parents, committee and staff) we have given all the children a wonderful kindergarten experience.

A special thank you from us all goes to Leanne our wonderful 3yo groups teacher. You are a passionate,

dedicated and caring Early Childhood Educator and will be missed by all. Thanks for everything Leanne.

Happy Christmas everyone and have a happy and safe 2012.

**Pam, Jackie, Keron and Grace**

## Wombats and Platypus News



As the kinder year is almost at an end, it is an appropriate time to express thanks to all families and children for an amazing year.

Thank -you for your friendship and your support, not only of Keron

and myself, but also of the programme and of your child, as they have embarked on their lifelong journey of learning. It has been a privilege and also very rewarding to have got to know, teach and nurture your delightful children. Thank-you for all the ways you have assisted the kinder throughout the year - assisting with the parent roster, maintenance days, fundraising, doing washing, collecting boxes, etc; and being on committee and social/fundraising groups. Your help has been greatly appreciated and benefits not only the kinder, but also your child.

To the 44 beautifully amazing children whom Keron and I have had the pleasure to teach, we say a very sincere thanks for a truly enjoyable and fabulous year. We have had a lot of fun getting to know each of you as the lovely individuals that you are. We look forward to our party sessions together before saying goodbye for this year. We wish you all a very happy and successful next step in your learning journey.

On a personal note, I say goodbye and thanks to all families I have come to know during my years at Box Hill South Pre-school. It has been a pleasure to have met so many lovely families and children.

As the song goes - "Thanks for the memories."

Keron and I wish all families a very happy and safe holiday and Christmas time.

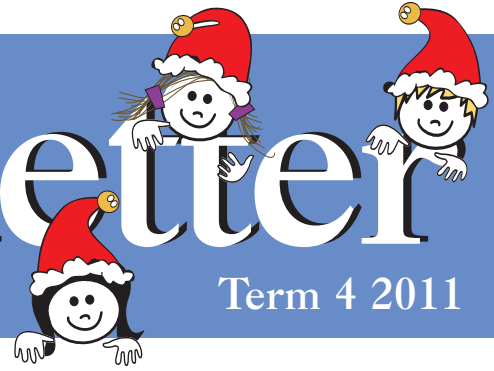
**Leanne and Keron**



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## Social and Fundraising News



Wow! Where did the year go? Having a 5 year old at kinder and a 6 year old in Prep, as well as this committee role has certainly kept me busy in 2011. As I leave the kinder, and Kate and I retire from our roles as Social and Fundraising Coordinators, we do so with heavy hearts. I've enjoyed my time being a

part of such an active and beautiful kinder community and have also enjoyed running into all my new found friends at other venues like Aus Kick, local school fetes, markets, and all over town. Being a part of Box Hill South Pre School and on the Committee of Management has enriched my life. Thank you to staff, children and parents alike.

Thank you also to all families and staff for supporting events and fundraisers during the year. Together, we have raised over of \$10,000 which has gone towards the purchase of new equipment and materials for the children. Fundraising is a real team effort and I'd like to thank all the kinder families as well as our hard working Social Committee members who have been so incredibly enthusiastic and committed. They are:

Cynthia Hogeland - Koalas  
Lynne McClarcharty - Koalas  
Rachael Hibbins - Kangaroos  
Rachel Macey - Kangaroos  
Jo Ferrier - Wombats  
Michelle Hopkins - Wombats  
Caroline Webster - Platypus  
Maxine Carson - Platypus  
Thanks so much to you all.

### Tea towels and aprons

For those who have ordered tea towels and aprons, they are on track for a pre Christmas delivery. We will be in contact soon.

### Thanks

Our end of year party at the beginning of the month was a huge success. Thanks to the 150 or more people that attended and congratulations to all the door prize winners (21 winners in total). Thank you also to the Scholastic Book

Club for their donations towards our prizes.

The children and adults enjoyed the fabulous magician and made it a most memorable evening.

### Trivia night

Sorry to Mars who made a donation of 100 packets of M&Ms towards our trivia night earlier this year. We mistakenly left Mars off our Sponsor list in the last newsletter. We greatly appreciate your donation.

As Kate and I retire from our positions as Social and Fundraising Coordinators, we welcome two experienced and hardworking Mums to the roles for 2012. Congratulations to Jo Ferrier and Michelle Hopkins who were elected at the November AGM. Good luck in 2012.

We wish everyone at the Box Hill South Pre School a Merry Christmas and peaceful new year.

**Trish** (Toby's Mum - Koalas)

**Katie** (Ava's Mum - Koalas)

**Social and Fundraising Co-ordinators**

### Subsidised Incursions

With all your efforts and contributions to our Fundraising events, the Committee of Management decided to completely subsidise several of our children incursions this year.

The Kinder Fitness Program (4 yo Groups)  
and

Drama Toolbox - Dinosaurs (3yo Groups)  
Both were all thoroughly enjoyed by the children respectively.

Thank you for your generous support.

## Maintenance Report



We would like to thank all the families that have helped out during our 2011 maintenance days. The children and teachers really appreciate the difference you make around the preschool as every effort, large and small, makes the preschool a clean, fun and safe environment for our kids.



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Some of the tasks carried out through the year included, assembling a new outdoor storage shed (extra special thanks to those who stayed back to help), topping up the sand pit and soft fall around the play area. The play equipment was also updated with a new slide, along with the regular cleaning, pruning, mowing and weed removal.

Have a Happy Christmas and all the best for next year.

**Andrew and Sharon** (Grace's and Ethan's Dad and Mum - Kangaroos and Wombats)

**Maintenance Officers**

## 2011 Parent Satisfaction Survey Results

To all the parents, thank you for participating in our annual parent satisfaction survey. Your comments and suggestions are a valuable resource for the future development of Box Hill South Pre School and are appreciated. Below is a summary of the results of those that have responded.

- 100% Overall Satisfied with the service we offer
- 100% very satisfied/satisfied to meet your child's needs
- 100% very satisfied/satisfied to meet your needs
- 97.4% very satisfied/satisfied with the hours and sessions
- 100% very satisfied/satisfied with the facilities

The survey results reflect the fantastic environment our teachers and assistants create for our children here at Box Hill South Pre School with their attention to the children's needs and the quality of the program.

Box Hill South Pre School has been described as friendly, caring, nurturing, with great teachers and program and has a brilliant atmosphere with excellent facilities.

The best things about our Pre School are the quality of our teachers and assistants who are devoted, caring and approachable, that they create a friendly and nurturing environment and the attention they give to the individual needs of the children. The facilities and outdoor play ground are also rated highly and we have a great sense of community amongst the children and parents.

In regards to our parents information nights, 71% of the respondents said they were useful and interesting but a many who responded simply could not attend - weeknights

are difficult for many people.

Overall the teachers and assistants should all be proud and be congratulated for creating such a wonderful learning environment for our children, as is the Committee of Management.

The Committee of Management and Social and Fundraising Sub Committee should also be pleased and proud to know that we have such a well run pre school with a great sense of community!

## 2012 Committee of Management

Congratulations to the incoming 2012 Committee of Management and Social and Fundraising Sub Committee.

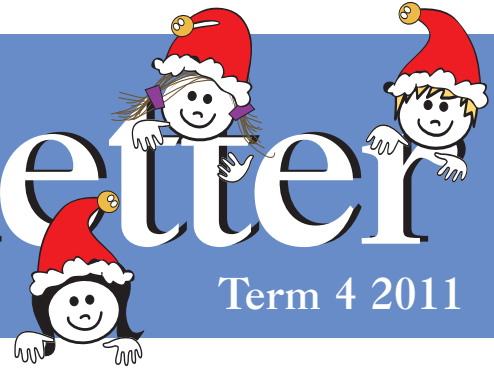
President	Nigel Suckling
Vice President	Mohammad Rizky
Secretary	Sophie Knight
Treasurer	Chris Rosicka
Assistant to Treasurer (Fees)	Andrea McCann
Assistant to Treasurer (Banking)	Lynn Allan
Minute Secretary	Mary Rokkos
Policy Administrator	Jenny Martin Ritchie
Enrolment Officers:	
3 Yr Old Group	Kate Lane
4 Yr Old Group	Sam Campbell
Maintenance Officer	Jeff Graham
Grants Application Officer	Kylie Downs
Incoming Mail Officer	Amanda Hamilton
Social and Fundraising Co-Ordinators	Michelle Hopkins Jo Ferrier



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## Social and Fundraising Sub-Committee Group Representatives

4yo Koalas Social Reps	Leonara White Andrea Murray
4yo Kangaroos Reps	Zoe Ferdowsian Hayley Watson Sanjuka Brahmachari Rena Chew
3yo Wombats Reps	Andrew McCann Needed***
3yo Platypus Reps	Cathy Tang Tenille Bunger

## My Last Newsletter

Although I will be enjoying 4yo kinder next year with Mihaylia, I will no longer be involved with the committee (are you sure? says my husband) and as such this will be my last newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity and use my position as publisher and editor of the newsletter to say how much I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved with the committee.

I started as one of the Wombat Group reps, moved through as one of the S&F Coordinators and have ended up in the VP role over the years. It has been a most rewarding experience and journey. I have met people and made friends that I would not have otherwise had the opportunity to, and my children have made friends with "Mummys kinder friends" children which I am sure will be long lasting.

To this day I recall the complete dissapointment of each of my children when they realised for the first time that I get to go to their kinder without them (for a meeting) and how dare I come back without a painting or drawing or pasting to show for it..."but that's OK Mummy", said my middle child once, "Leanne can take a photo of the things

you can't bring so you can show everyone at home"!

Speaking of Leanne, it is sad to see such a wonderful and devoted teacher go and so I would like to take this opportunity as my last year on the Committee to simply say...thank you for being such a beautiful teacher to our 3YO's over the years, you will be missed by the committee, your colleagues and parents, and the children who have had the opportunity to have you as their teacher have been very fortunate.

Wishing you all a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Matoula** (Mihaylia's Mum - Wombats)  
**Vice President**

## Did you know...



### \*\*\*Toy World School Benefit Card\*\*\*

4% of your total purchase at Toy World Forest Hill will be donated to Box Hill South Pre School (if nominated) in the form of a store gift voucher.

You get 7% discount storewide everyday, all year round including sale items once you have spent over \$100 in store. This does not coincide with any other percentage discount offers.

If you would like to get a Toy World School Benefit Card or have any queries how it works be sure to go to Toy World at Forest Hill Chase and find out more.

## Wattle Park Pharmacy 1123 Riversdale Rd, Surrey Hills.

When you make any purchase (excluding prescriptions) ask for your receipt to go in the *Box Hill South Pre School box* and 2% of the value will go to our kinder.