



Director News

Wow what an action packed year we have had this year. I would like to take this time to thank families, children and team and community for making this year one of the most memorable and to everyone for being so passionately engaged. We have truly packed a lot in to a year!

Kurilpa underwent the assessment and rating process in July and we were ecstatic to receive exceeding in all seven quality areas which is a great achievement for all team, parents, and children. In the New Year we will apply for excellence with ACECQA which is only available to service who did receive exceeding like we did. (<http://www.acecqa.gov.au/excellent-rating>) The purpose of the Excellent rating is to: celebrate excellence in the delivery of education and care, engage and involve families and the community in the profession's discussion about quality and what is important in education and care, learn from and be inspired by examples of highly accomplished practice, innovation and creativity in education and care. We are really excited to take part of this process in the New Year.

This year we have said good bye to five team members as they moved far and wide on new adventures. We also welcomed five new team members who together with our current team have become a cohesive and productive team who honour and respect the Kurilpa philosophy and an educational focus. We also celebrated Kurilpa turning 70 years young. As a team we reflected on the changes and progress Kurilpa has made over these years and the collaborations and community we have built.

This year Kurilpa has been part of an action research group that has been working on ECEfS (Early Childhood Education for sustainability) projects, year covering topics including community gardens, embedding Indigenous perspectives and multicultural workforce. This project has allowed us to work together to reduce our footprint on the earth and work together in a sustainable manner

Our Objectives for the project were-

- For the whole service to collaborate in developing sustainable practices required by the NQF and for these practices to be meaningful to Kurilpa.
- To acknowledge the 70 years of quality community care, education, values and practices that have preceded us and promote this from a sense of ownership.
- For Kurilpa to embrace sustainability as more than a worm farm or veggie patch by recognising the many ways we can show respect and responsibility for the land we stand on.

With Key outcomes of-

- For the children to have ownership over their learning in a way that supports them to become independent learners
- We are taking an inclusive approach, giving everyone the opportunity to play a role in our journey towards sustainability
- We are taking risks and trusting the process; children are leading the learning
- Equality across the service; everyone is equal and accountable
- Parents and community are engaged
- We are building more deeply on our own philosophy and pedagogy

As many of you would already know and hopefully purchased, the Kurilpa Cookbook came out this year. Both Lizzie and her son Louis put in a lot of time and effort into the production of this book, Lizzie with her exceptional cooking skills and recipes and Louis with his outstanding graphic design skills. We are so blessed to have such talented connections and could not be more proud of the results. What a great cookbook!

As we draw closer to the end of the year we start to plan for 2015.

We would like to welcome a new team member- Melissa Plooy. Melisa (or Mel as she will be known as to avoid confusion with Melisa and Marisa) will be working in the Nursery as the lead educator with Alex. Please keep an eye out on the nursery door for a bit more information about Mel and make sure you get a chance to say hi.

We would also like to welcome Felicity Ferling to the team. Felicity will begin January 5th in the toddler room. Felicity has been working at Kenmore Montessori Children's House as an Assistant Teacher for the past two years, and has over 5 years' experience in the early childhood sector. We look forward to learning more about felicity and welcoming her to the team in the new year.

We would like to congratulate Tess who is pregnant, with her first child. Tess will finish up in the kindergarten room in December, floating during the first few months of 2015 until May when she is due and goes on maternity leave.

Next year Lisa will be off on a new adventure of full time study. Lisa will be studying her Bachelor in Primary Education, with a major in Special Education. Lisa will still be around next year as she tries to fit it all in – study, motherhood and work!



We anticipate that transitions to your child's new room will occur during December and January. Please keep an eye out in your pocket for more information about the dates and how to support your child during this transition.

Staffing Arrangements 2015

Director

I (Marisa) work a 9 day fortnight, meaning that every second Friday I am absent. I normally work between the hours of 7:30 – 4:30 however this sometimes changes depending on the needs of the service. I am the best contact in regards to the day to day operations of the service and any questions regarding bookings, enrolments and staffing. Sophie is the assistant director, so if you can't find me, Sophie will be able to help you answer any questions or query's you may have.

Administration Assistant

Sally works Monday (9:30-2:30) , Wednesday(9:00-5:00) , Thursday (9:00-5:00). Sally is the best contact for all queries regarding your statements and CCB among other things.

Cook

Our exceptional cook Lizzie is here daily preparing and cooking our vegetarian meals for the children.

Kindergarten

Marion and Anthony

Both Marion and Anthony will work together 5 days per week. Anthony is excited to move up with the Jnr Kindy friends and continue the collaboration already established this year with Marion.

Jnr Kindy

Sophie, Nikki (4 days) and Jane (2days)

As Sophie is the assistant director, she will be non-contact on Fridays when working in the office. On Fridays both Jane and Nikki will work together, continuing the smooth flow of the room.

Toddler

Cass and Felicity

Cass will continue to lead the toddler program, working with Felicity as the educator 5 days per week.

Nursery

Mel and Alex

Mel and Alex will work together 5 days per week, building strong relationships and attachments with the nursery friends.

Floats and Relief Team

Melisa and Ranjani will be the floats covering team member's lunch breaks and programming time.

Finn, Lisa and Tess will still be working at Kurilpa across the service in various roles and rooms.

Thanks for a wonderful year and we look forward to 2015, Marisa

Fundraising News

What an amazing year for fundraising at Kurilpa! In addition to events earlier in the year (Teddy Bears' Picnic/BBQ, Seaworld raffle, bake sale at the Pushies Galore Event, Humble pie drive), there have been some really interesting and successful activities since July. There was a seedlings sale which provided a great opportunity to show our children about how to care for plants. Kurilpa's 70th anniversary fete proved to be an overwhelming success in every regard, including fundraising. The 70th anniversary commemorative tea towel provided a wonderful memento of this important occasion. Sales of Lizzie's wonderful cookbook have been really encouraging so far and the mangoes that just arrived as part of our annual mango drive.

All of this great effort in 2014 has enabled some really important purchases and upgrades in the Centre: We have upgraded the fort in the 3-5 years yard, put lush turf down in the playgrounds, we will replace couches and rugs in all rooms, as well as new cots in the nursery.

As a result of an upgrade to our equipment and furniture, we have 2 white steel cots from the Nursery room to give away if anyone wants them for a small donation or to pass them on to a family in need/charity – please just contact Marisa or Sophie for details.

We already have some events planned for 2015: including both a Bunnings BBQ (Sunday February 15th) and a Masters BBQ (Sunday April 26th). Please mark these dates in your diary as we will need lots of volunteers on these days.



Many other events are also being scheduled such as Pushies Galore (bicycle swap meet where we held a successful bake sale) which is on track again for July.

If you have any good ideas for next year's fundraising, please just let us know as we appreciate ideas and offers of help from all Kurilpa parents!

Katy White and Paolo Marinelli

Committee News

Hi Folks

Well, it is nearing the end of our 70th year, and what a lovely and busy year it has been. It still bowls me over to think that Kurilpa is 70 years old, I can't imagine what childcare might look like in another 70 years.

We marked the event with the birthday celebration in October, which I hope you and your families enjoyed. We have also produced a cookbook, which showcases the food the kids eat at Kurilpa, and if you haven't already got a copy there are still plenty available.

Thanks everyone for your patience with the weather of late.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all the many people who give up their free time to contribute in many different ways to the Kurilpa community, we are a very lucky community to have so many people who value what we do here and want to be part of it. Thanks everyone.

Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Sarah Warner-- President Management Committee

Kitchen News

This year has been another enjoyable one for me in the kitchen cooking healthy and delicious meals for the children and staff. Nutrition is such an important part of growth and development in early childhood and I love being able to provide that part of the care for your children. Much thought goes into the planning of the Kurilpa menu to include the children's nutritional needs, food preferences and variety. Consideration is given to familiar, popular and new foods as well as colours, textures, flavours and cooking methods. I also need to consider facilities, budget and time. I trust you are happy with the choices offered and always welcome your feedback and new ideas.



An enjoyable part of my day is mornings as families arrive. This time provides opportunity to have brief conversations with you all and get to know you a little better. The kitchen has a brilliant aspect ! Thank you for taking the time to look at the menu and say hello. This makes me feel like an integral part of the Kurilpa team. I am always available at this time to address any concerns you have regarding meal-times.

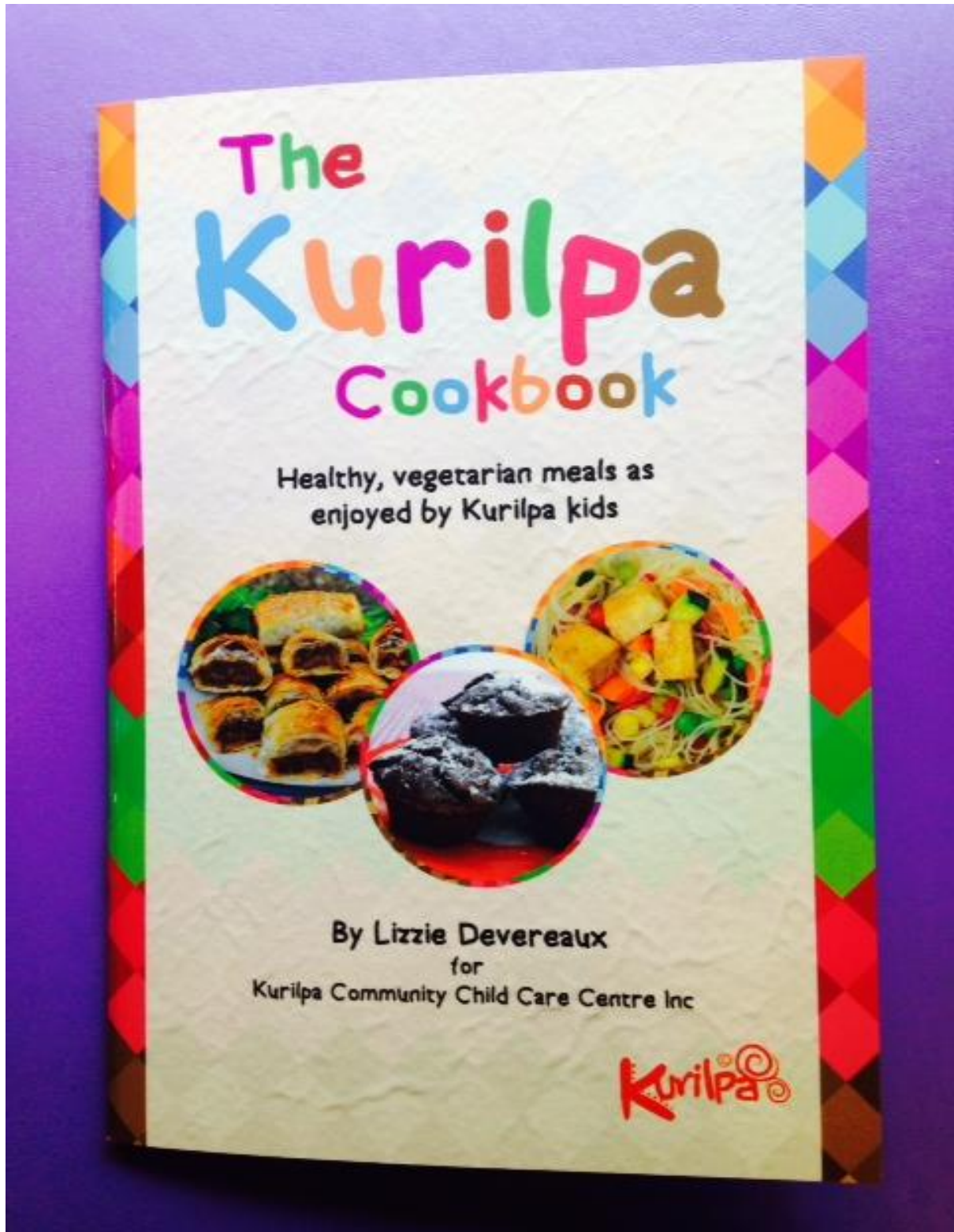
A large part of my 2014 was the production of the cookbook, in particular the downsizing and trialling of the recipes. I hope you enjoy cooking Kurilpa meals at home, and I hope the children enjoy looking through the book to see familiar food and faces. The feedback I have received so far is very positive-thank you. I'd like to acknowledge the time and effort of my son Louis for his graphic design of the cookbook, particularly as he is still a student. I love the freshness and colour of the design and am proud of Louis' work. I'd also like to thank Anthony Parry, Anita Slotwinski, Angela Blanch, Bridgette McKelvey and Daina Adam for their help or support. Daina works particularly hard on many Kurilpa projects without want or need of recognition. A big thank you to you Daina for your never-ending community spirit.

I would also like to thank Marisa and all of the Kurilpa educators as they are the team who make meal-times work so well. The teachers sit with the children at lunch, role-modelling and talking about basic nutrition. Without their encouragement and enthusiasm the menu would not be so well received.

The recent online survey results contained some very pleasing menu suggestions including avocado sushi, haloumi and vegie balls, pumpkin and chickpea fritters, bean burritos, and sweet potato chips. These are all excellent ideas so look out for them on the menu in 2015. The use of margarine was also questioned as a healthy choice for children. I have asked Nutrition Australia Advisory Service for their opinion and will let you know their response via the weekly email.

Lastly I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Lizzie



Kindergarten News

The Kindergarten children have begun their formal transition to school, as they attend orientation days and their entrance interviews. We are getting wonderful feedback from them about this process, and from you, their families, as well. This is an exciting time for all of us! While on the surface our priorities may look a little different from the children's, the basis for a successful foundation at school is the same for everyone – positive, healthy, respectful relationships, with people, with environments and with ourselves.

Research supports the idea that social competence is an important indicator of ongoing success, in a school environment specifically and then more generally as we move into adulthood. McLellan and Katz (2001) have identified as the basic components of this:

- individual attributes (eg independence from adults, resilience, existing peer friendships)
- social skills (eg assertiveness, skills for entering others' play, negotiation skills)
- peer relationship attributes (eg are invited to join play, are named by others as a friend)



Other researchers (Dockett et al, 2000; Hains, Fowler, Schwartz, Kottwitz & Rosenketter, 1989; Janus & Offord, 2001) have found that teachers regard an ability to focus in a group setting, and having a positive disposition to learning as fundamental to school success. They have also identified language proficiency – specifically the ability to communicate with teachers and peers and to follow instructions – as an important indicator of successful adaptation into a formal learning environment.



Kindergarten is a fantastic environment in which to practice all these things and we appreciate the trust you have placed in us, to provide the experiences that allow your child to see their own power to make a difference for themselves. And remember to ask us for any specific support you feel may make a positive difference in the way your child feels about making the move to school. We are continuing to work on making closer links with our local schools to make as much of the transition process known to children as we can.

As we work with the children in the very last few weeks of their kindergarten experience we recognise and honour them as thinking, social people able to set their own goals and independently find solutions for many of the problems they encounter as they work to achieve these. They have been offered – and have confidently accepted! – opportunities to show their potential for leadership in the areas of our programme that interest them the most. There have also been opportunities to learn new skills from the many interesting and interested adults that have joined us: parents and other family members; wildlife experts; musicians; educators from other rooms and other centres; scientists; builders; artists and performers. These many experiences have provided the context in which our focus on purposeful play has been extended by the children themselves, evolving into the ‘thinking, planning, doing’ approach that has worked so well for them.

We are wishing all of you lots of love and laughter as many of you move on from us and into your next adventure. Wherever you are, please keep in touch and let us know what’s happening in your world. Happy holidays!

Marion, Tess & Lisa

Reference:

<http://www.transitiontoschool.com.au/downloads/research/School%20readiness>

Junior Kindy News

And so here we are, at the end of a year full of excitement, changes, challenges and growth. When we sit back and reflect on 2014, we can say without a doubt that watching over your children has been a humbling and gratifying experience to say the least. Over the year these children have shown us, with confidence, their character, nature and personality – a glimpse perhaps of the adults they will become.

Change is an ever-evolving attribute of life, something that we are well aware of at Kurilpa as we watch the children move with this change. One of the biggest changes for our children in Junior Kindy, is that of moving to Kindergarten. This has been the focus for the



Junior Kindy children and staff over the last few months as we endeavour to prepare them for a new year. This means more than understanding literacy and numeracy, or the ability to write ones name (though the children are showcasing remarkable skills in this department). Rather, our aim is to allow the children to build and develop their self-reliance and resilience.

We as educators strive to support the children in any way we can; in the way they communicate, interact with others, develop and build their knowledge and by taking care of themselves and others. But when does this support become corrosive? The last thing we want is for a child to become co-dependent on staff or parents to manage every interaction or challenge. By creating a collaborative relationship rather than a controlled relationship, we can give the children the opportunity to explore their experiences of their own choosing, whilst *understanding* the various options and decisions that come with these experiences. It's not easy to understand why their peer won't hand over a toy, or why their peer says, "I'm not your friend," or why it's important to follow the rules and structure of the room. When unable to understand a situation and becomes frustrated, the child is then forced to repeat behaviours that might have worked for them in the past (tantrums, hitting, shouting), but are not an acceptable way to resolve the problem. This is where the educators have stepped in, guiding the children in choices and decisions to provide an outcome that is profitable for all involved. This is an ongoing process, one that is repeated over and over again throughout the day. It is also a process that remains calm, clear, and nurturing, ensuring that all the children are able to safely learn and build knowledge. Our outdoor program has also adapted to the children's growth and resilience. We share the space with the Kindergarten, and what better way to prepare the children then to let them interact with the older children. To watch the two groups discuss games, rules, ideas and thoughts shows that are children are already thinking differently, and are able to self-regulate their emotions as they play in this environment.



Resilience and self-reliance do tend to go hand in hand, and the children have really begun to explore the idea of independence. This is more of an internal growth, with the children able to process the information and environment around them and internally make decisions based on their beliefs and knowledge collected from parents, family, educators and peers. We have been working with the children to be able to build their self-reliance through more in-depth discussions during group time and one-on-one. Using resources such as the Deadly Cards or asking questions about stories that we have read we can

explore a deeper way of thinking. We ask the children to listen to each other's answers, do they agree? Do they disagree? This is a big part of the Kindergarten room, and our children have really begun to open their minds to themselves and their peers.

Independence is also about physically doing things for yourself. There are many skills that the children have learnt over the last few months that will help them succeed in Kindergarten. The children are able to pack away their sheets, and fold their bed and pack it carefully away into the cupboard. They are becoming more responsible for their own property such as water bottles, bags and clothing. We are helping them to understand that their water bottle is "Their responsibility to remember to bring and take home from Kurilpa" same goes for their hats. All these skills are essential to developing your child's resilience and self-reliance.

It's no doubt that Kindergarten is going to be a big change, for both you and your child. Our program has grown with your children, and aims to ready your children in all aspects of their learning. We as educators are more than confident that your children are ready for the next step in their lives, and will enjoy continuing to support them as they explore their year in Kindergarten.

Thanks,
Sophie and Anthony.

Toddler News



What a year it has been!

It's been a year of growth and change for the Toddlers. We've had two beautiful educators come and go, giving us some amazing chances to learn about resilience and discover how to create close relationships with new people in our worlds. We've also had a few students join us this year which has been fantastic for the children to learn through different and new techniques.

The Toddlers have come so far and have achieved SO very much over 2014. We've explored our community and learned more about what it means to be a part of Kurilpa, belonging to the West End and our place in the world at large. The most fun we had exploring these concepts were our exciting excursions! We've visited GUYATT PARK, travelling on buses and ferries, we've explored community gardens at LYONS PARK and challenged ourselves on play equipment at ORLEIGH PARK! None of our external experiences could have happened without the support of all our wonderful families and

we're really grateful that you have been able to take time away from work to help us do that.

We helped celebrate Kurilpa's 70th Anniversary with creating art and craft to sell for "Kurilpa's birthday" which extended our love of CREATING. The toddlers have expanded their eye hand coordination with threading, explored the science of colour mixing and application using fine motor skills. They've taken art to new heights discovering how we can create as a team over a period of days, learning more about what happens as paint builds on a page. We've even added more decorative features to our yard with our threading skills which gives us a sense of pride and belonging to the world in which we play in.



Sustainability and the environment has been a constant focus for the Toddlers over the year. Whether it's watering the garden, pulling weeds or discovering taste sensations of herbs we've all had a hand in it! We love collecting our scraps in our compost big to take out to the COMPOST MONSTER or worm farm of an afternoon, learning all about how food DECOMPOSES to create new healthy "dirt food" for our plants to grow in later. We have our class bird, a friendly Miner Bird we affectionately call "Freddie" who we give the odd bread

crust to when he visits, which helps us understand more of how to look after nature, what a birds part of the natural life cycle involves and why we need to look after ALL our wonderful native animals, big and small.

Enjoying our garden has lead on to water play and conservation of water and its properties. WOMBAT STEW was HUGE for the Toddlers as an interest area that evolved into us making over our dirt pit and installing a mud kitchen. Huge thank you to Magnus' grandad for helping make us a sink with a tap out of a crate and donated materials! It's been such a joy to see the children discovering just what water can do! The opportunities for the very beginnings of understanding science and math starts here with estimation, hypothesising, pouring and filling, the concept of size and shape and more!



Cooking has been another off set of our love of learning in the Mud Kitchen! The children have really enjoyed discovering how simple ingredients can create a meal that not only the Toddlers, but our Kurilpa community can enjoy! This year we've made ginger bread biscuits, scones with jam and cream, avocado sushi, bread from scratch and

enough playdough to put the actual Playdoh company to shame. The great thing about cooking is it's such a social and sensory experience. Turn taking, sharing, enhancing our tastebuds and more skills develop from the mere act of sitting around a table using a bowl and spoon.

It's a strange time as an educator at this end of the year. On one hand, you're so extremely proud of these little people that you've had the pleasure of guiding, watching and helping to grow into the amazingly skilled and confident children they are now. On the other, you've witnessed all these changes, cultivated fantastic friendships, and it's hard to know that they won't be the faces and personalities you'll be able to see every day in the new year. I have the utmost confidence in all the Toddlers taking on Junior Kindy in 2015, they'll only continue to grow and conquer all challenges in the future! It's also going to be an exciting time welcoming our Nursery friends and new Toddler members to the group in January! Bring on 2015, the Toddlers new and old can't wait!

Big Love, from Cass and Rachael

Nursery News

For our last nursery newsletter of this year we are welcoming our new lead educator, Mel. It is great timing for Mel to join us as she will be able to get to know the babies and the nursery room during December. We will be reflecting back over the year on the wonderful relationships we've built, the participation and support we have received from families, the growing confidence we have seen, and, the listening and comprehension skills we are hearing the babies are raving about.

I, Melisa, would like to say a BIG thank you to nursery families for making me feel welcome in my time as nursery team leader this year. I have had the utmost privilege in learning from your babies, as they have been the best teachers for me this year. The babies have guided me in my own personal and professional development and I am ending this year the happiest I possibly could be. I have learned where to find peace, I found it in a hug, in saying I, and we love you.



Peace, is in using gentle hands with each other and developing ourselves in ways that will help others to explore and investigate our emergent environment. What I have loved the most has been developing a gentle singing voice, yes, for rest time, but mostly anytime of the day the babies will stop to listen to a song. The babies

have inspired me to learn a musical instrument, I have bought a chinese bamboo flute for beginners. I can now understand why Nick learned the didgeridoo and he played it for the babies often, because to be a part of making and sharing music with babies is the most important and engaging way to reach out, comfort, and connect people.

We have been developing skills to recognise that we can fit together with earth and people



with many different interests, that we don't have to have something all to oneself, that we can find joy in giving. There is enough to go around if we save resources and not be wasteful. We are learning that we all use our hands for helping so it is best to let people get on with their own work as; cooks, truck drivers, firemen, artists, gardeners, cleaners, builders just to start. We are learning that our world depends on our respect for diversity. I have a renewed faith in our future because I know your babies are learning how to create a sustainable future because it begins in Nursery with valuing your child as a future citizen.

We look forward to Mel getting to know Kurilpa's fabulous families. Please keep up your communication with Alex and Mel about any holiday plans you might have that change usual attendance at Kurilpa. We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas holidays everyone!

Melisa, Alex and Mel