



Director News

Dear families, welcome to another fantastic year ahead. We hope that our new families have settled well into the Kurilpa community, and we welcome back ongoing families. We look forward to another fruitful year, building strong relationships and partnerships with you all.

On Sunday 22nd March Kurilpa held its Annual General Meeting. Sadly our first family BBQ of the year was rained out but the AGM went ahead. At this meeting a few things occurred: there was the yearly President's report; the Financial Audit report was read; new Management Committee members were elected and past ones stepped down. This year we had a few long term Management Committee members step down; Sarah Warner our president of the last 2 years hung up her MC reigns. Sarah has been part of the Management Committee since 2008 in various positions and has dedicated countless hours and lots of love to Kurilpa. Most recently her expertise has helped her guide and govern the Kurilpa Community as the licensee on behalf of the committee. It has been a pleasure working alongside Sarah over these past two years and we wish her a very relaxed last year at Kurilpa. You can read more about the past year in the President's report in the coming page.

Monica Taylor and Julie Sarkozi have been the vice presidents for the Management Committee for two years and have decided to step down also (Julie's children have both started school now). We thank them both for their commitment and dedication to Kurilpa and for putting in countless volunteer hours governing and managing our service. Daina Adam also is stepping down after a full year last year; Daina was the main organiser for our 70th fete and worked closely on the production of the cookbook. We thank Daina for taking on these rather large tasks and completing them with such attention to detail. Daina will still be working this year though, on a website revamp so keep your eye out for that in the coming months. I would also like to take this time to thank Rakalene Condon as she steps down from the Treasurer position this year, to become an ordinary member. Over the past two years Rakalene has ensured financial records have been maintained and has prepared financial records for each Management Committee meeting. We thank Raky for taking on this rather large (at times) task and look forward to learning more about her other skills!

We would like to take the time now to welcome and introduce you to the Management Committee for 2015-2016.

President

Yasmin Gun

Yasmine has been on the Management Committee in previous years and only stepped away to have her last child - we welcome Yasmine back!

Vice President - Policy and Procedure

Trudy Heisrath



Vice President - Human Resources

Melalie Collie

Secretary

Alex Hodgson

Treasurer

Paolo Marinelli

Ordinary Members

Jody Hart

Rakalene Condon

Gayle Rebetzke

Katy White

If you have any questions or have anything you would like to discuss with the Management Committee, please see Marisa who will pass on your details so someone can contact you.

Health

As we come into flu season wanted to flag a few policies and procedures at Kurilpa, as well as the 'time out' exclusion periods proscribed by Queensland Department of Health.

- Children attending Kurilpa need to be well enough to participate in programs. An outline of procedures to follow in regards to the administration of medication to children attending Kurilpa is available in the Policies and Procedures folder in reception. Authorisation needs to be granted by a parent or authorised nominees before team members can administer medication
- Kurilpa requires a photocopy of your child's immunisation records upon enrolment. We also need you to notify us when your child has had further vaccinations so we can keep our records up to date. Immunisation is a personal choice and we respect all families' decisions on this matter. If your child is not immunised they will be excluded for the recommended period should there be an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease within the centre, as per Health Department requirements
- Parents need to notify the Centre if their child contracts any infectious disease, stating the disease and the name of the doctor who diagnosed it. Children with an infectious disease must be kept away from the centre for the recommended exclusion period. A certificate from their doctor stating that the disease or condition is no longer infectious may be required before the child can return to the centre



- In the event of a child becoming ill or a staff member/care provider forming a reasonable suspicion that a child has an infectious illness, the parent/guardian or emergency contact must immediately be informed and asked to collect the child as soon as possible
- Staff members/care providers must monitor the child closely. If the parent/guardian cannot collect the child immediately, the emergency contacts must be notified
- It is at the staff/care provider's discretion to decide that a child is in need of an ambulance as a result of any illness
- Children may not attend Kurilpa on a day when they have been given Paracetamol
- Children must also have started any course of antibiotics at least 24 hours before attending Kurilpa
- Children with infectious illnesses will not be accepted at Kurilpa
- Parents must keep children at home for 24 hours after fever
- Children with vomiting, diarrhoea and/or conjunctivitis must have commenced treatment and secretions stopped before a child will be re-admitted to the environment
- The last occurrence of vomiting/diarrhoea must be at least 36 hours prior to the child re-attending the environment
- If a child has vomiting or diarrhoea when there is an outbreak of gastro, or more than seven cases have been reported within the centre, children must be kept home for 48 hours after their last vomit or until there is a solid bowel movement
- If a child has had two or more cases of vomiting or diarrhoea in a month, medical clearance must be sought to prove that there is no lingering bacteria

Dates to Remember

Cha Cha Dog Tales Show	31 st March
Good Friday and Easter Monday Holiday	3 rd and 6 th April
Masters BBQ Tingalpa	26 th April
Puppet Show	29 th April
Class and Centre Photos	12 th and 14 th May
Queen's Birthday Holiday	8 th June

Marisa



Presidents Report

Last year the Kurilpa Community Child Care Centre celebrated its 70th anniversary, the birthday was marked by a mini fete at the centre and the publication of a new edition of the Kurilpa Cookbook.

Both were a great success, the fete was well attended by both the Kurilpa Community and the broader community and raised approximately \$6000.

Cookbook sales have been steady over the year and will continue to be available to parents and at our events.

In addition, Kurilpa Community Child Care Centre was successful in attaining an “artists in residence” grant from the State Government for a performing arts program in the Kindergarten room, the program by Imaginary Theatre was very enjoyable and successful for the Kindergarten children.

Kurilpa like much of the local area was severely affected by storms, which caused the centre to shut down for several days- this was due in one instance to the roofing problem in the Jnr Kindy and in another instance to power outages.

The Jnr Kindy and Kindergarten playground received new soft fall to replace the bark under the fort, this proved to be a cleaner, safer more pleasant surface for children, staff and parents. There have been many other upgrades and improvements which are too numerous to name.

A number of fundraising events were held through the year including, an election cake-stall at West State School, as a result of our ongoing relationship with West End State School P&C., a cake stall at Pushies Galore- bike event- organised by a Kurilpa parent as well as the Mango drive, tea towel fundraiser and seedling fundraiser and the welcome BBQ. These events were organised by parents in the Kurilpa community- a big thank you to those parents.

Fundraising is increasingly important revenue for Kurilpa and allows the purchase of additional equipment, which would otherwise be unavailable. It is great to see so many people involved in fundraising. This last year has seen one of the greatest number of fundraising events which have raised funds from outside our parent community. This has been a goal for some time, so it is great to deliver on that goal.

This year, I am stepping down as President this year and I would like to thank all of the Committee members who I have worked with over the years, it has been a privilege to be part of the ongoing Kurilpa story. I wish the new President and Committee well.

Sarah Warner



Fundraising News

Already this year we have run a successful bake sale at West End State School for the January State election and a BBQ and bake sale at the Pushies Galore bike swap meet in the Kurilpa carpark on March 1st. These 2 events raised around \$1500 for the Centre.

Next month, we will be seeking your assistance to help out with our Sausage Sizzle at the Tingalpa Masters store (Cnr Manly Rd and New Cleveland Rd) on Sunday April 26. We are just in the process of planning some other great activities for the year such as a garage sale in August (so please start putting away clothes, books, and toys to donate) and maybe even a cooking demonstration fundraiser!

All of our fundraising profits go into the Centre to pay for necessary new bathrooms and painting the interior of the centre. We appreciate ideas and offers of help from all parents and staff members and are really appreciative of everyone's assistance. If anyone would like to contribute to the fundraising group this year, please just let Marisa or Sophie know – you would be most welcome!

Katy White & Alison Lees

Kitchen News

The meals provided at Kurilpa are a primary source of food for your children each week. Therefore, the job of planning and preparing a nutritious menu is an important and integral part of the whole centre, and one which I enjoy very much.

The food offered is appropriate to your child's age and development, and includes a wide variety of different coloured vegetables and fruits, legumes, beans, wholegrain cereals, meat alternatives and dairy foods. We offer only milk and water as a drink. The home-cooked menu also aims to limit the intake of saturated fats, added salt and added sugars.

Our menu provides 50% of your child's daily nutritional needs. This means we offer 1-2 serves of vegetables/legumes, 1 serve of fruit, 2 serves of grains/cereals, 1 serve of meat alternatives and 1 serve of dairy every day. Of course, this dietary pattern is a guide only, and the exact requirements will differ slightly depending on the age, height and physical activity level of your child.

Our nutrition policy aims to establish healthy eating habits from an early age to allow your children to thrive socially, physically and intellectually. To establish healthy attitudes toward food, it is never offered as a reward or withheld as a punishment. Children are always encouraged to have a try and are never expected to finish everything on their plate. Rather, children are allowed to eat to their own appetites. Meal times at Kurilpa are positive and relaxed, and provide an important opportunity for children to develop good eating behaviours, and learn about basic nutrition and social skills.

The Kurilpa kitchen runs a Food Safety Program to ensure food is delivered, stored, prepared, cooked and served safely. The kitchen maintains a 5 star food safety rating issued by the Brisbane City Council, which is the highest rating available.



If you are bringing celebration food into the centre you must provide an ingredient list and leave all food at the kitchen. Please never leave food in your child's bag. As we have children at the centre who have food allergies, we ask that your child does not arrive still eating breakfast as this food could contain allergens that could make these children unwell. If you are running late, you can sit with your child in the foyer until the food is finished.

If you have any questions, suggestions or feedback please let me know.

Lizzie

Kindergarten News

Thank you to everyone who made it to this information evening. Our programme can only run properly with your participation and we appreciate the commitment it takes to find a babysitter and head out again after a busy day. If you weren't able to make it the articles here outline some of the key points we covered – please feel free to ask us about this or anything else that may need clarifying.

School Readiness

"Will my child be ready for school?"

This is one of the most frequently asked questions we hear throughout the year. As a parent it's almost impossible not to feel anxious about this transition; on the surface our priorities may look a little different from the children's, but really the basis for a successful foundation at school is the same for everyone – positive, healthy, respectful relationships, with people, with environments and with ourselves.

As we work with the children throughout the year 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 are offered opportunities to show their potential for leadership in the areas of our programme that interest them the most. There will also be 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 provide the context in which our focus on purposeful play will be extended by the children themselves, evolving into the 'thinking, planning, doing' approach that is already working so well for them.

Literacy and Numeracy in the Kindy Programme

Learning by doing...

To prepare our children for school next year, we have a responsibility to incorporate literacy and numeracy into our program, but need to make sure that we do it in a way that is in keeping with the principles and practices of the EYLF and Kindergarten Guidelines.



Some of the ways we embed literacy and numeracy include:

Putting children's names in locker and art area (letter recognition, word orientation)

Reading with children, showing the direction of words, the orientation and purpose of a book and the process of how we read

Taking notes at circle time and referring back to them together – literacy that plays a very important role in the programme

The Daily Slideshow, with photos and words to tell the story of our day

Songs and rhymes

Creating posters and books with the children which are displayed around the room and outside

Encouraging children to write their names on their work (we often use this time to talk about the different components of a word i.e. the letters, the spacing, the orientation and sequence of the letters)

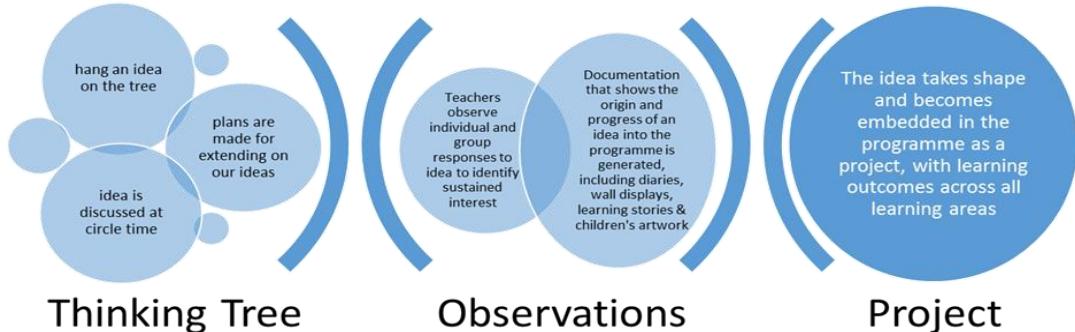
Puzzles, pattern making with blocks and other resources, clapping patterns

Numeracy within songs

Foundation math concepts, such as counting and classifying, are embedded in experiences and conversations naturally through the day. We count who is here each morning and compare this to the number recorded on the roll, and to the number of water bottles, for example. Or we may select a group according to t-shirt colour. We use the stop watch and the tape measure regularly to help us organise play, especially in the big outdoor spaces. We also vote on different decisions throughout the day and compare the results

Working with an emergent curriculum and working within the Kindy Guidelines and NQF means that we program for individual children and their needs, so if a child is showing an interest in and aptitude for reading (words and/or numbers), we will support the child to develop their ability.

The Thinking Tree in the Kindergarten Programme



This model aims to support children to see themselves (and others) as powerful people whose ideas, skills and experiences are important and which, when shared, can make a positive difference in the environments we live and work in together.

We want to build positive approaches to learning and to acknowledge that as individuals we all learn in different ways. We want for our children that they can:

- work individually, in small groups and with the whole class. It's important that they can interact with a range of children
- follow guidelines and instructions
- take risks and engage in a variety of experiences
- organise their own resources for learning
- reflect and evaluate
- handle change and transitions
- engage in experiences that might not, initially, be personally motivating
- build on previous learning experiences

Marion & Anthony

Junior Kindy News

We'd like to start the year off by welcoming back our current and new families joining us from outside of the centre and from the Toddler room. We are excited for another action packed year with all of the children and families and can't wait to share the journey we are currently embarking.

The program has kicked off in full swing with the children forming the basis of the program. Some of our most familiar and current interests are maps and embedding sustainable practices. We have spent numerous group times discussing all things maps and nature and so to follow on with this strong interest we have begun planning our very first excursion to Lone Pine. Here we will be incorporating the idea of following maps and exploring nature and the other sustainable aspects of Lone Pine. The children are all very eagerly awaiting the excursion to Lone Pine in April.



In the Junior Kindy we have a strong focus and are committed to embedding sustainable practises into our programme and routines each day. We have regular discussions with the children on the importance of recycling, our paper usage, water usage, conservation and how we value this community of Kurilpa . We hope to build strong connections with nature through our outdoor play environments, gardens, worm farm and types of natural materials we chose to use. This helps our children to form strong connection with their world and develop environmental responsibility.



We have some new natives and bush tucker plants in our Junior Kindy outdoor area and we have been encouraging everyone to observe and talk about the different seasonal cycles, like the new growth of spring, what birds the flowers will attract, what time of year the bush tucker berries will be ready on the Davidson plum. This encourages a respect, understanding and sense of belonging to the land. If they learn to care for the land it cares for them.

In other news, we'd like to point out a few goals we have in place and will be particularly focusing on over the next year with your children. We believe that these are valuable and important life lessons for them to experience and adapt to.

Socialisation: Children need to learn how to share and “use their words” if they are to develop healthy friendships. They also need to figure out what others are thinking and feeling and have the ability to see things from other people’s perspective.

Confidence: It is extremely tempting to do everything for your child to make your day move a lot quicker and sometimes there is no way to avoid this, but it's important that your child learns to take the initiative. Feeling good about their abilities and themselves is an essential social skill and is very important.

Resilience: Resilience is the ability to 'bounce back' from difficult times, obstructions, and other significant challenges. Children who are willing to take on challenges instead of avoiding them will begin to overcome certain situations in the future. Encouraging your children to become resilient means they will give things a try. Children understand that while learning new things can involve setbacks, they can overcome them. They have the confidence to pick themselves up and try again.

Communication: It's not just about the ability to speak, read and write. Communication is the skill expressing yourself effectively and understanding how your words affect others. We focus on the need to practice the skills of conversations with one another and taking turns listening to others.

Problem solving: Children often have trouble expressing their frustrations. It can lead to wanting to use unnecessary behaviours such as lashing out. Once they have learned to "use their words" to express their frustration, they begin to form the basis of problem solving.

Encourage your child to think independently by asking open-ended questions. If your child is having problems, give them time to work out it out on their own first – a little frustration can motivate them to use their problem-solving skills. If they are struggling, prompt your child rather than taking over and sorting out their problems. For example "I can see that you're upset with what has happened, how could we fix this?"



Your children are completely capable children and are eager to take on the challenges, learn new things, explore new concepts and take on the challenges that we have been throwing at them so far and we are so impressed with the work they have been working with them and putting them into practice! Please feel free to have a chat with Sophie, Nikki or Jane whenever, we love to chat and are always looking for ideas from our families.

Sophie, Nikki & Jane

Toddler News

Our Journey to BELONGING in the Toddler Room

To experience BELONGING – is to know where and whom you belong - family, a cultural group, a neighbourhood and the wider community. To gain a feeling of BELONGING in the Toddler room at the start of this year, we've worked together as educators and family to build relationships where children feel safe, secure and supported from transitioning from Nursery life to the Toddler environment.



Our orientation process is highly valued and an important part of how we create a comfortable transition from home to Kurilpa days. It's lovely to have that slow getting to know you time with the first three to four short visits – with families having time to gain a sense of belonging to Kurilpa, and what Kurilpa means to them and to us! As both children and families feel more secure and comfortable, our next set of visits see those initial steps of time away from families are taken. This lets the Toddler staff step in and start really building those bonds of trust and comfort in knowing that there is someone on hand that will be there even when our families aren't. Half days and short days are also a great opportunity for our new Toddler friends to get to know the routine of our Toddler day and examine all there is to see, do and learn while being a part of the Toddler community!



And what a busy few months of 2015 it has been for the Toddlers! We've explored our playground with bikes and the mud pit, the slide and obstacle course, swings and sandpit.

We've found a world of learning through home corner and the construction mat, the book nook for those cuddles and one on one time, and the veranda for a variety of art and craft – especially play dough!

We've discovered the joy of listening and expressing ourselves at yarning time – sharing parts of our life outside of Kurilpa to help us bond together through shared interests and similarities in our lives!

We've expressed ourselves through song and dance, moving our bodies and lifting our voices in song!

Through these many experiences, we've started to develop our interdependence, shaping who we are and who we may eventually become.

From before birth, we are connected to family, community, culture and place. The earliest development takes place through these relationships – especially within our families who

are children's first and foremost educators. How have you viewed your child's first foray into the Toddler room? Is there anything else that we could be doing to help settle your child into their new environment? Have you discussed the transition or settling process at home? What are some of these conversations you've had? We'd love you to share some with us!

Cass & Felicity



(information adapted from [The Early Years Learning Framework Practices](#)
https://www.coag.gov.au/sites/default/files/early_years_learning_framework.pdf)

Nursery News

Welcome to 2015 to all of our Nursery families. Easter is just around the corner, and in the past few months our days have been busy settling in many new children and families. The children are transitioning wonderfully; each child is an individual with different needs to be met during this time, and all of you have been fantastic in communicating their needs and collaborating with our staff to ensure a positive outcome for all. Although we still have a few new children starting, most are now settled and we are able to work on our routines and the room environment itself.

Routine is very important in the Nursery, and we work closely with you to ensure each child's day is as familiar as possible. Our environment does have many differences to home, and children take time to become familiar in their new environment. Should you hear sleep times have been shorter, play time a little longer etc., be confident that staff are doing all they can to ensure your child feels safe and secure during this transition.

We strive to create an environment where children can belong and have their own identity, feel nurtured and safe, and are encouraged to investigate, explore, question, and ponder in their own time and space. To facilitate this, our days are comprised of activities that allow the children to play and discover, with plenty of parallel play being shared in at the moment. Some prefer to sit, observe, and investigate on their own in a quieter space, and we are working hard to provide this for all children, though as I'm sure you can appreciate quiet can be hard to find in our room at times! Still our carers are always available for cuddles, reassurance, and gentle encouragement.



Our environment has been pared back for a calm start to the year, and we are gradually introducing new items and experiences based on where the children's interests lead. We have some beautiful photos on the wall being added to over the year that the children love looking at, spending time naming everyone and taking the opportunity to revisit shared experiences. This aids in them feeling connected to their environment and gives them ownership of the space they are in.

Language is blossoming at the moment with some of the older children, encouraged by singing lots of songs. They enjoy Giddy Up Horsey, Open Shut Them, Everybody Clap, our Hello song, and Ga Loomp Went The Little Green Frog, and they really delight in this shared time as we sing and make the actions together. We are also working on baby signing during meal times with the younger children in particular, focussing on More, Please and Thank you. It is amazing watching the older children signing along with their words as well. A poster is up in our meal area if you would like to familiarise yourself with these for home use also.

In our outdoor time we have been exploring sensory play, involving water play, goop, play dough, and painting experiences. The children take great delight in this, and it is wonderful to see them growing in confidence alongside one another. These experiences do mean lots of mess and at times extra washing at home (we do apologise for this!), but the learning that happens during these times is invaluable. The children are at a peak time of development and most things are being grabbed, tasted, and manipulated. Even our little babies delight in the feel of the water on their toes, the cool of the play dough as they squeeze or taste, and love watching the older children as they squeal and splash.



Although the children in our care are young, they are extremely competent, capable, resilient individuals who remind me daily how precious the learning we share in is. Our room continues to work on encouraging and respecting, walking gently, guiding quietly, and equipping children with the gifts of self-confidence and time.

Mel & Hannah