

# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER



## VICKI & KATIE'S UPDATE

We are excited to share that the new and long-awaited Heritage Bus has arrived in Australia and, at present, is getting fitted out with seats. The educators have booked onto a defensive driving course, and our related policy "Transportation of Children to Excursions" and Risk Management, is up on the member's area for your perusal. The bus is expected to be delivered before the end of October, so we can start our extended program for the older preschool children in November. We look forward to growing stronger roots with our wider community. Lookout Canberra here we come!

Term three of the school year saw many families take the opportunity to meet with their room educators and talk about their child's achievements and set future goals. This is always a lovely time for educators as we rarely get a chance to have a sit-down chat with parents. Our Family Day in September was another opportunity for a catch-up and a wonderful way to celebrate families and share some quality time (and potatoes) with our Heritage community. It was great to see so many families come along and join us. Believe it or not, our next big event for the year will be The Great Grad (graduation) and End of Year Celebration of 2023. This helps to celebrate our transitioning graduates and prepare them and their families for their next big step as they move on to primary school. So, SAVE-THE-DATE Saturday 9th December.

It was a tough winter this year for viruses around Canberra, with many of our Heritage community affected at some stage over the colder months. In saying that, we would like to thank all families for supporting us, and your quick response in picking up sick children and keeping them home until well, helping to reduce the spread. A reminder to bring in medical certificates when away due to illness. These will be applied to absent days once you go over the allowable 42 Childcare Subsidy absences.

In 2022 and 2023, the Heritage Committee set substantially lower-than-normal increases for attendance fees to support those families going through financial hardship with bank interest rates and cost of living expenses. Additionally, this year, educators in the sector were given a larger (and well-deserved!) mid-year award wage increase. Therefore, the higher-than-expected wage increase and lower attendance fees have meant Heritage will face a significant financial loss this year. Many centres around Canberra decided to raise fees in the middle of the year, coinciding with parents receiving a higher rebate from the government. The fee for 2024 will be set by the committee by the end of November, but it is expected to be a bigger increase than the previous year.

The new Childcare demountable building is progressing well, and we have been promised a walk-through with ANU in the near future. Heritage still has no dates for our turn to be relocated to the demountable. The building will be built to place 85 children, so our 57 children per day will fit in easily.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Mango orders due -  
24 October**

**The Great Graduation &  
End of Year Celebration -  
9 December**



## Summer Holiday Closure

Close of business 5:45pm  
Friday 22 December 2023

Reopen 7:45am  
Tuesday 9 January 2024

**Members Area -  
Website Password  
HeritageLENNOX75**

# WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR HERITAGE COMMUNITY



## BLUEBELL

In recent months, our educators have designed a program aimed at enhancing children's confidence and fostering active learning through Schematic play. This undertaking significantly focuses on nurturing children's interests as they explore and engage within their community. This program has proven particularly effective in supporting children during transition visits to the toddler environment, facilitating connections, and strengthening their confidence as they interact with older toddlers and educators. Additionally, it has played a crucial role in ensuring a smooth and happy transition for children moving from cots to beds. Throughout the program, our educators have selected engaging activities to actively involve the children in their community. As we draw this chapter to a close, we want to express our pride in the huge progress our children have made. We're excited to introduce our forthcoming Belonging program, which aims to further solidify each child's sense of identity. Finally, a big thank you to all our families for your strong support recently. We're looking forward to continuing our journey together and having a great year ahead.



## GREVILLEA / WATTLE

Here is a quick update from the Toddler team. It is great to see both of our groups thriving with new learning experiences, we enjoy sharing this learning journey with you daily with our day books and regular chats.

At the moment we are embracing the beautiful Spring weather and getting out and about, this is helping us to learn safe road crossings and 'outside the fence rules'. This will flow into the last outcome of the program which is creating a 'community of learners'.

We are also looking forward to the rest of the year and celebrating all those great achievements we have accomplished this year and ensuring that all of our toddlers are ready to start next year as confident, capable, and happy individuals.



## BANKSIA

We've had a busy few months full of fun and exciting learning adventures. We started this program with an inquiry into the ocean, as the excitement of the arrival of our tropical fish was all the children could talk about! With the National Museum just around the corner, we headed over there to further explore this topic where an interest in light and shadows emerged. This was the perfect topic to explore out on land in a more hands-on approach, allowing us to use our senses to discover how shadows form. This soon took us into an inquiry into rainbows, and then into elements. The children were amazed with their daily surroundings, discovering how many elements we engage with each day, and exploring how they react when mixed. This soon brought us to thinking about weather and seasons – just in time for Floriade! We began discussing Spring and the beautiful things that happen during this season, heading out into our community to see the physical changes, as well as practicing for a big walk to Floriade. In the meantime, we have been making big contributions to our Yumalandi/Thrive Gardens, been heading out into the community for a number of events, such as watching 'Possum Magic' at the Canberra Theatre, and participating in a variety of activities at 'Immersia', a program designed to show "Multicultural Perspectives in a Contemporary World: Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion".

## YUMALANDI /

### THRIVE GARDEN

Our Yumalandi and Thrive Gardens have been proudly built by the preschoolers from scratch; including the frame to protect the vegetables, and digging up the soil to get fresh and ready to plant vegetables. As the seasons are coming and going, the children are continuously prepping for what's to come, taking care of the fast-growing plants, harvesting the goods, and planning what to plant next. There are many factors, that add to our garden succeeding, such as caring for the worm farm and using organic fertilizer in our garden, continuing to build our compost produce, and disposing of our garden waste by feeding to the chickens. Our chickens, Rosie and Spike, are well looked after by the children who now can care for them with little educator support, and always give the children great stories that they share with their peers. They are now laying eggs again and are used for cooking in each of the rooms and for families to take home at the end of the day. Thanks to this connection we have had with the chickens and how much we have all learnt, we are excited to raise five chicks which we will look after, learn about, and when ready, introduce to Rosie and Spike.

The future of our garden is a very exciting one with our garden getting expanded, our community connection with the Thrive Garden members growing and our sustainable practices throughout the centre peaking! We would love for families to come and check out the area, if you are a garden expert or a beginner, come on down and have a chat/make suggestions/get your hands dirty!

*By Rocio*



### BLUEBELL GARDEN

We've introduced a variety of exciting play activities, such as constructing with loose parts, creating obstacle courses, crafting musical instruments, and even putting together a water station and picnic table. In addition, we've set up a sensory play area, a cozy reading nook, and a charming little tent for imaginative play. What makes this even more special is that the Nursery children actively participated in making these play equipment. The children take great pride in what we've all built together as they enjoy playing with them. We want to say a big thank you to all the families for their support and great feedback. We had a blast creating these play experiences with the children!

*By Fatima*



## THE GREAT GRAD

### PARTY INFORMATION

We can't wait to see you at our Great Graduation Celebration on Saturday the 9th of December 10 am-12 pm.

This year, we are planning an amazing event with music, a Santa photo booth, end-of-year gifts from educators, sausage sizzle, craft, and our preschool graduation ceremony! Don't forget to RSVP here <https://forms.office.com/r/2mZaaPnvCb>



### CHANGES TO OUR EDUCATIONAL SUMMARIES

In August 2023, Children's Education and Care Assurance (CECA) suggested using Early Childhood Learning Trajectories from Aus Ed Research Institute (AERO) alongside the EYLF v 2.0 as an important tool for children's education. Using these resources aims to develop more positive learning outcomes for children across the education sector.

From now on, Heritage will be changing our educational summary to a shorter "learning report" format, this will allow the educators to use the broad outcomes of the EYLF alongside more specified development learning with the Learning trajectories.

In this document you will see links to the following areas:

EYLF (Early Years Learning Framework):

**Outcome 1:** Children have a strong sense of identity,

**Outcome 2:** Children are connected with and contribute to their world,

**Outcome 3:** Children have a strong sense of well-being,

**Outcome 4:** Children are confident and involved learners

**Outcome 5:** Children are effective communicators

The Early Childhood Learning Trajectories:

Executive functions,

Social and emotional learning,

Mathematical thinking,

Language/Communication

Physical Development.

We can't wait to share this new format with you at the end of the year!

*By Katie and Kirsty*

**It's Heritage ECC  
mango  
fundraising time  
again!**



Mangoes can be purchased by the tray for only \$27.00 (4.5kg tray- approx. 9-14 mangoes)

Please fill out the attached mango order form and direct deposit your mango money to:  
HECC Fundraising  
BSB: 062903

Account Number: 10370080  
(Please put your name in the reference)

Orders and payment must be made by Tuesday 24th October





# The Great Grad & End of 2023 celebration

9 DECEMBER 2023 | 10:00AM-12:00PM  
GRADUATION OUT THE FRONT OF HECC &  
CELEBRATIONS IN THE BIG GARDEN

**ALL WELCOME TO COME ALONG  
OUR PRESCHOOL GRADUATION WILL BE  
PRESENTED FROM 10:15AM**

**MUSIC, FOOD & CRAFTS IN THE GARDEN**

Please RSVP here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/2mZaaPnvCb>