



SEPTEMBER 2022 | ISSUE 3

NEWSLETTER

HERITAGE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE



Director's report

After what seems to be a lifetime, we are opening to our community again. We plan to welcome back parents into Heritage to pick up their child/ren and see their child/ren in play. This will start from the beginning of school term 4 - 10/10/2022. Our morning drop off will remain as it is, as this we found that the separating from parents at the door enabled the child to quickly settle into their little job routines and room activities. Rest assured that we have missed you, probably as much as you have missed coming into the centre. However, we achieved our goal to limit covid spreading through our young members of community that were unable to be immunised against covid. We did have a relatively good winter with minimal communitive disease hitting the centre and this is most likely due to parents keeping sick children home and the limited access to the wider community. We request that you please wear a face mask when entering Heritage, we will touch base with this covid safe practice, closer to summer.

The renovations to our Heritage building, that we spoke of in the last newsletter, has been deferred due to the Heritage status of the building. It will still go ahead, but to what extent we will have to wait and see. This means that at least two of the other childcare centres will use the new demountable buildings, located in UPCCC's carpark area, and be renovated before Heritage. The demountable buildings are planned to be in place and ready for use by March 2023.

Carpark safety is an ongoing concern, with reports of children entering the carpark without parent supervision. Please reinforce with your child the need to wait with an adult when walking through the carpark area. Road safety is addressed regularly in our programs (and with the help of Kenny Koala) but children get excited and run, forgetting their learning sometimes. We ask that you double check for

children when slowly backing out of your carpark area and not assume all parents will keep their child close by them.

Your child's day requirements for 2023 are now available to fill out online (link below). Please remember that your child's current days are guaranteed but you should still fill out the form to confirm that you are happy with these days. If you are considering a change of days, please remember that the policy has a requirement for either a Monday and/or Friday position to be held, as this helps keep a more even balance with children's placement.

Our December close down dates have been decided by the committee. Heritage will stop for the Christmas period on the close of business (5:45pm) on Thursday 22/12/2022 and re-open on Monday 9/01/2023.

'The Great Grad & End of 2022 Celebration' will be held on the second Saturday of December (see poster on page 4). It is always a lovely occasion and a wonderful way to wind up the school year. Heritage has reflected on our inclusion at this event - traditionally Santa has given out a book gift, this year Santa will be available to say hello to the children and a photo if you wish. However, the book gift will be handed to the children by the educators (as an end of year gift rather than a Christmas present).

Thanks, Vicki

2023 Placements

Please fill this out no later than Friday 14 October here:

Nursery & Toddler enrolment form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/MRqNd7VjiY>

Preschool enrolment form:

(for those who were in the preschool room in 2022)

<https://forms.office.com/r/SRixi5uG93>

New sibling enrolment form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/dyAcSLLucd>



Educational Leader's Report - Mini Bus

Yuma,

We are heading at great speed towards the end of the year. It feels like real change is in the air as it gets warmer, and we begin to pack away the winter clothes and get out the sunscreen and hats in anticipation of sunshine.

We hope you enjoyed the recent parent-teacher interviews and had a chance to read over and discuss your child's educational summary. Currently, our rooms have STEAM-related programs running (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths). The last educational summary will be sent out towards the end of the year and will discuss the current STEAM programs. Writing summaries can be a time-consuming process, so going forward, we aim that summaries will be a little bit shorter so that our educators can maximise their time on the floor with children.

Heritage has always had a big outdoor focus and we are always looking at ways to grow our programs. You may have heard that we are aiming to purchase a minibus, we plan to use the minibus with the toddler and preschool groups of children. These groups that travel on the bus need to show that they can follow our safety procedures when outside the fence. These safety procedures are started when children first join us and are part of our training and risk mitigation process.

We encourage you to get onto our minibus survey and help us gauge our community's opinion. After only a couple of days, 43 families have already participated, and the first survey responses have come through very positively in favour of getting a bus and we would also like to address a few of the questions coming through (thankyou to Vicki, Kirsty and our committee treasurer Adrian for the bus proposal, as this is where most of the research has come from below).

Is it possible to get an electric bus? This is being considered and a good option, however is a lot more expensive to purchase.

Concerns about cost? The Heritage Management committee along with our accountants have helped Heritage to be in a good financial position over the years. This has helped us to ride out challenging times in the past and also enabled us to save money with the aim to expand our children's program. Upfront and ongoing costs have been looked at in fine detail. Money spent on a bus would still allow management to retain a significant cash buffer for other centre upgrades, investment in staff training or contingency for further uncertainties.

Renting or borrowing as opposed to owning?

Purchase/Lease

- Upon approval to proceed with procurement, management would obtain a quote for a long-term lease of a vehicle as a potential alternative to outright purchase. However, noting that under a lease, Heritage would pay a financing interest cost, which would otherwise not be incurred as Heritage has sufficient cash reserves to purchase the vehicle outright.
- This is a long-term decision, and Heritage intends to retain ownership for an extended period of time.

Borrowing from local Centre as we have done in the past:

- much planning is needed ahead of time and does not allow for spontaneous adventures, or flexibility of planning
- we do not have priority to use the bus when we want it – as Cubby is using it

The Cubby bus poses issues such as:

- the age of Cubby's bus and future reliability concerns
- we would prefer to be in control of cleaning, servicing, and maintenance.
- over-doing our welcome to borrow and straining our relationship with their Educators
- minimal people can drive because of manual gears
- comfort of the bus, e.g., air conditioning, suspension

Renting a bus:

Renting a bus occasionally would not be time effective and would be more time-consuming as we would need to purchase and store children's safety seats, then fit and remove them each time we rent the bus.

Safety seats and safety procedures getting children on and off the bus safely?

- Heritage has budgeted for Australian Standard Safety seats for each child using the bus, children that are not old enough to sit in these seats will not be attending excursions.
- Heritage has already developed comprehensive strategies to ensure the safety of all children when using the borrowed bus. However, if Heritage has to purchase our own bus, part of our bus budget would include training such as 'Transporting Children Safety in Cars Workshop' and a 'Defensive Driving Course'
- As we already use a bus, these rigorous safety practices help to mitigate risks attached to travelling by bus and our risk mitigation plan is available for parents to read on request.

We hope that this helps any families sitting on the fence about getting a bus. We hope you get on board with the survey, get involved and help make our dreams come true.

Kind Regards,
Katie

Join the conversation

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/675WYSX>





End-of-year closure dates:

close of business-

Thursday 22 December 2022

re-open-

Monday 9 January 2023



@heritageecc_

WE LOVE SHARING OUR TEACHING ENVIRONMENTS WITH OUR COMMUNITY, WE HOPE YOU 'LIKE' THEM TOO!



Heritage member area password

HeccANU1

Early Childhood Educator's Day: Shut down



Many childcare centres across the country participated in the sector "shutdown" on Wednesday September 7th. This date also correlates with Early Childhood Educators Day. Educators are asking the federal government to reform the early education sector, laying out three key demands:

1. Give us reason to stay and pay us what we are worth.
2. Value early learning as part of the education system, just as important as school.
3. Put children before profit.

A big thankyou to all the families sharing their support for this important issue. Because of your support, we were able to send 4 educators along to the event. Despite our attendance to support the sector, we would like to acknowledge we are well looked after at Heritage.

Find out more info here:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-09-06/childcare-workers-strike-early-education-what-should-parents-do/101406822>



HERITAGE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE



THE GREAT GRAD & END OF 2022 CELEBRATION

December 10 || 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 ||
LIVE MUSIC & CRAFTS IN THE GARDEN
