

# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER # 2017

## Director's report



Heritage has had a busy first term of the school year with the settling of children into new rooms and welcoming many new and returning families into the Heritage Community. Educators have also been busy with professional training which challenges the way Early Childhood looks at programming. This has led to changes in the way we document children's learning and write the programs. The change to documentation has allowed educators to encourage children to extend experiences more readily, track children's learning more efficiently, and communicate with parents on how their child is progressing more often. The programs are now prepared in a way that involves more input from all educators, and allows more flexibility in how we work with spontaneous learning. The biggest advantage to the change is that educators aren't tied down with endless paper work which takes away precious time from caring for, and teaching the children. Your feedback and response to the January to March summary which was sent out is vital for ensuring that the goals you are working on at home are backed up at Heritage.

In March we elected a new committee, and I would like to thank the outgoing committee and welcome the new committee. The social, cultural and fundraising committee will be running some great events again this year so we hope you can all get behind them.

The cooler days have arrived and children do need a jumper and a coat for our outside adventures. Remember there is no such thing as bad weather, it's bad clothing!

A reminder that immunisation updates should be brought into the office for record keeping.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Vicki McDonald

## What's happening at Heritage?



- **Boot camp** with Alicia Every Monday at 5pm to 5:30pm
- **Committee Meeting** on second Tuesday of every month at 5pm to 5:45pm
- **Fit-a-thon** on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017
- **Breakfast for Mother's Day** on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May in each room. Simply stay a bit longer and enjoy breakfast with your child

# Report from Educational leader



Once upon a time, there was a girl who realized what she wanted to be when she grew up, and she believed it was the most important job in the world: An Early Childhood Educator. During her journey of study, learning, and working, she was faced with many new challenges. But one of the biggest struggles she regularly faced was neither the children nor the teaching..... No.....

The challenge during her time as an assistant was with some of the mentors she worked with. One mentor was very, very good, and one mentor was, well, not so good, in fact, very, very bad. The very good mentor would support, challenge and inspire her in every way. The not so good mentor regularly made her feel like she was failing and at times even reduced her to tears.

This was my foray as I entered the wonderful world of Early Childhood Education in Sydney. The encouraging mentor, who believed in me, made a far more positive effect on my career than any other person and still inspires me today, particularly now in my role as Educational Leader.

Adapting to my new role as Educational leader has required challenges, and change, within me. It is a job which encompasses not only teaching children, but also mentoring our educators. It is a job which has taken me from being in just one room, to visiting all rooms, and overseeing programs and planning. The role also oversees educators' practices in relation to our Philosophy and policies. It's a huge task and one that requires a lot of support from the great Heritage team, along with input from families. Vicki has mentioned some of the big changes taking place this year with our programming and planning in our Newsletters. I'm regularly in the office now, so come in and have a chat; I really value your feedback and suggestions.

It was wonderful to see so many of our families attend our annual meet and greet barbecue. This allowed educators and families' time to meet in a relaxed atmosphere. Our educators may also have been able to take the opportunity to discuss the changes with our programs and planning with those in attendance. You should have by now received your child's first Jan-March summary for the year, and the goals we are currently working on. Your input regards this is very important, so please remember to reply ASAP as we will be working on these goals for the next three months. You can expect the next summary in your inbox in June/early July.

Another barbecue held earlier this year was to support the walk outs which occurred around the Country supporting the Early Childhood sector over gender pay gaps on the 8<sup>th</sup> March (International Women's Day). Being a female dominated workforce, choosing the date was not a coincidence. Many centres closed their doors at 3:20pm to signify when Early Childhood educators begin working for free (in comparison with male dominated professions) with some educators in the industry earning as little as \$20 per hour. If you are interested in finding out more about this issue you can go onto [www.bigsteps.org.au](http://www.bigsteps.org.au)

Heritage is an amazing workplace that consistently encourages educators to study and improve, and to date we have over 90% of our educators holding Diplomas! I would like to take the opportunity whilst writing this newsletter to commend Nicole (Nursery) for completing her Diploma, Sabi, who has nearly completed her Certificate 3, and Tina, (preschool room) who has nearly completed her Diploma. We also have some educators that have commenced study, Tomasz, (toddler room) has begun his diploma, Ryan has enrolled in a Masters of Teaching at Charles Sturt University, and Alicia enrolled in the Bachelor of Early Education at ACU.

That's all from me this Newsletter.

Katie Pickering

# EZIDEBIT NOTICE



## Reminder to Parents who use EZIDEBIT

Please check your email on Mondays (invoice week) for your Heritage invoice, as this will let you know how much will come out of your account the following Wednesday. Please contact the office if you do not receive the invoice or are experiencing financial difficulties.

Also, childcare rebate in many cases has stopped for this financial year or soon will reach \$6,300 and stop. Remaining money (\$1,200) will be received once your tax return is assessed.

## Heritage New Website

### Heritage Early Childhood Centre

HOME ABOUT PROGRAMS ENROLMENT NEWS CONTACT MEMBERS



Heritage will launch the new website on 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2017.

Heritage families will receive a PASSWORD to allow them to have Daybooks from all rooms, Heritage Handbook and Policy book, Latest happening and Newsletters. Please keep your eyes on your email, new website address and password will arrive soon.

## Enrolling for waiting list



### CHILD CARE APPLICATION

[REGISTER](#)

[LOGIN](#)

If you or a friend would like to enrol your child on the Heritage waiting list, please visit this website.

<https://www.childcareapplication.com>

## Heritage Committee 2017

Chairperson	Rebecca Doolan (contact through her pigeon hole #61)
Deputy Chairperson	Fleur De Crespigny
Treasurer	Emily Hurley
Deputy Treasurer	Annie O'Connor
Secretary	Ian Cockburn
Public Officer	Katherine Carroll
Human Resources	Aliya Steed
Social and Cultural / Fundraiser Officer	Emma Lipton Stevie Wright Meghan Miller
Grants Officer	Annie Varghese

## Sun Protection



### This Autumn Think UV and Not Heat for Sun Protection

We know Autumn can be confusing seasons when it comes to knowing when sun protection is and is not really required!

This is basically because the infrared radiation or "heat" we experience in summer is not so intense during Autumn leaving people confused.

The message here is that sun protection behaviour should never be based on temperature (ie infrared heat) but on actual UV levels.

So this Autumn, don't be confused, simply download and view the SunSmart App (free from your App Store) or SunSmart Widget to see when daily sun protection is actually required in Canberra - and whilst it may not be all day, it will be for at least part!

### Hair Donation from Eranga and Katie to WIG FOR KIDS for children with cancer



Eranga and Katie will donate their hair to help kids needing wigs. Heritage will put out a tin to get your donation going toward to AAAF (The donation can be made through the office).

## Aboriginal Education



Tyronne Bell from THUNDER STONE will visit Heritage Preschool every month (start from 21<sup>st</sup> Apr) and share Aboriginal culture in various ways.



*Mununja the Butterfly Garden depicts a dreamtime story of the Ngunawal people, the custodians of the land that includes Canberra and the site of the National Arboretum. The story of Mununja the Butterfly, as told by Ngunawal elder Don Bell, has been provided by Tyronne Bell. Mununja the Butterfly is the story of a young Aboriginal girl who was changed into a butterfly so that she could avoid marrying the evil Gunga. Gunga possessed great powers and would always prevent Mununja from marrying the boy she loved. With the help of Narja, the good spirit butterfly, Mununja was able to remain near her family and her country forever, as a beautiful butterfly.*

### Our Deepest Sympathy to Derek's family



It is with great sadness, we inform you of the passing of Tingting, Derek's mum. Tingting has been a part of our Heritage Family since Derek was 8 months old. Tingting will be sadly missed, but her courage and love of life will never be forgotten.