

# “The Elder Street Herald”

October & November 2006 Edition

In this edition we will be talking about:

**\*SCHOOL PHOTOS \*ACCREDITATION UPDATE \*SURPRISE NOMINATIONS \*STAFFING FOR 2007 \*ENROLMENTS CONFIRMATION FOR 2007 \*BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT INFORMATION EVENING \*BIG THANKS!! \*CENTRE PHILOSOPHY DISPLAY \*END OF YEAR CELEBRATION - FAMILY PARTY \*OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS \*LATEST EDITIONS**

## **SCHOOL PHOTOS - Perfect Mess Photography!**

Well we have had extremely mixed responses regarding this year's photos! Some parents have been very vocal in their opinions. We have had comments like "appalling", "I could have done better myself!", to "really different", "great concept", "gorgeous". From my perspective, there are some photos that are quite lovely and others that leave a lot to be desired. The idea of this year's approach was to have something a little different (as we also had many complaints about last year's photos!) and to offer parents the chance to view before they order instead of pay up front. Obviously, you do not order if you don't like the shots.

Aside from this, where I have been most disappointed is in the photographer's reliability and organization. When we first met the photographer we viewed a wonderful port folio of photos and really liked the different concept he had to offer. He also attended the centre several times before the photo week to get a feel for the environment and take some practice shots. Unfortunately I feel the scale of the experience was beyond his ability and his concepts were lost in the magnitude of the job, for this I offer my sincere apologies for the disappointment this may have caused. Very sadly some children did not have even one photo available for parents to view. I am also extremely upset that he did not send any group photographs, although he has advised us today that they are coming!?!)

The proof sheets and order forms will be available until Friday 17 November and of course there is no obligation to order anything. Any orders need to be returned to the centre and cheques made payable to Byron Maddison.

## **ACCREDITATION UPDATE**

**VALIDATION VISIT:** When I started writing this month's newsletter, I wrote that we were still waiting for our unannounced visit - well that was until the morning of Thursday 2 November! We had the pleasure of Carol Calcott from NCACs' company for the next 2 days. Carol spent her time observing, reading policies, and talking with staff about our practices and policies. It's always a little nerve wrecking, but nonetheless an important and necessary process! We should receive formal notification of our results in the coming weeks.

**SURVEYS:** Thanks to those parents who have returned the surveys that will go towards deciding our accreditation rating. We received huge support and fantastic comments from our families that returned the surveys. We still have time to receive more before we are due to send them

off. So if you find the survey under a pile of notes or bills etc at home, it's not too late, fill it out and send it in to us.

**THANKS TO ALL THE PARENTS WHO GAVE US SUCH WARM WORDS OF SUPPORT,  
CARDS & CHOCIES DURING OUR VALIDATION VISIT -  
It all helped tremendously!!**

### **SURPRISE NOMINATIONS**

April and Melissa would like to thank the parent/s (we don't know who it was) who nominated them for 2006 Child Care Awards. April was nominated as Child Care Worker of the Year and Melissa for Child Care Director of the Year. They were both very surprised and appreciative when they received certificates in the mail this week. We very much appreciate the acknowledgment of outstanding achievements in child care offered by these nominations.

### **STAFFING FOR 2007**

We would like to advise parents of staffing for 2007. As you will see, there has been minimal movement as we only effect major changes within the age groups every 2 years.

Possums:	Georgia	M-Th	Joeys:	April	M,T,W,F
	Karen	M,T,Th,F		Andrea	T, W,Th
	Kate	W		Kate	M, Th, F
	Shelly	F			

Wallabies:	Kim	M, T, W
	Sheree	M,T,Th,F
	Shelly	W, Th (programming Tuesday)
	Amanda	F

Melissa will remain working T-F in centre administration and covering the staff holidays and any sick leave. If parents have any queries regarding staffing for next year, please see Melissa or Kim.

### **2007 ENROLMENT CONFIRMATIONS**

Recently we sent out to every family a confirmation letter regarding enrolled days for 2007 and what room your child will be spending their time in. If you received this letter and feel that your requested days are not correct, please talk to Kim or Melissa immediately, as we are in the process of offering spots to our external waiting list and once days are sold, it will not be possible to change days internally for some time.

You will also see that your 2007 fees were noted down in that letter. This amount is based on the child care benefit that families are currently entitled to. If your percentage changes between now and January, then of course your fees will also change. You may have also noted that there was an increase in the daily rate. The fees for next year will increase as of 8 January 2007 as follows, 0-3 years \$66.00 per day and 3-6 years \$61.00 per day. This increase is due to the usual rises of insurance, rent, CPI etc but mainly will assist in partly covering the staff's wages that are increasing every 6 months until 2008. We will continue to provide the best quality that we are capable of and welcome all and any input on this service.

## BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT INFORMATION EVENING

This evening was held on Monday 30 October at 6.30pm. Thanks to those parents who attended, we had about 15 parents plus staff. Initial feedback after the presentation was positive and parents and staff seemed to either pick up on a few strategies or reminders of how and why children behave certain ways and how to deal with this behaviour effectively. The evening involved a presentation by Lorraine from TAFE Plus, a video, some exercises and handouts. We will be aiming to hold another parent information evening in April 2008, so if you missed out this time, there will be more opportunities.

## BIG THANKS!

To our good friend Phil Comber (Solomon's dad) a big thank you for donating a flat screen monitor for our preschool computer. The Wallaby's are really enjoying the benefits of newer technology!

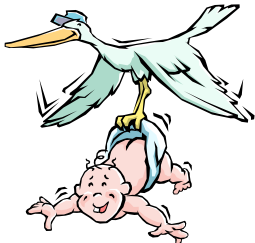
## CENTRE PHILOSOPHY

Thank you for the lovely comments from parents on our Centre Philosophy display in the front foyer. We hope parents are enjoying reflecting on our philosophy and considering how they could comment on it by either writing words of support of our practices or some area of the program or policies that they as individuals value highly. We love hearing what you think so we can use it to the children's advantage.

## END OF YEAR CELEBRATION - FAMILY XMAS PARTY

We have planned to hold our Family Xmas Party on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December beginning at 4.30pm** in our back playground. We will as usual pop a flyer promoting the afternoon in family communication pockets in the coming weeks, but we like to keep you all up to date so you can mark your calendar and not miss out on this great afternoon of fun!

## LATEST EDITIONS!!



Well done to Melissa and John on the birth of their little son Cameron. We hear that little Cameron is doing well now and we are all sure that Alissa (Wallabies) will make a fantastic big sister – congratulations!!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS FOR NOVEMBER!

Jemima turns 2      Charlotte turns 2      Emily turns 3

Billy & Harriet turn 3      Bailey turns 4      Alissa turns 4      Ruby turns 4

Lucas turns 4      **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO GEORGIA & KAREN TOO!!!**

Well it has been a big month, quite a challenging one - bring on Christmas cheer!!!

Team Elder Street