



## NEWSLETTER

*February 2019*

MUDGEE PRESCHOOL

P O Box 143

MUDGEE 2850

Email: [enquiries@mudgeepreschool.com.au](mailto:enquiries@mudgeepreschool.com.au)

Web: [www.mudgeepreschool.com.au](http://www.mudgeepreschool.com.au)

Lovejoy St Campus ph: 63721460

South Mudgee Campus ph: 63724201

### **Hello everyone**

It has been a pleasure to welcome new families to Preschool this year and also to see so many familiar faces as families bring younger siblings to start Preschool for the first time. We are planning an exciting educational program for your children and to help us do this we have made some changes to our staffing arrangements.

Firstly we have created a position of Educational Coordinator (EC) and congratulate Kate Brakel on her appointment to this role. Kate will work closely with myself, the Educational Leader, to ensure that we deliver an excellent educational program for all children. Kate has taught at Mudgee Preschool for 15 years and currently teaches at South Mudgee on Mondays and Tuesdays. She has been Assistant Director for 3 years, so she has fantastic experience to support her in her new role. Kate will work on Wednesdays and Thursdays in her EC role.

We have also welcomed Rachel Disher, Occupational Therapist, as a regular team member to support our Preschool Inclusion Program (PIP) - read more about this below.

This term is particularly exciting as we are expecting our 2nd Assessment and Rating visit from the Department of Education at our South Mudgee Campus. We were first rated in 2014 and were proud to receive a rating of Exceeding the National Standards. We are of course aiming just as high this time around. We are continually improving what we do and have developed a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) to help us do this - a detailed QIP is available for you read and a summary display is available at each campus..

I always enjoy catching up with families/carers and appreciate any feedback, ideas or suggestions you may have to improve our program and practice (these can be included into our QIP) - please feel free to pop into the office and see me or make an appointment for any matters which may take more than a few minutes. I will also be visiting South Mudgee regularly and will be available to see families there too.

Other opportunities to be involved include the Board of Management, the Social Club and the Sustainability Action Group. Read more about these below.

Cheers  
Rosie

Director/Educational Leader



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PRESCHOOL INCLUSION PROGRAM (PIP) *"We design programs that support each child's individual dispositions, abilities, interests, strengths and needs" (Preschool Philosophy)*

We are very pleased to welcome [Rachel Disher, Occupational Therapist](#), to our team in 2019.

Rachel will be spending time in each class on a regular basis to support our staff to ensure that every child is included and can participate fully in the educational program with their peers. Rachel will, alongside the rest of the classroom team, observe and evaluate children's learning and help to identify any barriers that may be stopping a child from participating to their full potential.

The PIP does not include 1:1 therapy with any child, or individual assessments, although different screeners may be used by all of our staff to help identify areas which may need further attention. Parents/carers will be contacted if individual assessments or referrals to allied professionals are recommended.

### THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Our AGM to elect the Board of Management is on **Tuesday, 5 March at 7.00pm**. Once again we are keen to hear from parents or members of the community who may be interested in helping to govern the Preschool. The Preschool benefits from having a Board with diverse experience, skills and interests such as education, business, building, social work, law, marketing and human resources. Please [contact](#) me if you are interested, or know somebody in the community who may be interested in volunteering their time and expertise.

### PRESCHOOL SOCIAL CLUB

First meeting is on Tuesday, **12 February at 9.30am in the Sunshine Room at Lovejoy Street campus**. Please come along to meet other parents and discuss ideas for bringing families together and raising funds for Preschool resources. Children are welcome too.

### PRESCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Did you watch "War on Waste" (ABC)? Are you an environmental warrior, keen to make a positive difference to our planet? Then you may be interested in joining our Sustainability Action Group. Last year an enthusiastic and knowledgeable group of parents, community members and staff came together to form a group who aim to support and inspire the Preschool community to be more sustainable, to care more for the environment and to support children to be environmentally responsible. They have contributed ideas to our QIP and already made changes to some of our practices, such as using sustainable resources for fundraising.

We are planning our first meeting in the next few weeks and will confirm details asap - please let me know if you are interested in attending



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### TOP TIPS:

Did you know that children sometimes struggle to join in with play because of their footwear? They will be able to move, run, balance and climb much more easily if they have well-fitted sandals/shoes/sneakers rather than thongs, gumboots or cowboy boots. Playing barefoot is also great for children's development so we encourage children to take their shoes off, weather permitting!

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Does your child suffer **mental health problems** such as anxiety, social withdrawal or high levels of aggression? They are not alone - research shows that between 4 per cent and 14 per cent of children aged from 18 months to 3 years have these kinds of problems.

We know that if children with mental health difficulties are identified early and their condition managed, they will be less likely to have poor mental health outcomes as adults.



**KidsMatter Early Childhood (BE YOU)** is a national mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention initiative specifically developed for early childhood education and care (ECEC) services.

Mudgee Community Preschool staff are involved in the **KidsMatter (BE YOU)** professional development program and use their resources to help children and families. Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any concerns about your child's mental well-being. You can find out more about **KidsMatter** (BE YOU) and access their resources at <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/>

### COMMUNITY

Come and enjoy a morning out with your children at Mudgee **Supported Playgroup** run by Barnados. Where: Mudgee Uniting Church Hall, Mortimer Street Mudgee.

When: Wednesdays, 10.00am to 12pm

Morning tea provided for all children. Tea and coffee for the adults. All welcome, Contact 63721422 for more details.

### SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, 26 February, 6.00pm - "Welcome" and Information Evening for families

Tuesday, 5 March, 7.00pm - Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 12 February, 9.15am - Social Club Meeting

26-28 February - Brendan O'Hara music and movement for children at Preschool

15-18 March - Sharing Culture show for children at Preschool

Sunday, 24 March, 3.00pm - Family Bushwalk at Putta Bucca Wetlands

Friday, 12 April - Last day of Term 1