

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The year is flying by at a ridiculous pace and already our AGM seems like a distant memory. We'd like to offer our thanks to all the outgoing committee of 2023, particularly our Chairperson Suzie Alcorn and Deputy Chairperson Rohan Dayal for their huge support in 2023. Also, a big welcome to all of our new committee members of 2024, it's fantastic to see so many fresh faces that will continue to support the Heritage Community. Checkout page 2 for an introduction to our 2024 committee.

The Department of Education contacted Heritage in March to ask if we could host a special visitor. This visitor turned out to be Sashi Kiran from the Fijian Government, her role includes Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection. We were thrilled the Department of Education thought of Heritage as a high quality example to show Minister Kiran and it was a delight to show the exemplary environment and educators. Both Katie and myself felt so proud sharing the Heritage environments and the incredible play spaces, warm relationships and atmosphere our teams create.

Both Katie and I recently attended an ACT Early Childhood Education and Care Sector meeting. One very interesting presentation we'd like to share is from Professor Sheila Degotardi, who led a team of Macquarie University researchers to investigate the pay and employment conditions of educators across the sector. As we discussed and unpacked the findings from these studies many large factors were identified with staff turnover including the amount of investment and training, paperwork overload, burnout, pay/conditions, leave entitlements, physical/mental health support, stress and support from management. After seeing the statistics across the sector, we could see among all the doom and gloom facing Early Childhood Education, that Heritage is actually a very positive news story. The continuing support from our committee to ensure our educators have good conditions, feel valued, access training and have the funds to support our programs and resources. As well as being able to offer generous ratios to run our Nature Focused Programs, support children's learning and documentation. We'd like to celebrate our educators' time/contribution to the Heritage community in this newsletter, on page 6.

There have been some exciting training opportunities in Canberra recently. Some of our Heritage team members were put forward for professional development and the chance to network with other centres. Four educators went along to The Infants and Toddlers Practice Conference with the opportunity to listen to some inspirational speakers: Toni Christie, Meg Scott, Kelly Goodsir, Michelle Pratt and Louise Doratt. Coming up, we also have a few Heritage educators going along to The ECA Reconciliation Symposium, this is a great way to continue our learning and continue building on our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Please update your calendar for this year's educator training day (Friday 19th July), Heritage will be closed for professional development. We are excited that Alma Fleet has committed to work with us for the day, she specializes in Early Childhood Education Pedagogy, Inquiry & documentation & we're sure it will be an inspiring day for our team.

Upcoming Events:

10th May: Family Morning

**31st May: Wildbark Guided
Family Night Walk**

**27th May-3rd June:
Reconciliation Week**

**19th July: HECC CLOSED
Educator Development Day**



DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

Our families also had some recent learning opportunities alongside our HECC educators, with our recent Nutrition for under 5's Session. If you attended and have any feedback, or would like to suggest parent information sessions in the future, we'd love your input in our very quick survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FG5F3Y7>

The Heritage team have been doing their part to keep our community healthy, with many educators getting our flu and covid shots up to date this month. As it gets colder, illness in the Canberra community rises, a big thankyou to everyone for keeping sick children (and adults) home and maintaining good hygiene as you arrive at Heritage by washing or sanitizing hands.

Our parking conditions are ongoing with families arriving from different parts of the car park. A big thankyou for being super cautious and patient while the entrance of the car park is closed off. We can see many families have reduced their speed entering and exiting the car park and families being ultra vigilant when supervising children's comings and goings from the centre. Let's keep up this great care for keeping our community safe.

Vicki & Katie



WELCOME TO OUR 2024 COMMITTEE

Chairperson:

Ksenia Gnesheva

Deputy Chairperson:

Meighen McCrae

Treasurer:

Neil Dawson

Secretary:

Natalie Thomas

Public Officer:

Karen Ikin

Human Resources:

Qian Cui

Social & Cultural/ Fundraising Officer:

Jorja Ross-Peek

Grants Officer:

Katherine Carroll

Ordinary Members:

Kieran Denny

Tina Gregor

Penny Grewal-Sidhu

Ryan Bartley

EXCITING ADVENTURES AT MULLIGANS FLAT

As we're sure you already know, educators had been waiting for the day the minibus arrived, and it finally did earlier this year! Preschool educators jumped straight into action, encouraging collaborations from families of places to take our children on adventures.

One of our destinations was Mulligans Flat, they set off to Throsby and discovered Wildbark, a visitor centre that sits at the edge of Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary. This is where we met Ranger Matt who told us all about Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary and the great work happening here at present and for the future. Part of getting ready for the future is sparking interest in children, and although Wildbark had never collaborated with Preschool aged children before, we were happy to start this adventure together.

Soon, Heritage and Wildbark had collaborated to design a program that introduces young explorers to new worlds and exciting concepts of nature and ecosystems. A journey where we embark on taking strolls through the Sanctuary with our Ranger guides discussing species and sustainability one Thursday, and following on exploring inquiries with Kirsty and Hannah through nature play experiences, igniting imagination and connecting to the wonders of nature the following Thursday, then repeating this cycle.

On the weeks that we go out without the rangers, Ranger Matt supports us by suggesting places to explore that align with our current inquiries. For example, when the preschool children were interested in tadpoles and the frog life cycle, Ranger Matt sent us a map of a dam within the sanctuary and told us there are always frogs nearby. Another example is after we had a snake encounter and the preschool children were seeking further information about reptiles, Ranger Matt introduced us to the reptiles residing at Wildbark and empowered the children with knowledge about snakes.

Although providing children with learning opportunities is our main aim, Kirsty and Hannah have also been learning so many new skills, and gaining knowledge about the land. We are looking forward to transferring these skills into practice at Heritage and our surrounds, as well as through the rooms and age groups.

Ranger Matt has quickly become an important and valued member of our Heritage community and together we are looking forward to running a 'Guided Family Night Walk' at WildBark. This will allow all families and members of our community to come along to experience the wonders of nature in the hopes of seeing some of the beautiful animals living within the Sanctuary. Please see further details on the poster below.



**FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM!**



@HERITAGE_ECC

**NOW MORE
THAN EVER**

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2024

27 MAY - 3 JUNE

#NRW2024

RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU





BLUEBELL'S REPORT

Welcome to 2024! We're thrilled to welcome new families and children to Bluebells. Our aim is to make you feel like part of our family and help your child thrive through trust-building and open communication.

We love being part of your child's journey and getting to know them. We're glad to see most children are settling in well, even though it's new for some to be away from home. We know some children might need extra time and support, and we're ready to help.

We're wrapping up our Belonging Program and starting an adventure with our "Being healthy and Exploring Our World" Program. This will aim to support children's development by enhancing their understanding of emotions, physical and mental health, and develop connections with their community.

Our recent walks out and about are beginning to connect our children with nature and the ANU community. These experiences immerse our children in nature, offering opportunities for picnics by the lake and enjoying scenic views at Old Canberra House. Additionally, our activities include visiting natural rock climbing areas, collecting resources, participating in outdoor dance classes like Zumba, playing the ukulele, and singing songs. Safety measures are incorporated during walks, allowing older children to engage in safety discussions while younger ones explore. Older children also recently had the chance to join their older toddler peers, going to the museum to explore a new exhibition.

Changes in our nursery environment have greatly benefited new children by keeping them engaged as they form connections with educators, peers, and their surroundings. Our older children have explored and challenged themselves with an obstacle course featuring elements like climbing frames, monkey bars, tunnels, and balancing beams.

As part of our focus on nature and turning our routines into 'rituals', older children now have the option to sleep in our Heritage tent (out the front), offering them comfort and a closer connection to the natural environment while they relax. These experiences are essential for your child's growth and happiness, and we're eager to support them along the way. We look forward to continuing our journey of learning and discovery together.



GREVILLEA / WATTLE'S REPORT

Bye bye summer, Hello Autumn! The cooler weather has given us so much energy to jump into our new program "Communication and Wellbeing". We started our new program last month and it is great to see our toddlers thriving and fully participating daily in different activities.

We started engaging in regular outside the fence walks breathing some fresh air and embracing the changes that occur naturally with different seasons and the weather. We have been loving collecting fallen leaves, jumping in muddy puddles, looking at the clouds and watching the rain fall. These long walks have provided us with an opportunity to teach road safety, respect for nature and the environment, as well as strengthen children's gross motor skills, helping them to gain confidence and strength in their body. Some recent walks to the National Museum really challenged our children, but we knew they could do it!

Our play and routines have continued to extend our Toddlers expressive language, with many opportunities to express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas with support from educators in their everyday play and interactions. We also had a multitude of creative experiences aiming to support children's communication, creative expression, their developing fine motor skills and provoke their senses. Exploring music has been a prominent interest of the children & our educators have been engaging them in regular musical sessions to explore sound/instruments, movement, interactive books, and singing our favourite songs.

We would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and cannot wait to see where this program will take us next and how much our toddlers grow, learn and develop.



BANKSIA'S REPORT

Over the last two months, our educational focus has been on achieving Outcome 3 of the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), which emphasizes the holistic wellbeing of children, encompassing their social, emotional, mental, and physical health. One of our key initiatives involved deepening the preschoolers' understanding of their five senses and how these senses enable us to experience and respond to the world around us. Our approach to teaching this concept was intentional and hands-on. Educators offered a range of engaging activities designed to develop and build the children's conceptual understanding of the five senses. Through sensory exploration, observation exercises, and interactive games, the preschoolers gained a deeper appreciation for how sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell contribute to their daily lives. Children were also encouraged to practice mindfulness and meditation to promote their mental wellbeing.

Following this exploration of the senses, our focus shifted to the important topic of nutrition. We recognized the significance of fostering an awareness of good nutrition and healthy eating habits from a young age. To achieve this, we are planning hands-on cooking and food preparation activities with the children. These activities not only promote a practical understanding of healthy food choices but also encourage teamwork, creativity, and a positive attitude towards nutritious meals.

In addition to these learning experiences, listening skills and following instructions was one of our first themes for activities. Educators planned experiences such as music, parachute games and teamwork exercises to encourage and support the children to master these skills, as well as form a sense of belonging in our freshly changed preschool community. It was then time to go beyond our fences to learn and play in our beautiful community. Educators are currently supporting the preschool children with developing stamina, gross motor and fundamental movement skills, and fostering a love of being outdoors. To support educators and children with this, we ask that families encourage their children to walk wherever possible, and encourage activities that promote these skills such as dancing and climbing.

As the weather changes, we ask that children's bags come to Heritage packed with a full set of 'weather appropriate' clothing (including socks and undies). We suggest that families think about how they like to dress for different weather, and dress your children accordingly. We are also looking forward to some rainy day adventures, and request having a pair of gumboots at Heritage to allow for this, while Heritage will provide a full 'wet weather' kit.



FAMILY MORNING

CELEBRATING ALL MEMBERS
OF OUR COMMUNITY

WHEN: FRIDAY 10 MAY 8:30-9:30AM
WHERE: HERITAGE FRONT ENTRANCE
JOIN US FOR A MORNING SNACK, CRAFT
AND COMMUNITY GATHERING



HERITAGE X WILDBARK

Guided Family Night Walk

SAVE THE DATE:
FRIDAY 31 MAY
FROM 6PM

AT Wildbark,
25 Rosenberg Street
Throsby ACT 2914

MORE DETAILS TO COME



CELEBRATING OUR STABLE TEAM OF EDUCATORS 2+ YEARS AT HERITAGE



VICKI - 18 YEARS



TITI - 6 YEARS



KIRSTY - 9 YEARS



HANNAH A - 6 YEARS



DRAGANA - 7 YEARS



HANNAH J - 3 YEARS



FATIMA - 5 YEARS



BINGLING - 4 YEARS



JUNE - 5 YEARS



KATIE - 15 YEARS



TINA - 14 YEARS



ROCIO - 5 YEARS



JULIA - 15 YEARS



JONNO - 5 YEARS



ERANGA - 11 YEARS



BEEBEE - 2 YEARS



YUKO - 3 YEARS

HERITAGE T-SHIRT & FLEECY JUMPER FUNDRAISER

NEW DESIGN!

Front: the Heritage logo Back: 'Future student at ANU'

T-shirt – \$20



Size s	1 (Not available in royal)	2	4	6	8
½ Chest (CM)	30	32.5	35	37.5	40

Fleecy jumper – \$30



Sizes	2	4	6	8
½ Chest (CM)	36	38	40	44

Please return this slip to the office

Child's Name:			
T-Shirt order:			
Colour:	Size:	Quantity:	Subtotal:
Jumper order:			
Payment Method: Direct Payment only Heritage Fundraising Account BSB 062903 / Account Number 1037 0080			Total: