

July Newsletter



What a great time we had in Child Care Week! I would like to again thank the families that came along to participate in some of our events during the week, we all had such a great time!

Congratulations to our team! We are delighted to announce we are finalists in the inaugural **Child Care Week Awards**, in not just one, but two categories:

- Best Multicultural Activity or Program (for our fantastic Multicultural Sports week)
- Best Program involving families or care givers (for our awesome Art Exhibition)

Sponsored by the government's Department of Education and Training, as well as Child Care NSW, the awards are recognition of the **outstanding teaching programs** that your children are a part of here at our centre. They highlight the fact that your kids are participating in some of the best learning programs in Australia, and that our highly qualified team of teachers, are doing an outstanding job every day. Our submissions for the awards are in folders in the foyer for you to take a look at – we encourage you to take ten minutes and read through them. The awards night is at the end of July - we'll let you know how we go!

Throughout this month your child's **portfolio** will be going home with you to enable you to have a relaxed read of all the great things your child has been doing. Your child's portfolio is an extended and individualised version of what can be found in the day books each day. If you would like to organise a one-on-one **meeting** with your child's Group Leader, please feel free to organise a time with them. We would also really appreciate it if parents could take the time to make a comment on the Parent Comments Sheet in the portfolio, before handing them back for the second half of the year. As always please feel free to provide input into our daily programs through the **parent input** section of the day books for each group.

Dates for your Diary:

23 rd of July	Ambulance visit
26 th of July	Hatch and Grow ducklings arrive and will be with us for two weeks.
2 [/] 3/5 August	Photo week
6 th of August	Disco night!! Come with your dancing shoes on.
6 th of August	Jeans for Jeans day
11 th of August	Sports day and Ramadan begins
14 th of August	International Left Hander's day
21 st of August	Childrens book week begins
23 rd of August	Keep Australia Beautiful week
1 st of September	First day of Spring and National Asthma week
3 rd of September	Fathers day Breakfast
16 th September	Sports day
21 st September	Fireman visit

End of year closure dates – We will close Thursday the 23rd of December at 4pm and re open Monday the 10th of January. Dates for the End of Year party will be finalised soon.

Vote for us in the local Business Awards!

Top Ryde Early Learning has been nominated in 2 categories – Best Children's Service, and Best New Business (would you believe we've been here for only 14 months?). Thank you to all parents who have filled out a nomination form. You can still complete these and drop them into the foyer – or you can go online to vote: <http://www.businessachieverawards.com.au>

Plataris Filming

We are delighted to have been approached by Plataris to participate in filming their training videos. These videos are for child care professionals, and are aimed at highlighting best practice in the Early Education field. Knowing the super standard of care and education that we provide at, the Plataris team approached us to help share our knowledge with the industry – and we're always happy to help when it comes to raising the standard across the entire industry. Thank you to all parents who have kindly given us permission to include their children in the filming.

Photo CDs

We are just about to burn photo CDs of the first 6 months of this year for you. We will charge your account \$15 for children who attend 2 or 3 days and \$20 for children who attend 4 or 5 days. If you do not want a photo CD, please email Nicole so that you may be removed from the list.

Annual Kids Photos

We are having our "kindy photos" taken here at on the 2nd 3rd and 5th of August. We will be taking the photos in the morning so no one has time to get dirty! If your child does not attend one of these days please bring them in on one of the other mornings at 9.30am and we will get them in for their picture first. More information on how to order will come after photos have been taken.



Pyjama day

We all had lots of fun dressed up in our pyjamas and loved watching some documentaries on sea life by David Attenborough with popcorn and cushions. We tried some sleepy style dancing and loved looking at each other PJ's and the groovy pictures that were all over them.

Clothing

It's very cool weather at the moment and we would like the children to be able to participate in all the fun activities and be comfortable doing it. It is great if you can help your children dress in clothes that can be easily removed and replaced as they go outside and return inside again. It is also a great self help skill for children to be able to dress themselves at toileting times and rest times as well as being able to pull up sleeves to participate in messy play. Tops and pants with zips and press studs, elastic waist bands and easy necklines are great. We also need to remember sun safety (we need sunscreen even in Winter) and safe shoes, so no thongs or singlets please. For spare clothes you could add two long sleeve tops and two pairs of long bottoms plus a pair of socks so if they do get wet or dirty we can change them into something comfortable and seasonally appropriate.

Enrolments for 2011

We will begin planning 2011 enrolments in the next month and will be sending out emails to confirm your positions and the days you want for the new year. All you will need to do is reply to our email with the days you want. Some children will be moving classrooms, some will be staying where they are and all that will be in your email.

Child protection

Having extended family members pick up your children from care can be really helpful during busy times – to do this, you need to fill out an ‘authorisation for collection’ form available in our foyer.. Also please remind the people who are coming to collect your child that they will need to bring identification with them so that we are certain that we are allowing your children to go home with the right people. Child protection is a very important part of what we do here. We have included a useful link for you to find out more about child protection <http://www.napcan.org.au/>

Safe Sleeping

Babies and young children spend a lot of their time sleeping. The Sids and Kids website has lots of good information on safe sleeping - particularly for babies, <http://www.sidsandkids.org>

Children aged 3-5 years need around 11-13 hours of sleep every night. Some might also have a day nap of about an hour. We've got some great information links here on help your child get a great night's sleep.



http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/preschoolers_sleep_nutshell.html/context/322
or http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/sleep_the_hows_and_whys.html/context/754

Healthy Breakfasts

Please No Nuts Nutella or any Nut spread

At Top Ryde Early Learning we provide breakfast between 7 and 8am daily and include wholemeal toast with a choice of spreads along with a cup of milk. The Australian Nutrition Foundation recommends for breakfast children eat wholegrain cereals/breads or grain products and/or a high protein food (eg egg) with some fruit and or vegetables.

Some ideas include

- ✓ A bowl of Muesli or wholegrain cereal with milk and strawberries
- ✓ A bowl of cut up fruit with yoghurt and muesli sprinkled on top
- ✓ Cheese on toast with a chopped banana
- ✓ Fruit smoothie with fresh fruit, milk and yoghurt
- ✓ Poached or boiled eggs on toast
- ✓ Baked beans on toast
- ✓ Omelette with vegetables like spinach, mushrooms and tomatoes.

Car park Update

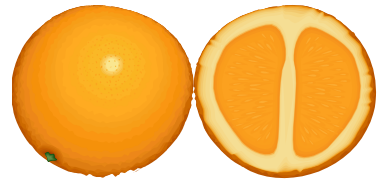
Thank you to the families who provided feedback on the car park/median strip situation over the last month. We will be taking your comments and concerns to council on the 20th of July to express our concerns for your children's safety in the car park. We will also be taking a few children as it is a great opportunity for them to understand what roles they can play in our community and what ways they can be involved. We have asked for the Median strip to be opened at the school or to have it extended in front of our driveway in order to prevent the school parents from driving through our driveway, taking up your car spaces and driving recklessly.

Asthma

Over the last couple of months we have had a few children join us that suffer from Asthma and a couple of children notice Winter Asthma symptoms so we have included a link to the ASCIA website – who are the peak body for Asthma in Australia . <http://www.allergy.org.au/>

Thank you!

Lachlan Hubbard for two boxes of delicious Organic Oranges from your garden – they were enjoyed by children and staff. We also made a delicious orange cake and some freshly squeezed juice for afternoon tea.



Ethan Kong for the Giant Cars poster on display in the Lilli Pilli room, the children have loved it and used it for inspiration for drawings and conversations. **Alex Cornish** for Drawing paper – drawing paper is always in high demand. **Inhara Weerasinhe** for the Nappies, our Lilli Pilli children have loved using them for our baby dolls and it has been great having some spares nappies around.

Our Favourite News Items

Dilan Lee bought in tap shoes to show us while they were learning some groovy dance moves in the Waratah room and **Lucas Scheiler** had some home grown carrots to show us and then we ate them for afternoon tea – yum! **Tamara Waterfield** came in with some great photos of her holding her uncles snakes – this sparked a new interest table in the Lilli Pilli room and we have all enjoyed the books that the Acacia class have been bringing along.

Thank you to all the parents who help children chose news items that are not toys. We do not allow children to bring toys for news firstly because there is a risk toys may be broken or lost and secondly we would like to encourage discussion about interests and events that not everyone is familiar with. Photos are a great news item or even a little story from your childs weekend. Talk to your child's teacher if you would like more news item ideas

Free Child Restraint Checking Days

The Argyle Centre Car Park, Corner Argyle Avenue and Blaxland Road, Ryde. Bookings are essential so contact City of Ryde Customer Service on 9952 8222 if you are interested in attending. A Checking Day has an RTA Authorised Restraint Fitter on site to inspect child restraints. Any alterations that need to be made are covered by the Council and RTA. The Checking Day is particularly important as from 1 March 2010, children up to the age of seven years must be correctly restrained in an approved child restraint, suitable for their age and size. A flyer with information regarding child restraints in English, Traditional Chinese and Korean is also attached. If you would like hard copies of this flyer, please contact me.

If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact Chris Hellmundt on 9952 8303 or chellmundt@ryde.nsw.gov.au. To make a booking, please contact City of Ryde Customer Service on 9952 8222.

Hatch and Grow Ducklings

We like to allow the children lots of opportunities to experience life in all forms and having the ducklings is so much fun. The children have the opportunity to watch a full life cycle with the ducklings coming to us as eggs, watching them hatch and then learn to walk and swim. Each child will have several experiences with the ducks and we will be charging your account \$4 to help cover the cost.

Staff training

Amy Natalie and Kylie went to some excellent STaR training for **children with additional needs**. Amy and Nicole went on a **leadership course** designed especially for Gen Y. Nisha has finished her **Post Graduate Certificate in Special Education – Inclusive Support**, and Natalie is continuing her certificate **3 in childrens services**, Mikhala and Michelle their **Diploma in childrens services**, Matthew his degree in PDHPE.



Staff member of the month – Natalie Estasy

As a trainee Natalie has worked really hard with the team to learn her new role here with us and has done it all with a super positive attitude. Daily her skills are growing and she has built fantastic relationships with all of the children in her class. Well done Natalie.

We ran a competition last month to see who could create the best classroom display. The competitors were *Natalie*, *Mikhala* and *Shaun*. It was so close and they all did an amazing job, but Mikhala took the prize home. Mikhala incorporated an interest area with beautiful artworks, photos and lots of interesting documentation about what the children learnt during the project she was running. Congratulations Mikhala! If you have not been into the Acacia room recently, take a minute to go and have a look at the lovely big wall display.



Staff Member – Spotlight On.... Shaun

Name: Shaun Vengoa

Started at Top Ryde Early Learning: February 2010

Working in: Waratah Room

Family: Living with Mum, Dad, Sister and Brother and brother in law

What she does on the weekend: Most weekend I play football for the Manly Sea Eagles and go to the movies or see friends

Why are you working in Early Childhood? I love that I have the opportunity to impart my love of sport and fitness to the children and it's fun every day!

Staff movements

Sadly we said Good bye to Meera who had some personal issues affecting her ability to continue work. Kylie has filled her role and settled very quickly into the new classroom until we find a more permanent teacher to fill that role. Kylie was our first choice as she has spent a couple of years working very closely with that age group and knows all the children in the class.

Matthew has filled our room leader role in the Acacia class and is loving it as are the children. He is currently studying a PDHPE degree and has been working with children for several years now.

It's a Boy!! Angus Ian O'Connor born on the 12th of July. Kirsty and Pete's baby has arrived and Mum and baby are all very happy and healthy. What a cutie!



In the Lilli Pilli room, the interest in **birthday parties** led to shopping for birthday parties. To extend on this interest we arranged an excursion to Top Ryde City across the road. We first went to Michelle's Patisserie to look at a variety of cake shapes and colours displayed in the window. Then onto Woolworths to buy ingredients to bake our very own cake! The children enjoyed helping out to choose the ingredients and putting it in our shopping basket. On our way to and from the shops we talked about walking on the footpath and waiting for the 'Green man' at the lights. The Lilli Pillies took turns to press the button and wait for the green man. The birthday interest continues so we have been making play dough and having our own little parties every day at the dough table with candles. To extend the baking interest Kylie helped the children make anzac biscuits and the children were all very proud of the results as they shared their cakes at afternoon tea.

The children also enjoyed creating new **canvas artworks** with Dalia which stemmed from an interest in doing dots on paper. To extend on children's interest on sensory experience, the Lilli Pillies began finger painting on canvases and made lovely artworks that are now displayed in the room. To continue this sensory interest the children made 'Goop' and did some brightly coloured butterfly paintings.

The interest in **dancing** continues. The new disco ball and the streamers made the music area even groovier for the Lilli Pillies! This will make our disco night even more interesting as the Lilli Pillies are practicing their moves already!

The Waratahs have had a great couple of months with some fun and challenging projects. To wrap up the **theatre** project the children created a show and filmed themselves doing the show then enjoyed reflecting on their skills as actors and the things they learnt while creating the film as they watched it back all together. They began learning all about **bugs** and investigating the many varieties, what bugs can do for our environment and how we can use bugs in our garden. We had a worm farm installed that the Waratah children are really enjoying feeding now. We have also been learning some new **dances**, our favorite being tap. We taped bottle tops to our shoes to make our own tap shoes and had a ball creating music with our feet! We have also redesigned the room to create a place for games where we are further extending **social and co operative skills** along with having fun and a new **writing** center with lots of inspiring information for us to learn from on the wall around us. **Construction** and **baking** is what we have been working on over the last couple of weeks and we have seen some amazing constructions. To incorporate both baking and construction the children made dough and created block shapes, we baked it and we will be painting and attempting to build with them in the weeks to come.

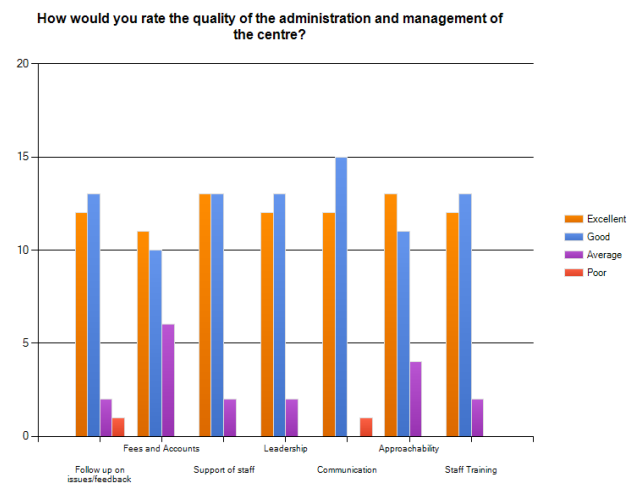
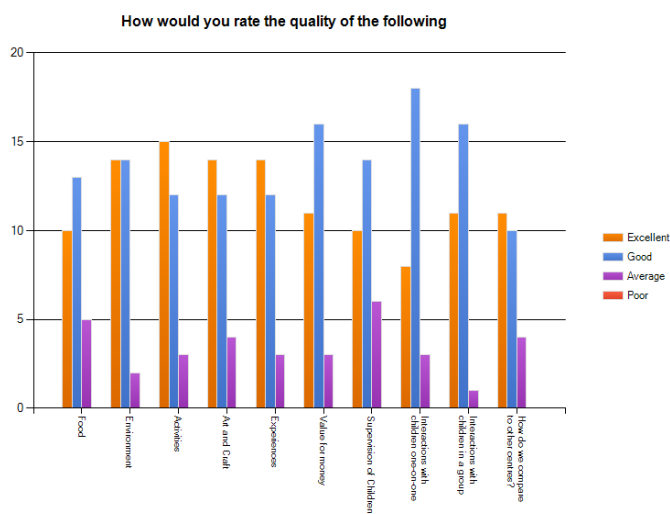
In the room the Acacias have been discussing **sea creatures** and went on a fantastic excursion to the seafood shop across at Top Ryde City. *Thank you* to the parents who came along to help. They talked about where fish live and then looked at many different sea creatures that live in the sea, also using the interest to promote world ocean day and discuss the importance of looking after our water ways. Since then they have been loving **transport** and have created a new space in the room for transport items. The famous and lovely 'Shrek' has also been a huge interest. They have made Shrek masks and painted all things Shrek as well as pretending to use different accents for story telling in group time. They are continuing on with Shrek and investigating **pirates** and **maps** which has been a more recent topic of conversation. If you would like to contribute to any of our programs please feel free to talk to the teachers or write a note in the space for 'parents input' in our days books.

Safety Audit

Congratulations to all of our team for achieving a practically **perfect score** in our recent independent safety audit. We've got a couple of points of fine tuning to work on (mostly around the documentation of what we're doing), and all around, the staff really know how to keep our children safe. *Well done!!!*

Parent Survey

A big **thank you** to all of our parents who completed our annual anonymous online parent survey! The survey is one of the ways that we ensure we're doing a great job – that you're delighted by your experiences at the centre, and that you and your family are happy. It's also one of the ways that we listen to your constructive feedback, and think about better ways to provide top quality Early Childhood Education. We were pleased that the **overwhelming majority** of feedback in all areas was either 'excellent' or 'very good'. Where we received less than fantastic feedback, it was really helpful when parents added comments to help us work out how we could improve – we've got a list of some things that we can work on, and appreciate the feedback. As always, you don't need to wait for a survey to tell us what's on your mind – [send an email](#) at any time to let us know how we're doing.



Congratulations to Kirsty, who received the highest number of parent recommendations as our most outstanding staff member!

Staff Satisfaction Survey

In keeping with our award winning Positive Staffing Policies, we recently conducted our annual staff satisfaction survey. Similar to our parent survey, it was an anonymous online poll designed to work out what we're doing well, and where we can improve. It's important to us that our staff are happy, satisfied, motivated and enjoying their jobs – if they are, then they're able to provide a warm and loving environment for your children every day. Happy staff leads to happy experiences for our kids. So we were delighted to confirm that **our team are really positive about their roles, and experience a high degree of job satisfaction.**

Toys and Resources:

We all know how much our children love to play with our Toys and Resources. So much so, that they often take their favourite toy home so that they can play a bit longer with them – many of you would have found books, cars, trucks, dinosaurs, fruit, coloured counters, dolls, beads, trains and lots more in your child's pocket after they've gotten home. Quite often these toys are a part of a 'set' that becomes unusable without all its parts. *Please help us maintain our equipment by bringing back any toys and resources that your children may have added to their pockets and bags.*