



## Hello sunshine

Welcome to our Spring/Summer edition of the NBPG newsletter! It's hard to believe that summer is officially still a few weeks away, especially with the sun's rays already sneaking out from under those clouds in spectacular fashion! This of course makes the timing perfect to fight your way through the indoor clutter of toys, nappies and skivvies and head for the brightest spot of your property (indoor or out!) for some spring/summer planting. Responsible for all those luscious veggies growing in our communal backyard (NBPG) is our very own guru of all things green, Anne Devenish-Meares (Wed 1) and this edition she will help you get started with your own little herb garden (or pot), in your favourite sunny spot.

Whilst we're on the topic of pruning, a NBPG spy mum went on the search for a local to snip her little boys hair into shape, and ended up with some personal preening of her own. Look out for her hilarious tale – she even managed to secure a special NBPG discount along the way!

With the festive season at our door, we've listed important dates for your calendar (circle now!) and Nicole, our sensational Co-ordinator updates us on all the current NBPG news. One of the most exciting news items is the amalgamation of NBPG and Francis St Playgroup – not only do we now gain access to another fantastic locale (that I guarantee you and your kids will love) but we also get access to some more amazing mums! We meet a couple of the wonderful session leaders at Francis St in this edition – have a look out for their profiles.

**Enjoy the festive season and we hope to see you all at the Christmas Party on Sunday 7 December!**

*Dianne Draganovic*

## HO HO HO Everyone is welcome at our Christmas Party

**Sunday 7 December — 9.30am to 12pm**

**You and your family are invited to join together and celebrate 2008.**

It will be a great opportunity for you to meet other playgroup members, meet partners or simply celebrate surviving another year.

RSVP to Nicole - [balanced@bigpond.net.au](mailto:balanced@bigpond.net.au) - and advise how many of your family will be attending.

**Entertainment will be provided** Sing your favourite Christmas carol, get your face painted and enjoy the sausage sizzle and jumping castle.

**Please bring a gift.** Santa will be making a visit. Please bring a gift for your child to the value of \$5. Label the present with your child's name and Santa will give it out.

**The barbecue.** We need assistance with cooking on the barbie, please nominate yourself or your partner if you're able to help. Email [megan@eggmedia.com.au](mailto:megan@eggmedia.com.au)

## CLOSING DATES

The last day of Playgroup at Wairoa Ave for 2008 is **Friday 19 December**. First day back will be **Monday 19 January**.

The last day of Francis Street Playgroup will be **Friday 5 December**. Return date to be confirmed.

## HAIRY OFFERS See story — page 4

### DYNAMICS HAIR DESIGN OFFER:

**FREE CHILD'S HAIRCUT  
WITH EACH ADULT CUT\***

*They have well priced children's haircuts*

Shop 6, 38 Wairoa Ave - 9130 4745

### CLINICAL ELECTROLYSIS OFFER:

**20% OFF 1ST APPOINTMENT\***

Suite 5/ 229 Macquarie Street, City  
- 9231 1903

\* Offers expire December 31, 2008

## FUNDRAISING WITH MOOO

STEPHANIE SPARKE (TUES 1)

North Bondi Playgroup has partnered with a company called Mooo.com.au to pass on fantastic savings to our members. Every couple of months we will receive specials from Mooo and these will be included in this newsletter. **Every purchase you make provides NBPG with a commission.** Mooo sells groovy kid's stuff that you're sure to love.

All you need to do is type in the promo code **F47 for the Nov/Dec 10% discount on canvas wall art** when ordering online. See flyer attached to the email.

Whatever you buy on Mooo.com.au **just make sure you type in North Bondi Playgroup and our postcode (2026) in the 'Fundraiser?' section when ordering.**

That way we receive our commission and we are all one step closer to some new toys! Feel free to pass the code onto your friends.

## DIG IT

ANNE DEVENISH-MEARS (WED 1)



Hello playgroup mums, dads and bubs!

You may have noticed that the veggie patch has been replanted for summer so we should have heaps of homegrown goodies

over the summer months. We now have broccoli, silverbeet, parsley, oregano, Greek basil and chives ripe for the picking (thanks to our previous gardener, Rebecca's, hard work). In a few weeks' time there will be strawberries, bok choy, rocket and English spinach, and beyond that some snow peas, cherry tomatoes, beetroot, cucumbers, zucchinis, carrots and rosemary (all going well).

The proceeds of the veggie patch are for everyone so please don't be shy about putting up your hand for anything that's on offer. If you can see that something's ready to harvest and would like to take it home please feel free to do so. Just cut the part you want from the stem with scissors or a knife and leave the rest of the plant in the ground – this will help reduce soil loss.

If you have a particular fruit or veggie that you'd like us to try let me know.

## A HERB OF YOUR OWN

ANNE DEVENISH-MEARS (WED 1)

With the weather warming up it's the ideal time to get some herbs going. If you don't have a garden no problem, you can easily grow them in pots on a balcony, outside your front door or in any other sunny spot. You can grow each herb in an individual pot or put a number of herbs in a pot together, as long as you put herbs that like similar conditions together. Rosemary and Greek Basil survive for many years and grow into huge bushes so you're best off growing these two in their own separate pots.



Basically some herbs need less water and some more. 'Dry' herbs include rosemary, oregano, thyme, sage, marjoram, and greek basil, and "wet" herbs include basil, chillies, chives, cumin, coriander, dill, fennel, garlic, parsley, rocket, lemon grass, and mint. Dry herbs need really good drainage and only need to be watered about once a week. Wet herbs like more compost in the soil and need to be watered a couple of times a week in summer months. No herbs like having wet feet so it's best not to have a dish under the pot.

To get your herbs established in pots:

- select a pot that's big enough for the herbs you want to grow
- approximately 30cm diameter round pot for four herbs
- fill with good quality potting mix
- plant seedlings from nursery or fruit shop
- water well
- place in a sunny spot (to thrive herbs need to receive sun all day)
- harvest as needed but never take all the leaves from a plant

Basil only survives in the warmer months so don't be surprised if it dies off as winter approaches. You may get a couple of years out of your rocket and parsley. Let these plants go to seed, save some of the seeds to replant next spring and you'll have plenty more next year.

Good luck and enjoy!



## NEWS FROM NORTH BONDI PLAYGROUP

If you're suffering end of the year weariness, know it is not long until the end of the year, with a few things coming up to help you get through those last months before the break.

### Jolly season

The Christmas Party is around the corner and we have Megan Bisson (Wed 1) the uber organiser on the job so it looks like it will be a good one. Put it in your diaries now — Sunday 7 December from 9.30am.

Megan has also organised lots of great craft for the festive season. The schedule for Christmas Craft can be found on the fridge.

### Playgroup amalgamation

We are in the throes of amalgamating with Francis Street Playgroup. The vote at the AGM was unanimous so if you are a North Bondi member you have a great new site that is covered by your membership. If you're energised by a change, try it out, it is perfect for a hot day. It is at Thomas Hogan Reserve (on Francis St, enter from Simpson St) on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am to 12noon.

If you are a Playgroup NSW member and pay session fees at North Bondi you will also need to pay session fees at Francis Steet.

### Children's Festival

The Children's Festival was a big success so a VERY BIG THANK YOU to everyone that staffed the play dough stall or baked a cake. We raised about \$280 dollars.

Most of all we should thank **Alison MacDonald (Wed 1)**, who not only organised the day and made all the play dough, but was there to set it up, keep an eye on things all day and pack it up at the end. It was a long one so please say thank you to Ali if you get a chance.

### Committee

The Committee for 2009 was selected at the AGM and we are:

**Treasurer** – Kirsten Barouch

**Secretary** – Sinead Hatton

**Events and Fundraising** – Stephanie Sparke, Megan Bisson and Nicole Ash

**Newsletter** – Dianne Draganovic

**Gardens** – Anne Devenish-Mears

**Purchasing** – Stephanie Sparke

**Website** – Belinda Johnstone

**Craft** – Megan Bisson

**Co-ordinator** – Nicole Ash

Don't hesitate to contact us if you've got any queries or suggestions or want to get involved (contact details can be found online at [www.northbondiplaygroup.org.au](http://www.northbondiplaygroup.org.au)). Remember everything you put in, even just a suggestion, benefits both us and our kids.

### BRAND NEW — Weekend Gardening Session

Commencing Sunday 15 February we will be running a gardening session and on the third Sunday of each month thereafter.

We will do the gardening from 9.30 am to 11.30am with an opportunity for a BBQ through to 12.30. It will be a great opportunity for more dads to get involved in the Playgroup Community and for us all to get out and dirty together. The first plan is to build a veggie patch behind the sand pit.

Anne, who has been managing the garden (magnificently I may add) has kindly agreed to co-session lead the weekend session, so we are looking for just one more person to get the session off the ground. If you or your partner are interested please give me a call or an email. It wouldn't involve too much just opening and closing on average

every second month and helping with picking up plants and supplies occasionally.

### Seeking Session Leaders

We are also keen on finding new Session Leaders and Co-Leaders to replace those Session Leaders not able to continue into 2009 so please consider volunteering. We definitely recommend that there are two session leaders per session to make it manageable but you can run it any way you like. One session this year shared the role around each month and we are happy to support this structure if it suits your group.

### Session Fees

For 2009, the annual fee is still \$70 per family. For one-off visits, the fee has been increased to \$5. All fees are to be paid on return to Playgroup.

See you at Playgroup.

**Nicole Ash**  
**Co-ordinator**

Ph: 0408 938 650

Email: [balanced@bigpond.net.au](mailto:balanced@bigpond.net.au)



## SENSATIONAL SESSION LEADERS



### Lorena Sigala

Mum to Lenin 6 and Billie 13 months.

Can you tell me a little about Francis St Playgroup?

It's nestled amongst huge fig trees in a quiet, very green, spacious reserve near Old South Head Road. It's actually quite small and unstructured with lots of outdoor space for the kids to play, including a sandpit and jumping castle. Ages are mixed, so this appeals to a lot of our members

How long have you been the Co-ordinator/Session Leader?

For about a year, though I've been coming as a member since Lenin was about two – so about four years now.

That's a long time! What's been your favourite thing about the playgroup?

I have to say I love the park and the fact that I have made some fantastic friends – as did Lenin. In fact he now goes to the same school as another little boy he started at the playgroup with.

How long have you lived in Bondi?

10 years – I was in Waverley before that.

Has Bondi changed much?

It's a lot busier now. You can see it with the amount of tourists and also the fact that it's now a lot harder to find a park than it ever was!

What keeps you here?

Being so close to the ocean and the fact we've managed to hold on to the lowest priced rental property in the area I think – I'm sure it's the last one!

What's something we would never know about you if we weren't reading it here?

I met my father for the first time when I was 32... and found out I had two half sisters and a brother.

What will you do this week to unwind?

A walk along the beach – it's my favourite thing.

### Michelle Smith

Mother to Kai, 3 years and Roxy and Blaze, both 11 months old.

How long have you been going to playgroup and how long have you been a Session Leader?

I've been going regularly for about two years now – since Kai was about 12 months old. I've been a Session Leader for about six months.

What is it you love about Francis St Playgroup?

Apart from the fact that it's an opportunity to actually sit down and have a chat with adults, what's particularly nice about Francis St is that the kids can run around and play in the park without the need for organised activities. I've also made some great friends there.

How long have you lived in Bondi?

17 years now!

Has it changed much? And have you changed much in that time?

I think it's changed a lot. There seems to be a lot more money around the place and houses seem to be getting bigger! I spend a lot more time indoors than I used to. Oxford St used to be my haunt but these days my relaxation comes at the end of the day when the kids are in bed and I can sit and watch some really trashy TV.

What's something we wouldn't know about you if we weren't reading it here?

I'm a trained jewellery and object designer and was actually studying in that field when I fell pregnant with Kai – so haven't had an opportunity to work the field yet... but maybe one day!



## HAIR HAIR EVERYWHERE

This year marked a momentous time in our toddler's life – his first haircut. To share his milestone, I tackled my own hairy issues too.

I've been watching his hair grow from little tufts to what can only be described as a pretty lengthy mullet. At the same time, I've been watching little hairs on my chin start off blonde and long, then after tweezing grow thick, coarse and brittle. It can only be described as – and this is to my horror – man whiskers!

Let's be clear, I was looking like I was getting a man-chin. When my husband has a shave, his five o'clock shadow is there within an hour. Mine was coming back within a week. I've been pestering my husband to share more activities, however growing hair on the chin wasn't going to be one of them.

Something had to be done. My son's new mullet was certainly not matching his Fred Bare hand-me-downs. I couldn't see a future as the bearded lady waiting for the next travelling circus.

As my little boy sat on my lap, he had his hair expertly cut by one of the team at Dynamics Hair Design (North Bondi). I also tried electrolysis with the most gorgeous Irish girl, Christine (Clinical Electrolysis, City).

Both brought tears to my eyes. One, for my son no longer being a baby and growing into a little boy. The other, due to having the root of each hair deadened, by a shot of heat, with a tiny needle. (I need to be honest – it hurts. But the results are amazing.)

My son looks even more gorgeous and I'm hair free. I'm no longer trying to knit the perfect turtle neck that covers my neck and chin – I've even taken to wearing a good ol' v-neck.

Even though I collected the strands of hair from my son's first haircut as a keepsake, my hormonal chin whiskers were banished to the air. I wonder what I'll have to get done by the time his second haircut comes around.

*(I'm not owning up to this one! But I did organise discounts! — see page 1)*