



Nicole

WELCOME TO NORTH BOND PLAYGROUP 2008!

Our playgroup has some new committee members this year. We would like to thank all our out-going committee members for their fabulous contributions in 2007. In particular we would like to thank Mel Burkett for the fine job she has done as our coordinator. North Bondi Playgroup is run by its members and we rely on the generosity of the following people to sort out all the stuff that makes our playgroup such a special and fun place to bring our kids. Thanks!

It's also important to remember that every member has a responsibility to pitch in and help out, especially at the end of a session. Many hands make light work and 15 people cleaning up means a dreary 20 minute job for the Session Leader takes just a few minutes when all hands are on deck!

And remember if you have a story to share with the rest of playgroup, please feel free to send it on to **Nicole** at balanced@bigpond.net.au or **Di** at draganovic1@hotmail.com for inclusion in the next newsletter.



Sinead

NICOLE ASH, COORDINATOR

We are very lucky that the competent and talented Nicole has been nominated as our new coordinator for 2008. Nicole is originally from Perth but loves the beach and the Bondi lifestyle. She is a full time Mum to little Isaac (10 months) who loves to play with his playgroup playmates at our Friday 2 session. In her spare time (yeah right!) Nicole and her husband are building their dream home.



Michelle

SINEAD HATTON, SECRETARY

Little Mia (14 months) joined North Bondi Playgroup last year and she is hooked on the fun and excitement she has with her buddies. Sinead has been a member of NBPG for a year and has kindly offered to act as our Secretary in 2008. Sinead hales from Ireland and has been living in Sydney for close to ten years. She's a high flying Mum who has it all and works part-time for Macquarie Bank in the city.

MICHELLE BUTTERLY, TREASURER

Michelle was Treasurer last year and is willing to take on another year. She has two kids, Sophia (3) and Benjamin (13 months). She is just starting a part time job in IT and is a little worried about "the juggle". She'll need all the advice she can get from Sinead! Michelle has been coming to playgroup for two years on Wednesday 1 sessions and has started the Friday 2 session. She has made so many amazing friends she can't seem to get enough!



Ali

ALI MACDONALD, EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

Ali also has two kids, Maia (3) and Jasper (17 months). She is another high flyer and runs a successful marketing and advertising studio with her sister and brother-in-law, The Canvas Group. Ali's talented team has put together our new logo, our striking flyers, our stunning new signage as well as our large banner for expos. Ali has been bringing her kids to NBPG for three years and began coming when Maia was a wee thing of five weeks!



Jette

JETTE DESSAULES, PURCHASING

We are lucky enough to get Jette to continue her role as purchaser for 2008. Jette hales from Germany and little Mila (2) speaks German and English. Jette is very handy with her hands and runs a business making shoes for kids. Jette has also made new covers for our little prams the kids love to push around. They are stunning, we are so grateful and they will give a lot of kids a lot more joy over the years to come.



Rebecca

REBECCA SKILBECK, GARDENING CLUB

Kids love to get grubby in the garden and at our last committee meeting we discussed starting a gardening club for our members. The session leader for Tuesday 1 and Thursday 1, Rebecca, has been brave enough to lead this club too. We look forward to seeing and tasting lots of yummy fruits and veggies in our very own garden. Rebecca has two boys, Thomas (3) and Frederick (nearly 2). As if that wasn't enough work, Rebecca is an economist and works part time. Phew!



Belinda

DI DRAGANOVIC, NEWSLETTER

Di is about to give birth to her third bub so she isn't doing this newsletter, but will be taking on the role from the next issue. Di has been attending the Wednesday 1 session since Isabella was six weeks oldthat was three years ago. Her second, Cormac, is now 18 months and very cute. With three under four she's certainly not beating around the bush with this baby business! Di has just moved house and just stopped working part time...phew, time for a snooze we say!

BELINDA JOHNSTONE, WEB SITE MAINTENANCE

Belinda is the session leader for the Friday 1 session. Her little girl, Zephyr (2), is very sweet with enormous dark brown eyes. We are very lucky that Belinda has chosen to take on this task as she has a great eye for detail and enjoys colour in her life. She will no doubt be looking for lots of feedback so make sure you take squizz at the website (www.northbondiplaygroup.org.au) when you can. Thanks Belinda!

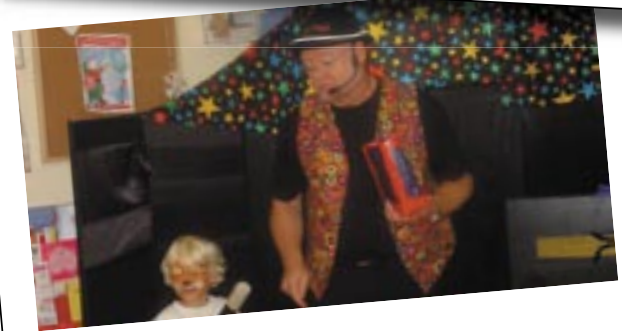
Christmas Party!

On 15th December North Bondi Playgroup members put on their Christmas best and headed for the fun zone. Mel Burkett and Amy Brudenell did a great job of decorating the hall with the decorations that our playgroup members had been making for a few weeks beforehand. I particularly liked the precious Christmas tree decorations that were hand made individually by our little playgroupers. Well done, kids! The colourful helium balloons were a hit with parents and kids alike.

Everyone brought amazing Christmas fare: we had cake, biscuits, fairy bread (!), popcorn, icy poles and enough sugar to fire up a lawn mower. Each child was made to sit still long enough to get their face painted - tigers, lions, butterflies and fairies inhabited the playground in perfect harmony (well, most of the time!). It was the kind of mayhem you'd expect from a good party.

Paul the Magician was amazing. I have never seen an adult entertain a room full of psyched up kids for 45 minutes without a break. I was in awe and have decided that Magic School is yet another facility along with Karitane, Trisilian and First Aid Classes that all parents need to attend. Paul the Magician got the kids to meet and interact with his funny pets and each child, one by one, was included in his zany tricks. Nobody felt left out of the fun. Then Santa arrived and we all got a present. What a perfect day.

Call up the magician Paul on 02 9402 6625 or email him on paul@paulsmagic.com.au to have him perform at your next birthday/kids' event. His love of performing has helped him find a winning formula to make kids happy and astounded. He is a full-time magician and is available 7 days a week. Paul performs for all occasions and age groups and is an authorised performer with the NSW Dept. of Education.



OUR PLAYGROUP!

Michelle leads a session for bubs under 18 months. The group is small and happy and there is always lots of discussion about food, work, family and current events. We don't structure our group much and generally stay indoors. I guess that will change when the bubs grow a little older and want to run around more. Some are walking and some are getting around on all fours still. All the kids are mobile and that keeps us Mums on our toes. They seem to be changing their sleep patterns slowly - dropping that early morning nap can be hard for a little tike...

Tanya and Alec (1) are South African and Alec seems to understand Afrikaans better than English at this stage. He has just taken his first steps and letting go of the furniture to balance himself is all a big exciting game!

Sarah used to bring her daughter, Lara, to NBPG a few years ago. Sarah now looks after little Lily (16 months) who is a hit at playgroup. Lily has been on the move for some time and she doesn't sit still for a second. Her favourite place is the toy cupboard. Go Lily!



Nicole, Isaac and the Friday 2 session.

Isaac is Mr Smiley - he never gets fazed by anything. His little sunshine face is always bright and happy. Nicole has been bringing Isaac to the Friday 2 session for about nine months.

Yasmina and Tim (1) speak German at playgroup and they give our session a real international flavour. Tim is very tall and loves to walk along the furniture. He'll be walking unaided by the time this issue is out, I reckon!

Sinead has been bringing Mia (14 months) to playgroup for about nine months. Mia is a little Duracell baby - she doesn't stop for a second. She's been walking since she was ten months old and boy is she fast. Mia likes to break for the border and escape into the world outside in the garden. She sure keeps her Mummy on the move!

It's a wonderfully warm and engaging group and we look forward to meeting many new members



Willow modelling the new pushchair covers made by Jetta.

in 2008. For those of you who are not members of our playgroup, please feel free to drop by any time or give our coordinator, Nicole, a call on 0405 935 650 or email her at balanced@bigpond.net.au to find a session that suits your family.

We have two fees structures at this time of year: either \$70 for the year where you may come to as many sessions as you like with no more to pay, or \$32 for the year with a \$3 charge per session you attend.