



*"Lots of activities are planned for the last part of this year"*

Hi! from the Coordinator,

Our playgroup has been busy over the winter months, growing to near full capacity with over 130 members. A "baby boom" definitely seems apparent in Bondi, with 3 new mums and bubs groups recently joining us (with loads more enquiry every week!) – Welcome to everyone!

Spring has sprung, marking the beginning of a new financial year for Playgroup NSW and our AGM is just around the corner, I hope to catch up with you there! The AGM is the time to review and reorganise, on top of the agenda is our volunteer committee ...I will be looking at passing the Coordinator role onto the next volunteer as Riva will be starting pre-school next year, so we won't be regular playgroupies in 2008. If you are interested in the coordinator role or want to contribute to the committee in any other way, please give me a call.

Lots of activities are planned for the last part of this year...music sessions, workshops and parties, as well as the fun times at the regular sessions...enjoy!

*Mel Burkett*

#### Your committee:

<b>Coordinator:</b> Mel Burkett	E: mel@isn.com.au
<b>Secretary:</b> Michelle Gellar	E: michy@uniqueworld.net
<b>Treasurer:</b> Michelle Butterly	E: chelle_butterly@hotmail.com
<b>Promotions and Newsletter editor :</b>	
Lisa Ferron	E: ferron@intelynx.net
<b>Toy &amp; Crafts Purchasing:</b>	
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## THAT RUSTY SLIDE!...

...will be replaced very soon! You may have seen our proposed plans on the notice board recently - to replace the rusty slide with 2 old slides donated to us by Waverley Council (from the old Bondi Beach park). Unfortunately, Kidsafe (an organisation who, in part, advises Waverley Council on playground safety and development) have come back with a huge list of restrictions and required changes to our existing plan, making it financially unfeasible. So, we are reviewing the plans and intend to make far simpler adjustments – replacing the old rusty slide with a donated plastic slide. A huge thank you to Dylan Brudenells (Wed1) Dad – Ben, who is determined to see this job through and who has also helped out by doing a few other handy man jobs around the playgroup making it a safer, tidier place for our little playgroupies.

## THE KANGAROO CLUB



Sharing Aboriginal culture through the magic of music, art, storytelling and dance, Mereki offers a unique Indigenous cultural learning experience especially designed for young children. Entertaining, fun and educational, Mereki weaves the timelessness and beauty of traditional Aboriginal

Culture into a contemporary, magical learning experience. Children are encouraged to learn through participation and discussion.

Two workshops have been booked for our members to enjoy – free to all North Bondi playgroup members (as we still have fundraising dollars) and you can also catch Mereki at the Children's Festival.

Dates for the workshops are **Friday 26th October and Wednesday 31st October – starting at 10.00am for 1.5 hours**. Find the sign up sheet on the notice board. Numbers will be restricted and members can attend one workshop only. The workshops are recommended for over 1's.

[www.thekangarooclub.com](http://www.thekangarooclub.com)

## NORTH BONDI PLAYGROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Put this important date into your social calendar: **Saturday 15th December**. Our party this year is going to be HUGE...details will be posted on our notice board closer to the time. Details of the party will be discussed at the AGM so if you have ideas for entertainment or want to volunteer your skills please make sure you come along to the meeting on Thursday 25th October.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

➤ **The AGM.** North Bondi Playgroup is required to hold an AGM at the end of Playgroup NSW financial year which runs 1 October – 30 September. At this meeting the end of financial year report is tabled by the Treasurer and the committee is re-formed. This year we intend on making the AGM a little more social – as well as attending to the agenda, it will be a great opportunity to meet and chat to other members (without the little ones around for a change!).

### The meeting is set for **Thursday 25th October**.

➤ **Playgroup Committee**. We will be nominating a new Coordinator and Secretary at the AGM in October.

As a not-for-profit, community group the committee is a mandatory requirement for our playgroup to continue operating. The committee must consist of Coordinator, Treasurer and Secretary. Other roles have been created so that responsibilities can be shared. The committee helps to

manage the administration, facilities, and resources and to organise activities and events. Positions can be held for a maximum of two years.

If you will be coming to Playgroup in 2008, then why not consider taking over from an 'outgoing' playgroup member and volunteer for the committee? Past and present committee members - myself included - have gained valuably from their efforts, by providing their children with a fun nurturing

environment, meeting new friends, and learning new skills. Give Mel a call if you want to chat about a volunteer committee role.

➤ **Thanks to everyone** who has contributed to keeping our playgroup clean and tidy over the last few months. Please be reminded, every member from every session is responsible for leaving our playgroup clean and tidy...it only takes 5 minutes at the end of each session, if everyone helps out!

## ANNUAL FESTIVAL

# Eastern Zone Playgroups' - 8th Annual Children's Festival

The Children's Festival is run by the Eastern Zone on behalf of all the playgroups in the zone. The date for this year's Festival is **Sunday 28th October** and you can expect it to be bigger and better than ever with a programme that includes Aboriginal/Indigenous activities, animal viewing, art and craft making, children's activities, hay rides, kite flying, painting, picnicking, socialising, farm activities, pony rides, bouncy castles and party games

The festival is now in its eighth year and started as a Family Fun Day, the purpose was to provide an avenue for the playgroups in the Eastern Zone to get together and to promote Playgroup to the local public. One of the main reasons behind the Fun Day was to provide families with an event that was focused on the 0-5 age group and was free. This remains the case with the Children's Festival.

To ensure the success of the festival each playgroup within the zone is asked to provide an activity for the Play Zone. Our playgroup committee has elected to provide a Play Dough Play Zone which has attracted a huge crowd in the past. So we are seeking help from every session to make a batch (or two) of play dough; to transport tables, chairs etc to and from Waverley Park; plus 2 volunteers per hour to look after the Play Zone. A sign up roster will be posted on the notice board at the end of September. Play Dough recipe and ingredients will also be made available. Our playgroup has also donated \$200 towards the expenses of the Festival.

The coordinator of the festival, Danelle Denny is also seeking

assistance prior to and during the festival. All assistance would be greatly appreciated – even an hour of your time on the day as a “general hand” would ensure the success of the day.

The specific roles that Danelle will be looking for help with are:

### **Publicity and Promotions**

**Coordinator.** This role will deal with artwork; posters, banners, flyers, media releases and organisation of photography for use in promotional material for next year.

**Event Coordinator.** This role will include the provision of entertainment on the stage including booking the entertainment and managing performances on the day.

**Playgroup Coordinator.** This role will consist of liaison between all 23 groups in the Eastern Zone in relation to their role in the Festival.

The **Business Coordinator** is responsible for all activities as they relate to the participation of businesses at the Festival. Including for example, recruitment of local businesses to participate in the festival and encouraging them to donate to show bags.

The **Sponsorship Coordinator** is responsible for all activities that relate to sponsorship of the festival. Including for example, PR for those companies within the promotion done by the Zone for the Festival.

The **Refreshments Coordinator** will be recruiting all food vendors and assisting in their set up on the day.

The **Site Manager** will be liaising with Waverley Council and the Festival Coordinator to ensure the safe and smooth running of the Festival. This role includes practical elements of running the Festival, including

glamorous jobs like hiring porta-loos(!), generators and the necessary organisation of St John's Ambulance to be in attendance. And finally the **Zone Treasurer** is responsible for the overall budget of the Festival and all related fiscal matters.

All these job descriptions are truncated for the purposes of the newsletter and further details can be found on our playgroup notice board or contact NBPG Coordinator - Mel Burkett. But it becomes obvious when you see them listed even in this abbreviated format that the Festival is not only an amazing day out but a monster of a job to put together. That it is running again this year is down to a host of dedicated individuals whose drive to put together this community event should be applauded. Please re-read these descriptions and ask yourself what you can do to help. Most of us will enjoy going to events like this during the year, but how many of us will be brave enough to volunteer to be a part of the day from behind the scenes!

## “I WILL NEVER NOT EVER EAT A TOMATO!”

Preschoolers who work in a vegetable garden may change their attitude to vegetables, a study from Texas suggests. The researchers asked 22 children, aged four and five to garden for 30 minutes per week. The children planted four types of vegetables including green beans, then watered, weeded and helped with composting every week. After eight weeks, the children became

less likely to refuse the types of vegetables they had grown, and ranked green beans higher in order of preference than they had at the beginning of the study. And it certainly doesn't matter if you don't have a sizeable garden. Consider planting a herb and salad garden in an old plastic paddling pool on the balcony. Grow, beautiful, fragrant sweet peas or tomatoes in old beach

buckets against a sunny side wall. Or try growing a host of sprouts and edible flowers to enliven salads with their spring-fresh flavours.

In September and early October sow vegetable seed or seedlings of silverbeet, lettuce, radish, spring onions, carrot, cabbage, herbs and beetroot. After all danger of frost has passed plant out cucumbers, capsicum, cape gooseberries,

eggplant, okra, zucchini, rosella and tomatoes. Soil temperatures need to be around 20° C to germinate seeds of warm season vegetables.

In October plant seed or seedlings for Christmas dinner, especially colourful, open-hearted lettuces like Red Mignonette, butter beans, golden button squash, cherry tomatoes.

Happy planting!!