

## NEWS FROM

### *Our Program Manager*

Welcome to 2019! And as we enter a new year we are also entering a new stage for Mission Australia Children's Services, we are beginning our journey aligning with the Early Learning sector of Mission Australia nationally.

We have a new Area Manger: Jodie Goddard; she is overseeing all three family day care services, this will draw on all our professional knowledge to be involved with the best programs for our family day care children, families and educators.

We have already had the rollout of Harmony Web within our family day care program, and are gaining support from Harmony as to how this will develop for In Home Care too.

Sitepass is an active compliance program for all our educators to upload their renewed and up to date documentation to operate as educators. This saves time and ensures full compliance of paperwork for working with children.

We will begin to rollout some new polices and procedures, with updated information. Changes are always surrounding us in the child care sector, it is a highly regulated industry which is why we have to ensure we are on top of the government requirements for the best outcomes for all children. In anticipation of this I thank you all for your patience and understanding and working with us for updates to children's health/medical requirements, immunisation and additional needs. And in return this ensures we have the most reliable and up to date information actioned in all care environments, with a clear understanding from all personnel.

We have recently updated our services philosophy, I appreciate everyone's contribution and time to have a read over to make sure this is meeting you and your philosophy on Family Day Care & In Home Care for MACS.



To follow MACS on Facebook simply search Mission Australia Children's Services and hit like 😊



### *Changes to our Newsletters*

Starting in March we will be changing the way we deliver our newsletters.

In March an educator focused newsletter will go out to all our educators and then in April a family focused newsletter will go out to all of our families. This will continue throughout the year where you will receive a specific newsletter bi monthly that relates to you.

We hope this will be a better way to deliver more specific information to both our educators and families and we welcome your feedback.

#### *Head Office*

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## MACS Place Update

November and December were busy months at MACS Place. TAFE Children's Service students held their final playgroup for 2018 mid-November and MACS held an End of Year celebration for MA Children's Services educators and families.

MACS and Wednesdays Jumble group attended the National Day for People Living with a Disability at the Don Centre. We also held a wellbeing day for our Community Service Integrated Family Support Staff.

Our final Wednesdays Jumble for 2018 was held at Bells Parade with a BBQ and Christmas craft. We bumped into some Mission Australia Family Day Care Educators who were there also having a BBQ. The children were having a wonderful time in the playground.

We finally have some wonderful signage for MACS Place however not completed yet! Still waiting on signs for the gates via TAFE entrance.

2019 is set to be yet another busy year for MACS Place. Some of the programs/workshops that we have and are in the process of planning are:

- School Holiday activities for parents and children
- Circle of Security Parenting Workshop commencing in February
- Wednesdays Jumble re commencing when school returns
- Mindfulness Parenting Workshop
- Sunshine Circles – parent/child sessions
- Tafe Play groups

Families are most welcome to join in with any of the workshops and programs. On the last page of the newsletter you will find some more information about our Wednesday Jumble.

*Katrina*

*MACS Place Coordinator*

## Welcome....

*We are excited to welcome the below new educators to our MACS team:*

Thalia McCall – FDC  
Melinda Van Donselaar – FDC  
Lauren Vos – FDC  
Katrina Nicholas - IHC

## 2019 Educator Training

We have developed an outline of training for the year and providing additional specialised training opportunities each quarter. Keep an eye out for emails and information on the MACS Facebook page for details. If you would like a hard copy of the training calendar, please let us know.

### January – March 2019

#### **North and North West – Trainings located at MACS PLACE**

First Aid/CPR – 4/2/19 6.30-9pm

Forum – Wednesday 6/2/19 6.30-8.30pm

Child Safety (formerly mandatory reporting) 6/3/19 6.30-8.30pm

Compliance and A+R Prep – 20/3/19 6.30-8.30pm

Saturday Training – FDC Tours Group 1 2/3/19 9am-12pm  
Group 2 23/3/19 9am-12pm – More details will be sent out via email closer to date

#### **Southern – Trainings located at Chigwell House**

Quality Area 1 Workshop – 28/2/19 6.30-8.30pm

Programming Circle – 13/3/19 6.30-8.30pm

Forum – 25/3/19 6.30-8.30pm

## What have our Educators and Children been up too?

Educators are always busy and always exploring lots of exciting interesting experiences for the children in their care environments. It is great that our Educators are starting to share these experiences with us so we can pop them in the newsletter for everyone to enjoy.

**Little Folk had a busy Christmas period getting ready to participate in the Devonport Christmas Parade and wow doesn't their float look great! Thanks for sharing guys 😊 also Kentish Child Care participated in the Sheffield Christmas Parade the parade theme was supporting our farmers effected by the droughts. The children dressed as superheros for the parade to represent that every drought needs a hero!**



**At Cindy's the children got very creative and made lovely natural Christmas tree decorations using off cuts of wood and thumb prints to create Rudolph. Thanks for sharing Cindy they look wonderful.**



**At Rachael's the children have been taking advantage of the warm weather and exploring water and mud! Oh mud what glorious mud.... Jack 'the mud monster' had a great time!**



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## *In Home Care Update*

Happy new year to our wonderful IHC educators. Field visits, re registrations, orientations have begun for the new year with program planning a big focus for us all to strive to achieve this year. Please start making yourself familiar with the Early Years Learning Framework and My Time Our Place documents which can be found on your pink USB's if you require a hard copy please let us know. Or you can take a look using the links below:

<https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/belonging-being-becoming-early-years-learning-framework-australia>

<https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/my-time-our-place-framework-school-age-care-australia>

In December we asked all In Home Care Educator's to complete a current Police Check, this is now a requirement with the new National Guidelines that commenced on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2018.

The In Home Care national Guidelines can be found at:

<https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/home-care-national-guidelines>

Please make sure you are familiar with this document. Just a reminder that the In Home Care Standards are no longer a requirement.

Another reminder a lot of our field visits will be spot meaning they will not be booked in with you so please make sure you keep us up to date with your working days/hours and any excursions you are going on.

*Khalia and Sharyn*

*IHC Educator Support Officers*

## *Kentish Childcare Update*

Kentish Child Care has had wonderful end of year celebrations, with a barbeque and bike ride at the Sheffield bike track. It was so fantastic to have support from our families on the day.

All children received their Annual Children Profiles, a story of their child in care and the progression of development over 2018.

A final celebration for 2018 was for Kentish Child Care to join in the Christmas Parade, with children dressing up, together with families being part of the community walking throughout Sheffield.

The children have begun this year with an interest of the 'world around them', learning about the life cycle from caterpillar to butterflies, this has extended out with further explorations of bubbles and looking up/chasing bubbles and learning about cause and effect.

MACS are continually supportive of the healthy lunch choices families are supplying for their children, and also involving children with the preparation, especially with all the wonderful fruit and vegies available locally at the moment, a great focus on supporting the community too.

Looking forward too many days filled with laughter and children's choices at Kentish Child Care in 2019!

*Debbie, Karen and Kara*

*KCC*

## 2019 Wonder Walks...

This year we have some exciting excursions planned to explore our local community. The benefits of getting out and about are endless,

- Networking and meeting new friends
  - Sharing ideas
- Exploring and getting to know the world around us
- Social skills and developing confidence in meeting new people
- A sense of belonging, being and becoming

We hope to see familiar faces and also new ones and of course our wonderful families are very welcome. Please see details below with a brochure available via email or in hard copy please let us know if you would like a copy.

### **Bells Parade** ~ Come for some fun on the playground a BBQ lunch and a fairy walk....

**When:** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January (school hols)

**Time:** 11am – 1pm

**What to Bring:** Sunscreen and hat, drink bottle and BBQ meat for a BBQ lunch.

### **Burnie Park** ~ Meet us at Burnie park for a play and a waterfall walk followed by a picnic lunch....

**When:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May

**Time:** 10.30am – 12.30am

**What to Bring:** Picnic lunch and blanket to sit on, drink bottle

### **Arboretum** ~ Join us at the Arboretum for an explore and to plant a plant for National Plant a tree day....

**When:** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July

**Time:** 10am – 11.30am

**What to Bring:** Morning tea, drink bottle and a plant if wanting to plant a tree

### **Sheffield Bike Park** ~ Bring your bike/scooter for a fun get together and BBQ lunch....

**When:** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October (school hols)

**Time:** 11am – 1pm

**What to Bring:** Bike/scooter, helmet, sunscreen and hat, drink bottle and BBQ meat for a BBQ lunch.

#### For all enquiries:

**Phone:** 6424 4855

**Email:**

[childcaretas@missionaustralia.com.au](mailto:childcaretas@missionaustralia.com.au)

OR

[DennisB@missionaustralia.com.au](mailto:DennisB@missionaustralia.com.au)



### Changes to Child Safety Services

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> the Tasmanian government launched a new service called **Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice & Referral Line**.

This is the first point of contact for child wellbeing and safety. You will be able to speak to qualified support staff who will be able to help you with concerns, provide advice and take notifications.

Click on the link below to find out more information about Strong Families Safe Kids.

<https://www.strongfamiliesafekids.tas.gov.au/>

**Call: 1800 000 123**

Please remember our coordination team are happy to assist or chat if you have any concerns or questions.

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## MACS End of Year Play Sessions

MACS enjoyed two end of year play sessions one at MACS Place in Devonport and the other one was held at Karen's FDC with our Educational Support Officer Sharyn and other Educators from MACS Hobart in attendance.

A great time was had by all with children enjoying the many different learning experiences on offer. It was a great way to finish off the year. A big thank you to those who attended and made our mornings so much more special.



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## Wednesdays Jumble

Would you like to catch up with other adults, have a coffee, have a laugh, have a go at craft, have some time to relax, then we would love you to come and join us.

The sessions are **FREE** and are facilitated by Mission Australia's Family Support Service.

Child care is **NOT** provided but children are very welcome to come and explore the play area

**When:** Every Wednesday during school terms

**Where:** MACS Place 32-36 Valley Road Devonport

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Contact:** Katrina 64244855 or 0439042538

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*To nurture is  
in our nature*