Rose Park Community Childcare Newsletter Term 4 2025

Renovations

Stage One is complete! It is very exciting to have one part of our renovations complete.

Stage two has now been underway for approximately 10 days. There has been some weekend work, as there is some demolition/jackhammering again – mainly for the bathroom. This stage includes the Tarnta Room, over 2's bathroom area, new curriculum design area and finishing the kitchen (which was demolished in stage one. Sometime during this stage, the office will move temporarily into the existing curriculum design room.

The children have been using the portable toilets located at the back of the site, in the carpark area. They have adapted well to the change. On the first day, they were visited often, as it was quite a novelty! We have purchased stools to allow children to get to the height of the sinks and toilets, toilet seat inserts and potties for children to use if they are feeling unsure about using the portable toilets. After the first day, we decided that we needed a type of curtain to give children more privacy, as the small fences we were planning to use didn't block enough of the child on the toilet. The sheer curtain allows us to still have sight for supervision. One educator is positioned near the toilets throughout the day, to ensure constant supervision. These toilets are totally plumbed into the mains water and work like normal household toilets. This area is securely blocked off from the laneway. Regular checks of the safety of this area are continuing as they were in stage one. We have 2 portable change tables, which are screened off in the Wadhla room for privacy.

We thank you all for your patience during this time, especially with the unforeseen delays.

Anyone that has gone through home renovations or a new build will understand that all planning can be made, but hiccups along the way can disrupt the flow and then replanning is necessary. Obviously, the changes affect us all – children, families and educators. It is great to see overall that the children seem to be coping with the changes. They have gotten to know the regular Supervisors and Trades that are here. One child even referred to our Project Manager as the "Boss Builder" which he was quite chuffed about!

If you have any concerns, please let the educators in your child's room know, or contact Sarah or Lisa in the office, we are always here to listen.
The educators have enjoyed the special treats that have appeared in the staff room on occasion to help us get through some trying days - thanks to those families who have spoilt us! An extra thank you to the family that gifted us with a voucher to the Commissary, which enabled lunch to be purchased for the educators.

New Board/AGM

With the AGM occurring at the end of September, two of the previous Board members stepped down, allowing 2 spaces for new members.
Reports that were put forward at the AGM were emailed to families the day after the AGM.
Our Board positions are as follows.

Chairperson	Shannon Broughton
Deputy Chair	Katya Hill
Secretary	Agustina Gancia
Treasurer	Mick Bolognese
Ordinary Member	Briony McKay
Ordinary Member	Eloise Patzel

We thank all the outgoing Board Members for their time serving on the Board, especially during the planning process for the renovations and we also thank and welcome the new Board for volunteering their time to the running of the Service.

Christmas Closure Dates

The Board have set the annual Christmas/New Year Closure dates.
We will be open until 1pm on Wednesday 24th December. Families booked in for that day will only be charged for the morning. **We will re-open for all families on Monday 5th January 2026 at 7:30am.**
Educators will return on Friday 2nd January to set up Fees will not be charged during the closure period. If you know ahead of time that you will be away leading up to the closure or through January, please let us know so we can staff accordingly and allow educators to possibly have some extended leave.

Bookings for this year and looking forward to 2026

Currently we have spaces Monday, Thursday and Friday. This may change quickly, so if you are needing to change your bookings or add days, please let us know as soon as possible as these available days may not be available for long.
We do ask for 2 weeks' notice to decrease or cancel your permanent bookings, but if you know earlier than that it helps us to fill the spaces more quickly.
If you have recently had a baby or are pregnant and will require care for an additional child next year, please get in contact with us soon, so that we can do our best to accommodate your requirements.
We want to make sure that we are doing everything possible to assist our current families before we offer spaces to new families.
If you are needing changes for 2026, now is the time to let us know. Lisa has started to contact families whose child may be attending pre-school from Term 1 2026 to check their possible changes. She will then start to contact those who are due to start school to let us know when they suspect they will finish up with us so we can start planning for 2026.

Contacting the Service and New Ways of Sharing Photos

Please remember we are available to talk to you about your child. It may be your child's well-being, development, their bookings and any account enquiries you may have, etc.

Most administrative queries can be directed to centre@roseparkcc.org.au and each room has their own email address, toddlers@roseparkcc.org.au for the Kuulas group, wallabies@roseparkcc.org.au or kangaroos@roseparkcc.org.au

You can email the educators directly regarding anything about your child, except the things that require an urgent response. Educators try to check the emails daily, but if they are really busy or if your email requires a longer response, they may not have the chance to respond straight away. If there is anything important and needs attending to straight away, just CC the main Service email address. That way Sarah or Lisa can check if

the email has been replied to. We really value face to face conversations, so would love that to be your first avenue of communication. We also welcome phone calls if you don't get a chance to speak to the educators directly. If a longer phone call is needed, we may need to schedule a time that suits both parties.

Please remember due to our new Safe Use of Digital Technology Policy and Procedure, we

are no longer able to receive photos from you of your children on holidays, doing an experience at home, or a family photo to display. We still welcome you to bring in a physical copy of a photo so it can be shared with the children's educators and peers. We are only doing this to keep everyone safe. If any photos are emailed through, we will email you back to remind you not to send through photos and the email will then be deleted.

Social & Fundraising Committee

If you would like to join the Service's Social & Fundraising Committee, please email or speak to Sarah or Lisa. The committee plan family events, implement new and exciting ideas for fundraising, among other things. We have started sharing book reviews (from our educators) on Facebook. We will also be looking at holding parent information sessions on a range of topics once the renovations are finished. We would love to know what you would like to learn about.

Worm Tea

Each room at the Service has a compost bin and the Kuulas and Tarnta bin is a worm farm. The Tarnta children, with the help of educators have, produced 'Worm Tea'. This is an excellent all-natural fertiliser for your garden. The worm tea should be diluted with water 1:10.

If you would like a 2-litre bottle for your home garden, all we ask for is a small donation. This will go towards buying more plants for the environment.
If you ever want to bring in kitchen scraps to feed our worms, please speak to the educators in your child's room about what food scraps are appropriate.
Corina in the Tarnta Room is the best person to speak to about the worm tea.

Reminders

- Please remember to check your child's bag each day to ensure it has enough spare clothes, nappies and/or underwear.
- Please remember to sign your child in and out of the Service through our electronic sign in system. The educators will show you how the devices work, if you are unsure.
- Often childcare bags are used for your family on weekend outings. Please make sure any food or medications are not left in your child's bag. We have children with serious and life-threatening allergies at the Service, and we do not want an emergency to occur. We are unable to check every child's bag every day.
- When your child has any immunisation updates, please forward their updated Immunisation History Statement as soon as possible. Failure to do this can affect your Child Care Subsidy.
- Keep us up to date with any changes to your child's emergency contacts, allergies, address changes or anything else that may affect the well-being of your child.

From the beginning of August, the children and educators have been wearing hats. Sunscreen is applied at regular intervals throughout the day. We undertake regular daily checks of the UV to see what hours the sun smart policy is required to be implemented.

Sustainable Practices

Did you know we undertake many sustainable practices at RPCC? Our Sustainability Committee consists of Kylie and Em. They research, teach and implement many of our ways to help the environment now and in the future as well as embedding these practices into our curriculum each day.

Some of the ways we help the environment are; a bottle and can recycle bin through Direct Collect – please bring in your used drink cans, cartons and bottles that have the 10c refundable symbol on them. The money we raise goes to the Sammy D Foundation. Coffee Pod recycling – feel free to bring in any used coffee pods. No need to clean them out, as the coffee is used for compost and these get recycled through Nespresso. We encourage all families, new and old to buy a reusable "Wet Bag". This saves us using multiple plastic bags for your child's wet and soiled clothing. We have wet bags available if you would like a new one or were missed at the time of enrolment.

Illness

Please remember that we have strict policies and procedures regarding illness throughout the Service. We have these in place to protect the children in our care and for educators and families or anyone who may have extended family members who are immune compromised.
If you would like a copy of our detailed Illness policy, please let Sarah or Lisa know and we can email it to you. This outlines many childhood illnesses, and the time children need to be excluded from care.
Recently a revised version of "Staying Healthy in Childcare" was published and this covers everything required regarding health and hygiene within childcare settings.
The 'Staying Healthy in Childcare 6th Edition' link is below.

https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reports/clinical%20guidelines/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf

Please take note if reading the document, one area is slightly different in our policy. We require children to be excluded from childcare for 48 hours with vomiting and diarrhea. This policy was developed in consultation with a previous Board Member who is a Doctor in Emergency at the Women's and Children's Hospital. It was her professional opinion that a 24 hours exclusion period was not enough to be totally clear of this virus and to not pass it on to others.

If your child becomes unwell during the day (**this includes a child with a temperature over 38C**), we will call you to collect them as soon as possible. We send children home to try to keep other children safe, as well as our educators. We thank you for your understanding.

Water Bottles and Nappies

Please take your child's bottle home each evening to wash. Don't forget to return it filled with fresh water with your child the next day they are in and please make sure their name is clearly marked on it. As part of the renovations, filtered water will be available for us to refill the children's water bottles in each room.

Just a reminder, we do not supply nappies for the children who require them. Please make sure there are at least 4-5 nappies in your child's bag each day they attend. You can always bring in a bag of nappies for us to store here and use for your child to save you bringing them in each day.
We are happy for families to use either disposable or cloth nappies. If using cloth nappies, we ask you bring in more to last the day and that a wet bag is provided. If you need to purchase a wet bag, just let us know, as we can provide you one for a cost of $20.

Educational Leader

As I reflect on the renovation process and how this has affected the running of the Service, I want to take a moment to commend the team at RPCC.
Educators in the early childhood education industry use the National Quality Standards (NQS) to guide program and practice to maximise, enhance and extend children's learning.

1 Educational program and practice

2 Children's health and safety

3 Physical environment

4 Staffing arrangements

5 Relationships with children

6 Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

7 Governance and leadership

Quality Area one focuses on ensuring that we, as educators, are offering a quality educational program that is child-centered, stimulating and builds on children's individual strength, ideas, culture, abilities and interests. It is through and with the child that we plan learning extensions and maximise opportunities. The approved learning frameworks in our sector provide educators with only a guide on what we should do and what will be assessed by the Education Standards Board (ESB). It doesn't stipulate an exact curriculum to follow, this is guided by the child, the community, culture, developmental needs and intentional teaching in which educators facilitate learning. So, with all the above, the team leaders, alongside their team of educators, plan children's learning and implement this each day. We then reflect and have many conversations about how learning and development is going.

With the current renovations you can imagine the added pressures that we are facing. Not only are we planning for the children's individual and group learning, but we are consistently having conversations around child safety, modifying practice to ensure that everybody is supported and that your child's time at care isn't being negatively affected. I can assure you that the team have been doing an amazing job! I feel that we are blessed with the best. Everybody is committed to the best interests of each child, everybody considers the holistic development of the children, we reflect, are understanding and communicative across the Service as a whole. This extends to leadership, a team of leaders that guide others and are open to reflective conversation and modifying practice as a whole Service, not just in their teams. Even in times of change we show strength.

I would also like to take the opportunity to shine a light on Sarah (director). There have been so many extra challenges to consider, new lists added daily, builder interactions, working from home or late into the evening, completing the ever-changing policy and procedures list, legislative requirements, governance meetings, being everyone's personal assistant, budget planning, etc. etc., The list is endless for her. RPCC has very supportive board members to call on and both Lisa and I (Ky) take the load off where we can, but it is stressful for Sarah, yet she comes to work every day and gives 100 percent all the time. This is the standard that educators are guided by. This is why we are successful and in turn why your experience at RPCC is as it is. Strength from the top that trickles down to everybody else, how lucky are we to have that! -Ky x

Kylie Wielechowski
Educational and Leader in Quality Improvement

From our Kitchen Manager.....

Kim, our wonderful and talented kitchen manager has shared 2 recipes for you to try at home.
If you ever have any questions about what your child eats here, allergy concerns or another recipe, feel free to pop to the kitchen to see Kim. She is here every day 7:15-1:30pm.
More recipes are also featured on our website. We upload each newsletter to the website, so there are other recipes that you can access there.

Crustless Coconut Pie

1 cup shredded coconut
3 eggs
½ cup melted margarine
¼ cup honey or maple syrup
¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla essence

Heat oven to 175C and grease a baking dish

Mix eggs, butter, milk vanilla essence, honey (or syrup) and salt until smooth.
Stir in coconut.
Pour into prepared baking dish.
Bake for 35-40 minutes until golden brown and set in the centre.
Cool before slicing, can be served with chilled whipped cream.

Healthy Rice Crispie Treats

3 cups Rice Crispies
½ cup honey or brown rice syrup
½ cup sunflower seed butter
1 pinch salt
1 tablespoon butter
1 teaspoon vanilla essence

Add honey, butter and vanilla essence to a warm pot.
Stir until well combined
Mix in rice crispies
Press into parchment paper lined tin and place in fridge until well formed
Cut into slices to serve.

Cookbook for sale

A couple of years ago, Jess created a cookbook for the Service. She worked with Kim, staff members and families in sharing favourite recipes. We still have some copies available for purchasing. Some of the recipes included are our lunch and afternoon teatime favourites.

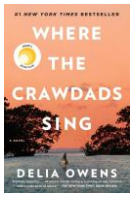
If you would like to purchase a copy, please email us and we can put one aside for you, then add $15 to your account.

Book Review

We have lots of educators at our Service that like to read, so the Social and Fundraising Committee thought they could share some of the educator's joy with you. As well as the newsletter you can also find them on our RPCC & Community Facebook page. If you have recently read a book that you would like to share a review of with our community (for adults or children), please email Sarah or Lisa.
Thanks to Maddy for this Term's review.

Where The Crawdads Sing (by Delia Owens)

This book is a symbolic depiction of the valiant survival of Kya Clark – abandoned by her family and community, and ultimately… life itself.
It's such a raw and honest story focusing on themes such as acceptance, gender prejudice, resilience, strength, trauma, and independence vs human connection.
The writing includes lots of descriptive imagery that will take some imagination to visualise the setting and certain scenarios. It contains many dramatic elements - likeable characters, a murder secret, poetry, a mysterious atmosphere, coming of age romance.
I thought it was very well written, and the vivid descriptions made you feel intimately connected with the main character as you explored the story through her vision.
(Also, highly recommend watching the movie. Both adaptations are a five-star.



Name:
Payel

Role at RPCC and how long have you worked here:
Part-time educator, working across all rooms for 6 years.

Who lives at your house?
My husband, my daughter, my mum and our dog.

Current Favourite TV show/movie:
MasterChef Australia, selective movies and shows on Netflix and Prime Video.

Favourite Music:
Nothing in particular. Love listening to music of different genres.

What do you like doing in your spare time:
Listening to music and watching movies.

What is your family culture and what do you celebrate with your family:
I am Indian, we celebrate the festivals of Holi, Diwali and Durga Puja.

Favourite part of my job:
Connecting and interacting with the children.

If I won a million Dollars:
Pay off the mortgage and make savings for our daughter and for our future.

Name:
Georgie

Role at RPCC and how long have you worked here:
Kuulas educator for nearly 4 years.

Who lives at your house?
My fiancé Dylan, our dog Pickles, my housemates Adrian and Adora and their dog Peppa.

Favourite movie:
Currently re-watching "The Witcher" and the new episodes of "Only Murders in the Building".

Favourite Musician:
Lewis Capaldi (very excited to see him in December).

What do you like doing in your spare time:
Reading, taking the dog for a walk, watching movies, spending time with friends.

What do you celebrate with your family:
We celebrate birthdays, Christmas and Easter.

Favourite part of my job:
Watching the children learn and grow and getting to be a part of that.

If I won a million Dollars:
Put it towards a house most likely, or go on a really lush holiday!

Name:
Vasu

Role at RPCC and how long have you worked here:
Dynamic (casual) educator since November 2024.

Who lives at your house?
I live with my husband Gopinath and two daughters, older daughter studying at Uni SA, and younger daughter is in year 4.

Current Favourite TV shows:
Young Sheldon on Netflix and Bon Appetite my Majesty which is a Korean drama series.

Favourite Music:
Michael Jackson, Thriller.

What do you like doing in your spare time:
In my spare time I enjoy sewing, gardening, crocheting, playing and reading with my kids and going to the park.

What is your family culture and what do you celebrate with your family:
I am Indian, we speak Tamil, and we are Hindu. We celebrate Diwali and Tamil New Year.

Favourite part of my job:
Reading books to children, tracing their hands on paper, drawing butterflies and rainbows, painting and making sandcastles.

If I won a million Dollars:
I would take my family on a world tour.

Name:
Manu

Role at RPCC and how long have you worked here:
Educator across all rooms for 5 months

Who lives at your house?
I live with my husband and two kids. One daughter and one son, daughter in high school and son in primary school.

Current Favourite TV show/movie:
TV show – Indian Family Dramas
Movie – Indian movie called Kabhi Kushi, Kabhie Gham

Favourite Music:
Shershaah, a beautiful blend of romantic and patriotic tracks. Arijit Singh and Sanam – I enjoy their modern take on classic Bollywood Songs.

What do you like doing in your spare time:
I love listening to music, especially Hindi songs. I also enjoy cooking traditional dishes, and spending time with my family.

What is your family culture and what do you celebrate with your family:
I am from Indian descent. With my family we celebrate Diwali, Holi and enjoy Christmas and New Year's together.

Favourite part of my job:
Building meaningful relationships with children.

If I won a million Dollars:
I would travel the world, donate to some charities close to my heart, invest in property and set up a future fund for my kids.