

Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten

50 years



1954 - 2004



50 years
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Growing is not a race
It is an adventure

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Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten

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Acknowledgments

This is the first book to be published about the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten. The aim of this commemorative book is to represent as many past children and staff as possible. Every attempt has been made to piece together the history of the Kindy and the Progress Association. Information has been extracted from minutes of both organisations and the memories of people associated with these organisations.

Thank you to the many people who have shared their stories, written pieces and lent photographs.

A special thank you to Helen Clare, Topsy Harris, Milton Lidgard and Cecilia Jago.

Disclaimer

Although I have attempted to provide an accurate picture of the kindy's history, I hope the reader will excuse any errors or omissions. Every effort has been made to compile this book in such a way, so not to give offence to anyone, living or deceased, and I am sorry if I have unwittingly done so; it was not meant to be.

References

Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten minutes

Collaroy Plateau Progress Association minutes

Plateau News 1964 to 1988

The Manly Daily

Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten

Philosophy

- ★ To provide high quality care and education for children and their families.
- ★ To provide a happy, caring and secure environment, where the children can have fun which will foster the children's independence, self-esteem and self discipline using positive reinforcement strategies.
- ★ To base programme planning on the children's individual needs, strengths and interests drawing on observation, knowledge of early childhood development and parent contributions.
- ★ To provide children with additional needs in an inclusive programme which demonstrates valuing of diversity and encourages development of a feeling of belonging.
- ★ To provide for and encourage each child to develop to their maximum potential in readiness for school.
- ★ To promote an anti-bias curriculum, which will value the uniqueness of each child, acknowledging gender, culture, religion, language and family diversity.
- ★ To develop positive relationships with families based on participation, joint decision making, mutual respect, open communication and confidentiality.
- ★ To promote and encourage staff development through formal and informal professional development.
- ★ To integrate professional services i.e.: Speech therapists, O.T. & Othoptist -an eye muscle and visual therapist and community groups within the pre-school programme to support and enhance the needs and strengths of children and their families.
- ★ To promote understanding, respect and a caring attitude towards the pre-school environment, both living (natural) and built (man-made) as part of the larger environment.
- ★ To promote food and health awareness through encouraging and promoting healthy and balanced eating habits, information and health practices.

Directors

Kathryn Shaw



I joined the CPCK community in 1999, and am currently on leave interstate.

We had lots of fun developing portfolios for the children that were filled with their work and memories and were lovingly worn before the year was out. There were fantastic end of term celebrations with lots of dressing up to be done (I was known for my rainbow cape and flower boa). We started the class picture plates which have colour copies framed and displayed in the entrance outside the respective classes. We supported charity awareness with the children's involvement and I developed a school readiness package for our families, which opened up communication with the local schools. I married in 2001.

CPCK is a wonderful community filled with happy and supportive staff and lovely families. I loved sharing with the children every aspect of the kindy day from painting hands, feet and faces to cooking, science, taking photos and yoga relaxation. I have many special memories of my time at CPCK.

Jan Mills



Jan has a Bachelor of Teaching and a Certificate in Childcare Studies and has worked in childcare for the past fifteen years in both Long Day care centres and Pre schools.

Having worked in various positions, over the years, including special needs and Director for a Long Day care centre, Jan returned to the Northern Beaches, after working in Bourke and Parkes for close to five years.

Jan worked at CPCK from January to October 2004, working in the office two days a week and in the Wombats room Wednesday to Thursday with Gina and Jenny.

Catherine Jones



I have recently taken the position of Director / Teacher at CPCK. I have just moved to the Northern Beaches from Newcastle where I spent most of my childhood and completed my schooling. I also completed my Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) at Newcastle University in 1998.

Since this time, I have worked in a variety of Early Childhood settings and schools, both in Australia and overseas, including Canada, New Zealand and Thailand.

My most recent position involved supporting the inclusion of children with special needs in regular preschools.

I have a great love of travel, particularly to countries with diverse cultures or big mountains where I can snowboard.

Everyone at CPCK, staff, parents and children have all welcomed me so warmly, that I'm sure I will enjoy my time here.

Staff

Janet David



I gained my post-graduate certificate of Education in England in 1981 and taught in preschools for six years prior to immigrating to Australia. My first Australian teaching position was with Sydney Day Nursery and Nursery Schools Association, where for two years I was Director of a Long Day Care centre.

I have lived in Collaroy Plateau for the past twelve years and have two children, one attending St Rose Primary School and one at Stella Maris High School.

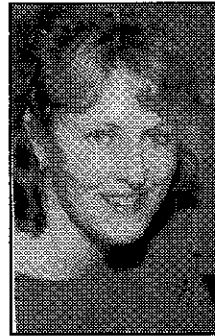
Living and working in the community has been something I have been fortunate enough to do for the past six years. With all our extended family in England, it has been lovely to get to know so many families in the area and teach their child / children. I am already teaching the third child in some families, which is great.

I often joke that I will be teaching at CPCK until I retire, so lets hope that wishes come true !!!

I love my work and it has been an added bonus to work at a centre that provides such high quality care with incredibly dedicated staff - reasons why I first accepted the position as teacher in the Possum's room.

Here's to another 50 years.

Amanda Geister



Currently in my 20th year at CPCK, I started when I was eighteen years old while studying the Certificate in Childcare Studies at TAFE. During that period, I was working four days a week at the centre with the directors Carolyn Davis and then Helen Clare.

After successfully completing my training during the first four years, I taught on a full time basis in the Possum room. I further developed my career in studying and completing a Diploma in Social Science. I continued to teach for another ten years, until I went on maternity leave to have my first baby. I returned to the centre after a year on a part time basis for twelve months before going on maternity leave for my second baby.

Having been back working two days a week, Monday and Tuesday for almost five years, has been a fun, interesting and challenging experience. Both my children attended CPCK in the Wombats room, whilst I taught in the Possums room.

During my years at CPCK, I have seen a lot of changes take place in staff movements, equipment layouts, regulations and of course the many lovely children who have attended the centre for their pre-school experience.

These days, it is weird to check the Manly Daily engagement and marriage columns, only to find a recognised name I have previously taught years ago when they were four years of age. Only the funny thing is I don't feel a day older than when I originally started.

Congratulations Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten on your 50 years of operation and best wishes for many more successful years to come.

Julia Hargrave



This is my ninth year now and only one more year until long service (Yeah!!)

I completed a two year full time Childcare Certificate course at TAFE way back in 1977. My group was the second year through the course, so we sometimes felt like the guinea pigs being road tested with

lots of different ideas.

My first place of employment in 1978 was at Manly Community Preschool in Kangaroo Street, which I was ecstatic about. Close to home, which at the time was North Manly. I worked there full time for seven years in which time I married my childhood sweetheart, Rodney and then left to have my first child Kristy in 1985. The next few years I juggled motherhood with casual relief work in various kindys and long day care centres on the Northern Beaches, which also included being a nanny three days a week for three years. This was a perfect job for me, as I could take my daughter with me, not to mention the beautiful house at Clontarf Beach.

My son Benjamin was born in November 1989, completing our family. I had planned for two children, my wish was for a healthy girl and boy and being the second oldest of six siblings (four brothers and one sister), I opted for a smaller family.

We lived for sixteen happy years in Harbord, moving to North Curl Curl five years ago, where we are even happier due to the a larger house closer to the beach, parks, buses and my brother who lives across the road. I love the outdoors, exercising, walking, swimming, camping and have lots of family barbies and gatherings at my house.

Kristy is now nineteen and a half and completed her HSC last year. She is doing music at TAFE. Benjamin is almost fifteen and in Year 9 at St Paul's College.

On the 5th January 1996, I had my interview for CPCK and was successful, which was a wonderful birthday present. During my years at Kangaroo Street Preschool I had heard from time to time about this great kindy at Collaroy, known to us as Hall Avenue, so I made my way up the peninsula and here I am. The comments I heard those many years ago are very true. I have thoroughly enjoyed working at CPCK with the wonderful teachers, parents and of course the little bundles of joy - the children.

For me, it is so rewarding and satisfying working in a preschool as every child, every day, week, month and year is so unpredictable. I love to see the returning families with their younger siblings and watch them grow and learn individually. It's great to see the older siblings that have left from time to time as well.

Liz Whittaker



I am currently in my 10th year at CPCK teaching with Amanda in the Possum Room on Monday and Tuesday.

I completed a BA in Diploma of Education in Infants and Early Childhood Teaching at Macquarie University in 1978 and began my teaching career back as "Central Metropolitan Preschool Relief Teacher" (what a title!). I transferred to a Department of Education Preschool attached to Punchbowl Public School and taught there for three years. There have been some significant changes in preschool education since then.

From 1982 to 1992, I ran my own preschool at home, with five children including three boys and twin girls to keep me very busy. All but one of my children has attended CPCK and I remember always wishing that I could work there when the children went to school. My twins attended the Kindy in 1993 and they had Amanda as one of the teachers. The following year I joined the CPCK staff and have been here on a permanent part time basis ever since.

Right from 1986, (when James attended CPCK) until now, there have been many many changes. In particular, educational and environmental changes. My boys still remember how COOL the fort was, with the suspension bridge, and remember Amanda having to climb up the pyramid construction, to help those little people who were stuck up the top and not game to come down.

Living in Collaroy Plateau myself, I always take great delight when I recognise children who have attended CPCK over the years and hear of their achievements. I regard us at CPCK as an important part of that transition between home and school in the early years.

CPCK makes a difference.....

Cecilia Jago



in the Kindy.

The following year was Emma's last year there and I was elected President. What a busy year! We saw great many changes, especially to our playground areas outside with shade sails and a new sandpit being built. We also endeavoured to find a builder who could construct an external toilet block for us. This proved to be more challenging than we thought and didn't realise that it would be another four years until it was completed.

In 2002, Emma went off to school and my twin girls Sarah and Hayley started at CPCK. I continued on in my role as President and by that time was well versed in the workings and what goes on 'behind the scenes' at Kindy. It was always great to be working with, and supporting such a dedicated and wonderful team of staff with our Management Committee.

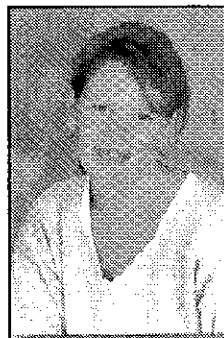
2003 was my final year as President, and my girls last year there, before they went off to school. What a wonderful opportunity it was to be part of so many happy and busy times and to see what great things can be achieved for our children now and in the future.

I just couldn't keep away! So when my girls started school in 2004, I joined the staff of CPCK. I am very lucky to have the best of both worlds. Working in our delightful Wombats classroom assisting Julia and Nancy on Mondays and Tuesdays and by also working in the office on Wednesdays in a job share role with Jane where I have the opportunity to get to know so many wonderful families within our community.

And... Guess What? In 2004 we now have our external toilet block, with state of the art bathroom fittings. A far cry from the original kindy days of the outdoor out house!

It's hard to believe the number of people (both young and old) that have past through the doors here over the years and have been touched in some way by this Kindergarten. Looking forward to many more happy years and associations with Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten.

Nancy Lane



I joined the CPCK team almost three years ago. Previously in teaching, I owned a beach café for four years at North Curl Curl, when I applied for the chance to be a big Wombat !!! I had applied at another kindy as well, and having been offered both positions, had to choose between them...well, there was really no choice, was there???.... I had a good feeling about CPCK right from the very beginning!!....

I completed my Diploma of Education in Bathurst in 1988 as a single young mum with three boys, Will, Alex and Mitch underwing. They made great case studies and were my guinea pigs as I struggled to make that perfect batch of playdough. The boys are now twenty three, twenty one and sixteen (I will be doing "my" 4th and last HSC in 2005, hooray!!) and they just don't seem to enjoy finger painting as much as they used to. Good thing I have my little Wombats to play with!! I have taught at two other kindergartens on the Northern Beaches and have also spent time as a special needs teacher and as a co-ordinator for Family Day Care.

Currently I have several other part time jobs. I manage a children's play centre / café at my church and also do regular catering work as well. Cooking is something I have enjoyed since I was the same age as your children. I also love painting and books and never did quite grow out of home corner, which might explain why I look forward to coming to kindy each week.

Kim Millard



I am in the Possum room on Wednesday to Friday with Janet and Lisa. I started with Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten in February 2004, after having a long break raising my two boys Jordan eight and Jackson six. The boys are now both at school. I've really enjoyed getting back into childcare again, and plan to stay with CPCK for quite some time!

Lisa McLean

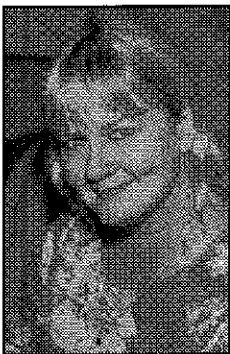


As a young girl, I remember wanting to be a kindergarten teacher when I grew up. In my late teens / early 20s, I chose to study fashion instead, before marrying and having my son Joshua, now thirteen.

My interest in working with children was renewed when Josh began attending preschool. I returned to study, completing my Diploma in Children's Services (centre-based care) at Crow's Nest TAFE in 2000.

Luckily for me, my last practicum was at Hall Avenue. The staff are extremely supportive of students, and their sincerity, care and respect shown towards the children impressed me greatly. I put my name down; working casually in 2001, before applying for a permanent position which began in 2002. I have worked with Janet in the Possum Room Wednesday to Friday ever since, and I love it. The children continue to be a delight and they all shine in their own little ways.

Gina Shaw



I have a B.A and some background in child psychology whilst studying at University. I have two fantastic children and a wonderful husband. Whilst the children were young I stayed at home with them. Realising their growing independence, however I knew that it was time to do something for myself.

Working with and caring for young children has always been a passion for me and so when I was offered a position at CPCK, I jumped at the chance and started work in March 2002. As soon as I stepped in the front door on my first day, I felt at ease and knew that this was the job for me.

The staff are wonderful to work with and truly dedicated. The children are a blessing and each working day I look forward to seeing their smiling faces, hearing their funny stories and hopefully helping them to feel safe, happy and comfortable during their day at Kindy.

Yen Yeo



I was picking my son up from CPCK when I saw a sign that said they were looking for a casual bookkeeper. I had been thinking about returning to work when my son went to school so I approached the Director.

Helen Clare was not unfamiliar to me, as she had been one of Isaac's teachers in 1992. My training in bookkeeping qualified me and I was given the job.

When Helen left, the new Director, Felicity Barclay approached me to work part-time (2 days). I was given some of the office duties. I enjoyed getting to know the children and their parents.

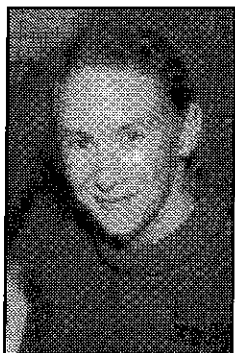
The longer I was at CPCK the more I grew attached to it. Walking around the shops at Veteran's Parade could mean bumping into any of the parents. What I found hard was remembering all the names.

I also took pride in bringing a more professional approach to the financial reports. The challenge I set myself was to anticipate what the Treasurer's questions would be when he or she gets the monthly financial report. I think the skill to do that will be a great asset to the Kindy as some reports take a long time to come up with yet the request can be very simple, like asking in July "May I have the budget for next year by tomorrow?" (No, nobody asked me that thank goodness!)

When Jan Mills joined us, it was another learning phase for me as she is again different to the previous Directors, Kathryn having left us for Perth. Then around the middle of 2004, the church I attend approached me to join their office staff. I had already been doing their accounts on a volunteer basis and they knew me well so I decided it was time to say goodbye to the Kindy.

My son is now in Year 11 and we still have the plate on which he drew a rainbow serpent. On the day they were asked to draw for the Picture Plate, Mrs. Sue Ferry had told them the story of the rainbow serpent, part of the culture education at CPCK. CPCK will always hold a special place in my heart.

Jenny Jones

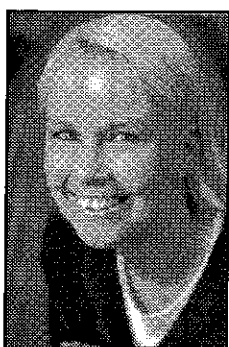


After a varied career in Early Childhood, I started with CPCK in 2003. I completed my Associate Diploma in Social Science studies in 1991 and have worked in facilities catering for additional needs; children at risk and work based long day care.

I have a four year old daughter and am eagerly awaiting the arrival of our latest addition, due in late October. I will be returning to CPCK, sometime during 2005, as I enjoy being a part of the kindy's supportive and professional team.

PS. It's a boy!

Michelle O'Toole



I started in January 2003 and work Monday and Tuesday in the Possum room as assistant to Liz and Amanda. I sometimes relieve on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday as needed, so I get to know all the staff and children at CPCK. I had applied for the position through the Manly Daily and didn't know anyone attending kindy at the time.

I love all the kids and the staff at the kindy and enjoy everything about my job. I especially love chatting to the children while doing craft, puzzles or playing in the sandpit together. They say the funniest things!

The hours I work are great, as previously I've only worked in Long Day Care. I have two children, a seven year old boy Jason and nine year old girl, Brooke. I took this position, so I could still have plenty of time at their school for reading, groups, excursions etc. and time afterwards to help with their homework or at the many sports they do after school and on weekends. We live at Allambie Heights and have a blue cattle dog and a fish. We enjoy the beach, canoeing, camping and holidays together and with friends. We are a very busy family, so my job at CPCK is perfect for us all.

Jane Sym



I have lived in Collaroy Plateau since I was five years old. My mother was a teacher's aide at the Kindergarten from 1976 to 1981 and my brothers attended the kindergarten in the early '70s.

I am married with two children, my son attending Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten in 2000 and 2001. I was also on the 2001 Management Committee, holding the position of secretary

Prior to children, I worked as a secretary, and became a stay at home Mum in 1996. In July 2004 I returned to the Kindergarten, this time as an employee, job sharing the position of Administrative Assistant, two days a week with Cecilia Jago.

I wanted to return to work part-time and in school hours, so I could be around for my children. The position is perfect, and being close to home and school is also a great bonus.

Both as a parent and now as a staff member, I have found the teachers very friendly and approachable and the kindy has a friendly, warm atmosphere, all of which made the position for attractable.

Sarah Herbert

I started at CPCK in term two 2004 for my final Practicum for TAFE. I was then luckily offered Jenny's position for term four, whilst she had her baby.

Ever since I started at CPCK I have enjoyed everyone's company. I have met all the children and the staff are all so nice. I have learnt so much in my time here.

I'll be sad to go at the end of the year. But I'm very thankful for the experience I've had at CPCK.

Early Days of Collaroy Plateau

In 1818 Governor Macquarie made a grant of 410 acres to John Ramsey. The land had a water frontage from Long Reef to Narrabeen lagoon, with a plateau rising behind that magnificent waterline. It became known as Mt. Ramsey. Later the area to the west of Mt. Ramsey was granted to James Wheeler. Mt Ramsey is, of course, an early name for Collaroy Plateau.

The Paddle steamer, Collaroy, was built in Birkenhead in the 1850s and sailed to Sydney with her paddles stowed below decks. "Collaroy" is an aboriginal name meaning "long reeds" but the vessel was built for the Grafton Steamship Co. and acquired by the Collaroy Sheep Station near Merriwa, New South Wales.

The paddle steamer was not very fast and Captain Thompson was known to take short cuts to make up time. On the night of 20th January 1881, Collaroy left Newcastle. She was travelling too close to the shore when Captain Thompson realized that the vessel was in imminent danger of running into the rocks of Long Reef, so he turned the Collaroy inshore and ran her hard onto the beach to avoid the rocks. She stayed stuck on the beach for four years before being refloated. The suburb was named Collaroy Beach.

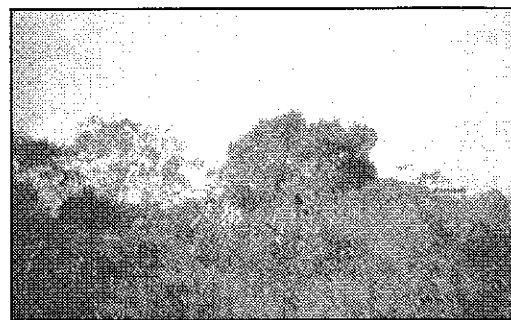
Car travel boomed after World War 1 and Collaroy Beach quickly became one of the Northern Beaches most popular picnic spots, shops having been established by this stage.

As reported in the February 1975 edition of "The Plateau News" blocks of land on the Plateau in 1936 could be bought for 25 pound. By the early 50's land on Collaroy Plateau was much sought after by young couples as the "best", closest land they could afford.

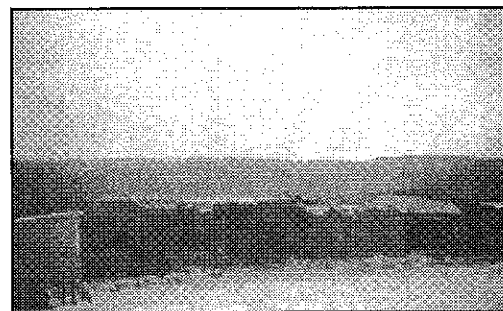
The Estates of the late Jessie Green released a large section of the Plateau. (There are three streets named after her daughters' Stella, Essilia and Claudare.) In 1952 blocks with a 40' frontage could be purchased for 150 to 300 pounds, price depended on the amount of rock and drainage. 300 pound would buy a block on the dress circle, Edgecliff Boulevard.

It was a common sight to see young couples get off a bus at the corner of Pittwater Road and Wetherill Streets, climb "the goat track" to the Plateau ready for a days work on their dream home. Finance was hard to get and many cleared their own land and sub-contracted to build their

houses. There were many half houses built on the Plateau during this period.



Essilia Street, 01 January 1953



Essilia Street looking to the lake

Bus transport was limited but the journey to Manly Wharf from Collaroy took only 28 minutes and cost 1/- (10c), a few buses went to Narrabeen on weekdays but the service did not extend to Wynyard.

When the streets of Collaroy were first named Collaroy, Jenkins and Ramsey Streets ran from Pittwater Road and right across the Plateau. As can be imagined this caused great confusion - fine on a map but rather disconcerting to find a cliff dividing the streets in half. These streets were later renamed Telopea, Grevillia and Acacia - named for the once prolific flora of the area.

Plateau Road once ran from Parkes Road where it turned left into what is now Hall Avenue, and then right into what is now Veterans Parade.

The original subdivision also showed a Mason Street between Veterans Parade and Fuller Street. Sufficient space for satisfactory building blocks had not been allowed and Mason Street was never developed.

The late Captain Frank Hurley, a photographer who went with Shackleton to the South Pole in 1914 and who later became Australia's official photographer during World War

1, lived on Edgecliff Boulevard. He vowed that the view from the Plateau, across the lake to the beach and beyond to the distant headlands and Lion Island, was unsurpassed in the world.

Collaroy Plateau Public School was opened in 1954 and Collaroy Plateau West in 1961 - the name Collaroy Plateau West was later changed to Wheeler Heights Public School to avoid confusion. St Rose Catholic Primary School is the third school, established in 1973.

Collaroy Plateau even had its own fire brigade. Named the Plateau Volunteer Community Fire Brigade the trailer was stored in the shopping centre on Aubreen and Telopea Streets and captained by George Haxcell.

The Augusta Shopping Centre was opened early in 1966. Over the years many businesses have serviced the Collaroy Plateau community, and have included a supermarket, fruit shop, butcher, pharmacy, hairdressers, timber yard, pet store, florist, drapery, post office, newsagent, and service station. The Commonwealth Bank opened a branch in the Augusta Shopping Centre on "Decimal Currency Day" 14th February 1966.

In 1985 Warringah Shire Council repaved the approach to the shopping centre. They had applied for a Community Employment Programme grant for the purpose.

Originally there were five churches on the Plateau but amalgamation of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches meant that the new Uniting Church did not need one of the sites. The site in Acacia Street was redeveloped as housing blocks.

In 1977 an upper floor was added to the Youth Centre in Blandford Street. Adjacent to the Youth and Community Centre tennis courts had also been added to provide extra sporting facilities for the Plateau community.

The majority of young mums in the 50's and 60's were not employed outside the home and many of them enjoyed a social game of tennis at "Northey's Courts" in Rose Avenue.

Prior to the 1960's young mums had to travel to Dee Why to get advice and support at the Baby Health Centre. In the 60s a mobile Truby King Clinic parked at the Telopea Street shopping centre once a week. It continued to offer this service until the Collaroy Plateau Baby Health Centre was opened near the Augusta Shopping Centre. It was closed in the late 90s and new mums on the Plateau sort advice from the Narrabeen and Dee Why Early Childhood Health Centres.

Opened as the War Veterans Home in 1938, the RSL Veterans' Retirement Village celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1988.

The Plateau produced its own newspaper for many years. Keeping the local community updated on work being carried out on the Plateau by council, and the everyday happenings of members in the community. "The Plateau News" was delivered free to some 4000 homes each month.

Up until 1978, the Plateau was home to two horses on the corner of Acacia and Stella Streets. Named Ginger and Adeena, they were forced to move in accord with council rule. The horses had been kept in the paddock and had been a pleasure to both children and adults and provided free fertiliser for many enthusiastic gardeners. The horses added country atmosphere to suburbia and many residents were sad to see them go.

The history of Collaroy Plateau is the story of real community spirit. A suburb that started with many of the families being related, now is a popular suburb of the Northern Beaches, slightly out of the way, but with that small community feel about it.

Plateau News April 1969

POEM TO THE EDITOR

Written about Plateau Park

The High Cost of Housing

By Jack Corley

Have you seen the dozers at work on the nearby hill?

How they level it down with such speed and skill!

Gone are the bandicoots that dig up the lawn,
So have the bush birds that sang in the morn
The wild flowers have gone; you could see them from here;

The flannel flowers, daisies and wattle so clear.

Now there are houses all shining and neat,
Row upon row, street upon street.

The have taken the bush, it will never be back.
The birds and the flowers, the little rough track.
If I could bring back the hill that has been shorn,

The flowers the wattles, the birds in the morn,
To be what they were in the years gone by
I'd welcome the bandicoots I used to decry.

Plateau News

The Plateau News commenced publication in November 1959 and was run by four members of the Garden Club. The editor was Edgar (Ted) Gornall. To finance the paper, they used personal loans, advertising income and garden club funds until demand became too huge and operation beyond the capacity of a few people.

Edgar Gornall's original editorial said the News was to be given *"that spirit of sturdy independence and self reliance, which characterises so many citizens of Collaroy Plateau"*. He was a broadcaster on 2UE for many years and during his years as editor, many gardening articles by experts were published in the Plateau News. Edgecliff Boulevard's wildflower garden is named after Edgar Gornall.

Charles Hale took over briefly as editor, followed by Harry Redden who was president of the Progress Association. In 1963 a News Committee was formed to take over and run the Plateau News. In 1966 it was decided the publication needed reorganisation and greater responsibility to the community.

Following a meeting of local organisations a new committee was formed. Those represented were the three churches, two schools, the Progress Association and the Youth club. Membership included financial and editorial responsibility and guaranteed copy space. The editorial meeting to produce the paper usually went on into the early hours of the following morning. Advertising, distribution and financial control was carried out separately and reported in a short formal meeting each month before editing commenced. For the next eleven years Milton Lidgard held the position of editor.

Eventually the publication of the Plateau News was taken over by the Youth Club. The club decided that the Newsletter was a better way of communicating to the members and ran the newsletter for a few years, along the model of the Plateau News.

When produced by the News Committee, Prestige Press in Brookvale, which at the time was operated by Plateau resident, Frank Rosnell, printed the Plateau News.

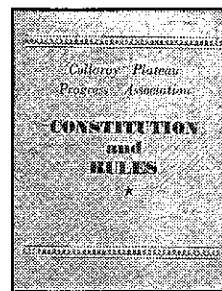
The first issue had a free monthly circulation of 1250, through Collaroy Plateau, Collaroy, Narrabeen and Dee Why. By the second publication it had reached 1500 and in 1979 it was 3500, almost entirely delivered to homes in Collaroy Plateau and Wheeler Heights. Some younger people were paid a small fee to deliver the news from as far

as Pittwater Road, Long Reef and South Creek Road, Dee Why West.

The Plateau News kept the community informed on public transport, sewerage, curbing and guttering and amongst other things the news of locals within the community in their column "Plat Chat".

Copies of the Plateau News are available at Warringah Library in local studies and at the Mitchell Library in Sydney.

Collaroy Plateau Progress Association

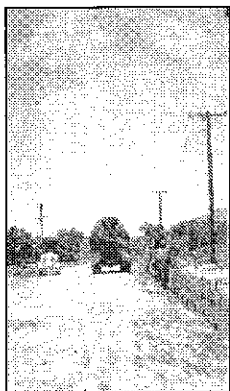


The Collaroy Plateau Progress Association came into existence at a public meeting of local citizens held at Plateau Park on the 19th October 1947.

The Constitution of the Progress Association states, 'the objectives of the Association is to work for improvement in the area, covered by the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association and the welfare of residents generally of such area within the Shire of Warringah. Also to co-operate with other Associations when and where necessary and make representations to the requisite Authorities regarding any project which the Association considers is for public good. And to undertake any other work of a nature similar to that stated above provided it was authorised at a General Meeting of members of the Association.'

Officers of the Association consisted of a President, two Vice Presidents, two Trustees, a Committee of six, a Secretary, a Treasurer and an Auditor. Membership was opened to any person 18 years and over residing or having business premises in the area covered by the Association. Meetings were held once a month, and occasionally an extraordinary meeting was called for, in matters of urgency. Minutes were kept of every meeting.

The Collaroy Plateau Progress Association was instrumental in sewerage connections on the Plateau, which then allowed the removal of the tanker disposal inlet in Cromer. They pushed for the widening of roads, additions of footpaths, kerbing, guttering, and drainage of roads.



Kerbing and guttering in Essilia Street

The Plateau Volunteer Community Fire Brigade, with George Haxcell, the Captain, enlisted the help of many community members including Progress Association committee members.

Plateau Park once an Air Force Radar Station during the war was successfully turned into what it is today, thanks to the Progress Association.

They were responsible for the Education Department resuming land from the Salvation Army for the Collaroy Plateau Public School.

They also had Jamieson Park reclaimed for the people, and were the driving force in having the path constructed around the lake, for the community to enjoy.

The Collaroy Plateau Progress Association watched over the development of the Plateau, ensuring big developments were not built in the area. An article appearing in the Plateau News spoke of Council being taken to court by developers over town planning issues.

..... Put quite simply, your suburb is in real danger of being transformed, quite rapidly, into an unplanned and unbalanced high-rise area!

The Sunday Telegraph 12th September 1971 reported the proposed use of amphibious aircraft on Pittwater, Dee Why Lagoon and Narrabeen Lakes. The Collaroy Plateau Progress Association exchanged correspondence with State M.L.A Mr. Allan Viney concerning this proposal.

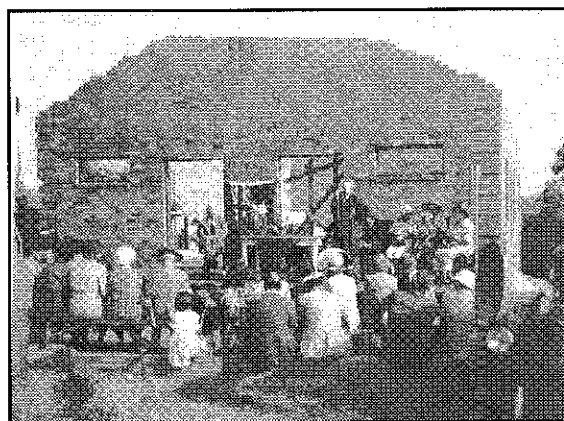
In the later years many articles published in the Plateau News requested the attendance of locals to meetings which benefit the community of Collaroy Plateau as a whole, and yet they continued for years with only a small number of Committee members. An interim committee was formed on 20th April 1988 until the hand over of the hall to Warringah Shire Council. Eventually, the Collaroy Plateau Progress

Association ceased operation in late 2000. The leaving Committee members were Kindergarten parents or ex Kindergarten parents with one ex Progress Association member.

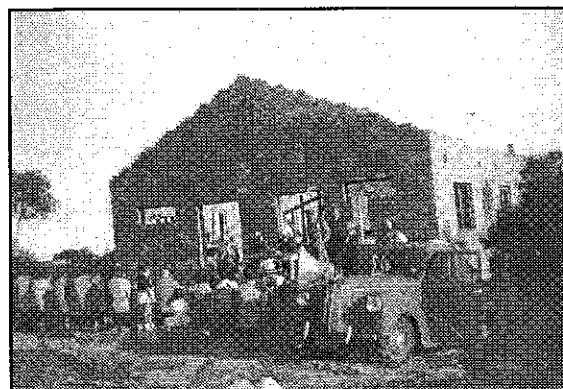
The Collaroy Plateau Progress Association were truly a magnificent group of people. They gave up their time voluntarily to form a committee in order to look after the interests of the community. It is this love of Collaroy Plateau that has made it such a beautiful suburb to live in and be part of. Although the Plateau has changed immensely since that first meeting in 1947, it is the hard work and perseverance of the Association we should all be proud of.

Collaroy Plateau Progress Hall

In a Form lodged with the Commissioner of Land Tax in 1978, it states the block 33 - 41 Hall Avenue; Lot 5 / 6 was acquired in 1949 from the Presbyterian Church. The church accepted a block of land in Blandford Street, near the northern edge of Plateau Park by means of a swap. The block had a frontage of 32 metres and a depth of 81 metres. The nature of the estate was Freehold.

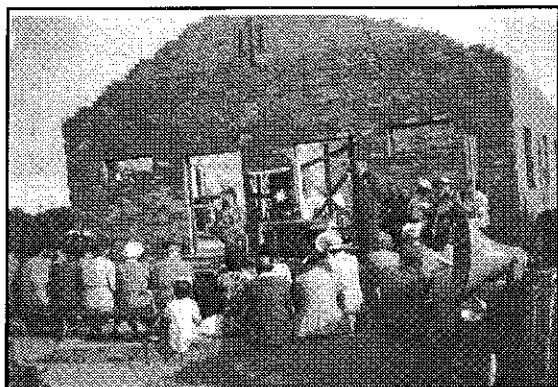


**Mr. Arthur Rose speaking
11th April 1953**

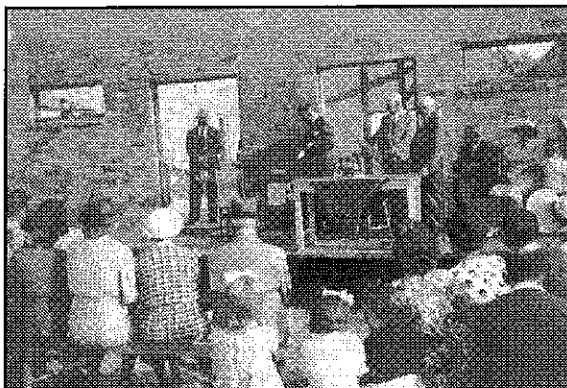


**Councillor Alan Wheeler speaking
11th April 1953**

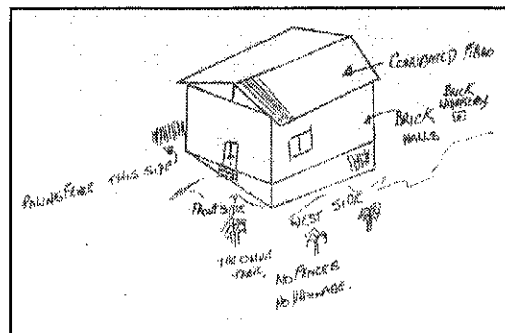
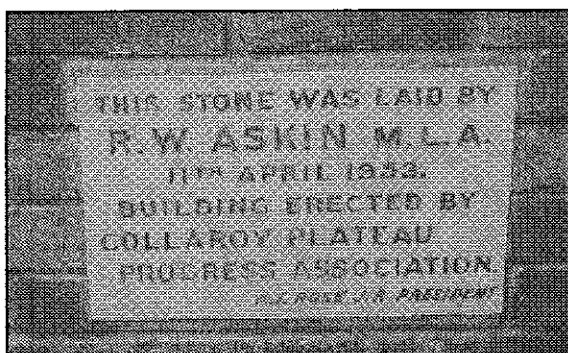
The foundation stone for the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association Hall was laid on 11th April 1953. In attendance at the ceremony were Mr. R.W. Askin M.L.A (Member of the Lower Assembly), Mr. W Wentworth M.H.R (Member of the House of Representatives) and Mrs. Wentworth, Councillor Corkery of Warringah Shire Council, and Mrs. Corkery, Mr. Arthur Rose, President of the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association, Mr. Stack, and Councillor Alan Wheeler of Warringah Shire Council.



**Mr. Robert Askin speaking
11th April 1953**



**Presenting the foundation stone
Mr. Robert Askin
11th April 1953**



Sketch of building prior to renovations

Sketch by Milton Lidgard

Not to scale

The original building was constructed of bricks with a gable shaped roof. The floor plan was oblong shaped with about five windows, a double door at the front of the building. Inside was a cupboard with a bench top and an electric jug was in the south east corner.

The building of the hall included a lot of street parties and a keg, with permission of the police of course. The keg always supplied by Wally Monk of Brookvale Brewers.

The hall and land was owned by the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association, and hired out to numerous members of the community. Some included the Garden Club, Square Dancing, Boy Scouts, Ballet and the Kindergarten.

Exit lamps were a requirement to license the hall for public use. They were wired to light up if the power failed to the lighting circuit. They would then use battery power. For some years a lead / acid car battery was under the floor to supply the lamps if required. It was charged, by running in a car for a week. Numerous updates were made until a modern battery charger system was purchased.

Over the years renovations, have taken place to modernise the hall and make it more attractive to the hirer.



Advertisement in The Plateau News

At a CPPA meeting on the 4th December 1963 it was reported quotes for the construction of the entrance porch to the hall had yet to be received. The President reporting at a meeting on the 6th February 1964, that builders had failed to quote and further quotes would be sort in due course. Builders had still failed to quote on the construction of the

front porch by the 5th February 1964 and further quotes were being sought.

In October 1964, the floor of the hall was in need of repair. At the 4th November 1964 meeting, local builders indicated their quotes might not be competitive due to the size of the job and the special requirements. Special flooring contractors were contacted and quotes had been received. It was moved at the same meeting that the C.S.I.R.O Building Experimental Station be contacted, asking their advice on the best way in repairing the floor. A quote had been received by the 6th of December from Luderus and Bode for 278 pounds, and it was agreed to accept the quote. As of June 1969, quotes were received for future maintenance and care from three contractors. 'Luderus and Bode', 'Russell and Flew' and Fred Fitzgerald. As the floor had been sanded and polished, it was agreed to have the hall regularly maintained. In August a quote was received from Mr. Jack Ryder of Plateau Cleaning Services to wax and polish the floor. The quote of \$6.00 per service to be carried out monthly was accepted on 4th February 1970. In 1974 it was decided to have the floor oiled once a term, and the matter of a missing mop did hold up first terms oiling.

As with many minor repairs around the hall, the Progress Association members volunteered to carry out the maintenance. April 7th 1965 it was reported High School boys waiting for their bus at the front of the hall had damaged a fence, and one of the front doors had fallen off and narrowly missed a child. Mr. Haxcell a committee member volunteered to repair the door.

Due to the slope in the back garden, erosion it would appear is an ongoing problem and on the 21st July 1965, it was decided that to fix the problem 40 yards of filling and 100' x 2' retaining wall would be required. Mrs. Smith of the kindergarten was to be approached regarding the cost of the retaining wall and any fencing to be charged 50/50. Work was also to be carried out immediately to lower the storm water drain and divert the surface water on the eastern side from across the area between the toilets. In 1972, the water board had an amount of soil from recent excavation work in the area to use as filling for the hall grounds. During the April 5th 1972 Progress Association meeting the need for a retaining wall or solid fence was discussed. If there would be any hope of stopping the soil the Water Board were to deliver, from washing away into neighbouring properties, this was something to be considered. It was, however decided, a retaining wall or fence may be quite costly and it would have to wait until the extensions were completed.

In June of 1966 quotes were obtained for hall maintenance. Repair and painting of windows and all external wood work. Mr. Spraggs quote of \$95.00 was received and accepted for repair work.

In September 1967 Council suggested a step outside the gate of the Progress Hall be built, the Progress Association requesting Warringah Council to take appropriate action. It had been completed by the February '68 meeting and a letter of appreciation was sent to the Council thanking them for their work.

During 1968, further repairs on windows were completed and the ceiling of the Progress Hall, was cleaned by 'The Flying Dutchman' at a cost of \$22.00

There was some discussion on selling the Progress Hall to the Scouts in May 1969. The Scouts had approached the Progress Association, as they were expanding rapidly, and were sharing with Narrabeen, which was too small for their own needs. However the President explained, that in the event of the Association being disbanded the property would automatically be taken over by the Chief Secretary's Department. The Progress Association did not have the power to sell any property in the Association's name.

About the same time, discussions regarding extensions to the Progress Hall commenced in 1968 / 1969. It was suggested at the 4th June 1969, that a rough outline of the extensions and an approximate financial statement for the previous two months be compiled. A special meeting of the Committee took place on the 29th of July 1969. The meeting was attended by representatives of organisations on the Plateau, who used the hall and members of the Progress Association Committee. Mr. Carter drew up initial plans and working plans were to be drawn up at a later date. Once approved, the services of a 'competent draughtsman' were undertaken. Designer and Building Consultant, Mr. Hank Hermesen drew up the plans for the hall extension for a cost of \$100.00

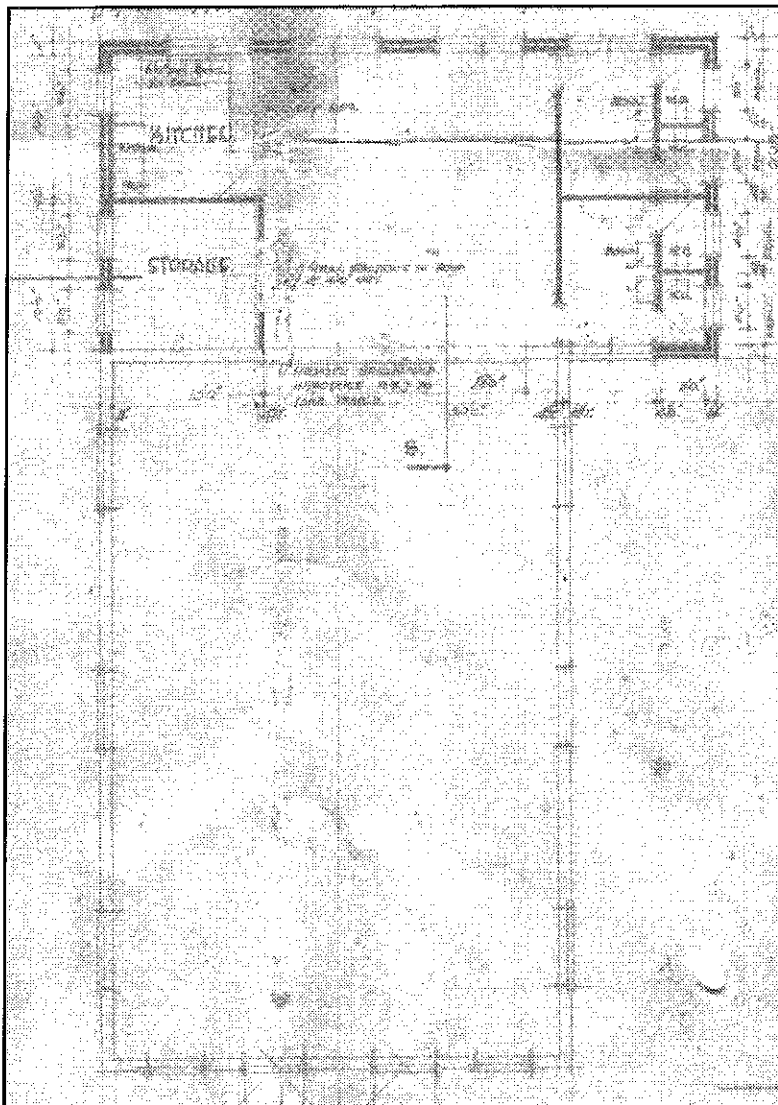
Plateau News December 1969

Progress Hall to be extended

Plans are as present being prepared for an extension to the rear of the Progress Association Hall in Hall Avenue.

The proposed addition to the hall will provide sewerer toilet facilities, a kitchen and storage area and enlarged hall space on the upper level with space for future uses in the lower floor area.

Improved facilities at the hall will be of great advantage to the kindergarten and will provide a community hall suitable for all letting purposes.....



Original plans submitted to Council

Plateau News March 1970

WHO CAN USE A MODERN HALL

.....The existing Progress Hall was completed over 10 years ago and lacks modern toilet and kitchen facilities. The sewer has recently become available to the hall property and as the hall is used by a kindergarten each week it is particularly essential that suitable toilet and kitchen facilities are provided as soon as possible

INITIAL STEP

Plans are being prepared for the extension of a new wing across the rear of the hall, which provides additional hall space, two toilet and wash room areas and much needed storage space. The area beneath the proposed extension will be sealed for a covered play area and later development. Additional toilets will be provided in this lower floor area.....

Plans passed by Council and the Water Board by June 1970, and approved and local builders were approached for quotes.

Quotes came in from Mr. Luker for \$13,750.00, Mr.

K.G.Lee \$16,980.00 and Mr. Reeves \$19,650.00. A special committee was formed to discuss the quotes and reported to the next Progress Association meeting. The Special Building Committee met on the 7th July 1970 and with only three quotes to work with, based on the lowest quote from Mr. Luker, a loan of approximately \$15,000.00 would be required. It was discussed an increase in rental of the hall would allow for a loan to be repaid over a reasonable period. It was suggested the kindergarten be increased from \$14.00 to \$20.00 per week, increasing monthly from \$56.00 to \$80.00.

In October 1970, it was announced new plans were drawn, extending the hall to the western side of the building. The first drawn plans had not met the approval of the Child Welfare Department. The second set of plans had the approval of the Child Welfare Department and the Board of Fire Commissioners, however Council rejected them. The reason being the hall is situated in an "A" class residential area. This meant that one-storey buildings could occupy 50% of the block, and required a side alignment of 20 feet (approximately 6 metres). New plans were drawn in October 1971 and submitted to Council.

Finally, at the May 3rd 1972 meeting, it was announced plans had been approved.

Advertisements were placed in the Plateau News and Manly Daily, seeking tenders.

Plateau News May 1972

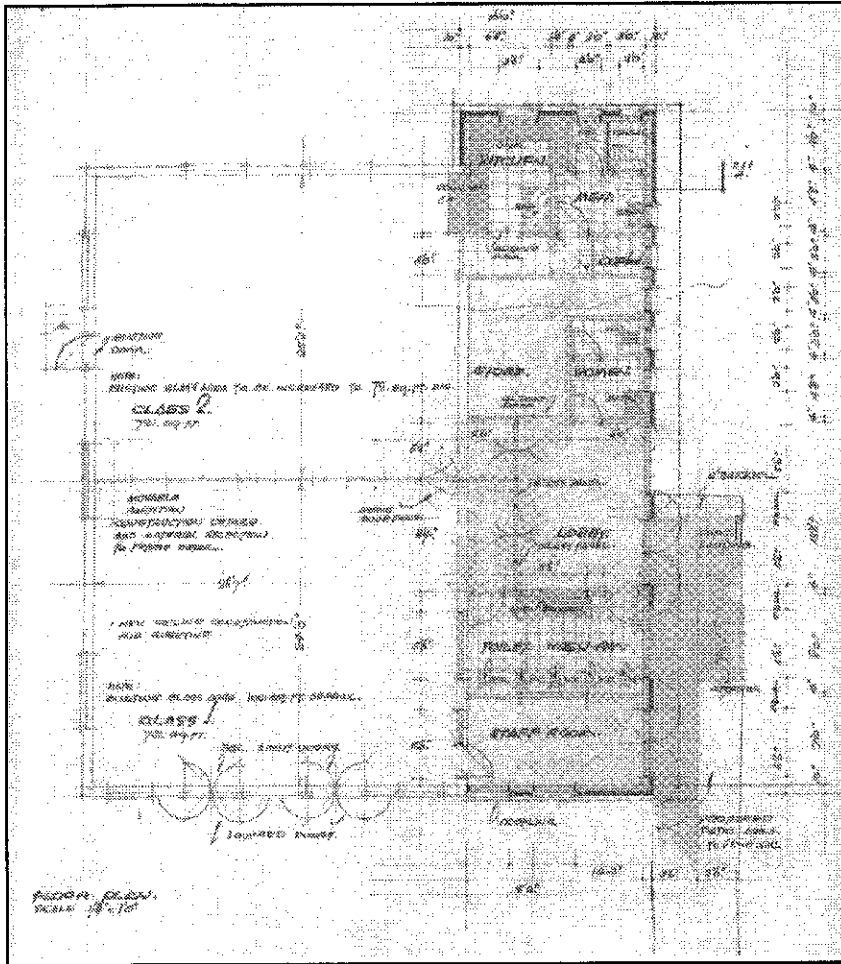
Tenders Invited

Tenders are called for the construction and completion of the extensions and alterations to the Progress Hall building. Contact Mrs. O Smith at the Progress Hall, between 9:00am and 3:00pm on 982 6167 or after hours at 98 8935

It was proposed the extensions, have an extended concrete floor and four builders had asked for specifications. Tenders for the alterations and extensions were therefore extended until the 12th June 1972 to allow for this.

Plateau News July 1972

*Collaroy Plateau Progress Association Building Plans
Tenders have been received from several builders interested in the Association project. These tenders are now under review and the successful tenderer will be known shortly.*



However, the whole project is now waiting advice from the Department of Child Welfare on the Association's application for Government subsidy for the Kindergarten. The Association hopes to have more promising news by next months meeting.

Four quotes had been received for the extensions. Quotes tendered were Profile Homes \$23,648.00, F.L.Verrills \$23,150.00, Lexite Property Developments \$19,950.00 and Mr. A.D.Luker \$18,200.00. Mr. Luker being the lowest quote received was accepted, after all four builders were met and interviewed by the Building Committee. Mr. Luker was requested to show his registration card with licence endorsed, after which a contract was signed.

The Bank of NSW in Collaroy approved a bank loan of \$20,000.00. Repayments were to be made over 15 years at \$125.00 per month or approximately \$2,100.00 per year. This figure is more than the Association had received in the previous three years, and obtaining the loan would rely greatly on the Government Subsidy received.

The Association had received a letter from the Bank of NSW advising the interest rate was to increase from 7.5% to 10.5% increasing repayments from \$175.00 to \$200.00.

A request to the bank was that repayments be increased from \$175.00 to \$185.00 extending the term of the loan to twenty-three years.

Mr. Lidgard advised the committee that bricks were now in short supply due to an oil strike, and this may now hold up the building of the extensions. There is no further discussion on the matter so the strike obviously did not have any affect.

Letters were issued stating the Hall would not be available for use for about 15 weeks from the 27th August 1972.

Plateau News August 1972

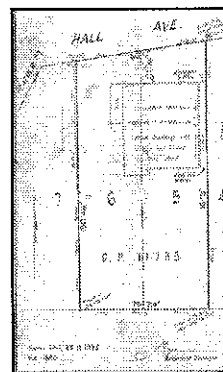
Collaroy Plateau Progress Association Building Extensions

....It is hoped that work will commence in August. In view of this, local organisations who regularly meet in the Progress Hall are being advised that alternative arrangements will have to be made for the balance of 1972. This, of course, also refers to the Community Kindergarten. Alternative arrangements are being investigated by the

Committee and subject to Child Welfare approval it is hoped to conduct the Kindergarten on a restricted basis. Those concerned will be advised as soon as arrangements have been finalised.

Arrangements were made for the Kindergarten to hire the Methodist Hall, a \$25.00 application fee paid to Council, as a refundable deposit.

Reported at the 6th September 1972 meeting, foundations had been laid and work was progressing well. Bricks were to be delivered within the next week.



In October 1972 a surveyor's report was carried out to establish the correct boundaries of the property, inquiries into costs to build a brick wall with drive through gates were made and the sandpit was to be built with bricks, with a concrete border. Mr. Eric Christensen built the sandpit in the shape of a figure eight.

Work progressed very favourably for the hall, and building was near completion as at 6th December 1972 apart from lighting. Regular progress payments had been made to Mr. Luker, and the Association

was pleased with the results so far.

The first term of kindergarten resumed in the Progress Hall in 1973 after the renovations were completed.

Plateau News February 1973

KINDERGARTEN

The meeting was informed that the Kindergarten had resumed operations for 1973 in the extended and renovated Progress Hall.

The original toilets on the block, ladies and men's were constructed of brick with the old pan system installed. They were situated at the back of the hall and were surrounded by weeds. Some income was generated after buses started to terminate outside the hall, by allowing bus crews to use the facilities. Later, toilets were constructed for the kindergarten children. A lot of disinfectant was used in an attempt to keep hygiene at a reasonable level. The pans were removed from behind the toilet blocks so the children did not see and replaced twice a week. Lengthy discussion at the 1st February 1967 meeting, regarding raising funds for the proposed sewerage connection was held over for further discussion. Although the sewer was available to the property in 1970, it was not until 1973 before the hall was finally connected to the sewer, and the kindergarten could be done with the old toilet pan system.

Drainage problems began in June of 1973. Although the Association had complied with Council regulations in respect of building application, problems had occurred, where by rainwater would flow down to the bottom corner of the Progress Association land through to neighbouring properties in Parkes Road. The Council Inspector suggested the only solution would be to pipe water through neighbour's property and onto Parkes Road. Pipes were ordered and were to be delivered in early November due to strikes. Again in 1976, water was flowing into neighbour's yards from the Progress Hall and an Inspector had advised this was a natural flow of water. To rectify the problem the Progress Association agreed to put a drain to the fence line, and one of the neighbouring properties would put a drain through their property to take the water out onto the street. In 2000, seepage into neighbouring properties was still an issue, the Council deciding to install a new detention pit.

There was talk in June 1974 about the olive tree at the front of the hall. The gutters seemed to be blocked many times, and after some discussion as to whether to remove the tree or half the tree, it was decided that half the tree was to remain. In 2004 the tree was causing havoc, with continual dropping of seeds, that Council completed an inspection. As its roots had started to push beneath the building, council approved the removal of the tree.

Late 1975 questions were raised about painting and maintenance of the hall. It was believed that the Kindergarten could raise funds for this, as most the maintenance was necessary due to the usage of the hall by the kindergarten. Rather than increase the rent of the hall, the cost of painting would be covered by the kindergarten. The Kindergarten committee obtained quotes for painting of the hall and the hall was re painted in January 1976 at a cost of \$820.00.

Ceiling fans were added to the building in April 1976. The Mother's Club had raised enough funds for the installation, and the trustees of the hall granted permission.

The building was again extended in 1978, this time the addition of an office and a desperately needed storeroom. Mr. Arthur Luker tendered a quote of \$4,045.00, which was accepted by letter on the 7th February 1978. The plans were submitted to Council 28th February 1978. A letter was sent to Warringah Shire Council on 31 May 1978 requesting information on the status of the building application and again on 13 July 1978.

The office being the last major renovation on the hall was completed in 1984.

In August 1986 three quotes were received to have the new vinyl tile and the timber floor sanded and finished. Of the three quotes House of Modern Floors, Elegant Flooring and B&W Flooring the latter was accepted and work completed during the August school holidays.

Insulation bats were first talked about at a Mothers Club meeting on the 28 July 1988. It was decided to save up for these over a number of years so they may eventually be installed, however after a quote for supply only, it was thought to be too expensive and the plan was to make the saving an ongoing project until they became affordable.

A one off grant under the preschool enhancement grants programme of \$2,000.00 was given to the kindergarten in May 1991. It was to spend within six months of receiving and a condition of the grant was that the kindergarten provide a certified statement confirming funds had been spent. Two quotes were received, and by August 1991 PC Insulations installed Bradford gold bats R2.5 batts in the ceiling and R2.0 batts under the floor.

\$300.00 was left from the grant payment. This money was put toward the purchase of new pine logs for the playground and the log pergola over the sandpit was extended to provide more shade for the children. An additional \$559.00 was added to cover the costs.

Due to declining membership of the Progress Association it was decided to transfer ownership to the Warringah Shire Council. The transfer was conditional, among other things, that the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten be encouraged to continue as main tenants of the hall. Council adopted the proposed donation of the Collaroy Plateau Progress Hall to Warringah Shire Council on the 17th November 1987.

The Collaroy Plateau Progress Hall was sold to Warringah Council in approximately 1992 for \$1.00. A voluntary committee managed the Hall until 1st October 2000, when management of the hall was transferred to Council.

Plans were submitted and approved by Council in 2001 for shade structures in the back garden. Of the choices available, the Committee chose Heritage Green. They were installed in July of 2001. Having them made a huge difference than without, providing more cooler and shadier areas for activities. A sandpit cover was custom made and fitted in September 2001 for a cost of \$803.00 replacing the tarpaulin.

The shade structure at the front of the kindergarten was installed in 2001. Mist Green to blend in with the surrounds. The front of the building could now be utilised more often, and in the warmer weather, children eat their morning tea out front.

The outside Toilet Block. An event in itself. The first mention of outside toilets was in fact during the renovations of 1973 as a future effort. It was again proposed in a memorandum to the Management Committee on the 6th December 2000. It took four years for it to be built, making playtime outside much easier for the teachers, who would have to accompany the children to the indoor bathrooms more than once during their time spent outside. The memorandum suggested two toilets plus a sink to be in line with DOCS and Council requirements. It was estimated the cost to be around \$10,000.00 to \$13,000.00. Plans were submitted to council for the toilet block in March 2001 and approved April 2001. At the Management Meeting 6 March 2002 it was hoped the toilet block would be installed by the end of the year.

It would take another three and a half years and many more quotes before the outside toilets were built. Warringah Shire Council installed the toilet block, and with much excitement the children waited their turn to investigate the new facilities.

Topsy Harris



Born Violet Mary Barton, Topsy's parents travelled 34 miles by horse and sulky to Narrandera to register her birth. Her father really wanted to name her Topsy, but her mother preferred to name her daughter after her closest friend. Topsy's father was thirsty after the trip, and went

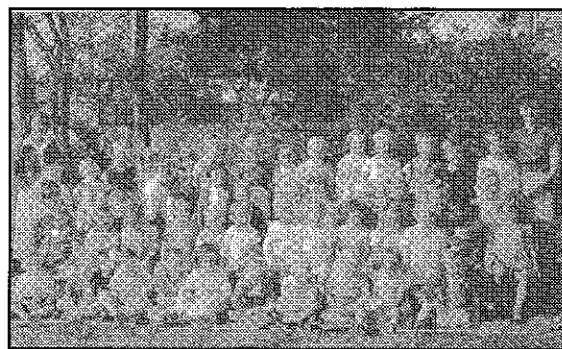
off to quench his thirst, and Topsy's mother made her way to the registry office. As so happened in years gone by, children were registered and were nicknamed from birth. Violet has only ever been known as Topsy.

Topsy Harris, a registered nurse and Mavis Bryant, a teacher, both with 3 year old boys, decided to open a kindergarten for children aged 3-5 years of age. They chose the Methodist Church Hall in Balgowlah in 1951-1952.



27 April 1953 - Reproduced courtesy of the Manly Daily

They opened with 20 children attending, and before they moved to new premises had forty children in their charge. The ladies provided a car service with a weekly fee of two pounds, three shillings and sixpence. The kindergarten was registered and inspected regularly.



Topsy Harris and Mavis Bryant
Gumnut Kindergarten
Circa 1952

The kindergarten's waiting list grew rapidly due to a lack of kindergartens in the area, so the decision was made to look for two suitable halls and work independently of one another. A hall in Dee Why west was chosen and Topsy chose the Progress Association Hall in Hall Avenue Collaroy Plateau.

The Harris family lived in High Street, Dee Why, at the top of McIntosh Road. They sold their home in Dee Why and moved to a home on the flat in Avalon in 1954. Topsy describes Avalon in the 1950's as *'very remote, but lots of bushland and koalas.'* Topsy would drive to Collaroy Plateau every day, picking up three or four children along the way and dropping them home again in the afternoon.

In 1964 Mr. Harris, who worked for the bank, was transferred to Balranald, mid way between Hay and Mildura. Mr. Harris went on ahead of Topsy, as their two sons had exams and they joined him Christmas 1964. Topsy found it difficult leaving the Northern Beaches for a town on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River, but the people were wonderful and quite accustomed to making their own fun.

The local Doctor was also the animal vet and after helping a local lady set up a kindergarten, Topsy began work as the matron of the local hospital. Topsy would often attend emergencies the Doctor should, however he was often long distances from town, so Topsy would tend to them.

Years later, when travelling to Adelaide, the Harris' would stop at Balranald. The locals still remember the family, and the kindergarten is still operating today.

Returning to Sydney in 1967-68 Mr. Harris was transferred to Miranda, and the family moved to Georges Hall. Once settled, Topsy returned to part then full time nursing, and at one time was Deputy Matron at an aged care hospital.

Topsy retired in 1993.

Mr and Mrs. Harris moved back to Leeton, where they reside today. Topsy has family who own two rice farms and a small dry area property for sheep and often visits the old home on the farm. No one lives there now. The farmers live in town now, and commute to the farm daily. Although the home is still livable, it is now used for lunch breaks.

These days Topsy spends her time playing golf and bowls. As Leeton is situated in the Murrumbidgee irrigation area they are surrounded by water and the sky is so huge, especially when driving across the Hay Plain.

When Topsy signed the papers over to the Progress Association, she was of the understanding the kindergarten may have to close and the Hall possibly sold. Mr. Harris' mother lived in Dee Why and as it was a two hour drive from Georges Hall, they never did have the time to drive up to the Plateau. Even in recent years, when visiting family and friends did they decide to drive up to the Plateau, so Topsy was excited to hear the kindergarten still existed.

"I just couldn't believe the Kindergarten is still there. If it weren't for the Progress Association, there would not have been a hall. Congratulations to them."

Olive Smith

Teacher and Director 1954-1982

TRIBUTE TO Mrs. Olive Smith

Retirement of Mrs. Olive Smith from the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten.

Mrs. Smith announced her retirement recently from the Kindergarten in Hall Avenue. She is the Director of the Kindergarten, a position which she has held for some twelve years, although her ties with the Kindergarten stretch back around twenty eight years to when it was privately owned.

John and Olive moved to Australia from Great Britain in 1951 with their two children, John and Frances, coming up to the Plateau around 1954 to build their home. From these early days they were both involved with the Progress Association and the Youth Club, helping to develop the facilities and services in this locality which were needed to cater for the young growing community. Initially, Olive went to work for Mrs. Hariss, who then ran the Kindergarten as a private enterprise, and remained until Mrs. Hariss decided to sell the Kindergarten and retire in 1970.

Olive and John were instrumental in setting up the Kindergarten on a community basis, the ultimate responsibility being taken up by the Progress Association. This arrangement has remained to this day, with the very strong link between the Kindergarten and the Progress Association still intact. In fact, the Progress Association effectively gains all its new members through the kinder, many of whom help run both the Kindergarten and Progress at some stage.

A large part of the credit for the development of the Progress Hall and attendant facilities from the simple building it was initially, is due to the work of both Olive and John, not to mention the maintenance of the hall in the interim. Olive has also helped in the maintenance of the community itself over the years, acting as both unofficial councillor and friend to many people, particularly young mothers and their children who have suffered some setback or trauma and needed support. As any one who knows her will confirm, her interest in and concern for this community is very deep.

Olive's retirement will be effective from the end of this year, although she has offered her help in settling in a new Director next year. It will seem strange not to see her at the entrance to the kinder welcoming the children in the morning and one must feel a certain sense of loss. However, we wish her well in her retirement and sincerely hope that she enjoys the new activities she will undoubtedly be taking up. There is little else that can be said except "thank you Olive for your guidance and support of the Kindergarten throughout the years of your involvement".

Plateau Playcentre Kindergarten

Plateau Playcentre Kindergarten came into existence when Topsy Harris decided to look for a new hall to move her already full and wait listed kindergarten into. There just were not enough kindergartens around to service the families of the Northern Beaches. Someone else may have started a kindergarten, and others, although smaller have appeared around the Plateau, but have not been in operation for as long.

It is with a lot of hard work from the Progress Association, the staff and the parents that the Kindergarten is what it is today and the very fact it is still operating is a feat in itself. There have been numerous times, that the option of closing the kindergarten has been discussed and fortunately the community has a kindergarten it can be proud of. The kindergarten is staffed with wonderful teachers and their passion for the kindergarten and love for the children make for a most enjoyable environment.

Unfortunately, most of the early records of the Progress Association have been destroyed and a definite date for the opening of the kindergarten can not be clarified. The Progress Association applied for a licence for theatres and public halls on 01 January 1954. The licence was first issued on 25th September 1954.

From the memories of Topsy Harris, incoming staff, and newspaper articles from the "Plateau News" it was determined the Kindergarten was opened sometime in 1954.

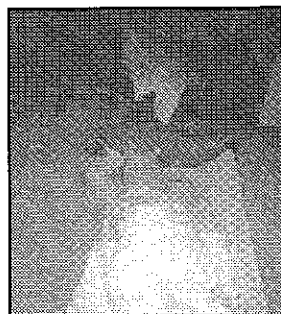
The Kindergarten under the ownership of Topsy Harris was privately run. The Progress Hall had not long been completed, when the Kindergarten moved in and the playground area was very uneven. This took a lot of work on the yard and they established play equipment.

On the 16th February 1964, at a Collaroy Plateau Progress Association meeting, the motion was put for the rent payable by the kindergarten to be increased to 240 pounds per annum. The motion was lost for want of a seconder. It was moved that rent be charged at 182 pounds per annum. It was decided Mrs. Smith was to be invited to the next meeting and advised of the proposed increase.

In a Collaroy Plateau Progress Association meeting on 7th April 1965 it was decided to arrange with council for the removal of four toilet pans twice a week, with Mrs. Harris to pay half and the Association to pay half. Toilet pans continued to be used until the hall was connected to the sewer.

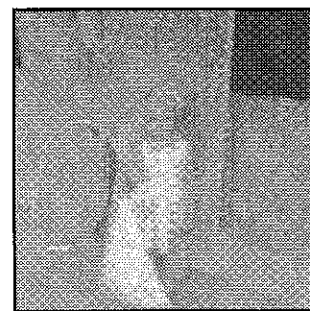
Each evening the staff would be required to pack away the equipment used that day in order for the hirers to use the hall.

Children slept on stretchers. The stretchers were stored on top of the stage, located in the southwest corner of the hall and packed away each afternoon. The stretchers have been compared to army issued stretchers, and probably as comfortable. Stretchers were used for rest time for many years, and teachers recall the stretchers being terribly heavy by the time they reached the 40th of the day



Debra Horton on a stretcher

In the early years the children brought along their own sleep bag, which they would take home each afternoon



Debra Horton with her sleepbag



Christmas is always a special time of year for children and adults alike. A special concert would be held, and Santa would visit the children, the mothers being served afternoon tea on the day.

Topsy Harris with Santa



**Mothers at Christmas party
Circa 1950s**



**Children watching Santa on stage
Circa 1960**

The hard work for the kindergarten started in the early years, with a gap in Progress Association meetings due to lack of numbers, the wider community needed to be told.

Plateau News May 1970

Kindergarten Future in Doubt

Its happened before - its been said before. It would appear that every organisation on the Plateau suffers from this problem - support! For the second month the Progress Association Meeting was abandoned due to the lack of a quorum.

.....

Kindergarten Future

There is one problem that everybody has forgotten. If the Progress Association ceases to function, killed by its own name - PROGRESS - what of the kindergarten, which serves a large portion of the community. The Progress Hall would, under the Constitution, be passed to the Chief Secretary's Department. Whether the kindergarten would be allowed to continue is another question.....

Don't keep it bottled up - support your organisations!

Discussions commenced in October 1970, regarding the take over of the kindergarten by the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association. Becoming a community kindergarten, under the control of the Association, would in turn create more work for the treasurer of the Association. It was suggested a lump sum of \$50.00 be paid annually to the secretary and treasurer. Other members thought this was too much and a more suitable figure of \$20.00 would be affordable by the kindergarten.

With increasing costs of rent, additional costs of purchasing furniture and equipment, and the distance between Topsy's home and Collaroy Plateau, Topsy Harris sold the Kindergarten to the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association in 1971. It was with great sadness Topsy sold her Kindergarten.

As part of the sale, decisions were made into aspects of the kindergarten. A car service offered by the staff under Topsy's ownership was discontinued due to Department Of

Motor Transport regulations. Staff would leave their homes and for a fee pick up children along the way, and return them to their homes after kindergarten.

The most important decision, was the change from a privately owned kindergarten to a Community run kindergarten. The advantages being that the kindergarten would be entitled to State Government subsidies.

Plateau News November 1970

Kindergarten Proposals

The sagging Progress Association has been shored up with new proposals to develop a community kindergarten. Debate on the subject proved lively when proposals for extensions and renovations were explained. Several members urged use of the Association building for the community activities, etc, the other side showing preference to kindergarten activities (the main bread winner) and the hiring of the hall if and when possible..

Your voice and opinion is needed, as you are the instrument by which we can provide for your children's welfare.

Letters were written to the existing members of the kindergarten staff in December 1970 regarding the change over of "The Plateau Playcentre Kindergarten" to the Collaroy Progress Association..... and the Kindergarten intended to commence operations as the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten on the 2nd February 1971. There were no changes to staff, other than one new teaching assistant was hired.

In Audrey Truscott's letter of change of ownership, her rate of .92c per hour, the award rate, was to be increased to \$1.00 per hour an over the award payment. However she was advised that should the award rate be increased, this did not necessarily mean a continuation of her over the award payment.

Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten

On February 2nd 1971 the Kindergarten officially became known as the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten.

All the excitement did not stop with a name change. The telephone was connected to the Hall in January 1971, bringing the kindergarten in line with technology and making a working day a little easier for the staff. \$300.00 was paid by the Kindergarten to the Progress Association to cover the cost of rent and the telephone installation

There was much excitement about the new Community Kindergarten that the business discussed at the meeting of the Progress Association for February 1971 centred on the new community kindergarten.

Plateau News February 1971

Lively Progress Association Meeting

The first meeting of the Progress Association proved very lively indeed. Items discussed included ...; the NEW community kindergarten

The big windfall is the Kindergarten change over from private to community at very little cost. This move will prove itself within a very short time, as all income will assist with further development of the kindergarten to the advantage of our children.

PARTICIPATION BRINGS PROGRESS!

We now have a kindergarten ... Lets not stop now!

Toilet Facilities were originally out the back of the kindergarten, and during the rainy periods, children would have to put on their raincoats and make their way out back. The toilets consisted of two separate sheds or 'outside dunnies', made of brick with a corrugated roof. There was one for boys and one for girls, each with two toilets. There was a trough in the outside storeroom and the children brought their own towel along to wipe their hands. Paper towelling was introduced in May 1971.

A new constitution was written, the name of the organisation was known as the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association Kindergarten Committee. Membership was restricted to financial members of the parent body, being the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association. The committee consisted of a Chairman and two committee members. The Director of the kindergarten became an automatic member of the committee. The chairman held the position for two years, the two committee members for one year. Elections were held yearly in March, the first such election was held in March 1972. The newly elected committee members were Mr. J Anderson - Chairman, Mrs. P Fisher, Mr. J Nihill - committee members and Mrs. O Smith - Director. Each month the kindergarten committee reported back to the Progress Association.

Plateau News December 1971

COLLARROY PLATEAU COMMUNITY KINDERGARTEN

Arrangements for the Kindergarten to be conducted by the Progress Association from the 1971 School year are now well in hand. The last general meeting of the Association passed a constitution for the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten Committee and elected a Committee to conduct affairs of the Kindergarten.

Chairman is Mr. J. Anderson and Committee members, Mrs. P Fisher and Mr. J Nihill; together with Mrs. O. Smith as Director of the Kindergarten.....

In Mr Anderson's absence, Mrs. Smith presented the first annual report of the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten to the CPPA 1st March 1972. Mr. Anderson's report read...

....It is my pleasure to submit the first Annual Report for the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten. Under the Directorship of Mrs. Smith, we as a Committee have not experienced any complications in the day to day operation of the Kindergarten. I might point out that this has only been as a result of Mrs. Smith's efforts and those of her staff who have worked tirelessly for the Kindergarten in far from adequate facilities.

We have catered for some one hundred children during this period and I feel it demonstrates the need which this Kindergarten fulfils in the Community.....

.....may I take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. Smith for her and her staff's efforts throughout the year and, in addition, her hospitality for our monthly meetings. Also I would like to thank our two Committee members, Mrs. Fisher and Mr. Nihill, for their unfailing support on the Committee.....

Free milk was still made available for the community kindergarten. In 1972 the allowance was reduced from 13 pints to 7 pints. It was ten days before it was corrected and the Child Welfare Department apologised for the error.

In November of 1972 it was realised after receiving the award payable schedule, that teaching assistants had been short paid .04 cents per hour since 1971. This, today may seem such a small amount, however when your wage is \$1.00 per hour it can seem quite significant. They were back paid by the end of 1972.

Extensions to the Progress Hall were well under way and the Kindergarten had re-located to the Methodist Church Hall in Stella Street for a period of fourteen weeks, at a rate of \$20.00 per week. The Committee also held three nightly meetings at a total charge of \$6.00. The Child Welfare Department had given permission for the Kindergarten to transfer to the Methodist Hall, and an Inspector would inspect the Hall prior to re opening.

Kindergarten recommenced in the Progress Hall at the start of term in 1973. It was reported

Plateau News February 1973

ENROLLMENT POSITION

Seventeen children commenced Kindergarten on half-time sessions in the last term of 1972. Forty-seven children have commenced this term, giving a total of sixty-four children. Thirty-one children, who were registered after February 1972, are still awaiting admission. When vacancies in the correct age groups occur, they will be enrolled. Eighty children are registered for 1974.

A notice of Motion was tabled at this meeting, seeking to change the Kindergarten Committee Constitution in that parents of children attending the Kindergarten are to be members of the Progress Association.

Plateau News March 1973

MOTION DEFEATED

.... The Notice of Motion to alter the Kindergarten Committee's Constitution so that parents of children attending the Kindergarten be members of the Progress Association was unanimously defeated.

In March 1973, the resigning president of the Progress Association Mr. Clayton, thanked Mr. John Anderson for his fine efforts as the foundation president of the Kindergarten Committee for helping it to get on its feet. Mr. Anderson held the position for two years. Mr. Clayton also thanked Mr. Milton Lidgard, Mr. John Smith and Mrs. Olive Smith for their patience in the face of many adversities during the set up of the Community Kindergarten and for their unfailing support during the rebuilding and alterations to the hall. The Committee had worked really hard over the last twelve months and the kindergarten was now a 'going concern'. He felt this fact should give the Executive and the Committee every right to feel proud of their achievements.

Mr. John Anderson presented his last Kindergarten report to the Association and thanked Mrs. Smith and the staff of the kindergarten for their assistance and co-operation during his time as President. He also thanked the parents who had volunteered their time for the working bees.

The new kindergarten committee elected during the 7th March 1973 Progress Association meeting was as follows: President – Mr. Renouf, Kindergarten Committee – Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Beasley, and Mrs. Smith the Director.

At a Progress Association meeting on 4th April 1973, the new kindergarten committee president Mr. Renouf requested a reduction in the rent from \$300.00 per month to \$200.00. Before the licence would be granted by Child Welfare Department, a number of items were required to be purchased, meaning the budget for term one would go over. The items to be purchased were two beds for dolls corner,

new books, bookshelves and blocks. Another inspection took place before the end of term one. From 6th June 1973, rent from the kindergarten to the CPPA increased from \$200.00 to \$250.00 per month

As at May 1973, the woman's basic wage of \$32.00 per week increased to \$35.10 per week. The National Wage back pay had been paid in August 1973. An Assistant Teacher's salary increased by .08c to \$1.22 per hour. Mrs. Helen Clare was paid \$3.04 per hour increased from \$2.90 and Mrs. Olive Smith; the Director was paid \$3.46 per hour increasing her pay by .15c per hour.

Throughout the years, kindergarten fees have depended upon the amount of government subsidy received. During the '70s the fees would fluctuate from \$1.00 to \$2.00. 1974 began with the fee set at \$1.80 per day and the third term in 1975 fees were set at \$1.00. Fees were reviewed every term. In 2004, parents are advised the set fee for the whole year.

The Child Welfare Department had issued the new licence. The Kindergarten classified a B. An A licence, which was thought by the kindergarten Committee, they would receive is only issued when a building is solely used by the kindergarten.

The kindergarten had to be closed on Tuesday 11th March 1974 with no charge to parents, due to flooding. In April of 1975 it was reported at a Collaroy Plateau Progress Association meeting, the kindergarten was experiencing leaking exterior drainage and as a result, the kindergarten was closed for the first time in twenty years. In fact it was the second time.

The set up of the kindergarten rooms, were a three year old group and a four year old group. The three year old group would move up to the four year old room, spending two years at kindergarten and the four year old group would head off to school the following year. On the 18th December 1974, it was announced, children will only attend the kindergarten one or two days per week, and only children in special need would be accepted three days per week. This was due to a large waiting list.

Permission was granted by the Kindergarten Committee, to employ four staff each day rather than four in the morning and three in the afternoon. Obviously much easier on the children, as they would now have a regular routine with teachers who start in the morning, and finish in the afternoon with them.

At a Progress Association meeting on 5th February 1975,

the president questioned why children outside the Progress area attended the Kindergarten. Mrs. Smith advised, due to kindergartens closing for lack of numbers, they decided to accept out of area children, and the kindergarten was lucky with so many new areas opening up, they were able to take in more children.

A piano tuner had come to look at the piano, which had been at the kindergarten since it opened in the 1950's the tuner spent two hours tuning it and doing minor repairs. He advised the piano required a lot of work on it, which in turn would cost a lot of money and doubted if anyone would want to do the job. The Mother's Club were prepared to buy a new piano and had raised approximately \$800.00 for the Kindergarten. The money was used to purchase a new piano, which replaced the piano donated by Mr. Arthur Rose in memory of his late wife and the remainder was spent on outside play equipment.

Plateau News March 1975

Progress Association

... the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten Mothers' Club have provided a new piano and new play equipment from funds raised by various functions. The Kindergarten is fortunate to have this fine group of mothers supporting its activities.

With such long waiting lists for kindergarten enrolments, it was suggested the commencing age for children be raised for 1976. This would give more children the opportunity to spend one year at kindergarten instead of a lesser number of children spending two years at kindergarten. Proof of age would also be requested when enrolment forms handed in. On 2nd April 1975 Mrs. Smith advised the Progress Association that the entrance age for the kindergarten would be put back from 3 years to 3 years 9 months.

In April of 1975 letters were issued to parents, notifying them, children would only be accepted at kindergarten for one year from 1976. It was also reported to the wider community.

Plateau News June 1975

Progress Association

Kindergarten Announcement

In order that a large number of children shall be able to attend the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten in future, the Committee has decided that only those children who will be eligible to attend school in the following year shall be admitted as pupils. In essence this new regulation means that children will only be able to attend the kindergarten for one year from February 1976.

The 1st October 1975 Progress Association meeting, there

was discussion on the future of the Hall and it was resolved that the Kindergarten Committee discuss the possibility of taking over all financial responsibilities of the hall in them, and no outside hirings. Other bookings contributed about \$1,000.00 per annum to the finances of the hall. Mr. Renouf the president of the Kindergarten Committee advised the Progress Association Committee in November 1975, that in order to qualify for the Government subsidy, the hall must be used by the full community, therefore cutting out non hire of the hall.

Kindergarten rental \$28.00 per month in 1969, in 1976, rent payable by the Kindergarten to the Progress Association was \$250.00 per month.

The Kindergarten paid rent two months in advance to keep the Progress Association solvent. Rent was increased from \$250.00 per month to \$275.00 per month in 1977. Rent was increased from \$700.00 to \$850.00 per month, due to increased maintenance costs of the building in February of 1987.

On 4th February 1976 at notice of motion was made at the Progress Association meeting, that the Chairman of the Kindergarten be a father of a child attending the kindergarten at time of appointment to office. The Kindergarten constitution was amended to read this.

Phone 962-4167

Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten

Director
Mrs. D. Smith

Hall Avenue
Collaroy Plateau 2098

Mrs. H. Barnes,
Children St.,
Collaroy Plateau,
N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Barnes,

LETTER OF APPOINTMENT - PART - TIME HELPER

Your date of appointment as a Part-time Helper member of the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten is effective from 25th October 1976.

The following conditions apply to your appointment:

- 1) As a part-time teaching helper you will be working a number of hours each week when the Kindergarten is operating and usually on a set day or days each week. However due to staff illnesses or any other temporary staff shortage you may be asked to perform hours in excess of your normal hours from time to time.
- 2) Your pay will be at the rate of \$3.25 per hour which currently represents the award payment.
- 3) Your general conditions of employment are as set out in the Miscellaneous Workers - Kindergarten ext. (State) award, as varied from time to time.
- 4a) During your employment, your services may be terminated by the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten Committee or yourself by giving of notice or payment or forfeiture of pay in lieu thereof in accordance with the award or agreement for the time being and in force to time in force.
- 4b) Should you in the opinion of the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten Committee be guilty at any time of misrepresentation, incompetence, neglect of duty, or any other misconduct, the Collaroy Plateau

Helen Barnes - Letter of Appointment - pg1

Phone 982-6167

Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten

Director:
Mrs. O. Smith

Hill Avenue
Collaroy Plateau 2098

Community Kindergarten Committee may terminate your employment without notice.

- 5) During your employment you shall not disclose, and shall use your best endeavours to prevent the disclosure by any person, knowledge or information of a confidential nature concerning the affairs of the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten including its people which comes to your knowledge in the course of your employment.
- 6) You will be directly responsible to the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten Committee through the Director of the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten. The Director has the day to day responsibility for the operation of the Kindergarten. Only those matters which the Director considers should be known by the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten Committee will be raised in Committee.

Should a matter be of a personal nature then you may be assured that this will not pass beyond the Committee to the parent body, unless of such an exceptional nature and only then this must be with the Director's full agreement.

- 7) The conditions set out in this letter are subject to the Award and agreements for the time being and from time to time in force covering rates of pay and conditions of employment applying generally to Helper Assistants. Such Awards and Agreements shall form part of your terms of employment whether or not you are personally or partly to those

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]
for Collaroy Plateau Community
Kindergarten Committee.

I have read the conditions set out above and accept employment in accordance therewith.

Signed..... Date.....

Helen Barnes – Letter of Appointment –pg2

Mrs. Hilda Andrews, at the time, the longest serving teacher, retired in 1976 and was replaced by Mrs. Helen Barnes who commenced her employment with the kindergarten in 1976. Two of her three children had been through the kindergarten and her grandchildren went to CPCK. Her daughter, Jane is now Administrative Assistant at CPCK.

When Helen was employed her Letter of Appointment advises her rate of pay \$3.32 per hour.

Mrs. Audrey Truscott went on indefinite unpaid leave in 1977 to join her husband in Broken Hill where he was working. He was working with Telecom, and wished for Audrey to join him. When they returned to Collaroy Plateau, Audrey never did return to work for the kindergarten, but did drop off and pick up children many times, so was still well known and is very well known within the community today.

Olive Smith tendered her resignation to the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association on the 28th August 1982, her devotion to the kindergarten and the children, that in her resignation letter she stated; *the well-being of the kindergarten remains most dear to me, and I am more than willing to do all in my power, to foster the continuances of this community enterprise*

Advertisements were placed in the Manly Daily and the

Phone 982-6167

Collaroy Plateau Progress Association

President F. Kirkwood
Secretary L. Ward

Hill Avenue
Collaroy Plateau 2098

22nd November, 1982.

Miss Carolyn Evans,
35 Myong Road,
RUSSELL, N.S.W. 2058

Dear Miss Evans,

Following your application and interview, we are pleased to offer you the position of Director at our Kindergarten from the beginning of first term 1983.

Your salary and conditions of employment will be in accordance with the award rates consistent with your academic qualifications and experience. As mentioned during our interview, the position is subject to a probation period of one month – a condition which is a general practice for professional appointments and provides a convenient recourse for either party in the unlikely event that the new association does not work out satisfactorily.

Would you please advise us in writing if you accept our offer. We would also like to sight your relevant academic qualifications.

Should you accept the position of Director, may we assure you of a warm welcome by the Kindergarten staff, the parents and members of the Progress Association.

If you have any need for further information or require assistance with matters relating to the position, please do not hesitate to call on Olive Smith 982-6167 Kindergarten; 982-8805 home or 4317 Rempt 235-8568 work; 982-4973 home.

We look forward to your reply and 1983.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]
Linda Ward
Secretary.

Carolyn Evans letter of acceptance

Dear Miss Evans,

Following your application and interview, we are pleased to offer you the position of Director at our Kindergarten from the beginning of first term 1983.

Your salary and conditions of employment will be in accordance with the award rates consistent with your academic qualifications and experience. As mentioned during the interview, the position is subject to a probation period of one month – a condition which is a general practice for professional appointments and provides a convenient recourse for either party in the unlikely event that the new association does not work out satisfactorily.

Would you please advise us in writing if you accept our offer. We would also like to sight your relevant academic qualifications.

Should you accept the position of Director, may we assure you of a warm welcome by the Kindergarten staff, the parents and members of the Progress Association.

If you have any need for further information or require assistance with matters relating to the position, please do not hesitate to call Olive Smith 982-6167 kindergarten;

We look forward to your reply and 1983.

Sydney Morning Herald for applicants for the position of Director. Over forty applications had been received and Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Ward and Mr. Rempt had sorted a short list of eight. Carolyn Evans commenced her first day on

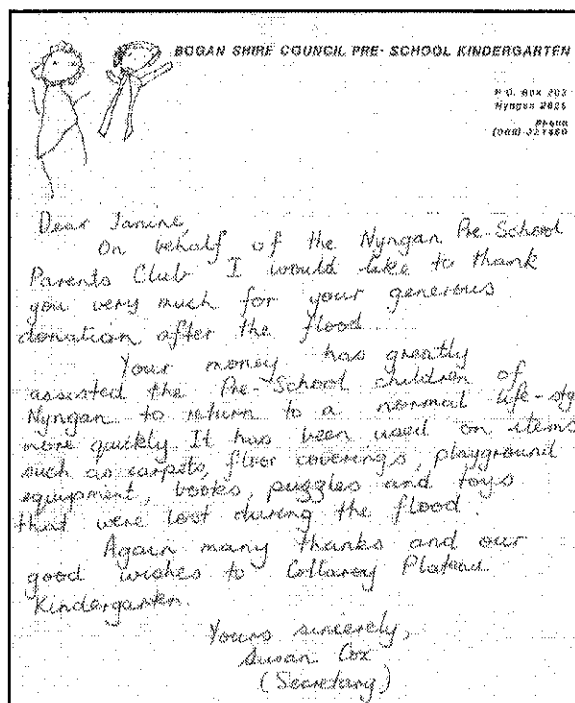
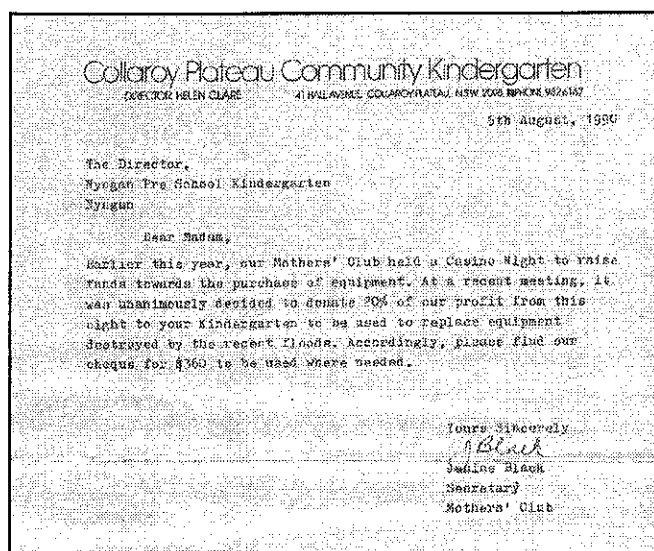
Tuesday the 1st February 1983. Mrs. Olive Smith offered her assistance until Miss Evans and the new committee were up and running comfortably.

The kindergarten constitution was amended in 1983, with one major change being the employment of Kindergarten staff was now the role of the Management Committee, which was to report back to members of the kindergarten at the end of each term. In addition, the Management Committee reported back to the Progress Association on an informal basis to keep the lines of communication open between the two.

Plateau News May 1983 PROGRESS

Last year saw some significant changes for the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association. The two most traumatic changes were the retirement of Mrs. Olive Smith from the position of Director of the Kindergarten, and the forced adoption by the Kindergarten of a Constitution drafted by the Department of Youth and Community Affairs. Due to the efforts of Mrs. Smith and the outgoing Kindergarten committee, the selection of a new Director, and the ensuing hand over period, were not as troublesome as was initially feared. As you all probably know by now, the new Director of the Kindergarten is Miss Carolyn Evans, and I am happy to be able to say that the Kindergarten appears to be functioning quite well with the new Director and Committee.

In May 1983 the Kindergarten Committee reported to the Progress Association, their delight with the work of the Kindy's new Director Carolyn Evans. Carolyn had instigated a new innovative and exciting programme for the children. This delight was expressed at the Term two parents meeting, where mothers expressed their satisfaction with the new programme, and the new equipment purchased under Carolyn's direction.



Occasionally, fundraising has been given to registered charities in the community. In August 1990, the Mother's Club decided to bestow an amount to a kindergarten in Nyngan, who had been devastated by floods.

After five years with CPCK Amanda Galvin was married on the 3rd November 1990, and returned Amanda Geister. The Mothers club put on a surprise morning tea, so parents had the chance to wish her well.

A computer system was introduced to the kindergarten in 1991. The aim was to centralise all the records and eventually introduce it to the children of the kindergarten. Today, the computer remains tucked away in the office.

In March 1991 the Dee Why Rotary Club nominated Helen Clare for a 'Pride of Workmanship Award' for her work as the Director of the Kindergarten.

Helen has worked with the Kindergarten for over 20 years and has been the Director since 1985. Helen has always approached her work with enthusiasm, diligence and enormous love and affection for the children in her care. She is a great support to all the families she comes into contact with, especially in times of crisis and can always be relied on to fessick out any children having difficulty and try to help them.

Helen also actively supports the Mothers Club in fund raising and works closely with the Kindergarten Management Committee giving them support and encouragement. Helen is a member of the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association and a member of the Progress Hall Management Committee. These are extra responsibilities

that she undertakes to ensure the interests of the Kindergarten are best upheld.

Helen is well supported by her teaching staff, all of who greatly admire and respect her. She is a leader who is also a friend to them all. An enormous tribute in itself. Helen's husband John and children, Peter and Belinda, have reason to be proud of their wife and mother.

In 1994, after 25 years of service, Helen Clare resigned. With her three children attending the Kindergarten, and her grandchildren, Helen would always have strong links with the kindergarten. A Dinner Dance at Cromer Golf Club was held in Helen's honour.

The Mother's Club, came into existence in the 1970's, when a group of Mother's decided to raise funds for the kindergarten. With a greater number of fathers interested in the behind the scenes of the kindergarten, the name Mother's Club, was changed to Parent's Club in September 1994.

After the change in attendance procedures in 1974, there was to be another change. In the mid 90's, rather than children coming to Kindergarten two days a week and being able to pick the two days. Meaning they could come on a Monday and a Thursday, the new procedure was to have a two day class on Monday and Tuesday and a three day class on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. A more logical approach, as children going onto school the following year are in this consecutive day routine. At the commencement of 1996, the classes were given names. With thanks to Felicity Barclay, the groups are now known as Possums and Wombats.

School transition report, a joint initiative between CPOK and Beacon Hill Community Kindergarten was designed in the late 1990's. This report is for the children leaving pre school and moving on to primary school. It has become an invaluable resource for primary schools, giving them an idea of the children who can often be quite shy at the



Calling it a day ... Helen Clare with (clockwise from top left) Kate Lewis, 5, Emily Hyde, 5, Scott Asquith, 4, and Patrick O'Reilly, 4
PHOTO: Ros Cannon

Bit of peace and quiet

by ALISON BONE

HELEN CLARE ends an almost life-long association with Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten when she retires as its director on Friday.

Initially, Mrs Clare's interest in the centre was restricted to that of a young mother whose two children were students.

But in 1969 she took on the position of acting director and she has been at the kindergarten ever since, filling the roles of teacher, assistant director and, for the past nine years, director.

Mrs Clare's three grandchildren are now among the 100 four- to five-year-olds attending the kindergarten each week.

After 25 years, Mrs Clare, 61, is said to be leaving the centre but said her decision was not one she took lightly.

"My husband has been retired for a couple of years, but it has taken me a long time to come to this decision," she said. "I don't doubt I'll miss the kindergarten, but I don't regret my decision to retire."

It is hard to isolate the countless wonderful memories Mrs Clare said she will be taking with her.

"There are just so many wonderful

wonderful things which have made my time at the kindergarten so enjoyable," Mrs Clare said.

"The children coming to this centre are at such an ideal age and it has been great to see each of them progress over the year they spend here and mature to the stage that they are ready to go on to school."

Mrs Clare hopes to spend time enjoying her boat and travelling around Australia with her husband.

"It all sounds very idealistic, but after so many years of hustle and bustle I can't wait to get started," she said.

1994 - Reproduced courtesy of the Manly Daily

commencement of the school year, their real personalities not shining through until they have settled. Also giving parents a little insight into their own children's capabilities and the way they play and interact with other children.

The back yard through the years has changed in many designs and equipment. Equipment considered safe in the 1950's may no longer be considered a safe piece of equipment in 2004. Some may well remember the swings, which were moved into the corner of the backyard, and eventually removed. Many will remember the pyramid, most of all Amanda Geister, who on many occasions, scaled the pyramid, in order to rescue children stuck at the top. The Pyramid was dismantled and removed in 1989 at a cost of \$70.00. Later in 1997, the fort was removed due to new regulations.

Kindy closure crisis

Centre on notice over playground

by MARI BELESSIS

A STATE Government-funded kindergarten at Collaroy Plateau is under notice to upgrade its playground within 12 months or face possible closure.

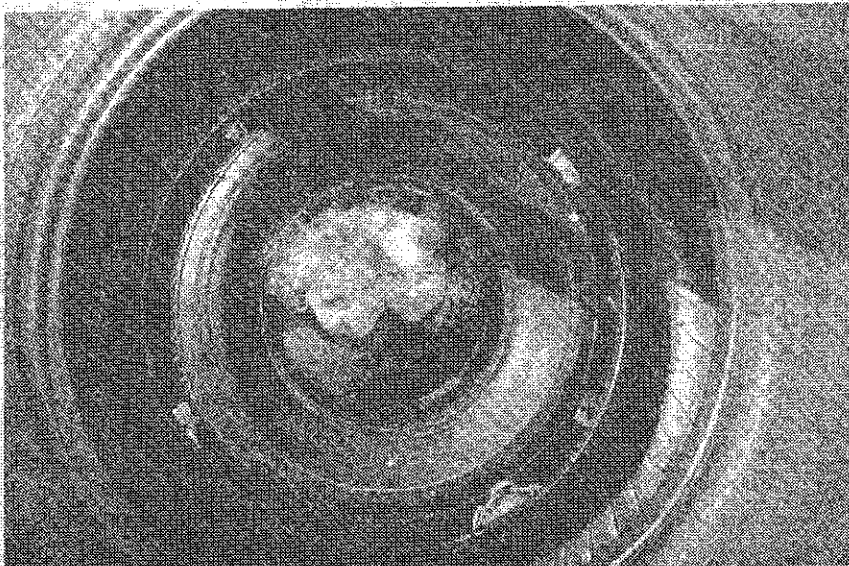
The community-based kindergarten, which provides pre-school education for 80 children in the year before they start school, has been operating for more than 25 years. The kindy has 200 on the waiting list for 1998.

The premises, near the corner of Hall Ave and Veterans Pde, are owned by Warringah Council and the State Government subsidises operating expenses and staff wages.

Two years ago, when the kindergarten's licence was renewed, the staff were told the playground equipment would have to be upgraded before the next licence renewal in mid-1998.

Director Felicity Barclay said this week more stringent safety standards and changing attitudes about what constituted "educationally sound" playground equipment had prompted the Education Department to give the children's outside play area the thumbs down.

"For instance, we must provide 'softfall', such as shredded rubber underlay with synthetic grass,



Under threat ... the kindy playground at Collaroy Plateau and two youngsters unaware of its problems

PHOTO: Ros Cannon

under swings and other impact surfaces," she said.

"And fixed equipment, like our 'fort', is no longer considered to provide appropriate learning experiences for the preschoolers.

"The trend now is much more towards providing books and play material which will encourage children to use their imagination.

"While I heartily agree with this, it all costs money.

Ms Barclay said the parents' committee had tried all sorts of

fund-raising efforts to finance the upgrading, but despite innumerable chocolate drives, trivia nights and shopping tours, there was still less than \$15,000 in kitty.

"We have had a plan drawn up for a playground that would satisfy requirements, but would cost \$35,000," Ms Barclay said.

"We're now hoping that local businesses, clubs and other organisations will sponsor our playground redevelopment. We figure the kindergarten has been around

for so long that many business people in the area would have come here as preschoolers and would therefore have a real interest in keeping it going for the local community.

"We are interested in donations in cash or kind, and would be very grateful for offers of building materials.

"All sponsors will be acknowledged by means of a plaque or some other form of recognition once the playground is completed."

Kindy veterans set for emotional farewell

THERE is going to be an exodus from Collaroy Plateau early next month. But most residents won't even know about it.

In fact, the only way you'd know anything is if you were involved with Collaroy Plateau Kindergarten. But then, and the fact only two people are leaving, doesn't detract from its importance.

The retirement of Sue Ferry and Robyn Summerville: He will hit the kindy hard - the two have worked for the kindy for 24 years and 16 years respectively.

But Sue said it's a two-way street. "We'll miss it terribly," she said. "We've made some great friends over the years. I'll especially miss the kids - they're lovely."

"When you stay in a job for such a long time it becomes part of your life. Indeed it has."

"Robyn's kids and mine both went to the kindy. They're now in their 30s," Sue said. "I have taught the children of people I taught years ago."

The two women have seen some major changes in their time, not the least of which concerns the kids.

"Education has changed enormously," Sue said. "More is offered today than it was 20 years ago."

Asked what was one of the most satisfying parts of the job, Sue answered almost immediately.

"Seeing a tiny, timid and small child begin the year and watching them blossom and come out of themselves. Next they're telling you they're going to 'big school'."

"It's never been just a job. It's always been a part of our lives. It will be sad to leave, very emotional."



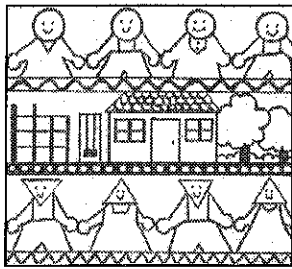
'It's never been just a job' ... Robyn Summerville and Sue Ferry are retiring from Collaroy Plateau Kindergarten after many years.

13 June 1997 - Reproduced courtesy of the Manly Daily

Not one, but two sad farewells from the Kindergarten in 1999, with the retirement of Sue Ferry, who had been with the kindergarten for 24 years and Robyn Summerville, who was leaving after 16 years.

1999 - Reproduced courtesy of the Manly Daily

A competition was held amongst the children to create a new logo for the kindergarten in the late 90's. The original logo was designed by parent Fui Tang. The winning design, now heads all letters and is printed on hats, T-shirts and library bags.



Logo designed by Fui Tang

March 28th 2000, at a Management Committee meeting, Kathryn Anderson, explained the new law passed regarding the hire of buses with seatbelts for out of centre excursions. Children however were allowed to be transported in staff and parent cars to destinations. It was decided that excursions further than walking distance were not cost effective and it was decided in house visits were more preferable. Today these in house excursions are called incursions, and with the growing trend of Kindergarten's preferring to hold the event in house, entertainers, can see this need and now bring the show to the children.

Within the Management Committee a Social Committee was trialed in 2000. Co-ordinated each term by a new Committee member they were responsible with the help of the Social Committee to organise fundraisers.

At the November 6th 2000 Management Committee meeting, it was decided that the social club fundraising should be run on a class basis with each class responsible for fundraising two events for one term each.

During discussions, on ways to encourage communication between parents and staff, it was decided to trial a book, in order to encourage communication between parents and staff. In 2001 Children's individual portfolios were implemented. Each child is sent home with a scrapbook, to decorate and place photos inside the cover. Throughout the year, samples of their work are filed in their portfolio along with photos of their time at kindy. Making it a great way to keep parents informed of their child's progress and a wonderful keepsake for the child. Much input was gained from parents, and the pages were well worn, from constant looking through by the children.

Kathryn Anderson was married on the 1st December 2001 and returned to work Kathryn Shaw. Her service was attended by a number of the children and their parents.

The funds of close to \$4,000.00 raised in 2001 were put towards a new cubby house to replace the one falling down, and was a great hit for the incoming children of 2002.

Staff have often attended in-service seminars. In-services courses have included discussions on special needs areas, First Aid refreshers, literacy in under 5s, conflict resolution, Asthma in under 5s, Autism, and development in cognitive areas. These in-services are important for the teachers to keep up to date with new and improved methods of teaching and the ways they can be implemented into daily routines in the kindergarten.

Fire Drills are a part of many organisations, however with children special care needs to be taken so not to frighten them in the event of a real situation. Fire drills were named the whistle game. The children enjoy the whistle blowing game, a practical way of rehearsing the Kindy's evacuation procedure without upsetting anyone. Upon hearing the whistle, which is located in the entry foyer, the children line up with their class teachers and safely exit the kindy. The assembly point is the grass area located at the intersection of Hall Avenue and Veterans Parade. Sometimes we have to interrupt craft, painting and stories or outside play, but our Wombat and Possum children are always safely outside within 2-3 minutes, and after a roll call and a few little songs able to resume activities pretty quickly.

Work Experience

Having hands on experience is always the best type of training, in preparation for years after studying. Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten has been involved with work experience students from as early as the late 60s.

Incursions 2004

In the 1970s a Telecom employee would visit the children to show them how to use a telephone. Today, as toddlers, it is probably the first thing they know how to use.

There is always the visit from the Emergency Services, the Ambulance, Police and the Fire Department. For some children, it is all about the sirens, for others it shows, they really are not scary people and they are in fact there to help them, and for the most children it is also a lesson for their own parents. As sponges, children can almost replay the whole visit to their own parents, in turn they also learn a thing or two.

The two day group received a visit from Kindi Farm. A wonderful way to meet animals, they would not normally see in the suburb environment. A hands on approach also brings out the gentle side in children.

Bob Turner the Reptile Man brought along a few of his treasures for the children to meet. Again they have the opportunity to touch, most of the children fascinated at how different a blue tongue lizard feels.



Mark Stewart Drumbeat brought along some wonderful musical instruments for the children to listen to.



There were also visits from Miaow, the Storytellers Cat, Dreamers in Space, and the Collaroy Plateau Kindergarten Dancers. They performed for the children in their beautiful grass skirts, many of which were made by Jane Sym.



Chicks R Us once again came to kindergarten. Twelve eggs were delivered to kindy, for the children lucky enough to see them hatch and grow into little chickens before going back to the farm. Of the twelve eggs, all twelve hatched into a variety of coloured chickens, and perhaps a rooster or two. This outcome will not be known for about six to nine weeks after hatching. All the children had the chance to nurse the chicks, and the occasional parent who arrived at the right time. The children named the chickens; some chose unique names such as Disabelle, Mixie, and Gumboots, Chickens could be purchased for \$10.00 each, four of which were sold.

Christmas is a magical time of year. The children sing Christmas songs, make decorations to adorn the Christmas tree and, it just wouldn't be Christmas without a visit from Santa.



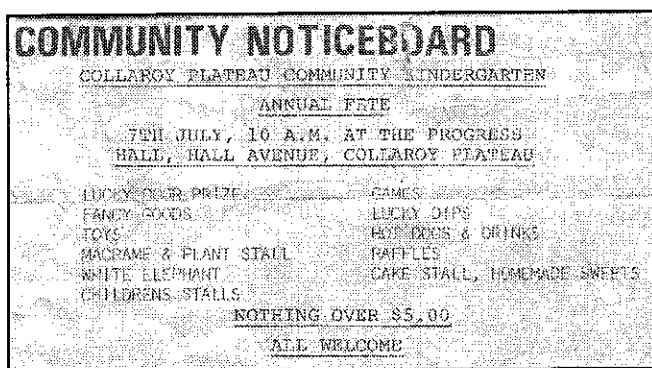
Debra Horton with Santa c. 1960s

Fundraising

As with all non-profit organisations, fundraising is a significant portion of its income and the kindergarten is no exception. Not all fundraisers have been successful, but the ones that do prove to be the biggest keep coming back year after year, and bigger and better.

Parents of children attending the kindergarten had approached Mrs. Smith, requesting the use of the hall in order to raise funds for the kindergarten. Although not formally constituted, a Mother's Club was formed in the early '70s.

Fundraising events held in the past and present are the Annual Fete, this lasting many years, Bingo Night, Prawn and Chicken night, Cake Stalls held at the Augusta Shopping Centre, Chicken Champagne nights, Shopping Tours, Bulb drives, Pizza Drives, Fashion nights, just to name a few.



Plateau News advertisement

In a meeting of the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association on the 6th December 1972, Mr. Anderson.....*Praised the Mothers' Club for their mighty effort in raising the sum of \$250.00 towards Kindergarten equipment*

And in the Plateau News of December 1972

...The Committee was very pleased to announce that the Kindergarten Mother's Club had raised \$250.00 in the past five months with a number of varied functions and \$170.00 of this money has already been spent on equipment for the Kindergarten. Our thanks to our Mums for a remarkable feat in such a short period of time. Efforts like this will help the Kindergarten Committee to achieve its aim of providing first-class facilities all that much sooner.....

Some of the most popular over the years include

Easter Hampers

Easter fundraisers varied from year to year. Some years

parents were asked to donate an egg to go in a hamper and other years the Mother's Club would buy the chocolate eggs to make up the hamper.

Chocolate Drive

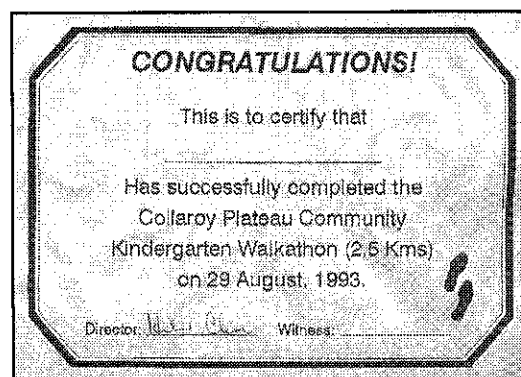
The Mother's Club of 1997 ordered forty boxes Kit-Kats and forty boxes of Violet Crumbles, selling 69 boxes and raising \$1,525.60 to be put towards the kindergarten playground.

Run-a-thon

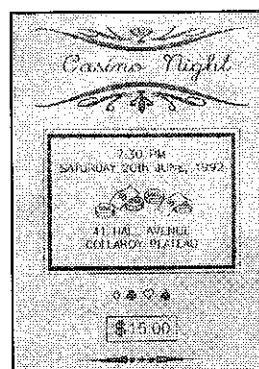
Started in Plateau Park. People running in the City to Surf would use it as a training run, but the event just got too big. It then became a walk-a-thon.

Walk-a-thon

Commencing at the Kindergarten, the children accompanied by an adult walked toward Aubreen Street, turning left. A left turn into Acacia following to Veterans Parade, turning left and back to the kindergarten, where the day ended with a sausage sizzle. Children were sponsored for their walk and were presented with a little certificate.



Casino night



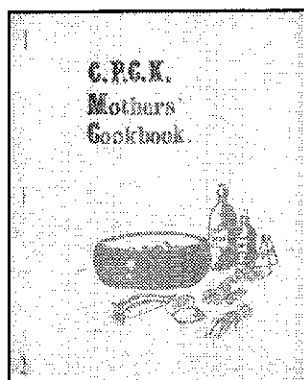
A favourite for many years always a sell out. In 1993, an amount of play money was given for the price of the ticket, to be used for gambling with during the first half of the evening. In the second half donated gifts were auctioned with a limit of one auction prize per family, and the remainder of that families monies could be donated to

whom ever they nominated. As not all were successful gamblers there was also a lucky auction prize. A set amount for a prize was nominated, bids would go up by 1,000 and when the set amount was reached, the standing bidder collected their prize. There was also a Mystery prize. Again an auction prize with a touch of mystery. For example a Fabulous Boat Cruise for two would be the

tempter and the lucky bidder may come away with two ferry tickets. Casino night was always a big fundraiser for the kindergarten. In 1991 the Mother's Club raised \$1,950.00. In 1995 the Mother's Club raised \$3,510.41 1997 raised \$4,828.97



A cookbook was also compiled, with parents and staff donating their favourite recipe.



2004

Bushdance

A wonderful way for the children to get to know their new friends a little better and for parents to meet one another. Our callers and musicians this year were Gary and Carole Crees, well-known children's entertainers.

Children dressed up as cowboys and cowgirls. With the inclusion of the Hot cross bun drive and the Easter Egg raffle the Kindergarten made \$1,891.50 profit on the evening, which everyone agrees was a most enjoyable event.

Mothers Day Shop

Each child brings in a gift to go into the Mother's Day shop. They all painted beautiful wrapping paper and something special, such as a little certificate was made for each mother telling them what their child loved best about them. Each child returns to kindy on shop day with their \$5.00 to make a purchase of their choice for their Mum. The look and excitement on a child's face when they present their Mum with the gift they chose themselves money could not buy. We hope there were many happy Mothers on Sunday the 9th of May. Total \$385.05

Charity Fundraiser

The Kindergarten took part in raising money for the Cancer Council by holding a Biggest Morning Tea. Families were asked to supply a plate of food and to donate a gold coin.

Picture Plate

A great keepsake for the children. A choice could be made from a small plate, dinner plate, tray, mug, and clock. Children spend time at kindy drawing their masterpiece, which was then transferred to their Melamine choice. Total raised \$263.50

School Club

Suppliers of art materials and stationary for pre-schools and schools. The kindy benefits with 20% worth of free art materials when parents purchase products.

Fathers Day

As with Mothers Day shop, children bring in a gift and choose a gift they would like to give their Dad. Again some children made certificates to give their father, telling them what they loved most about him, along with a bookmark. \$356.90 was raised for the Kindergarten.

Krispy Kreme Donuts

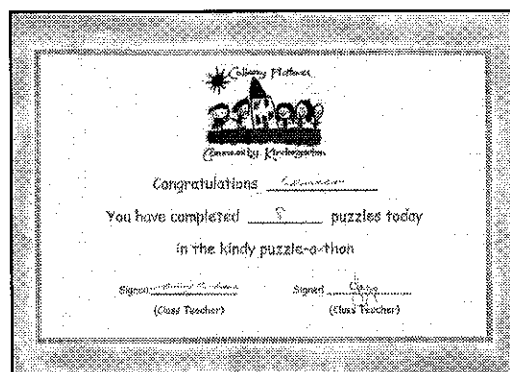
You've got to love Krispy Kreme Donuts. With a pre ordered system most boxes were sold prior to the day with only nine boxes for sale on the day. Money raised for the kindergarten \$445.00

Grandparent or Special Friend Day

A morning for the children, to invite that someone special to Kindergarten, so they may see how their day is played out. The children were able to show off their talents with a short concert and to show their special someone some of their artworks completed throughout the year. Purchasing a piece of artwork for the cost of a gold coin, helped the Kindergarten raise \$235.80

Puzzle-a-thon

Children completed up to twenty puzzles, and were sponsored by members of their family. A popular event each year with the children and this year the children raised \$632.00 for the efforts.



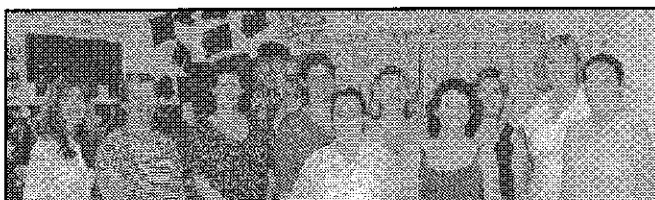
Management Committee

Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten is a community based non-profit organisation. Its income is derived from fee payments, subsidies and fundraising within the kindergarten.

A Management Committee was formed when the Kindergarten became a Community Kindergarten in 1970. The Committee consisted of members of the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association and later the Constitution was amended to allow parents of children attending the kindergarten to be on the committee.

The committee must have a minimum of eight parents at each meeting to form a quorum. The committee is made up of a the Director, a staff representative, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee members. All elected onto the Management Committee must have children attending the kindergarten in that same year.

Meetings are held once a month, and decisions are of a legal, financial, employment, policy and social nature.



B:- Kim, Carolin, Jane, Kym, Leigh, Michelle, Tracey,
F:- Natalie, Anne Maree, Angela

Absent:- Anthony, Melissa, Sharyn, Rebecca

The Committee of 2004 is

President	Kym Trevena
Vice President	Michelle Taylor
Treasurer	Anthony Brown
Secretary	Tracey Logan
Members	Melissa Booker, Leigh Copping, Kim Donkers, Sharyn Donlan, Carolin Ferris, Rebecca Frith, Natalie Inglis, Anne Maree Loader, Jane Page, Angela Woodcock

Class Parent

The role of "Class Parent" was introduced at the 6 March 2002 Management Committee Meeting, to promote parent involvement in the kindergarten and to help make sure no children of families miss out on the extra activities that are organised at the kindergarten.

Each class has a term in which they organise a social and a fundraising event. Class parents also assist with additional events occasionally held at the kindergarten.

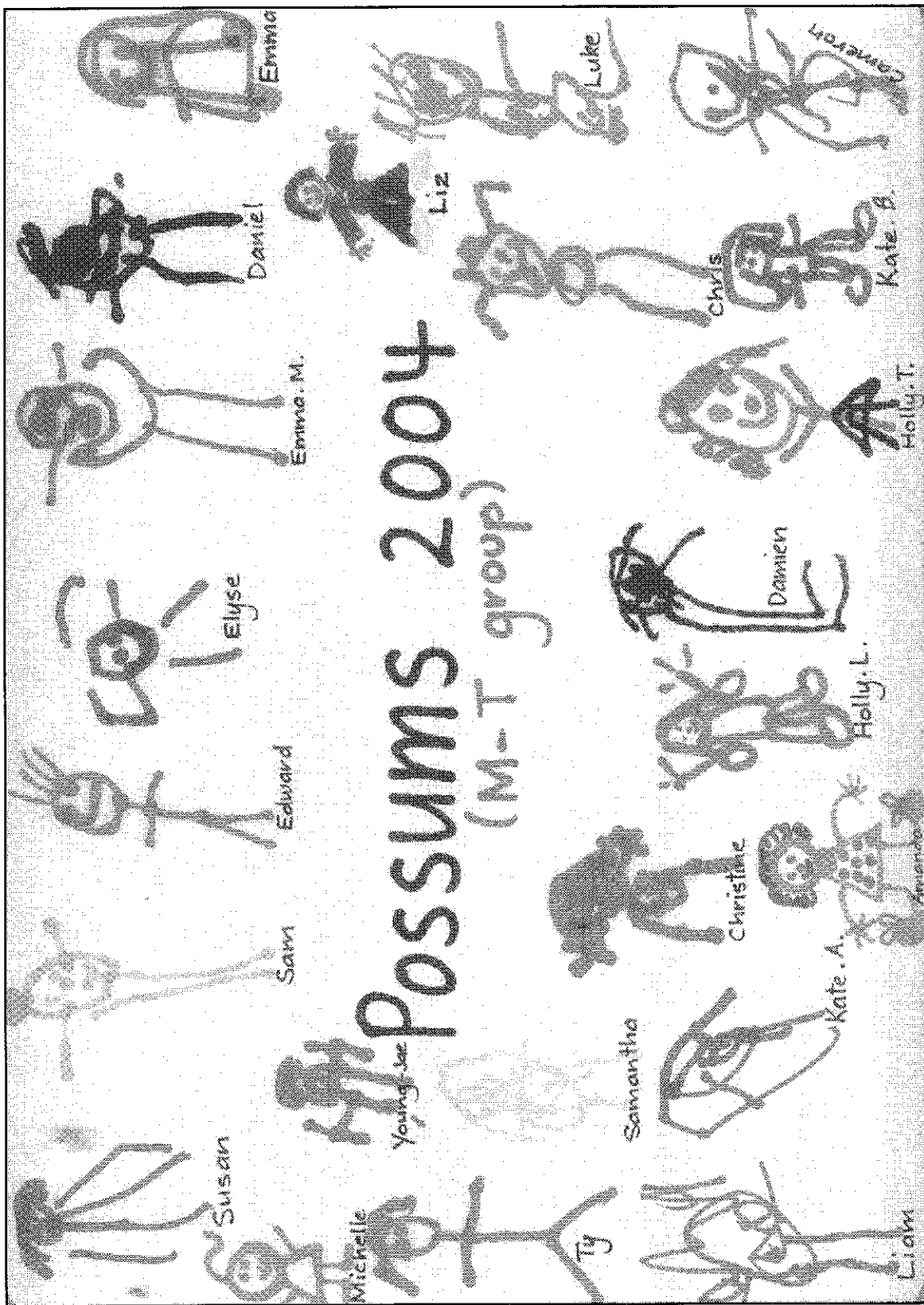
Here is a note to my dear Mum
 To let you know our day has come

This Plate I'm bringing home to you
 To show us all what you can do

Biscuits, Cakes, Pies, and slices
 All to go at our good prices

So let's get cooking (I'll help too)
 And lets just see what we can do

A good idea is to cover this plate
 With an oven bag 'cause then it'll look great





Hot Cross Bun Drive (essential for Easter)**Ashley Parker Daniel****8 April 2004**

This year CPCCK joined Brumby's Bakery to supply our families with Hot Cross Buns for Easter. Families could choose from Traditional (fruit and spices) or Choc Cross Buns (filled with Cadbury chocolate chips) which were baked & delivered daily as ordered. We raised \$115.00 to spend on equipment for the kindergarten.

Special Friend and Grandparents Day**Pat Sheekey Ty****17 August 2004**

I am the grandmother of Ty Hatch. I was very honoured to be invited to Grandparents Day at the kindy. It was great to see how much the children have achieved with all the great artwork and craft that they have done over the year. The grandparents, who purchased their child's artwork, may have a masterpiece in years to come. The staff have a great connection with the children, it was very obvious how much they are loved.

Fathers Day Stall**Dave Woollett Samantha****31 August 2004**

The five days between Samantha choosing her present and Father's Day was an eternity for her. Every day she wanted to tell me what was hidden in her room. The proud look on her face, as she woke me on Sunday morning was better than any present she could give me.

Chicks R Us**Megan Glover Luke****13 September 2004**

On the 13th of September, we had a special treat at kindy. Chicks R Us set up their incubator and the children and parents watched in awe as tiny chickens pecked their way out of their shells. It was certainly a great learning experience and there is something very special about being able to hold a tiny new life in your little hands.

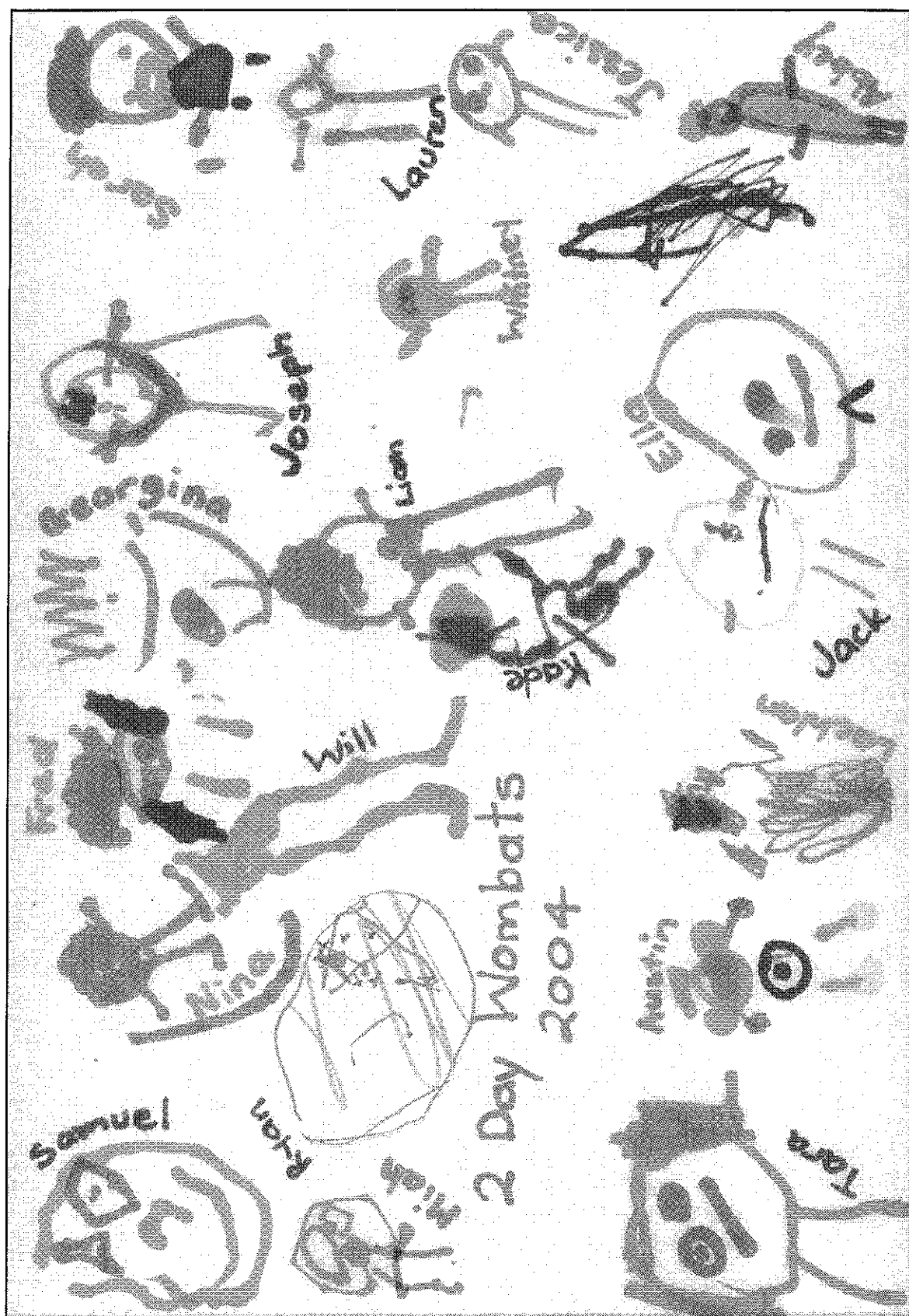
My Mum comes to Kindy**Daniel Parker**

Hooray! Mummy was taking me to kindy today and staying to play. I showed Mum how to thread coloured macaroni onto string to make a necklace - she wore it for the rest of the day. Then we used cookie cutters to make special shapes with playdough. My Mum had to roll the playdough out for all the kids - she was very good at that. Then we decorated the shapes with glitter, but we couldn't eat them. After morning tea, Liz made an obstacle course in the classroom. We took it in turns to hop onto the shapes, walk along a beam and crawl through a tunnel. When my Mum had a turn, she got stuck in the tunnel - we all had to help pull her out! Then it was time to say goodbye to Mum and time for me to play with my friends. I would like my Mum to come play again some day at kindy.

Dad, we are going to Kindy**Andrew Logan Damien**

Instead of heading off to work and waving goodbye, Damien and I went to kindy. We arrived and the room was all set up for the day and I promptly put all the food and drinks in the wrong areas and was shown the right places for all the goodies. The morning started with making coloured flags for Sports Day with glue and paint and some playtime with the blocks and cars. It was not easy being the worker for ten kindy foreman at once!!!

We then spent some time with books and a special puzzle from the cupboard. Today's main event was chicken time and Amanda and I carefully carried little baby chicks into the room with all the kids in a big circle. All the children had a turn patting and holding the little fluffy chicks and we named them all. We had some little creative minds with some names and everyone loved the friendly little chicks. It was great to meet all Damien's friends and have morning tea on the mat in those little chairs. Thank you to Liz and Amanda who made me feel most welcome and for the coffee for my morning tea.





Kindi Farm

Rebecca Frith Lachlan
30th March 2004

One of the first events of the year for the Monday and Tuesday groups was the arrival of Kindi Farm. The weather was perfect and the kids were extremely excited about the arrival of the animals. All of the animals were set up in a pen down in the back yard. There were goats, sheep (one with a very bad haircut), a calf pigs and ducks wandering about.

The kids were asked to sit on the mat provided and listen to the Farmer talk about the special farm animals. There were some really terrific questions and the kids watched in amazement as the Farmer showed them all sorts of wonderful things like cracking a whip and how to shear a sheep (hence the really bad haircut!).

The hands on experience was magical to watch. Each child was given the chance to cuddle a baby chicken and a rabbit. Meanwhile a very friendly duck wandered around checking out the playground. The highlight for most of the kids was to touch the animals and feed them. Everyone had a chance to bottle feed the calf as well as feed the pen animals with delicious pellets.

The morning was a huge success and even the Teachers had a cuddle or two of a cute fuzzy farm animal.

Mother's Day Stall

Rebecca Frith Lachlan
4th May 2004

Even now, I still get a huge smile on my face when I think about the day that the kids bought a Mothers Day present for their Mummy. There is nothing more adorable than a little person coming to a stall and searching for the ideal present for their Mummy. Parents donated all presents (in fact some parents received the very same gift back!). Each bought \$5 in a little purse or wallet. In small groups they came to the stall and bought a special gift for Mummy. Some little ones took considerable time to find the ideal present. The wrapping paper was personalised and each gift wrapped up with loving care. The idea was to take the gift home and hide it from Mummy without saying "Guess what Mum? I bought you a lovely green candle today." But personally my favourite gift I received was the hand painted glass candle and "Best Mum" certificate. Something I will always treasure forever.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Samantha Johnston Georgina
29th June 2004

When asked to volunteer to write something about the kindy's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, I really had to try hard to remember that far back..... It was sometime in early June I think. I do remember that there was a lovely array of food, particularly a lot of cakes, chocolates slices, chockie cookies. (I also remember Lauren and Georgina honed in on the food like a couple of flies). Breast Cancer research is vital and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea promotes awareness and much needed fund raising. The morning tea also was a wonderful way to get together with some other mothers and families to just chat and catch up.

Grandparent / Special Friend Day

Rebecca Frith Lachlan
17th August 2004

"Grandma is coming to my Kindy today". I must have heard that at least 20 times that morning. Lochie was so excited that his very own Grandma was coming to see his classroom!

He had already prepared his work of art (that Grandma snapped up!) and practised some fantastic songs. We spent a lovely morning showing Grandma around - this is where I put my bag, these are my friends, and this is where I do a wee! The highlight of the morning was the fantastic songs that the kids sang together. Complete with actions, they performed 3 songs. Being the sook that I am, it was hard not to get a little tear in the eye watching the adorable 4 and 5 year olds singing to their special grandparents or family friends. And what a better way to top off such a wonderful morning with a lovely cuppa and cake!

Puzzle-a-thon

Rebecca Frith Lachlan
14th September 2004

All I can say is "thank goodness we put a cap on the total amount of puzzles to be completed" The kids were puzzle mad. From the moment that I stepped foot into the Wombat Monday/Tuesday group - it was on! Each child sat down and tried to complete as many puzzles as possible. Most of the puzzles were pretty tricky, but there were some that even I was having trouble with. This didn't stop the Wombats! Off they went on their quest to put together as many as possible and raise funds for the Kindy. The children had already organised for friends and family to

sponsor them per puzzle completed. This was exciting on its own as it gave the kids a little task (like homework I guess) out of Kindy. My little boy collected his money with much pride after the event.

I was quite taken with just how talented these kids were with their hand - eye coordination. They were not only accurate but very fast too. Great job kids!

Sports Day

Angela Woodcock

Lauren

21st September 2004

The children marched out in their team colours; I was supporting the pink team. Some children were proud as punch, and there were a few who were a little shy.

The pink team was made up of Miah Argent, Ella Saurine, Chiara Tisano, Lauren Woodcock and Sarah Wright.

They walked the balance beam, with their beanie turtle on their head, each girl making this twice through. One of the teams threw everyone out and the girls had to skip the hopping course. They all pointed this out in the end that they hadn't done that course. Up to Cecilia with the egg and spoon walk, the occasional plastic egg falling off its plastic spoon and cracking to reveal a beanbag egg. The girls walked tall with their follow the line wheelie thing. Then down to the long jump, where each girl tried to jump further with each turn, using their entire body to reach their mark, then over to Nancy, where they filled their little buckets to tip into the larger bucket, before Jan rang the bell. The girls, so eager, Nancy had them empty the bucket as well and they waited patiently in line to move on to the next course. With Amanda, they each hopped through the multitude of coloured shapes big and small, and then to Julia, who they had started with, but due to the skipped course, they happily climbed the obstacles again.

Each of the participants were presented with a certificate and a medal after the circuit, Lauren's medal well worn now. Georgina Johnston, proudly telling me she was going to wear her medal "forever and ever".

Families were invited to stay for a picnic lunch and the children played with their friends before heading home for the school holidays. A really wonderful day, many children proud of their achievements and plenty of proud parents cheering with support.



Miah, Lauren, Sarah, Chiara, Ella

CPCK Shopping night

Samantha Johnston

Georgina

24 October 2004

Macramé pot hangers, fluorescent shorts, Demtel - this was not!!!! The kindy Christmas shopping night was a plethora of credit card delights. Move over Kylie because at the door was Julie with a rack of beautiful underwear for sale - one particular bra, filled with mineral salts, will transform you from Twiggy to Pamela Anderson (I must order that bra).

Then there was Angela selling Christmas cards - \$1.00 each or a 5 pack for \$5.00 (A real bargain any way you looked at it). There was fabulous jewellery, clothing, photography, Christmas decorations, handbags - even glow in the dark balls!!!

There seemed to be lots of purchasing going on and to keep up the energy levels, there was plenty of yummy food and champagne. (Thank you to all those who provided food).

Best bargain of the night was the miniature wind up "swimmer" bath toy at \$2.50 and the most expensive item (don't quote me) was probably the fake Louis Vitton handbag (even fakes are too expensive for me)

Best laugh of the night was a woman I spotted leaning over a bowl of dip who ended up with at least half the dip attached to her underarm! (You had to be there). Best buy was Melissa's mother of pearl necklace - it looked fabulous on her.

Best news of the night was when the woman in front of me didn't buy any raffle tickets and I ended up winning a pair of great sunnies and earrings with my raffle tickets!

A great night had by all. Thank you to the organisers and all the contributors.

Off to Kindy for the morning
Angela Woodcock Lauren

tells me it was yummy.

We dropped the boys at daycare and into kindy we went. It seemed so busy this particular day, Julia was off sick, Nancy was losing her voice but Sarah and Cecilia were there to help.

With a donation of lemons from Nina and Tara, lemonade was on the cards, and we set about juicing them. They sure did smell good. Nancy had her secret recipe etched in her brain brought all the way from the States.

I had picked the day after the Drum beat visit and there were plenty of drums just calling out for a beat. Sarah seemed to be having a ball, and she was joined by most of the boys. You could see the challenge in their faces 'I can beat the drum louder'. Was I glad when they were packed away. Me personally, I preferred the shakers. Lauren looked for the biggest drum.

The children set about making their own drums and shakers; a much loved new addition to the musical equipment at home.

We played with some shapes. We picked up a variety of shapes big, small, fat, thin with a pair of tweezers and placed them in the squares. We played puzzles then the blocks.

And then Nancy rang the bell. I've got to get a bell. The children froze, Nancy asking them to turn up their listening ears... I've tried this and it works ... Thanks Nancy!

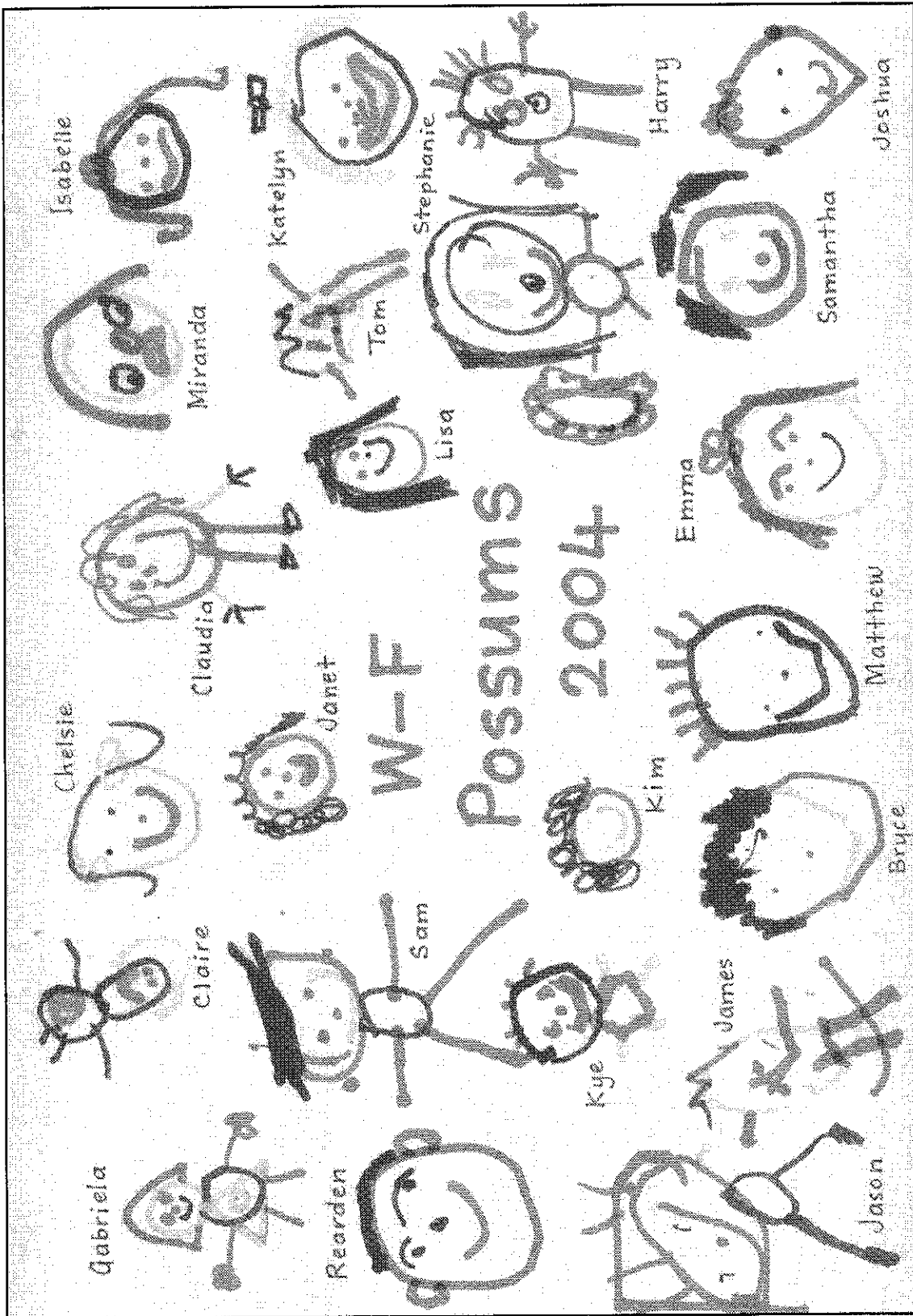
The children were asked to pack up the equipment, which they all seemed to do without much fuss. Wish it were this easy at home.

We all sat together and learnt a new song. A slight tongue twister, I still can not remember the name of it. Nancy constantly interrupted by a child, who had something to say. But we made it to the end of the song.

Time for morning tea. The children lined up boys on one side, girls on the other side. Nancy listing the children away, Tara promptly correcting her pointing out, 'Nina is not away she is sick'. I had to chuckle.

I stayed for morning tea, and then sadly had to return to the adult world of bookwork. I couldn't believe how quickly the time flew. It was lovely to see how Lauren spends her day at kindy and the friends she has made during her year there.

I had to leave before the lemonade was served, but Lauren

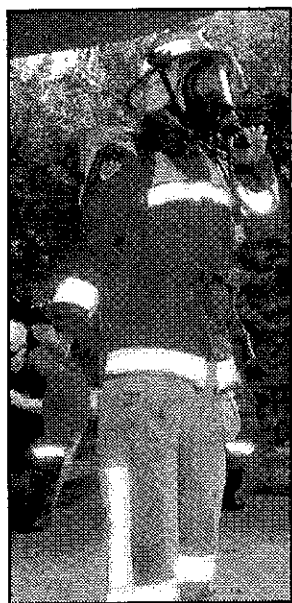




Police, Ambulance and Fire Department visits

Narelle Beard

Jason



I remember at the beginning of the year, when my son Jason had just started he was like a big sponge. He would absorb all the new information he could and would come home so excited to tell us all about it.

After the Fire department visits he kept telling us "when you are on fire, get down and roll". After the Police visit he informed us that they had a "cockatoo" on their car (the emblem) and a gun to shoot the bad people. But I think the Ambulance visit was his

favourite and he had lots of detailed information to tell us about your heart goes faster and faster, the neck brace, and the machine that started your heart.

It was a great experience for the children to see how the Police, Ambulance and Fire Departments help the community and them. Thank You.

Miaow, the Storytellers Cat

Sharon Van Der Zwaag

Kye

26 May 2004

I was lucky enough to join the possums in enjoying one of the best children's shows I have seen. The Miaow, the Storytellers Cat started with a great big white fluffy talking cat and some very calming Asian music. From the first word to the last the kids and adults were mesmerized and followed every word for over one hour. The sets, costumes and stories brought so many smiles and lots of very witty questions from their very young, but attentive audience. All in all a very fun way to listen and learn and learn to listen.

Grandparents and Special Friends Day

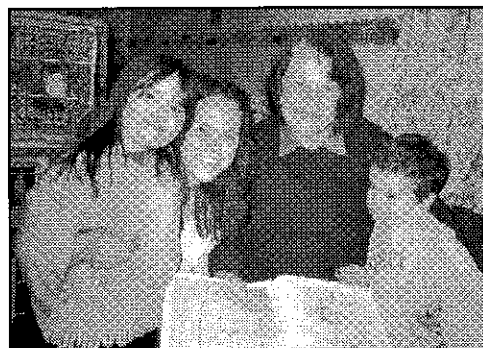
Natalie Inglis

Samantha

20th August 2004

The day provides a great opportunity for the Grandparents and/or special friends to visit and see what goes on at the Kindergarten. On the day, they have the chance to play and interact with children through activities such as puzzles and drawings. The Grandparents and/or

special friend are invited to look at the child's portfolio - which is some of the crafts, drawings, paintings, and photos that the child has completed throughout the year. The children also do a short concert of songs dances they have learnt for their visitors. The Grandparents and/or special friend can purchase a painting of the child's artwork, with all money that is raised on the day going towards buying equipment for the kindergarten. After the concert it is time for a picnic, which gives everyone a chance to mingle and meet the children's friends.



Fathers Day Stall

Jenny Thomson

Claire

03 September 2004

This year our Father's Day stall was a great success. All the Possums and Wombats brought in a present and on Friday 3rd of September we set them up on the verandah for sale. Two at a time the children appeared with their wallets jangling with coins or carrying a fresh \$5.00 note to purchase a "surprise" for their Dad!

It was interesting to watch their faces as they put a lot of effort into what they thought their dad would like... the chocolates went fast!!! Presents ranged from garden gloves to digital clocks, but the main thing was all the children went away excited to give their dad a special purchase on the BIG DAY from the kindy shop!!!

Chicks R Us

Ivana Papalia

James

13 September 2004

James enjoyed the experience of watching the chicks hatch from their eggs and naming one of them "Tonka" with Tom his friend.

Puzzle-a-thon

Narelle Beard

Jason

17 September 2004

The excitement was overwhelming for the children. They couldn't wait to start. The anticipation of reaching 20 points and receiving a certificate was delightful to watch. They were all eager to select a puzzle, complete it, record their points and start again. The energy was a buzz to watch.



Sports Day

Jane Page

Miranda

24 September 2004

On the last day of term 3, the possums and Wombats assembled for their own moment of Olympic glory, the CPCK Sports Day.

The children were split into groups of five and allocated a colour, which was to be worn on the day.

Their different activity stations arranged around the kindy garden, including long jump, shooting goals, sack throwing, fishing, obstacle course and more.

Many parents, grandparents, siblings and special friends attended to show their support for our bussing "Olympians" with cheering and clapping echoing around the Plateau!

The event concluded with a medal presentation and certificate of participation for each child, followed by a picnic lunch in the garden. A great way to start the holidays!







Bushdance

Leigh Copping Emma
2 April 2004

The annual "Bushdance" held at the end of 1st term, is a wonderful social event for the whole family. It is a great opportunity for the children to socialise with their new friends outside of their daily kindergarten routine whilst allowing the parents and other family members to meet and get to know one another over a few drinks and BBQ.

The theme is set with appropriate decorations and everyone is encouraged to dress up in their finest cowboy / cowgirl outfits with jeans, hats, chaps, belts and boots a plenty. A fantastic live band calls and leads the "do-se-dos" and gets the boots scooting.

Mothers Day stall

Melissa Booker Michael
7 May 2004

Mother's Day is a time for celebration with breakfast in bed, family gatherings and "I love you's" scribbled over the card. To help make that day a little more special and personal, the Mothers day stall has become a yearly event and one that children and mums alike look forward to.

All the parents send in a gift either purchased or something special from home they think would make an ideal present for another mum. The stall is set up like a shop where all the children take turns purchasing an item they know mum would love for only \$5.00, money well spent.

In addition to this the children make their own personalised card and a bookmark which is laminated with photos of their child on the cover. This makes a great but simple gift that is cherished and enjoyed by all the mums at the Collaroy kindy.

Picture Plates

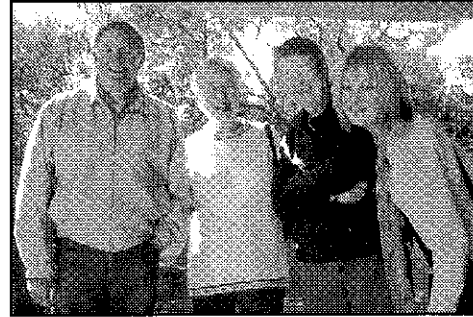
Brianna Patterson

Doing the picture plates this year was great because I got to do my favourite thing - drawing. I liked doing it so much that I drew different pictures. I'll keep one and give the others to Mummy, Nan and Nana for Christmas. The bright colours we used were great for doing a rainbow.

Love, Brie Patterson

Grandparent and Special Friends

Jack Layton
20 August 2004



I really liked Grandparent's Day this year. Grandma, Grandpa, Grandma Mary, Aunty Em and Mum all came to see me. They got to meet my best friends Michael and Tal. Aunty Em took a photo of me and Michael having a cuddle!

We sang lots of songs for the grown-ups. My favourite song is Mr Clicky Clanes. In the end we sing 'a belly flop in a pizza' and then we all laugh. My baby sister danced in all the songs.



We did lots of paintings for the grown ups to buy and my family bought all mine. At the end, we had a special morning tea for the grown ups and I had a Tim Tam and cake.

Directors of days gone by

Carolyn Davis 1983 - 2001

Director Term 1 1983 - Term 3 1985
Teacher 1987 - 2001

I was appointed Director in November 1982 by the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association who at this time owned the site where the Kindergarten is situated. The Progress Association adopted a new Constitution drafted by the Department of Youth and Community Affairs. CPCK was now run by a Parents Committee, and ably supported by a Mother's Committee who were mainly responsible for fundraising.

Fundraising events were always well attended and were great fun. These included: - a Walkathon, Casino night and Fetes

During my years as Director, I worked with five wonderful teachers Dot Ball, Helen Clare, Sue Ferry, Eunice MacMahon and Robyn Summerville. These staff members remained at the Kindergarten for many years. In term 3, I left on maternity leave and my daughter; Camilla was born in December 1985. My son James followed in October 1989.

Many changes occurred during my three years as Director, the most significant being the office built by the Apex Club. The outdoor area was cleared and replaced with new equipment, including a fort and a new and bigger sandpit. Many changes to the indoor equipment new beds, new educational equipment and tables and chairs.

I enjoyed many happy years teaching at CPCK. I was very privileged to work alongside a competent, professional, hardworking and supportive team of staff and parents.

Helen Clare 1969 - 1994

Teacher 1969 - 1985
Director 1985 - 1994

My association in CPCK started in 1963 when my eldest daughter Sally attended the centre, followed by Belinda in 1966 and Peter in 1968.

Olive Smith was Director at the time and she and her husband John were due to spend 1969 in the USA for John to participate with N.A.S.A in the landing of the moon and

Olive asked me to replace her for that year. Following that I worked part-time.

The centre was very different in those days!

Outdoor toilets - great fun on a wet day!

No telephone - the neighbours were very co-operative.

Stretchers - stacked on a small triangular stage in the south west corner of the hall

Equipment cupboards - locked together each night.

In 1971 the centre became a Community centre in receipt of Government subsidies and endless regulations from DOCS

During 1973 the centre was renovated with additions of a kitchen, indoor bathroom, foyer, storerooms and a folding door to divide the hall. The centre moved to a church hall in Stella Street during this time and held morning and afternoon groups. Later, there was the further addition of an office.

When Olive Smith retired in 1982, Carolyn Davis was appointed Director. When Carolyn decided to relinquish her position as Director for two days a week, I became Director in 1984, until 1994 when I retired. During this time my three grandchildren attended the centre.

I worked with many wonderful people during my years at the centre. All the staff were so supportive of each other, enthusiastic about their work and loyal to the centre and its place in the community. There were many highs and lows during these 25 years, but overall is a feeling of how fortunate I was to work with such great people in a delightful job.

Felicity Barclay 1995 - 1998

Director January 1995 - October 1998

I commenced as Director of CPCK in term one 1995. I had been working on the mid north coast of NSW as the Director of a private Long Day Care Centre and was keen to return to family and friends in Sydney. I was thrilled to be offered the position at CPCK as I had begun my teaching career in a community based preschool some years earlier and welcomed the opportunity to return to the community sector and to working with 3-5 year old children.

One of my earliest and fondest memories of CPCK is that of Vivienne Price. Vivienne was the President of the committee at the time and was part of the interview panel. Vivienne was warm, welcoming, and professional and rang me several times after I was appointed to the position just to

“touch base”. On one of my visits to Sydney prior to commencement, she took me for a drive around the beaches – playing “tour guide”. These small moments have stayed with me, as I believe that ones initial introduction to an organisation – i.e. “first impressions” go a long way in helping people settle in. Vivienne remained as President for some years after her last child finished at the preschool. Vivienne said she wanted to “give back” to the community. She certainly achieved this objective. She was a great role model for me and I remain grateful for her professional and personal support during my time as Director. Thanks Vivienne!

Other memories in no particular order

The introduction of “Possums” and “Wombats”. This was a concept I brought with me from the North Coast and it’s lovely to know that there have been many more Possums and Wombats since then completing their time at CPCK.

The introduction of the 2 day and 3 day programme (I think in 1996) – a pretty big change and not without some challenges! We also shifted to having children call staff by their first names.

Fun memories of singing songs with Liz Whittaker in group time – we were each convinced that our own words and tunes were the “right version” and would sing them over the top of each other! Liz and I would also make up our own songs on the spot to suit the occasion – lots of laughs! Lugging equipment down the hill in the playground Games of Duck Duck Goose in the afternoons with the Wombat children under the olive tree, which grew out the front.

Some really dedicated families working behind the scenes on the Management Committee – Treasurer Phil Reeves who did a great job during my time at CPCK. Parents who organised some innovative fund raisers – the annual walk-a-thon was such a lovely concept. Parents and kids walking together – (what a concept!) it’s the simple things that are often the best. Casino nights as a fundraiser which ended up a bit wild and woolly on occasion!

Yen Yeo in the office – my left and right hand at the time – methodical and conscientious – did a tremendous job of streamlining office systems.

I worked alongside Sue Ferry and the Liz Whittaker in the Wombat room – initially working four days face to face teaching, and eventually three days.

Memories of working with Sue on the “Hall Management Committee” ensuring that no one else booked the preschool

for use outside of preschool hours! Memories of ballet classes in the hall on Monday afternoons, pushing all the furniture to the side ... Sue was the only one who knew how to shut the concertina door!

Work on the playground was begun during my time as Director. The fort disappeared and my mother Barbara planted the “living cubby house” using a Buxus hedge. Some further planting was begun and the playground began its transformation during a working bee on the day of Lady Di’s death (the things you remember!).

The concreting of a dirt floor in the outside shed thanks to team from the Council who needed “something to do” on a rainy day! A constant struggle to obtain an outside toilet! (Great to see there’s one in place now!) Kitchen renovations, new colour scheme, new curtains a great lift for all of us!

Memories of excursions to the Coastal Environment Centre at Narrabeen, and a walk to the local Chinese restaurant for an end of year meal ... usually in the blazing hot sun!

The beginning of what was then a “focus child” approach to programming, discussions about the influence of Reggio Emilia on Early Childhood Education, discussion about the then new “emergent” approach to planning experiences for children. Staff meetings at people’s homes. A focus on providing an excellent inclusive programme for children with additional needs. I believe this has been a long-standing tradition at CPCK (before my time) and one, which has continued to this day.

Excellent professional relationships of Directors from other preschools. Of course some very fond memories of Wombat and Possum children over the almost four years I was at the preschool. ... I do hope I don’t miss anyone when I mention the wonderful staff with whom I worked – Sue, Robyn, Amanda, Kate, Janet, Liz, Carolyn, Donna, Julia, Libby, Jenny (who once wore one black shoe and one navy shoe to work and was mortified!!) and Yen Yeo. I’d love to hear from any former staff, children, parents, today – I can now be found at Gordon Preschool Centre.

Regards and best wishes to all those associated with a terrific preschool.

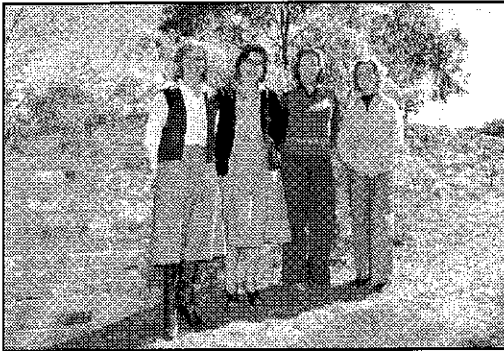
Post Script...I think of CPCK often as I leave my house each morning. A little stone wombat given to me by one of the families (Annabel and Gillian I think) sits in my garden near my front door.



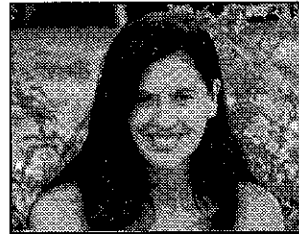
Bev McAlister, Olive Smith, John Smith as Santa,
Topsy Harris, Meg Austin
Circa 1960



Robyn Summerville, Jenny Condon,
Felicity Barclay, Carolyn Davis, Julia Hargrave



Dot Ball, Sue Ferry,
Eunice MacMahon, Helen Clare



Michelle Heiser



Bente Peterson



Helen Clare, Sue Ferry, Carolyn Davis
Amanda Galvin, Robyn Summerville



Amanda Geister, Robyn Summerville,
Sue Ferry, Helen Clare,
Wendy Thornton, Carolyn Davis



Sue Ferry, Dot Ball, Robyn Summerville,
Helen Clare, Carolyn Evans



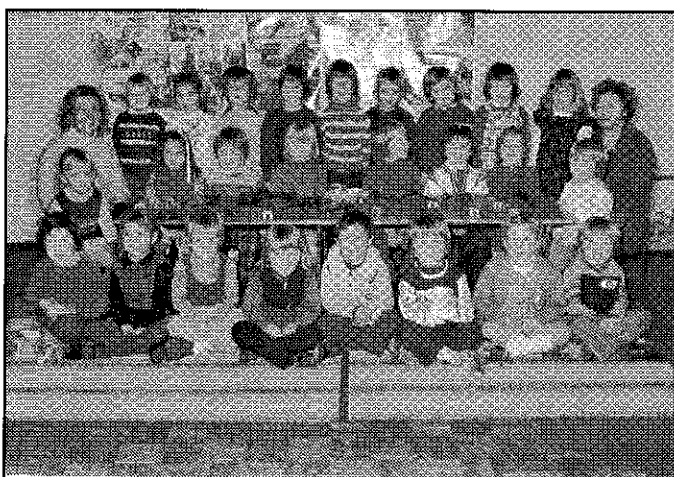
Libby Ciok, Kate Hannon, Liz Whittaker,
Julia Hargrave, Felicity Barclay, Carolyn Davis



1976

Teachers: Helen Barnes, Helen Clare

Top Row L-R: L. Koopman, T. Dorans,,,
3rd Row L-R: K.,, C. Nobel,,,
2nd Row L-R: N., R. Pye, V. Arkel,
1st Row L-R: M.,, J. Best, N. McVicar,
 M. Barnes, A. Keast,, M. Travers
Front Row L-R:, D. Douglas, G. McCann,



1977

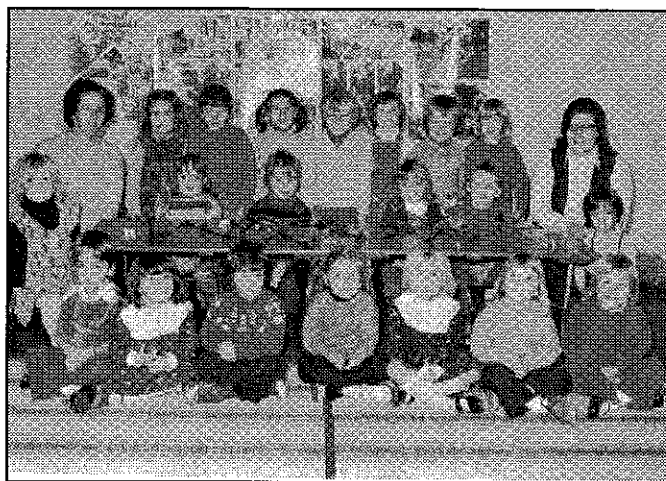
Teachers: Helen Barnes, Sue Ferry

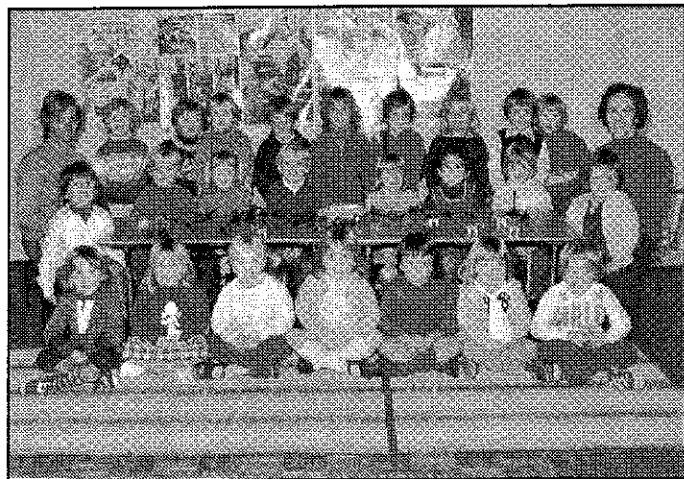
Top Row L-R: A. Summers, M. Richards,
 L. Ewers, G. Harris, R. Lewis, M. Shaw, A. Smith
2nd Row L-R: M. Slavin, F. Ewens, D. Laforest,
 J. Entwistle, P. Minette, B. Magic
1st Row L-R: I. Nicholson, M. Nixon, S. Hart, T. Parker,
 L. Brandiner, S. Jesson, K. Gowan



1977

Teachers: Helen Clare, Olive Smith





1977

Teachers: Dorothy Ball, Olive Smith

1977

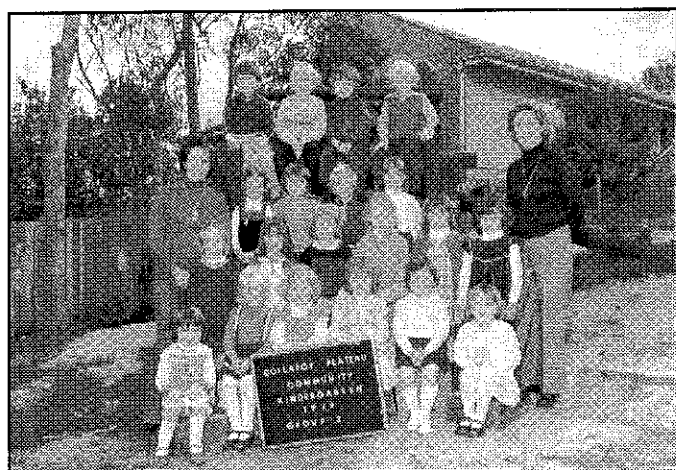
Teachers: Dorothy Ball, Helen Barnes

Top Row L-R: D. Frazer, L. Nixon, J. Harrison, M. Williams, S. Harnott, M. Thelander, T. Shepherd,

J. Arcus, J. Wrigley

2nd Row L-R: K. Bowman, T. Rudd, J. Arkel, C. Hodgson, A. Smith, T. Josephs, L. Iverack, S. Merideth

1st Row L-R: S. Brady, B. Dawes, R. Nelson, D. McKerral, J. Pluckett, K. Marsden, J. Van Buren



1979 Group 2

Teachers: Helen Barnes, Helen Clare

Top Row L-R: D., L., A., S. Saville,

2nd Row L-R: S. Logan,,,,

1st Row L-R: B. Alderton, R. Ash, K. Checkley, J. Simpson,, S. Bone

Front Row L-R: S. Hughes, S. Harold, B. Day,, T. Butcher, A. Cornthwaite

1979 Group 3

Teachers: Dorothy Ball, Eunice MacMahon





1979 Group 4

Teachers: Sue Ferry, Helen Clare

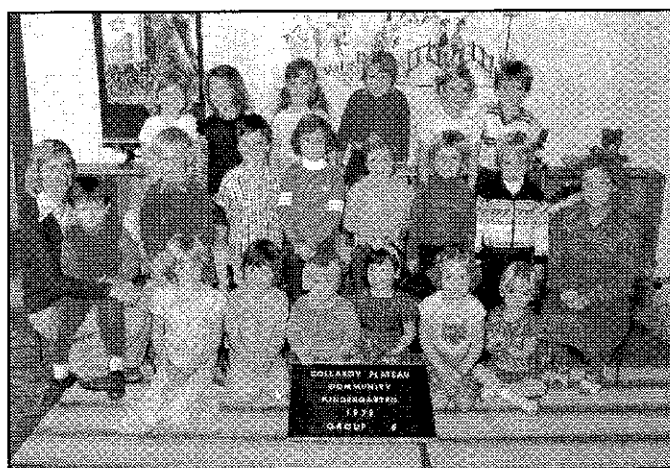
1979 Group 5

Teachers: Sue Ferry, Helen Barnes

Top Row L-R: G., T. Shepherd,,
S. Hart, S. Wrigley, D.

2nd Row L-R: P. Gallagher, T. Butcher,,
M. Summers, L., C. Smith

Front Row L-R: C. Turner, A.,, G. Gallagher,
K. Arkel



1979 Group 6

Teachers: Dorothy Ball, Olive Smith

1980 Group 1

Teachers: Dorothy Ball, Eunice McMahon

Top Row L-R: J. Linq, L. Taylor, S. Moorhouse,
N. Laughton, R. Huntley, K. Argent, R. Berry

2nd Row L-R: A. Evans, M. Symonds, C. Miles,
B. May, S. Wrigley, G. Clark

1st Row L-R: A. Cunningham, A. Matheson, T. Bell,
L. McKinnon, C. Ford, I. Morris





1983

Teachers: Helen Clare, Sue Ferry

1985 Class 1

Teachers: Amanda Galvin, Carolyn Davis



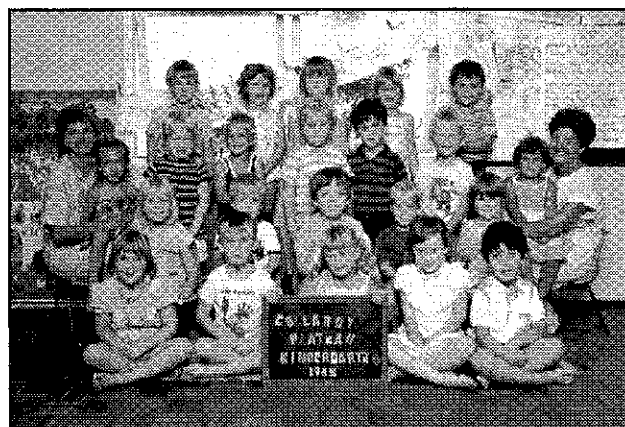
1985

Teachers: Dorothy Ball, Carolyn Davis



1985

Teachers: Dorothy Ball, Robyn Summerville





1985

Teachers: Helen Clare, Sue Ferry

1986

Teachers: Amanda Galvin, Helen Clare

Top Row L-R: C. Bennett, M. Morgan, C. Hurnell, S. Gray,
N. Berton, S. Maori,

G. Butcher, B. Ingleby, G. Griffin

2nd Row L-R: M. Tazalaar, M. Healey, G. Hooker, J. Stern,
B. Morgan,

1st Row L-R: L. Grey, D. Gray, K. Jobe, J. Randall, D. Cirello,
J. Giggittiot, A. Larsen



1986

Teachers: Amanda Galvin, Helen Clare

Top Row L-R: M. Napier, B. Stapp, T. Kemp, I. Wharton,
G. Griffin, J. Randall,

K. Jobe, D. Grey, M. Morely, S. Gray, L. Gray

2nd Row L-R: A. Buchann, H. Lythan, A. Tobin, P. Dülger,
K. Garrod, V. Ienco,

K. Tucker, P. Geonydyke, J. Greco, M. Healey



1986

Teachers: Robyn Summerville, Amanda Galvin





1987

Teachers: Amanda Galvin, Helen Clare

Top Row L-R: M. Gamble, K. Barnes, M. Hayman, B. Mayne, G. Buchan, C. Bennett, P. Marles, D. Gildin

2nd Row L-R: I. Graham, D. Fox, D. Fuller, M. Timsoveski, N. Jobe, C. Hunter, M. Ludeke

1st Row L-R: M. Carter, M. Allen, M. O'Carroll, B. Richards, J. Morris, N. Titmarsh, A. Larson



1988 Group 2

Teachers: Amanda Galvin, Helen Clare

Top Row L-R: A. Warner, J. Groenendyke, J. Fairhall-Lee, N. Arnott, L. Hughes, K. Gittoes

2nd Row L-R: L. Downey, R. Fairhall-Lee, B. Whittaker, J. Price, T. Olovenshaw, L. Van Wensveen, K. Cannons

1st Row L-R: A. Hubbard, B. Whittaker, J. Waugh, J. Gilmour, J. Kemp, S. Mertz

1987 Group 3

Teachers: Sue Ferry, Helen Clare



1987

Teachers: Jenny Wright, Helen Clare, Amanda Galvin

Top Row L-R: M. Byrnes, S. Perri, M. Gamble, G. Lewis, A. Sharp Paul, J. Price, A. Cassidy, N. Jobe

2nd Row L-R: C. Bogan, M. Carter, J. Wilkinson, M. O'Carroll, A. L. de Bressac, R. Langlein

1st Row L-R: C. Riddell, B. Danielli, M. Wright, P. Marles, B. Anderson, B. Longley





1988 Group 5

Teachers: Helen Clare, Sue Ferry

Top Row L-R: S. Crowe, J. Taylor, R. Collins, P. Lindsay,
R. Stewart, J. MacKenzie, C. Rabbitts

2nd Row L-R: L. Watkinson, J. Cavanagh, M. Costello,
R. Gibson, T. Petith, A. Coleman,
B. Christie, C. McDowell

1st Row L-R: R. O'Grady, J. Harrison,
S. Haven, L. Christie, L. Philips, H. Tory, S. Paul



1989 Group 1

Teachers: Helen Clare, Amanda Galvin, Sharon Gay

Top Row L-R: N. Berton, J. Phillips, A. Catteau,
A. Allen, J. Fleetwood, A. Van Weeren, A. Coft

2nd Row L-R: B. Cant, R. Heys, M. Barnes, K. Gray

1st Row L-R: T. Cronan, K. Maynard, H. Ming Teo,
K. Sebbens, P. Hubbard, C. Baker



1989 Group 3

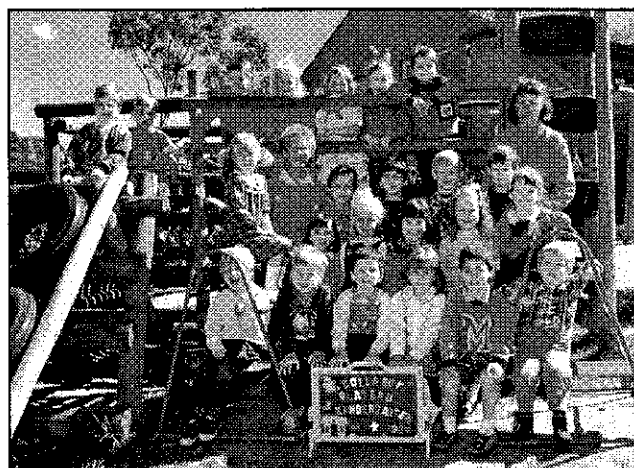
Teachers: Helen Clare, Amanda Galvin

Top Row L-R: L. Baldwin, W. Tucker, D. Woods, J. Rich,
L. Hunter, L. Roebuck, P. De Gail

3rd Row L-R: E. Kenyon, M. Ferrari, S. Multari,
N. Adlam, T. Bray

2nd Row L-R: K. Gray, R. Garrod, J. Greco,
F. Simpson, S. Springall

1st Row L-R: T. Playfair, J. Keys, C. Burke, J. Ienco,
P. McNatty, J. Szewczyk





1989 Group 6

Teachers: Sue Ferry, Amanda Galvin



1990 Group 1

Teachers: Helen Clare, Sue Ferry

Top Row L-R: S. Wellings, L. Dowsett,
D. Whittaker, B. Perham, R. Turner, K. Clarke
3rd Row L-R: P. Mason, C. Welburn, M. Eisenhauer,
S. Birtwistle, N. Robinson
2nd Row L-R: C. Watkins, N. O'Ryan-Roeder,
B. Chapman, E. Read, L. Cronan, A. Browne
1st Row L-R: J. Peters, Aidan Hutton



1990 Group 2

Teachers: Robyn Summerville, Amanda Galvin

Top Row L-R: S. Papandrea, T. Hand, J. Heywood,
N. Olorenshaw, K. Perry, M. Watkinson
2nd Row L-R: M. Mirabelli, K. Young,
M. Abrahams, J. Marett, K. Morris
1st Row L-R: L. Olds, N. Aouad, L. Pross,
A. Patterson, T. Black, N. Saunders
Floor L-R: D. Nabb, A. Patterson





1990 Group 6

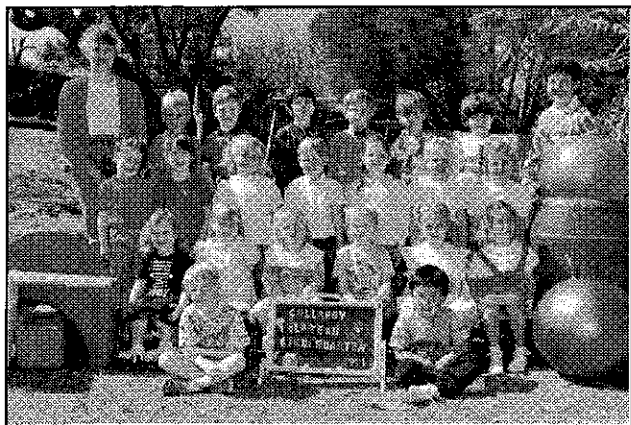
Teachers: Amanda Galvin, Wendy Thornton

Top Row L-R: C. Konkol, J. Heywood, K. Melhuish, C. Cassat, R. Henderson, S. Shehadie

2nd Row L-R: M. Abrahams, M. Mirabelli, A. Schmidt, K. Young, J. Marett

1st Row L-R: L. Cavanagh, K. Butchart, N. Saunders, R. Carter, A. Patterson, A. Downey

Floor L-R: A. Patterson, L. Olds



1991 Group 3

Teachers: Sue Ferry, Amanda Geister

Top Row L-R: T. Crowe, L. Adams, N. Bradford, R. Tucker, P. Fox, S. Ashdown

2nd Row L-R: A. Amato, C. Van Beers, A. Fisher, A. Brumby, E. Ienco, M. Black, M. Dedman

1st Row L-R: B. Caine, A. Burke, R. Johnson, D. Mitchell, E. Caitlin, J. Price

Floor L-R: L. Bainton, P. Harrison

1990 Group 4

Teachers: Amanda Galvin, Sue Ferry

Top Row L-R: Z. Fadeev, S. Rossi, S. Ludeke, D. Amoroso, V. Broady

2nd Row L-R: B. Pollett, T. Sainsbury, R. Finn, A. Harrison, P. Gibbs, A. Lewis

1st Row L-R: K. Morris, M. Bruzzano, N. Cornwell, A. Lizzio, S. Amato

Floor L-R: A. Hall, J. Collett



1991 Group 1

Teachers: Amanda Galvin, Robyn Summerville

Top Row L-R: J. Preece, L. Walker, G. Whyllie, D. Gaal, R. Abrahams, M. Messeguer,

2nd Row L-R: F. Nash, C. Spalding, C. Van Beers, C. Hawthorn, H. Thomas, S. Hodge, J. Edwards

1st Row L-R: S. Walker, E. Barnes, A. Browne, B. Page, A. Walker, E. McKie

Floor L-R: B. Caine, T. Saunders





1991 Group 5

Teachers: Helen Clare, Wendy Thornton,
Amanda Geister

Top Row L-R: S. Richardson, J. Preece, T. Crowe, G. Wyllie,
C. Ramsey, M. Messeguer

2nd Row L-R: E. Crawford, R. Cordukes, E. Ienco, P. Fox,
E. Johnson, L. Melhuish, S. Rigon

1st Row L-R: K. Paul, J. Schmidt, B. Keogh,
K. Eccles, X. Tang, L. Bainton

Floor L-R: M. Dedman, A. Fisher

1992 Group 1

Teachers: Robyn Cliffe, Robyn Summerville, Amanda Geister

Top Row L-R: T. Durlacher, D. Charman, E. Higgs,
A. Raper, J. Earnshaw, B. Van Beers

2nd Row L-R: C. Langalaar, M. Haywood, A. Portlock,
S. Watkins, A. Southcombe

1st Row L-R: B. Ison, E. Milstead, C. Candido, S. Chiddy,
C. Jenatsch

Floor L-R: R. Sainsbury, K. Good



1992 Group 2

Teachers: Helen Clare, Sue Ferry

Top Row L-R: E. Miller, K. Spratt, L. Gilbert,
S. Clouston, M. Minichini, M. Longrigg

2nd Row L-R: D. Broadfoot, M. Stegie,
S. McGlinchey, J. Hayman, S. Riddle

1st Row L-R: A. Sebbens, J. Brown, J. Turner,
S. Gietz, I. Yeo

Sitting L-R: C. Morton, K. Cavanagh



1992 Group 3

Teachers: Sue Ferry, Amanda Geister

Top Row L-R: J. Dean, M. Stanbrook, J. McCallum, M. Pratt,
A. Mackay, K. Bonner

2nd Row L-R: A. Stiles, S. Rogers Falk, R. Finlay, J. Cannons,
M. Calvi, B. Van Beers, D. Montgomery, C. Jobe

1st Row L-R: A. Buyers, D. Woollorton, S. Malcolm,
M. Dunlop, J. Gough, B. Perry





1992 Group 4

Teachers: Wendy Thornton, Helen Clare

Top Row L-R: K. Nielsen, B. Webster, K. Beckett, A. Wilkinson, R. Wallace, J. Hayman

2nd Row L-R: R. Nutter, O. Ware, E. Miller, J. Baldwin, S. Riddle, A. Thomas, S. Cornwell

1st Row L-R: E. Hawtrey, J. Gray, S. Whyte, J. Bray, J. Black, C. Morton

1992 Group 5

Teachers: Amanda Geister, Helen Clare

Top Row L-R: M. Ginn, J. Michael, J. Bramble, K. Burns, E. Campbell

2nd Row L-R: E. Lelliott, D. Woollorton, B. Harrison, A. McKee, M. Hayward, J. Curran, M. Stuckey

1st Row L-R: K. Good, B. Jones, A. Burrows, Z. Collett, A. Stiles

Sitting L-R: S. Watkins, A. Southcombe



1993 Group 1

Teachers: Helen Clare, Sue Ferry, Carolyn Davis

Top Row L-R: A. Wyllie, S. Bruce, M. Stegic, S. McGlinchey, D. Sizeland, K. Konkol

2nd Row L-R: L. Aouad, J. Mangano, K. Beilken, D. Wright, A. Doust, L. Broady, M. Honeyman, M. Patterson

1st Row L-R: L. Dimauro, E. Kay, S. Walker, T. Chaffer, M. Poss, M. Eccles



1993 Group 2

Teachers: Amanda Geister, Robyn Summerville

Top Row L-R: W. Bennett, L. Walker, M. Howarth, C. Hawthorn, R. Kearney, C. Matheson

2nd Row L-R: J. Hayward, J. Ritchie, J. McKenna, A. McNab, C. Nabb, K. Trim, A. Barton

1st Row L-R: J. Cicione, H. Tang, J. Davis, L. Smart, L. Cronan, D. Halgren





1993 Group 4

Teachers: Helen Clare, Carolyn Davis, Wendy Thornton

Top Row L-R: S. Ensor, P. Hayes, G. Pritchard, B. O'Reilly, L. Gutherson, K. Konkol, N. Wellburn

2nd Row L-R: A. Batten, D. Feltscheer, A. Doust, A. Spencer, T Chaffer, L. McDowell

1st Row L-R: V. Allom, T. O'Neill, M. Dunlop, M. Eccles, A. Whyte, M. Taken, C. Wood



1993 Group 5

Teachers: Amanda Geister, Robyn Summerville

Top Row L-R: M. Olsson, B. McIntyre, T. Lyons, B. Ware, M. Robinson, C. Pettet

2nd Row L-R: G. Stockbridge, B. Gibby, N. Olds, N. Finauer, A. Carter, H. Black

1st Row L-R: A. Drummett, J. Davis, B. Olds, M. Fox, R. Nicholas, M. Paul, S. Waters



1994 Group 1

Teachers: Robyn Summerville, Amanda Geister

Top Row L-R: C. Grady, M. Brooker, J. Boland, C. Pendleton, D. Richardson, K. Wallace, J. Poss

2nd Row L-R: S. Demaro, S. Stewart, K. Brooker, J. Reid, A. Anicic, B. Main,

1st Row L-R: G. Easton, B. Mockridge, J. Berger, M. Milsted, S. Hirtes, A. Bundock





1994 Group 2

Teachers: Helen Clare, Sue Ferry

Top Row L-R: J. Hegarty, T. Christensen, K. Humphreys, J. Durlacher, A. Gray

2nd Row L-R: S. Golding, C. Dewell, L. Burke, D. Tevlar, J. Ritche, J. Reeves

1st Row L-R: P. Frishknecht, S. Groves, T. Caine, E. Johnston, S. Wooltorton, A. Dwyer

1994 Group 5

Teachers: Helen Clare, Michelle Perry, Amanda Geister, Robyn Summerville

Top Row L-R: M. Feltscheer, A. Smith, P. Johnson, R. Catteau, E. Hyde, J. Davis, H. Moss, T. Gietz

2nd Row L-R: G. Easton, P. Ginn, R. Caruso, S. Springall, N. Dousset, F. Harrison, A. Jones

1st Row L-R: B. Mockridge, P. O'Reilly, C. Grady, T. Eisenhouer, J. Chiddy, S. Aouad



1995 Group 1

Teachers: Sue Ferry, Felicity Barclay

1995 Group 2

Teachers: Amanda Geister





1995 Group 3

Teachers: Sue Ferry, Felicity Barclay

1995 Group 4

Teachers: Amanda Geister



1995 Group 5

Teachers: Liz Whittaker, Carolyn Davis



1995 Group 6

Teachers: Felicity Barclay, Amanda Geister





1995 Group 7

Teachers: Sue Ferry, Carolyn Davis

1995 Group 8

Teachers: Liz Whittaker, Amanda Geister



1995 Group 9

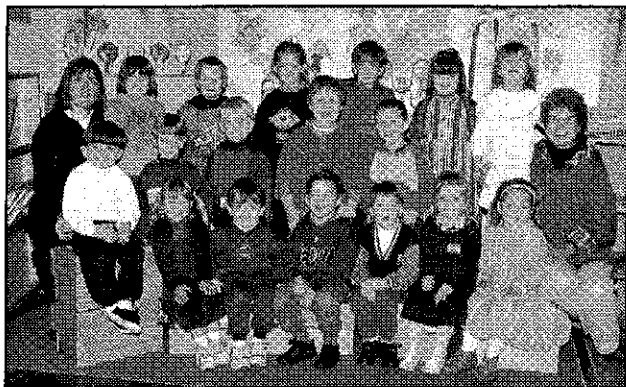
Teachers: Sue Ferry, Felicity Barclay



1995 Group 10

Teachers: Amanda Geister





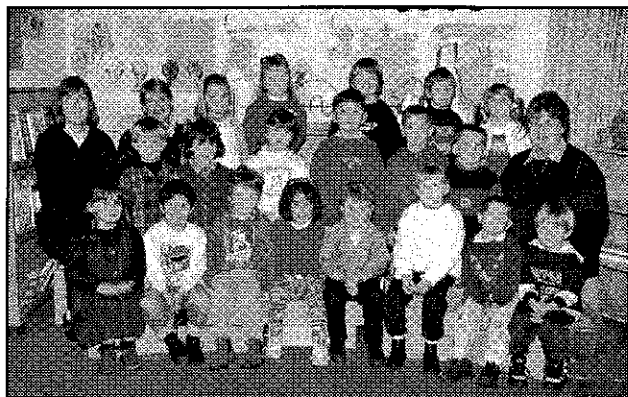
1996 Wombat Monday-Tuesday

Teachers: Carolyn Davis, Julia Hargrave

Top Row L-R: M. Scamarcia, M. Barton, K. Dowds, J. Eather, N. Pokler, P. Nelson

2nd Row L-R: T. Donlan, O. Dousset, M. Burge, M. Trim, C. Harrison, A. Milton, S. Melhuish

1st Row L-R: T. Punyer, L. Nicholas, J. Ritchie, L. Clark, M. Walker, J. Punyer, M. Ryan



1996 Wombat Wednesday - Friday

Teachers: Liz Whittaker, Libby Ciok, Felicity Barclay

Top Row L-R: E. Bester, B. Johnston, B. Heffernan, L. Humphrey, C. Reeves

2nd Row L-R: J. O'Reilly, L. Buller, L. Halgren, B. Mailey, A. Cangelosi, R. Van Weeren

1st Row L-R: E. Black, A. Caruso, A. Bainton, N. Boland, L. Caine, E. Groves, C. Page

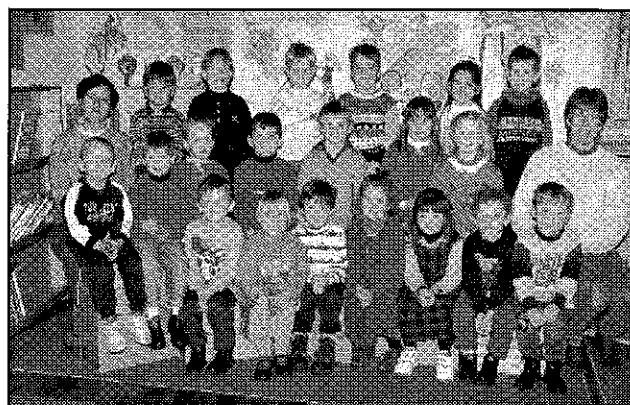
1996 Possum Monday-Tuesday

Teachers: Jenny Condon, Robyn Summerville

Top Row L-R: L. Eisenhower, S. Gray, B. Swavley, N. Cavanagh, K. Doolan, C. Parker

2nd Row L-R: A. Young, A. Easton, S. Gardner, G. Evans

1st Row L-R: P. Greco, M. Wright, J. Hicks, P. Cavanagh



1996 Possum Wednesday- Friday

Teachers: Jenny Condon, Libby Ciok, Sue Ferry

Top Row L-R: R. Hamey, E. Pitcher, M. De Gail, C. Corkalo, K. Bennett

2nd Row L-R: N. Davies, M. Martinuzzo, C. O'Reilly, R. McAlister, J. Portlock, R. Dcembre

1st Row L-R: K. Anicic, D. Greco, J. Finch, N. Tamsic, B. Holdsworth, B. Earnshaw, M. Frishknect, D. Chiddy





1997 Possum Wednesday- Friday

Teachers: Liz Whittaker, Libby Ciok, Felicity Barclay

Top Row L-R: D. Chiddy, E. Blanshard, N. Richardson, O. Dousset, L. Donabauer, E. Casey
2nd Row L-R: N. Tomsic, J. Rogers-Falk, N. Davies, K. Clark, N. Stanbrook, A. Seller, J. Hicks
1st Row L-R: B. Dimento, A. Nettheim, M. Martinuzzo, M. De Gail, M. White, M. Ryan

1997 Wombat Monday - Tuesday

Teachers: Julia Hargrave, Carolyn Davis

Top Row L-R: A. Ware, B. Hayward, J. Sizeland, A. Wilkinson, A. Daly
2nd Row L-R: D. McIntyre, M. Salmon, M. Wright, S. Brisby, J. Richter, E. Tredinnick
1st Row L-R: J. Macri, S. Dewell, J. Leykam, J. Mangano, N. McClure, K. Harrison



1998 Possums Wednesday - Friday

Teachers: Kate Hannon, Lisa Charman

Top Row L-R: C. Watson, L. Duffy, K. Ellis, N. Bonner, A. Ware, D. Pendleton
2nd Row L-R: M. Marinic, S. Dewell, B. Thomas, B. Scheffers, G. Woolley, D. Reeves
1st Row L-R: J. White, O. Edwards, C. Nelson, Z. Dibben, C. Smith, E. Bettiol, S. Brooks, H. Pitt

1998 Wombats Monday - Tuesday

Teachers: Julia Hargrave, Libby Ciok, Carolyn Davis

Top Row L-R: A. Gray, M. Connell, J. Menzies, N. Irving, B. Duckling
2nd Row L-R: J. Behagg, T. Kelly, N. Dodson, E. Crittle, S. Cuno, O. Bundock
1st Row L-R: J. Hanley, M. Caruso, J. Redmond, M. Nicholls, J. Trim, C. McGregor, L. Arena





1999 Possums Wednesday – Friday

Teachers: Janet David, Kate Hannon, Libby Ciok

Top Row L-R: M. Johanson, M. Cronin, T. Kelly, B. Thomas,
E. Bettiol

3rd Row L-R: S. Kennewell, A. McGuire, N. Oldfield, R. Seller,
M. Nicholls, L. Papworth

2nd Row L-R: L. Cummings, C. Richardson, J. Russell-Jones,
S. Donlan, T. Hawke, T. Bebbington, M. Reid

1st Row L-R: H. Buller, L. Hicks

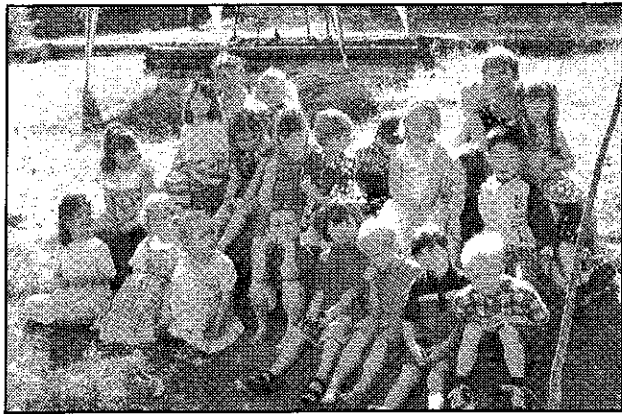
Teachers: Carolyn Davis, Libby Ciok, Julia Hargrave

Top Row L-R: C. Rubinstein, E. Jeffcoat, J. Parker, N. Mitlon,
E. Wyllie, C. Dwyer

2nd Row L-R: O. Papalia, M. Dodson, A. Corkalo, K. Stewart,
D. Field-Akred, K. Panozzo, A. Griffin

1st Row L-R: L. Luu, T. Perks, R. Booker, A. Finch,
N. Tongue, J. Femia, D. Hadzipasic



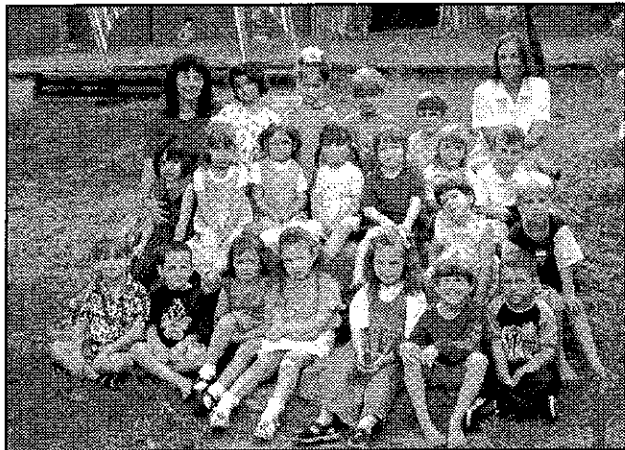


2000 Wombats Monday - Tuesday

Teachers: Carolyn Davis, Julia Hargrave

2000 Possums Monday - Tuesday

Teachers: Amanda Geister, Liz Whittaker



2000 Possums Wednesday - Friday

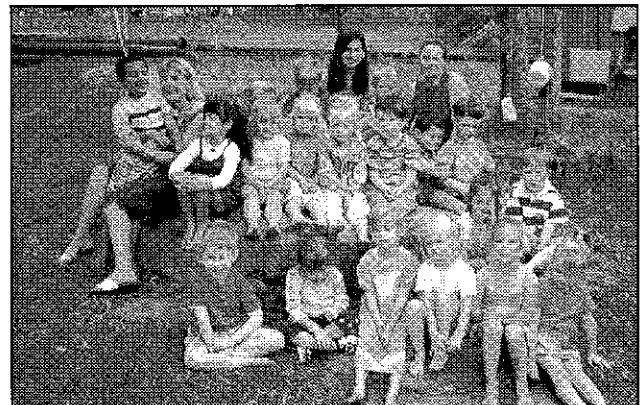
Teachers: Janet David, Janet Tonkin

Top Row L-R: T. Van Der Zwaag, D. Hadzipasic,
J. Martinuzzo, D. Tesoriero, A. Marinovic, A. Griffin, J. Femia
2nd Row L-R: L. Hicks, R. Weatherley, D. Pokler, S. Millner,
T. Keirle, G. Scheffers, C. Gracie
1st Row L-R: I. Caterina, M. Spadina, E. Walshe, C. Illingworth

2000 Wombats Wednesday - Friday

Teachers: Tina Heffernan, Shelley Heiser,
Kathryn Anderson

Top Row L-R: T. Brooks, L. Wills, J. Parker,
D. White
3rd Row L-R: O. Papalia, T. Kerr, T. Perks, J. Arena,
J. Cramer, M. Curnoe, A. Donabauer
2nd Row L-R: A. Bettiol, R. Wood
1st Row L-R: D. Field Akred, R. Macri,
K. Kellerman, L. Blanshard, G. Miller, G. Nolan





2001 Possums Wednesday - Friday

Teachers: Janet David, Kate Hannon

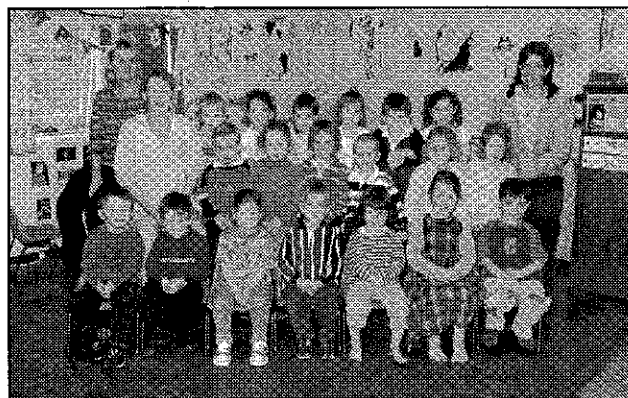
2002 Wombats Monday - Tuesday

Teachers: Gina Shaw, Nancy Lane, Julia Hargrave

Top Row L-R: T. Garland, J. Brilman, H. Dumesich,
T. Whittard, Z. Adney, G. O'Brien

2nd Row L-R: J. Blagg, G. Devaney, J. Harrison,
H. Page, H. Jago, S. Jago

1st Row L-R: L. Taylor, L. Brown, D. Ritcher,
R. Fitzgerald, Z. Anderiesen, M. Jeffcoat, J. Boyd



2002 Possums Wednesday to Friday

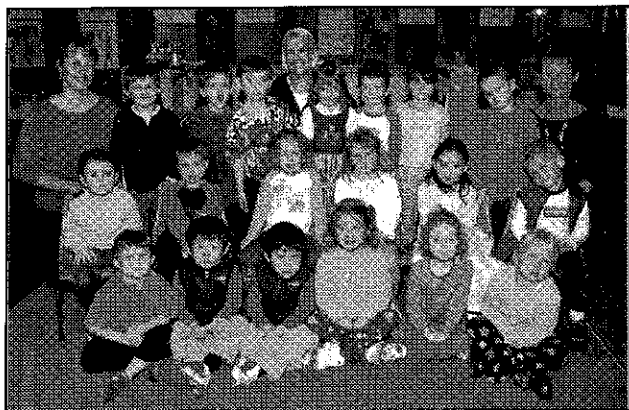
Teachers: Lisa McLean, B. Petersen, J. David

Top Row L-R: B. Barber, J. Killworth, S. Papworth,
N. Meischke, H. Van Weeren, S. Catlin, J. Matthew, M. Mete

2nd Row L-R: J. Bourcier, E. Hadzipasic, P. Bainton, T. Arena,
H. Blanshard, D. Rashleigh,

1st Row L-R: R. Cramer, B. Allison, J. Gates,
E. Larsen, S. Moore





2003 Possums Monday - Tuesday

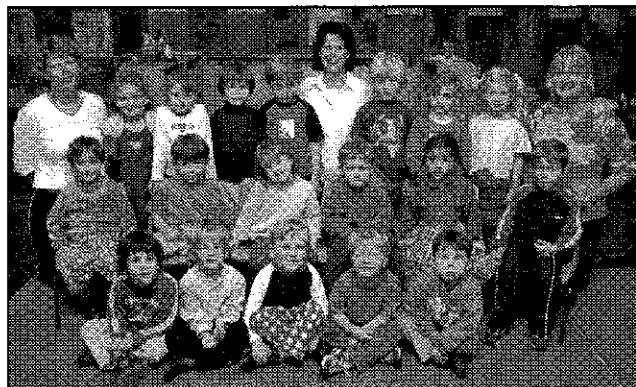
Teachers: Amanda Geister, Michelle O'Toole,
Liz Whittaker

Top Row L-R: N. Salmon McGuiness, M. Princi,
R. Inglis, G. Jacobs, J. Layton, A. Patterson, J. Scott
2nd Row L-R: M. Barlow, J. Prior, S. Woollett,
M. Keirle, C. Steyne, K. Van Der Zwaag
1st Row L-R: M. Booker, G. Bennet, N. Bennet,
E. Copping, C. Duffy, R. Jormanainen

2003 Wombats Monday - Tuesday

Teachers: Nancy Lane, Julia Hargrave, Gina Shaw

Top Row L-R: T. Jones, E. Geister, S. Dunwartz,
A. Van Breagel, Z. Taylor, G. Mastrianni, K. Castle
2nd Row L-R: J. Wearing, R. Metcalfe, O. Ritchie, J. Barrett,
D. Wong, S. Quilter
1st Row L-R: D. Greenberg, J. Donkers, M. Lawson,
Z. Beavan, J. O'Brien



2003 Possums Wednesday - Friday

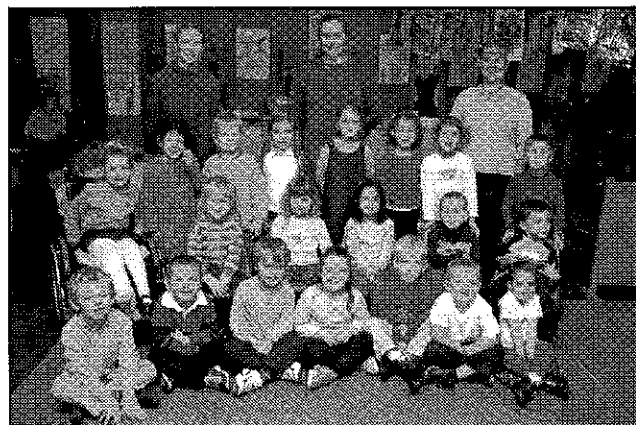
Teachers: Janet David, Lisa McLean, Sarah Richfield

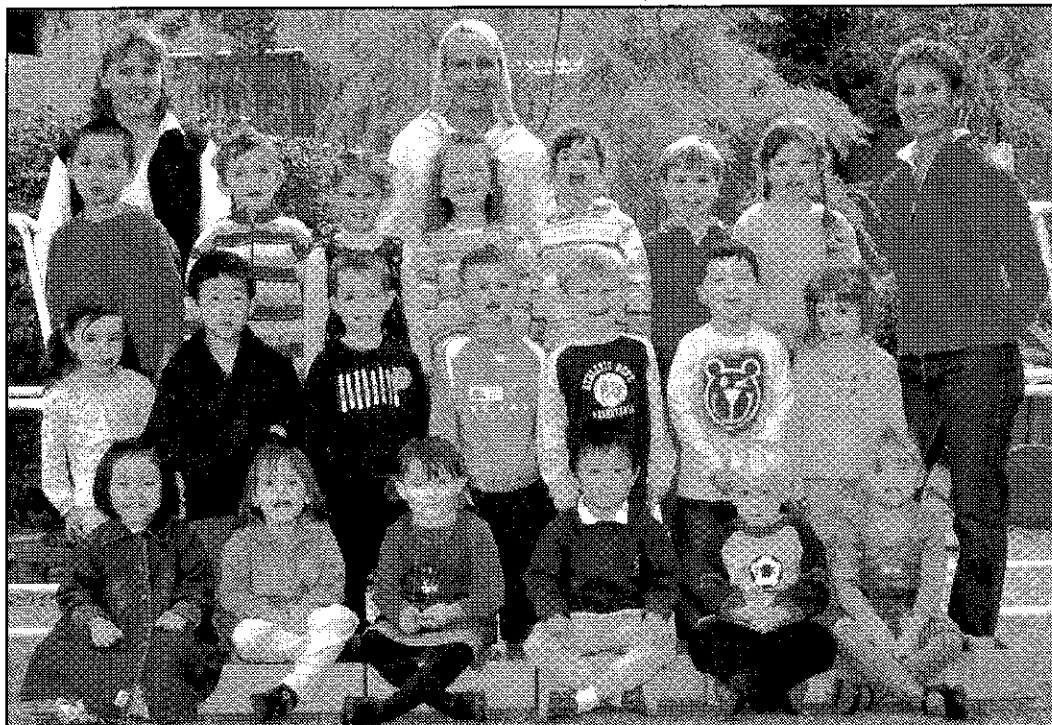
Top Row L-R: J. Schultz, S. Moore, H. Jago,
E. Baker, C. Mete, Z. Anderiesen, C. Beesley,
Z. Adney
2nd Row L-R: D. Rashleigh, K. Hall, S. Jago,
B. McGuire, C. Anderson, L. Fox
1st Row L-R: T. Harvey, C. Tesoriero, S. Illingworth,
S. Wyllie, Z. Burnett, H. Page

2003 Wombats Wednesday - Friday

Teachers: Jenny Jones, Kathryn Shaw, Gina Shaw

Top Row L-R: I. Gainsford, I. Brown, Ed. Fry, M. Hasler,
A. Gill, T. Whittard, E. Trevena, L. Brown
2nd Row L-R: T. Garland, Y. Hayward, J. Rohrer,
B. Donlan, L. Taylor
1st Row L-R: J. Blagg, L. Curran, D. Buller,
O. Hughes, N. Logan, T. Hewins-Hillman, M. Rutley





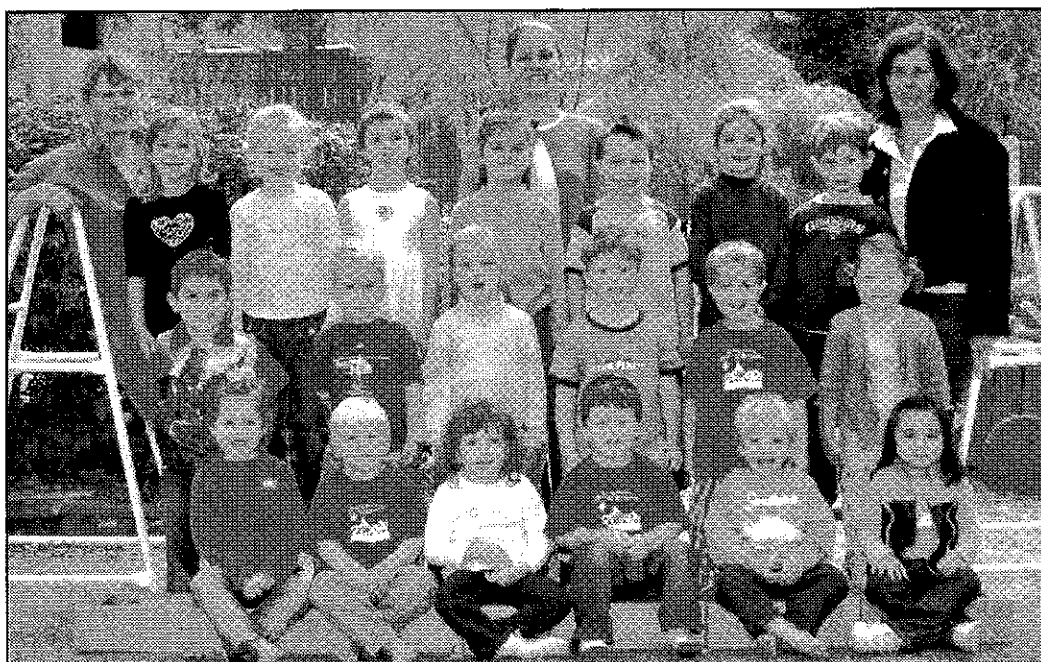
2004 Possums Monday - Tuesday

Teachers: Amanda Geister, Michelle O'Toole, Liz Whittaker

Top Row L-R: C. Zeng, S. Edgley, H. Trevena, S. Woollett, E. Milton, T. Hatch, H. Loosmore

2nd Row L-R: K. Allison, Y. Jeung, D. Parker, C. Brown, D. Logan, L. Maynes-Leslie, S. Milton

1st Row L-R: C. Pan, K. Brouggy, E. Taylor, E. Ting, L. Glover, E. Thomas



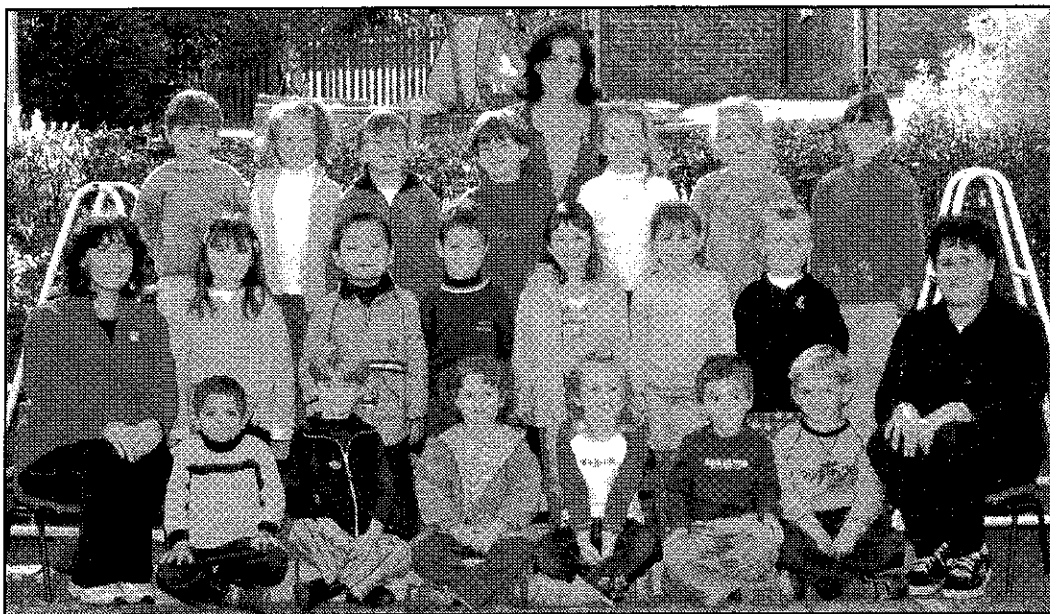
2004 Wombats Monday - Tuesday

Teachers: Nancy Lane, Cecilia Jago, Julia Hargrave

Top Row L-R: W. Skirka, M. Argent, S. Wright, T. Bowyer, W. Jeffcoat, N. Bowyer, S. Adams

2nd Row L-R: J. Maruca, L. Frith, G. Johnston, A. Devaney, F. Warner, A. Hardarker

1st Row L-R: E. Saurine, L. Beavan, L. Woodcock, J. McMichael, K. Bird, J. Reid



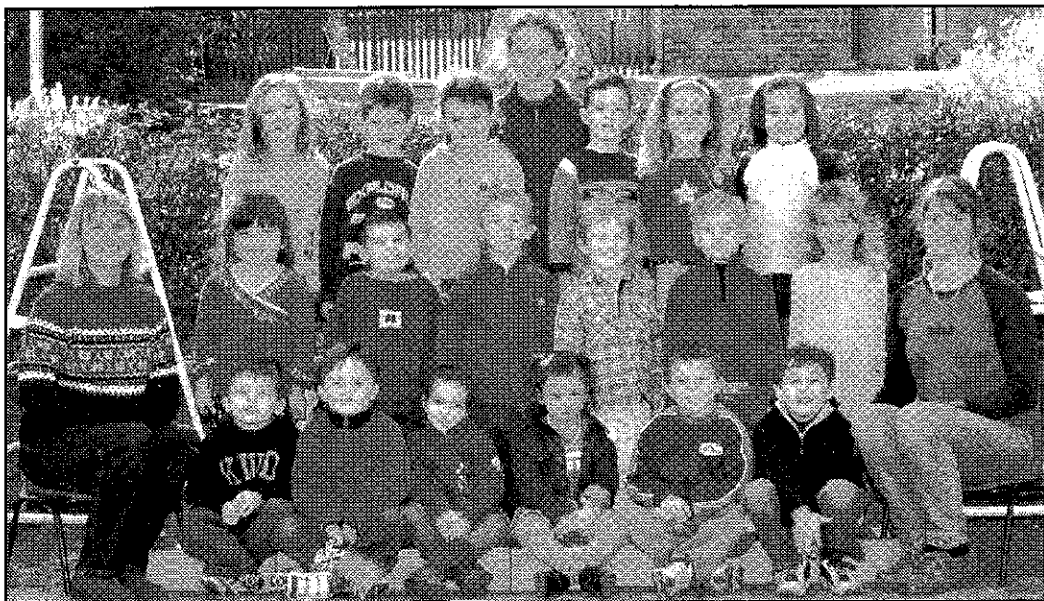
2004 Possums Wednesday - Friday

Teachers: Janet David, Julia Hargrave, Kim Millard

Top Row L-R: B. Killworth, C. Duffy, J. Micic, S. Quilter, E. Copping, K. Castle, C. Thomson

2nd Row L-R: S. Inglis, R. Gao, H. Mills, S. Cramer, C. O'Brien, M. Lawson

1st Row L-R: J. Papalia, J. Beard, M. Page, I. Gardner, T. Anderiesen, K. Van Der Zwaag



2004 Wombats Wednesday - Friday

Teachers: Gina Shaw, Jenny Jones, Jan Mills

Top Row L-R: R. Newark, T. Weiner, M. Braloe, J. Layton, T. Jones, E. Richardson

2nd Row L-R: M. Dimauro, J. O'Brien, J. Donkers, D. Garland, L. Gilchrist, B. Patterson,

1st Row L-R: L. Donlan, O. Saunders, M. Ruttley, L. Ford, M. Booker, A. Williams

Absent: J. Barrett, A. Loader

Wine and Cheese night

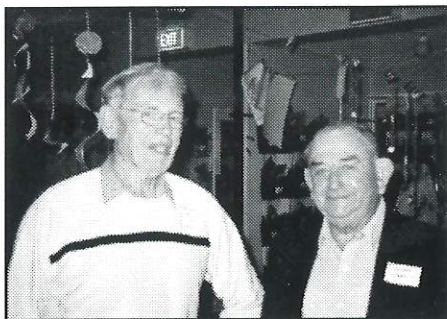
09th November 2004

It all started as a small yearbook for the kindergarten, and through research turned into a celebration of 50 years in existence.

A night that will be remembered by all whom attended. For those who caught up with someone, they hadn't been in touch with for a while, or simply to have a look at the building and kindergarten as it is in 2004.

There was a lot of laughing as many things were remembered. The partition separating the Wombats and Possums was put in during the 1973 renovations. Arthur Luker, the builder, saw it and said it wouldn't last five minutes. Milton Lidgard smiling as he recalled those very words. He thought he should give Arthur a call and let him know it still stands.

John Smith couldn't believe how quiet it was in the hall. He remembers well, the hall had no ceiling and how it did echo.



John Smith, Milton Lidgard

The lockers are the original lockers. Helen Clare told of how a parent repainted them all. Although she was not sure if this was still the colour they were repainted, Helen did say they were originally varnished and the parent did such a good job to remove the varnish first.

Judith Murphy who was Secretary of the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association from 1946 to 1965, her children attended the Kindergarten, Topsy Harris would pick them up each morning. Now her grandchildren are attending the Kindergarten and the family just happens to be the cleaners of the kindergarten.



Betty Kopetko

There was Betty Kopetko. Long time friend of Topsy Harris, her children attended the kindy in the late 1950s, and Topsy, would pick her children up from Avalon, where they both resided and bring them to and from Kindergarten.

Everyone seems to remember those outside toilets. Not always fond memories of course, but they do seem to be the first thing remembered.

A small contingent of 2004 parents attended to hear the stories of the past and to catch up with one another minus their children.



L-R: Catherine Jones, Nancy Lane, Julia Hargrave

And then there were the teachers. It seemed to be very loud every now and then, as many of them caught up on each other's lives.

The hall was originally built by a group of keen and eager men within the local community, whose payment for their labour was a keg and a barbie when the job was complete. Every brick was placed in position with determination, hard work, sweat, love and a great vision for the future. You can still see and feel this today within the walls of CPCK through its people that pass through its doors.

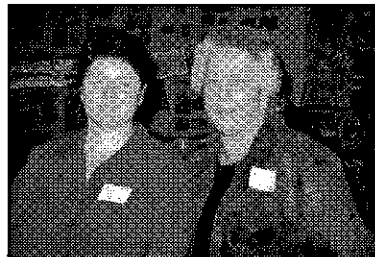
However, John Smith and Milton Lidgard have the final word on this evening. The hall was built for the purpose of the community, and all the Progress Association ever wanted, was for it to be put to good use. There is no better use for the hall than our COMMUNITY Kindergarten.



L-R: Rosina Cliffe, Helen Griffin (Barnes), Sue Ferry, Audrey Truscott, Dorothy Hill (Ball), Helen Clare



L-R: Felicity Barclay, Liz Whittaker, Julia Hargrave



Jane Sym and Helen Griffin (Barnes)



Helen Clare and Helen Griffin (Barnes)



Rebecca Frith and Cecilia Jago



Fui Tang and Angela Woodcock



**Back L-R:
Janet David, Sue Ferry, Amanda Geister, Yen Yeo
Front L-R:
Julia Hargrave, Liz Whittaker, Felicity Barclay**

Memories

Topsy Harris

Collaroy Plateau Playcentre 1954-1971

Topsy recalls the hall hadn't long been finished when the kindergarten moved in, and the playground area was very uneven, but they worked on the yard and established play equipment. The hall was also hired out to other groups, and the staff would be required to pack away equipment for it to be used.

Topsy recalls having Mrs. Olive Smith working for her, and 'how lucky she was, to have a teacher living nearby and Olive was excellent with children and bookwork'

The Christmas concerts were wonderful the Hall always packed. The children entertained in fancy dress and sang with their own percussion band. Santa Claus would always



Topsy Harris helping a meeting
between a shy girl and Santa
Circa 1950s

arrive and in the early years, Mr Alan Rainbow, from the staff of the Bank of NSW now Westpac would be dressed as Santa. Mr Rainbow would take time off work to play Santa. Topsy made the costume and bought the beard, and Santa's gumboots were a pair of Mr Harris'. In the years before Topsy sold the kindy, John Smith would play Santa.

Betty Kopetko

The Plateau Playcentre Parent 1950's

Thank you for the invitation to your 50 Birthday Party, which was an excellent community gathering
Wasn't like this in the 50's !

Milton Lidgard

Collaroy Plateau Progress Association Plateau News Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten Parent



Joy and Milton Lidgard on their block

Milton and Joy Lidgard have been residents of the Plateau for fifty years. Milton worked at Warringah Shire Council and was a trustee on the Collaroy Plateau Progress Association. He was also an active member in the Cricket Club and editor of the Plateau News for many years. Joy and Milton's two sons attended Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten.

Recalling early days of the Progress Association, Milton remembers the Saturday night dances held in the hall to raise funds.

I remember a band

led by a musician named Fred

Rearden. Fred played saxophone and clarinet, John Upham played piano and John Reardon played drums. Fred and John were prominent musicians in Brisbane at the time. The admission charge was two shillings with a raffle for a box of chocolates. Supper was provided.

The floor made a wonderful dancing floor. A bit of kerosene and sawdust. The first dance you would slip a lot, but after that it was wonderful.

Monthly meetings of the Progress Association were usually quiet affairs, dealing with regular matters and



Matthew & Gavin
Lidgard

routine reports on the kindergarten operation until local government elections became due. The visiting candidates and helpers would outnumber the meeting members 2-1. They were heard in genteel silence and then left us to wonderful quietness. A feature was one elderly member who attended every meeting, but was asleep after ten minutes and awoke to enjoy supper.

Milton was editor for the Plateau News for over ten years. The late Frank Rosnell operated Prestige Press and printed the Plateau News during the years of the News Committee. He was brilliant. He made sense out of badly written copy, and always produced a great paper that amazed the editorial staff.

Margaret Christensen

Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten Parent Member of the Mothers Club

Margaret has lived on the Plateau since 1964 and recalls there was no Wheeler Heights. There was one house on the corner of Willandra and Little Willandra Road where the big round about is. It was all surrounded by bushland.

Margaret had friends in Frenchs Forest and her mother instructed her to never come home down Willandra Road, as there was no public phones about for emergencies. Margaret loved driving the winding road home. They've straightened it up a lot.

Margaret remembers before the sewer was connected, coming home up Mactier Street, having handkerchiefs soaked in perfume for the children. The smell of the run off from septic tanks on the Plateau was horrible.

Collaroy Plateau was made up of lot of paddocks in Margaret's early days on the Plateau. Her friends had two horses in a paddock in Acacia Street. When her mother purchased their house she paid the sum of 9,300 pounds.

Margaret was one of the founding members of the Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten's Mother's Club now known as the Management Committee. They would hold a big fete yearly and she remembers well, the first big fete, they asked Olive Smith to put a list together of everything she wanted to purchase for the kindy. At their next meeting, they told Mrs. Smith from her list she could purchase everything, because they had raised so much money and Mrs. Smith burst into tears, because no one had ever bought anything for the kindy before.

Eric Christensen built the first sandpit at the kindergarten and a cement figure 8 down the bottom of the yard, now long gone. Margaret and Eric have had four children attend the kindergarten in 1972/73, 1974/75, 1977, and 1983.

Xiang Tang

Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten

I remember rolling down a hill in those plastic barrels, uncovering large areas of the sandpit, chasing around the wooden car, and trying to nap. I would look through other books during story time.

Hui Tang

Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten

I remember a lot of happy children. We all sung together 'Baa baa black sheep' and 'Twinkle twinkle little star'. One of my favourite activities was the clap stick when we would walk in a circle and clap them to the 'Wizard of Oz' music.

I loved lunch, because we used to see what AMAZING THINGS we could do. I ate a whole banana skin. The teachers were very nice. I always thought they were separate parents or something, because they really cared for me and everyone.

Audrey Truscott

Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten 1961 - 1977

I started at the Kinder in 1961. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Harris wanted someone to prepare the Hall for the days proceeding such as sweeping the floor, packing equipment and toys etc, and I accepted. I was gradually promoted to become a helper, which I enjoyed very much.

In those days the toilets were down the back behind the building. Two (pans) for girls and two for boys. Washroom in the room down the back and on rainy days was rather horrific, on some days, but we were always on top of it

The dolls corner was always a hit with a lot of the boys. Not all the children liked the stretchers; they had their rest

on. One boy used to say he didn't like the 'Scratchies', it took a time to work that out.

We had four special needs children. They were a real delight to have around. One boy would bring me in an egg sandwich every now and then.

The children loved making presents on special days and at Christmas time, that was a real buzz.

Having lunch one day, we were discussing the toys children bought in. I mentioned a monkey puppet this boy bought in and said what a 'scungy looking thing it was', and Helen spoke up and said 'that was my Peter.'

From what I can remember, we all (the staff) got on well. After sixteen happy years, I left and joined my husband in Broken Hill.

Fui Tang

Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten Parent

It's my utmost pleasure to meet up with the wonderful dedicated staff of CPCK who made my three children Xiang, Hui and Chuen's lives memorable.

Thank you to Helen Clare, Sue Ferry, Robyn Summerville, Amanda Geister and Rosina Cliffe (who turned Xiang's life around) for their passion to care and nurture the children. God bless them for their loving hearts.

Rosina Cliffe

CPCK - Early Intervention Teacher

It has been lovely to attend this trip down memory lane. The six years I worked here as Early Intervention Teacher were the happiest of my employment history.

Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten has seen many thousands of people step through its doors.

The building has been built, altered and altered once more.

The playground is always an adventure no matter what the change.

Early Childhood Education has changed in many ways, but the artwork is as precious as always.

Even the fashions have changed and occasionally returned.

However, what have remained are the smiles, not always big, but mostly,

The laughter is just as cute

And the love, the teachers have to share with the children is just beautiful.

It has been a tough journey at times for the kindy,

But to keep it on the right track takes a lot of hard work;

A lot more smiles and much of that love that can be seen day after day.

Wishing Collaroy Plateau Community Kindergarten many more happy years to come

And many more smiling Possums and Wombats walking through its doors.

Directors

First Name	Surname	Date started		Date Finished	
Topsy	Harris		1954		1964
Olive	Smith		1954		1982
Carolyn	Davis	01 February	1983	25 October	1985
Helen	Clare		1969		1994
Felicity	Barclay	January	1995	October	1998
Kathryn	Shaw	January	1999	December	2003
Jan	Mills	January	2004	15 October	2004
Catherine	Jones	October	2004		

Staff

First Name	Surname	Date started		Date Finished	
Hilda	Andrews			December	1976
Meg	Austin				
Audrey	Truscott		1961	May	1977
Elaine	Budden				
Bev	McAlister				
Betty	Woods				
Helen	Clare		1969	09 December	1994
Eunice	MacMahon				
Dot	Ball	02 February	1971		
Shirley	Furnell	15 February	1971		
Faye	McColl	February	1972		
Gwen	Perry	February	1972	December	1971
Sue	Ferry	April	1975		1999
Helen	Barnes	25 October	1976	June	1981
Elaine	Reid				
Val	Nihill				1974 / 1975
Robyn	Summerville		1983		1999
Carolyn	Davies			December	2001
Amanda	Geister	June	1985		
Rosina	Cliff		1988		1994
Fiona	Harris		1994		
Liz	Whittaker		1995		
Julia	Hargrave	January	1996		
Fran	Fisher				
Janet	David	July	1998		
Lisa	Charman				
Kate	Hannon			December	1999
Kate	Hannon			December	2001
Jenny	Condon				
Michelle	Heiser	July	1999		
Wendy	Thornton				1994
Wendy	Hughes			December	2002
Janet	Tonkin	January	2000	December	2000
Janet	Tonkin	17 October	2001	December	2002
Bente	Peterson	January	2001	December	2002
Sarah	Richfield	17 October	2001		
Kate	Brown	January	2000	May	2000
Tina	Heffernan	February	2000	December	2000
Megan	Kitchen	June	2000		

Nancy	Lane	January	2002
Lisa	McLean	January	2002
Jenny	Jones	January	2003
Gina	Shaw	March	2003
Michelle	O'Toole	January	2003
Cecilia	Jago	January	2004
Kim	Millard	January	2004
Sarah	Herbert	October	2004

Office

Yvonne	Amato				
Yen	Yeo		1994	18 June	2004
Cecilia	Jago	January	2004		
Jane	Sym	July	2004		



Collaroy Plateau
Community Kindergarten

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