

# Playhouse News

Beaumaris Children's Playhouse Newsletter - May 2012



Beaumaris  
Children's Playhouse

## President's Report

Welcome to the autumn edition of our newsletter. There have been many events in the past two months which is making the year roll by at a rapid pace. These have included the fantastic Event Days which have been organised by our dedicated Events team and were enjoyed by all who have attended, as the following articles will confirm.

However, there was an event which could have been disastrous if it wasn't for some local good Samaritans, in this case our Playhouse neighbours! Our kitchen stove was left on with a box of plastic bags sitting on top of it on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April. We only have minor smoke damage, thanks to some quickly arriving fire fighters who were contacted by our neighbours. It stands as a huge wake up call as to how we use the kitchen and its facilities. Watch for increased signage to appear and updates to the closing procedures throughout May. Although after my last signage attempt, I will be a little clearer in my message this time!!! (Flick the wall switch off for the oven.)

The last month of autumn sees the eminent arrival of winter. This is usually our highest attrition rate for duty teams and attendances at Playhouse. If your child/ren is unwell, please be considerate of others and not attend Playhouse to spread the germs.

We held our Open Day in April in conjunction with the Bayside Council Kinder and Playhouse Facilities Open Days. About 4 families came for a look through and a big thank you to those members on committee who were on duty on the day to show prospective families through. Our membership is now full, great work Kristy and Tracey. The committee have also decided to offer an Afternoon Membership to those families on the waiting list, as we have done over the past 2 years. This membership is not a stand alone membership and is only valid until the person on the waiting list receives a full time offer, but provides our waiting list with a chance to use our facilities.

Our outdoor play space plans are steadily moving forward. We have had the ti tree area on the south side fence cleaned up and soft fall put in ready for the children to use. Part of this area is now open and the ti tree area will be opened once we have installed an adequate fence and gate. We have completed our revised drawings of the plans and will have these for viewing by the membership from the middle of May. We now need to gain Council approval for them, have them costed and can then proceed with the work that has been budgeted for by the committee. We are hoping to have this all completed by the start of August.

Our attendances at Playhouse have been terrific so far this year with Monday and Friday mornings proving the most popular. The averages for these days are up in high twenties and low 30's for each session. Great to see so many families enjoying our wonderful facilities.

I would finally like to extend a warm welcome to our new columnist Kay. Each edition this year Kay will answer questions from members about operations and procedures at Playhouse. I hope you find her entertaining and informative. Please feel free to drop a question or feedback to Kay. A Dear Kay box is in our kitchen for this.

**Fiona Love**  
BCP President

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Playhouse News' next edition will be published early July. We always welcome contributions. I can be contacted at [nicki\\_mara@yahoo.com.au](mailto:nicki_mara@yahoo.com.au)

**Nicki Lloyd**  
Newsletter

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## Recent Events

### Reptile Day

Thanks to the expertise of Mike from Black Snake Productions, all the children at Playhouse were able to have a close encounter with a range of wildlife creatures which would usually only be seen at the zoo. Crocodiles, lizards, snakes, turtles were all brought to Playhouse for the children to touch and learn about.

Due to the large turn out sessions were split into two groups so that everyone had a good chance to meet the animals. Both children and reptiles were perfectly behaved resulting in a very successful day! As a gold coin event, your donation contributed towards the significant expenses for the day so is greatly appreciated.

### Chantelle Sinclair and Kate Byrne Children's Events



### Hot Cross Bun Making Day

The children at Playhouse spent a fun morning manipulating a perfectly shaped hot cross bun and adding dried fruit and toppings to their masterpiece. Needless to say there were no crosses but an assortment of 'abstract' art.

As well as making a bun for themselves some of the children decided to make one for a brother, sister or dad which was a lovely idea (I think they just enjoyed using the squeeze bottles to add the final messy decorations).

At cooking time the buns were anxiously watched in the oven for 12-15 minutes! The first lot were a little underdone but after that we were experts. Brumbys would have been impressed with our skills!!

A big thank you to Chris and Crystal from Brumby's at the Seaview Shops who donated the dough and also thank you to all who helped out on the day, especially Tracey, Christine and those on duty.

### Chantelle Sinclair and Kate Byrne Children's Events



## Recent Events

### Easter Celebrations

Easter celebrations were in full flight at Playhouse this year for all our little members. Unfortunately our usual story-teller Nan Robson of the Beaumaris Library was unable to join us but our own Gerri Redgwell bravely hopped in with stories, songs and games to entertain the young crowd! Our little ones were engrossed in the Easter stories Gerri read and were delighted at the end of the session to be given a very special Easter sticker.

An Easter egg hunt followed story time and the outdoor area was soon full with the older children running here and there, finding every egg in sight. Luckily the Easter Bunny soon appeared and gave out eggs to the younger children who were not quick enough to find an egg in the hunt. Although quite mobbed the Easter Bunny did a wonderful job of handing out eggs and giving the children special Easter waves and hugs!

The day ran very smoothly thanks to the duty team and all those other members who were not on 'duty' but who helped out on the day. Special thanks goes to Chantelle Sinclair (chief Easter egg procurer) and Emma White (for trusting us with her treasured family heirloom bunny outfit). Finally, a very special mention must be given to Gerri Redgwell who not only stepped into Nan Robinson's rather large 'story-telling' shoes but who was also the Easter Bunny's special helper!

**Chantelle Sinclair and Kate Byrne**  
**Children's Events**



### Party at Playhouse

The Beaumaris Children's Playhouse can be the venue for your next party! It is great for; Birthdays/Mothers group joint birthday/Christmas parties etc

Party bookings are available exclusively to Playhouse members and Afternoon group participants for their children. There are two party bookings available on **Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year, 9am - 1pm or 1pm - 5pm.**



The party hire fee is \$60 and Committee members are entitled to one free hire per year

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PLAYHOUSE'S FABULOUS FACILITIES AND BOOK IN EARLY!!!**

For more information and bookings please contact me on 0411 237 025 or at **[imogen.miller@gmail.com](mailto:imogen.miller@gmail.com)**

**Imogen Miller**  
**Party Co-ordinator**

## Dates for Your Diary

Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Police Visit
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	BCP MARKET DAY
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Grandparents Day
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Messy Play Day
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Queen's Birthday Holiday - <i>Playhouse closed</i>
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Mobile Ark Farm Visit
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Term 2 finishes



## Maintenance

Thank you to those members who have completed their maintenance duty so far this year. To date we've had 100% attendance and 100% effort which is fantastic! Playhouse relies on members support in order to continue to provide a happy and safe environment for all to enjoy.

**Briony Hunter**  
**Maintenance**

## Playhouse Training Requirements - URGENT

If you are a member that has not completed their training, **please see a committee member on your next Playhouse visit.** All committee members have a purple badge.

Please note that anyone who has been a member at Playhouse **for over 6 months** may be expected to be a Duty Supervisor. It is important for these members to be given duty supervisor training to ensure the smooth operation of Playhouse and the duty teams.

We have safety requirements set by the Council and need to have all members signed off by the **end of May**.

Many thanks for your cooperation,

**Fiona Love**  
**President**

## Public Service Announcement

Although winter hasn't officially started the weather sure has taken a chilly turn. And with it unfortunately comes the sneezes and coughs that our little ones are prone to catching. While sharing at Playhouse is usually smiled upon, if your child is sick we would appreciate you not attending Playhouse until they are healthy again.



## Library

Playhouse's library was revamped over the Christmas holidays and the first few weeks of term 1. We have amended the ordering system and hope that members will find it easier to use. We removed 121 books from the library (that were too old, damaged, had dated or inappropriate content or were duplicates of stock) and these were recycled through the membership base (box out the front). A big thank you to Fiona Love for helping with this.

In checking against our records we found that there were 76 books missing (this loss has happened over the last 4-5 years). With the new ordering system, members will be contacted after the 3 week borrowing period (if they haven't returned the books) to remind them to return the books. This should consequently help with shrinkage.

Since the start of the year I have been keeping my eyes open and buying stock from op shops and school fetes and have bought approximately 60 titles. This has been a fantastic way to procure good quality books at a very reasonable cost to Playhouse. To date we have 381 books in stock. I hope over the year to increase the parenting titles (dealing with toddlers etc) and resources for parents (play ideas etc).

Please consider spending some of your next visit to Playhouse checking out our library. It has two big advantages over the local library - you can find great titles (they are not always out on loan) and if you are two days late you don't get fined!

I am also always interested in donations – especially of parenting titles (no pregnancy/childbirth/naming books though as we are inundated). Please contact me at [losblancos12july@hotmail.com](mailto:losblancos12july@hotmail.com) if you have any quality picture books that you are interested in donating to Playhouse.

**Emma White**  
**Library**



## Market Day

Playhouse's first Market Day for 2012 will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am-12.00pm. Playhouse has held Markets Days for the last 3 years. Market Day is open for all members (on a first in basis) to have a stall to sell new or pre-loved items.

The market will be held at Playhouse (weather permitting of course) and stalls will cost \$10 each. Bookings for the stalls will be open until Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012. **The spaces are allocated on order of date bookings and payment received.** The stalls will be in the outside play space and the car park.

This Market Day our nominated charity is **Diabetes Australia, Victorian branch.** We will be taking collections during the Market from those members who wish to donate pre-loved baby and children's items. All items except large furniture will be accepted. To assist you with putting some things together, there are Diabetes bags in the kitchen to collect and put your items in prior to the day.

There will also be face painting and balloons on the day for the children. For more information please contact Fiona Love at [brownfm@netspace.net.au](mailto:brownfm@netspace.net.au) or Cassandra Hughes at [sandchughes@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sandchughes@optusnet.com.au).

**Fiona Love and Cassandra Hughes**  
**BCP Market Day**



## 10 Great Parenting Ideas



Do more things **with kids than for them**

**Connect** with other parents

**Avoid your first impulse** when kids misbehave

Raise your small family with a **big family mindset**

Teach your kids to **do what's right**, not what's easy

**Strengthen your family** by creating a strong food culture

Create a culture where there's **nothing so bad that 'we' can't talk about it**

Parent from the **same script**, even if you're not together

Every child needs someone in their life who says **you can do this**

Build a **strong family brand.**

*More ideas and information available at [parentingideas.com.au](http://parentingideas.com.au)*

## If I Had My Child to Raise Again

I'd build self-esteem first & the house later

I'd finger paint more & point the finger less

I'd do less correcting & more connecting

I'd take my eyes off my watch & watch with my eyes

I would care to know less & know to care more

I'd take more hikes & fly more kites

I'd stop playing serious & seriously play

I would run through more fields & gaze at more stars

I'd do more hugging & less tugging

I'd see the oak tree in the acorn more often

I would be firm less often & affirm much more

I'd model less about the love of power and more about the power of love.

## My Wish List

- I wish** I could have a sleep in
- I wish** I could finish a conversation without being interrupted
- I wish** I could go to the toilet without my little audience
- I wish** my mum was still alive to enjoy her grandchildren
- I wish** my mum was still alive to give me a helping hand once in a while
- I wish** my kids would clean up after themselves
- I wish** I didn't rely so much on the TV to distract the kids while I make dinner
- I wish** everyone remembered what it is like to have young kids
- I wish** I could finish my cuppa
- I wish** I could tick everything off my "list of things to do"
- I wish** my iPhone was not so enticing to little fingers
- I wish** I had a cleaner
- I wish** I made more time to just play
- I wish** my husband had a clue what it is I do all day. Every day.
- I wish** I had multiples of all our toys (because kids always want what someone else is playing with)
- I wish** I knew what to make for dinner tonight
- I wish** a trip to the supermarket with the kids was not like a trip to hell and back
- I wish** you could put "Mum for a few years" on your CV and have it valued for what it is
- I wish** I had a dollar for every time I said "gentle"
- I wish** I had a dollar for every time my kids asked "why?"
- I wish** I knew the answer to all the great questions my kids ask. For instance....
- I wish** I knew why watermelon is pink
- I wish** it didn't take three times as long to do anything with so many "helpers"
- I wish** everyone with young kids had a "Playhouse" in their neighbourhood.



The room was full of pregnant women with their husbands. The instructor said, "Ladies, remember that exercise is good for you, walking is especially beneficial. It strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery that much easier. Just pace yourself, make plenty of stops and try to stay on a soft surface like grass or a path."

"Gentlemen, remember -- you're in this together. It wouldn't hurt you to go walking with her. In fact, that shared experience would be good for you both."

The room suddenly became very quiet as the men absorbed this information. After a few moments a man, name unknown, at the back of the room, slowly raised his hand.

"Yes?" said the Instructor.

"I was just wondering if it would be all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"

Brings a tear to your eye doesn't it?

*This kind of sensitivity just can't be taught.*

## Dear Kay

### Question:

I had one of those mornings where fate was telling me to stay at home and everything that could go wrong to get out of the house with the kids did go wrong. I was on duty at Playhouse but didn't arrive until just after 10.00am. I was informed by the Duty Supervisor that this was regarded as a no show and that I would have to repeat my duty at another time. What do I do if one of these Ground Hog days comes along again when I am on duty?

### Answer:

Dear Ground Hog Day Member, I sympathise with you for the morning that you described above, we have all had them and all dread them when they come along.

When you are on duty at Playhouse you are expected to arrive at opening time, either 9.30am or 2.00pm. Your departure time will be anywhere from 5 to 15 minutes after the session ends, to allow for clean up time and to complete closing procedures. If for whatever reason you are going to be late or unable to attend due to a sick child or another irregular event, please try and find a replacement, if time and events permit on the morning or you must ring Playhouse on 9589 0566, to report you are going to be late or unable to attend. Please speak with the Duty Supervisor for the day, and if you are the Duty Supervisor for the day, please speak with another duty team member who is able to be the supervisor and ask them to fill this role. The other scenario of a no show at duty is if you leave 20 minutes or more before the end of the session. Exceptions to this are events occurring while on your duty time, but please report to the Duty Supervisor that you have to go.

If you are a no show for the day, please remember to re roster yourself at a suitable time, however if you forget our trusty Rosters Co-ordinator will contact you to organise this date.

Playhouse has this policy to ensure smooth running and fairness for all members while doing duty.

May your Ground Hog days be few and far between. Hope this helps you.



### Question:

While I was on duty, one of the duty team had brought some cake in for morning tea for the adults. It was cut up and left in the kitchen. As I was preparing the fruit platters for morning tea for the children, my child came into the kitchen and spotted the cake. I was happy to give him a piece, however, unbeknown to me he wandered out of the kitchen and re commenced playing with the puzzles. Is this OK given that I was busy completing my duty tasks?

### Answer:

Dear Mother of Child Who eats anything, our food policy at Playhouse is that all children consuming food must do so at the tables on the deck. While fruit is being served we request that it only be eaten at the tables, but at all other times, children may have their snack boxes at the tables. If you are unable to sit at the tables and supervise your child while you are on duty you can either ask another parent to do so if this is suitable for you and the child or if the child is smaller bring a high chair into the kitchen for them to eat. If the child is too big for a high chair, please stand them safely in the kitchen to eat their food.

Playhouse has this policy due to the high and varied degrees of allergies that we have in our society today. This year, not unlike other years at Playhouse, we again have various types of allergy affected children. It also helps keeps the toys and indoor area cleaner from discolouration and grease marking due to food stains.

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# Recipe

## Kim Vega's Failsafe Pasta

This has got to be my all time favourite when I know the kids are starving, it's quick and easy and it's a safe bet in my household. Enjoy! Kim xx

### Ingredients:

- 4 spring onions
- 2 carrot
- 2 stick of celery
- 1-2 fresh red chillies
- 1 x 6-pack of good-quality sausages (approx. 400g)
- 1 heaped teaspoon fennel seeds
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 500g dried penne
- 4 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 x 400g tin of chopped tomatoes
- a few sprigs of Greek basil, or regular basil



### Method:

Trim the spring onions, carrot and celery. Roughly chop all the vegetables, then blitz in the food processor with the chillies (stalks removed).

Add the sausages, 1 heaped teaspoon of fennel seeds and 1 teaspoon of oregano.

Keep pulsing until well mixed, then spoon this mixture into the hot frying pan with a lug of olive oil, breaking it up and stirring as you go.

Put a large deep saucepan on a low heat and fill with boiled water. Fill and reboil the kettle. Top up the saucepan with more boiled water if needed. Season well then add the penne and cook according to packet instructions, with the lid askew.

Crush 4 unpeeled cloves of garlic into the sausage mixture and stir in 4 tablespoons of balsamic vinegar and the tinned tomatoes. Add a little of the starchy cooking water from the pasta to loosen if needed.

Drain the pasta, reserving about a wineglass worth of the cooking water. Tip the pasta into the pan of sauce and give it a gentle stir, adding enough of the cooking water to bring it to a silky consistency. Taste, correct the seasoning, then tip into a large serving bowl and take straight to the table with the rest of the Parmesan for grating over. Scatter over a few basil leaves.

## Social News

### New Members

*Welcome to our 6 new members and their children*

Jane Hogan - Ruby, Tom and Pippa

Joy Joseph - Emmaline

Nicole Ling - Grace

Stephanie Reiter - Will

Charmaine Santone - Taya

Melinda Woods - Eva and Lily



### Births

*Congratulations and best wishes to the following members and their growing families*

Mel and Brett Paton on the birth of their first child Amy

Robyn and Simon Eade on the birth of Alannah, a sister for Jackson

Michelle and George Murrell on the birth of Angelique, a sister for Evie

Michelle and Mark Sampieri on the birth of Will, a brother for Zara

Dani and Gerrik Gratz on the birth of Lachlan, a brother for Emily and Annabel

Hazel and Chris Rauch on the birth of Natalie, a sister for Sarah

Karen and Steve White on the birth of Erica, a sister for Alannah

Rachel and George Hope on the birth of Frederick, a brother for Oscar

Jessica Gutknecht and Benjamin Gilfedder on the birth of Limus, a brother for Ruben and Finn

Anna and Baden Holmes on the birth of Isabelle, a sister for Xavier and Olivia

Louise and Kon Syrros on the birth of Allegra, a sister for Georgia

### Birthdays

#### April

Taya

Nate

Alex

Angus

Cassandra

Will

Sam

Lucy

Archie

Lily

Mieke

Chloe

Jake

Catriona

Lachlan

Euan

Patrick

Charlie



#### May

Isla

Claudia

Bailey

Nathan

Eva

Lily

Lene

Tessa

Jesse

Emily

Willow

Chloe

Hayden

Will

Lara

Georgia

Lucy

Yasmin

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# Member Profiles

## Sarah Dwyer

### Hometown

Originally born in England - only became a true blue Aussie in November 2011 at the insistence of my husband. Grew up in Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne. Been living in Beaumaris for 3 years and hope to be here for many years to come.

### Joined Playhouse

We joined Playhouse 3 days before my daughter Zoe was born in Feb 2010. Needless to say, she feels very comfortable here in her second home.

### Past Career

Product Manager for a toy company. Lots of sourcing of licensed toys and children's homewares. I was the female version of Tom Hanks in BIG !

### Favourite Movie

Romeo and Juliet - Baz Luhrmann style

### How many children

2. Lachlan and Zoe

### Biggest surprise about parenthood

The love I feel for my little family. It's endless.

### Favourite TV show

I am currently loving Revenge. I think I would like to visit the Hamptons.

### Favourite cuisine

Greek

### Football team

Carlton - we first lived in Carlton when we arrived in Australia.

### Best Holiday without children

Loved Turkey. Back packed with a friend for over a month, we decided to leave shortly after Sept 11 attacks in NYC.

### Best Holiday with Children

We indulged in a trip to Fiji last year. First time on a plane for the kids. I just love seeing their little faces light up at all of the new experiences.

### In your "spare" time

I like to fill out BCP Member Profiles

### Best thing about Playhouse

The toys ! HA!



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## Member Profiles (continued)

### Nicole Palo Le Gerche

#### Hometown

Beumaris and although I have lived in many other flavoured lands, the place to raise a family is right back here where the beach is at your doorstep. I have loads of fond memories of being a Beau chick!! The best thing is now you can get many more wonderful flavours from 'Davey Mac's'.

#### Joined Playhouse

In 2009 when Tenzin was one and Namkha was swimming in my belly.

#### Past Career

Primary Teacher.

#### Favourite Movie

Presently "Hugo" I found it magical it transported me into another world!!

#### How many children

Two, Tenzin and Namkha.

#### Biggest surprise about parenthood

The Buddhist principles of Patience, Compassion and Tolerance that are practised at every given second of their very existence...and the beauty that children remind you to be "PRESENT".

#### Favourite TV show

Offspring!!!

#### Favourite cuisine

Indian even though we have been eating this cuisine for the last 5 years...the kids love it!!! Which means I get more time to taste and basically digest having chewed rather than swallowed.

#### Football team

Essendon, although I haven't really followed since Timmy Watson and Derek Kickett stopped playing.

#### Best Holiday without children

Life in Himachal Pradesh, India in the foothills of the Himalayas which was meant to be a holiday of 10 days and turned out to be a life of Romance, Yoga, Dharma Studies, challenges of working in a slum and the ever present beauty of the flavours of India and the spectacular Landscape.

#### Best Holiday with Children

The Grampians, walking with Tenzin extremely hot but stunningly beautiful as always!

#### In your "spare" time

YOGA! YOGA! YOGA! And seeing the odd Independent film.

#### Best thing about Playhouse

'Sharing' for me and the kids it is just great to have big people and little people contact...and another space that is familiar for us all.



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