

# The Community Place Kindergarten Newsletter October 2016

## PREPARING CHILDREN FOR A CHANGING FUTURE

Our children are likely to be living in a world that we can't imagine; working at jobs that haven't yet been invented; using technology and language that may be bewildering to us; and facing issues that seem to come from a sci-fi novel.

How can we best prepare them for this?

We are often told the rate of change that is unprecedented. It is also stated that the changing geo-political forces in the world make it a more dangerous place. Robots and technology are replacing jobs.

These statements may be true, but they are not unique in human history.

Take my grandfather, for example. Born in 1892 in Scotland, Robert Speed was the fourth child and first son in his farming family. At the end of 1906, his eldest sister had died of tuberculosis; her twin also had the disease. Their father took the advice of the doctor to go somewhere warmer, immediately bought passages to New Zealand for himself, his wife and remaining seven children, went home to sell up, pack up and, with a suitcase each, they set sail to the other side of the world early in 1907.

After a perilous boat journey to New Zealand they found the climate was not dissimilar to Scotland. They then took advice from others, set sail for Queensland, and settled on the Darling Downs. They all worked hard establishing their land and new home

until the world was torn apart by World War 1.

My grandfather served in the Fifth Light Horse regiment in Egypt and Palestine. He fought the enemy with a rifle and a trusty steed, winning a Military Medal. After surviving being shot and the worldwide [Spanish Flu pandemic](#), he returned to farming.

In the 1920s and '30s, he married, had four daughters – and worked to keep his farm going and family fed during the [Depression years](#). The Second World War again saw the world tear itself apart – this time closer to home as well.

After the war, many basics were rationed, both in terms of daily household necessities and requirements for operating the farm.

The 1950s and 1960s saw tensions between global powers bring the world to the brink of nuclear war - and the space race.

The technological age my grandfather lived in was incredible. He lived to see [man's first flight](#) in 1903 and [man landing on the moon](#) in 1969. In his home, electricity replaced candles, kerosene and oil for lighting, heat, refrigeration, cooking, washing and more. Radios, telephones and the television connected people to the world.

In his workplace, tractors replaced horses; grain bins replaced bags; electric

shears replaced hand clippers. These machines also replaced the many in the farm labour force. Refrigeration enabled milk and meat to reach more than local markets.

When he died in 1974, Robert Speed had experienced many events and developments that could never have been imagined in his early years.

Preparing our children (my grandchildren) for their changing future is more than crystal-ball gazing. Perhaps the best way we can support their journey into unknown territory is to give them strong foundations for coping with their current world.

Provide them with strategies to solve problems (what could you do, how could we fix that, what do we need next); support them through changes that occur (transitions, new demands, adjusting to different people/expectations); help them to see that we don't always have the answer (or the right answer); and listen to them (if they think you don't listen now, they won't suddenly start sharing things with you later).

Whilst many of the fundamentals in life stay the same, helping children to understand that often the only constant in their life will be change, can prepare them for that world of tomorrow that gets closer each day.

*Alison Mackenzie*

### Index

Editorial	p1
Index	p1
Sidney Myer Grant	p2
Toy Catalogues	p2
Photos	p2
2017 Enrolments	p2
Working Bee Levy	p2
Transition Statements	p2
Visits to School	p3
Pupil-Free Day	p3
Calendar	p3
2016-17 Committee	p3

### \$5,000 GRANT FROM SIDNEY MYER FOUNDATION

In case you missed the story on page 12 of last week's local newspaper, Kylie was successful in her application for a \$5,000 grant to the [Sidney Myer Foundation](#) for resources to support our STEM program.

We have developed a list and will be submitting it soon so hopefully our 2016 children will benefit from these great new resources. Thanks, Kylie!

### FUND RAISING CATALOGUE

This week you will be receiving a toy catalogue. If you wish, you can order toys and these will be delivered to the kindergarten before the end of the year. The kindergarten received 30% commission from the total sales for purchasing new toys for the centre.

There is no obligation to participate. If you would like to order, please complete your order (online or other options) and return it to kindergarten by **12 October**.



Eddie and Roman will participate in a new kindy program.

Picture: John Gass

# PREP TO BIG SCHOOL



**Natasha Patch**

THE Community Place Kindergarten will put a \$5000 grant to positive use for curious, creative four-year-olds.

Social worker Kylie Woodruff said the grant from the Sidney Myer Foundation would help resource their piloting of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program in 2017.

Kindergarten director Alison Mackenzie said it was

important to introduce children to difficult subjects early to ease their pathway into school studies.

"Our kindergarten recognises the importance of preparing children for a changing world and does so by giving them strong foundations across key learning areas," Ms Makenzie said.

"Pre-prep learning is the building block where children can be introduced to basic maths and science concepts that will prepare them

for harder education years."

Under its STEM program, children will be exposed to a range of teaching aids including so-called blue-bots, bluetoothed robots children program to move by pressing directional buttons.

As social worker said students would be involved in a Japanese-immersion program where they will learn language and culture, including traditional cuisine and developing calligraphy-style writing.

## CLASS AND INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS

These will be taken on **Monday 10 October**. After the photos have been taken, it will be about three weeks before parents can order their choice from three or four individual photos plus a group photo. I have used these photographers on numerous occasions in the past and parents have always been very happy with the results.

## 2017 ENROLMENTS

In the coming weeks, there will be several days when children who are starting in 2017 will be visiting with their parents as part of their orientation. Please make them feel welcome.

## WORKING BEE LEVY

Many thanks to those parents who have helped to cover our books for their Working Bee Levy job. It really has been helpful and will greatly lengthen the life on our books.

Over the holidays, Saya and I started the task of updating the inventory. Our aim is to have all resources organised, fully accounted for, catalogued and stored and labelled in easy-to-access containers prior to the move next year.

For those parents who would like to do a task that would qualify as their Working Bee Levy contribution, there is another task to be done. It is helpful to have each puzzle to have a number and every piece of that puzzle to have that number on it so that if it falls out, the piece can easily be put back in the right puzzle (Every kindergarten has a box of puzzles that have pieces missing – often these puzzles cost over \$30.) I have numbered every puzzle.

**The job is to number the puzzle pieces. It would be best to be done at kindergarten so pieces don't get lost between kindy and home!** Please let me know if you can be a helper for this task. Thank you.

## TRANSITION STATEMENTS

I will be working on these in the coming weeks. There will be a section for parents to add comments if you wish. Parents can pass a copy on to the school. If you want to discuss any aspect of the statement with me, please feel free to make a time for this.

## VISITS TO WOOLLOOWIN STATE SCHOOL

I have been trying to arrange for us to have some visits to Woolloowin State School during term 4. I will let you know when details have been confirmed.

## PUPIL FREE DAY

Monday 17 October will be a **Pupil Free Day**. The kindergarten will be closed.

## CALENDAR

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Oct 3 P/ Holiday	4	5	6	7
10 Photos	11	12	13	14
17 Pupil Free Day	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

## 2016-17 COMMITTEE

At the Annual General Meeting of The Community Place Association Incorporated on 12 September, the following members were elected to the Committee

President: Jennifer Heller

Secretary: Michele Yamada

Treasurer: Angela Richardson

The audited financial reports for 2015-16 were presented and staff and committee reports were presented.

## SUN SAFE CLOTHING

Please remember to dress your children appropriately for the Queensland sun. We are a [Sun Smart](#) centre. Please ensure that your child has clothing that covers the shoulders, a hat with a brim (not a cap) and that you have applied sunscreen in the morning **AND** recorded this on the sign-in sheet.

Under [legislation](#), we are required to implement measures to protect children and staff from sun exposure.