



Wingecarribee Family Day Care art show



During the month of October Wingecarribee Shire Council's Children's Services, inclusive of Wingecarribee Family Day Care, showcased the talents of some of the shires youngest residence in the Council's Art Gallery area. The exhibition ran in alignment with Children's Week from 22 - 30 October. The month long exhibition was topped off with a family evening and BBQ which was attended by many families, senior council staff and the Deputy Mayor, Ian Scandrett.

"The different techniques used by the children were reflective of the diverse projects, programs and interests of the children in our education and care services," Children's Services Coordinator, Ms Lefterys said. "Some pieces were based on Indigenous art, some were the result of a group effort and others explored the concepts of reuse and recycling."

The exhibition demonstrated in a visual and dynamic display the Family Day Care service commitment to the National Quality Standards, particularly Quality Area 1, 5 and 6. It demonstrated the value of play based learning fostered around the children's interests, culture, current knowledge and abilities. Mediums on display included wood and wire sculptures, collage, finger-painting, bubbling, string and large brush painting. Other displays focused on the importance of outdoor play for young children or were related to a specific interest or learning area or topic.

All pieces displayed in the gallery came with photos documenting the learning process and words of explanation from the children. During the time of the presentation many of the children's families and friends took time out to visit the public display.

One of the educators worked with the children on a collage activity inspired by Kandinsky, a Russian artist who created abstract art using concentric circles. "I chose this project primarily to expose children to abstract art and allow them to create a piece of art following instruction and direction, yet allowing a degree of creativity. This aligned well with EYLF Outcome 4 – Children are confident and involved learners," FDC educator Kim said. Another educator, Tori worked with her children to produce child sized silhouette of each child which were then painted and decorated by the group. This activity evolved after discussions with the children on their physical differences and similarities and complemented the EYLF Outcome 1 – Children have a strong sense of identity. Cheryl (FDC educator) decided to focus her exhibition piece on the value and learning potential of outdoor play for young children, particularly relating to Outcomes 3 & 4 of the EYLF. Cheryl has a particularly beautiful and inspiring outdoor environment as well as a talent for capturing children learning through photography. The children were instrumental in choosing the photographs for the display and tied it all up with natural threading collage which hung from a branch near the photographic display. "The children were so excited to attend the gallery family evening and see their photos and collage. You could hear the excited banter and chatter of the children as they described their work and play to their parents".

The Shire's Deputy Mayor summed up the exhibition when he said, "It was an absolute delight to see the smiles on the faces of the children as they proudly spoke about their vibrant masterpieces. It was without doubt one of the cheeriest and more colourful displays Council has featured this year."

Bush playgroup at Goulburn FDC



Through ongoing reflection this year, the team at Goulburn Family Day Care began a new journey of continuing improvement with the development of a 'back to nature' bush playgroup. The bush playgroup commenced during the first half of the year and is run in partnership with our local State Conservation Area, Bungonia.

Adventures to Bungonia have been successful journeys of exploration for all the children and educators. We have been able to facilitate the use of our bus for our educators who may not have access to transport to ensure inclusion for all. The purpose of the bush playgroup is to consider children's connectedness to the environment enabling them to care for, appreciate and learn from the land.

The bush playgroup is also an opportunity for awe, wonder and creativity to excel, in a space where all resources are open ended loose parts. The most recent playgroup saw the children exploring the environment with an increased understanding of the interdependence between land, people, plants and animals.



Are you ready for the spotlight?

We are looking for educators who want to shine in our quarterly publication Educator Connections. Are you or do you know an educator in your service who is ready for the spotlight? Maybe someone who has a special story or just someone who has been doing the job well for years. Of course, this is also an opportunity to promote Family Day Care and your service. Email our membership and communications officer Magda via magdaj@nswfdc.org.au.

2017 FDC Educator Diary - available now

Our Family Day Care Educator Diary for 2017 is now available from our online shop.

2017 Educator Diary



- Especially designed for Family Day Care educators
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Dates for your diary

FDC Professional Development training Jan – April 2017 Training Calendar available

We understand there's never a perfect time to do further study or update your skills. You need to juggle work and home as much as anyone, some would say, even more. This is why we offer a range of shorter courses aimed at being as flexible as possible. PEAK Training runs these courses both online and close to where you are and usually, several times a year so that you don't miss out. Browse and enrol in our courses online or download the January-April Training Calendar [here](#).

Early Years Expo & PTD - Membership discount

Proudly supported by NSW Family Day Care Association, the 6th annual Early Years Expo & PDT Forum is being held at Rosehill Gardens Event Centre, 31 March – 2 April 2017.

Now established as one of Australia's leading conferences for the Early Childhood and Care sector, the Early Years Expo & PDT Forum brings together the ECEC community to experience a weekend filled with:

- A wide variety of professional development workshops to choose from delivered by experienced, and passionate presenters
- Networking opportunities and interactive learning zones
- 50+ exhibits showcasing the latest support, services, resources and products for the ECEC sector.
- Networking opportunities and interactive learning zones

Super Early Bird

Registration is now available until 24 December 2016 for a variety of packages. Those who register now will secure the best rates, and have the first opportunity to choose preferred workshops as soon as the program is made available, as some sessions are limited.



NSWFDCA can offer members an exclusive discount of 10% on all tickets with the discount code **FDC924848**. If your service is a member of NSWFDCA, so are you!

To find out more and to register today visit www.eyec.com.au.



Office hours and Christmas break

NSWFDCA will close their office on Thursday 22 December 2016 12pm and will be open for business again on Monday 16 January 2017. A phone number for emergencies will be provided

A Click Away

Kinderloop documenting app

Are you considering using an app for documenting, planning and reflecting, as well as communicating with families? Kinderloop could be what you're looking for. Private 'loops' can create a simple, fun and private way to share a child's development.

- A wide variety of professional development workshops to choose from delivered by experienced, and passionate presenters
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More info, testimonials and a free trial are available on kinderloop.com.

Family Day Care in action in the NT!



As part of the visit to the ECA Conference in Darwin, our CEO Anita Jovanovski was fortunate enough to visit Family Day Care educators' homes in and around Darwin on a networking tour. The Family Day Care educator environments that Darwin Family Day Care and Kentish Lifelong Learning and Care shared on the tour gave Anita a unique opportunity to experience beyond the tropical environments, community engagement and educational curriculum for children and their families in Darwin and the outer Darwin area. Darwin Family Day Care educators provide high quality environments and experiences that take advantage of their outdoor rooms and spaces, which support inquiry based learning where children explore, discover and connect to the land. The tropical environments include native plants, trees, edible gardens, sand rocks, mud, water and other elements from nature that provide rich opportunities for educators and children to play, learn and delight in world around us. Anita was very impressed with the educators' dedication as they provide 24/7 care. They facilitate rich learning experiences through ensuring that the children are active within their community and involved in age appropriate projects.



Photos: Educator Marnie Page's environment from Darwin FDC

NSW FDC ASSOCIATION

Anita Jovanovski CEO
Robyn Thomas PA to CEO
Denise McKay HR Officer
Jenny Hoang Accountant
Kate Tran Accounts Assistant
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Andrea Manzo-Dong Family Liaison Officer
Vicki Jones Family Liaison Officer - Central Coast
Anne Bentley Administrator
Vicki Totsis Administrator

ADDRESS

1 Sloane Street, Summer Hill NSW 2130
PO Box 386, Summer Hill NSW 2130

T: (02) 9779 9999

F: (02) 9779 9998

E: info@nswfdc.org.au

www.nswfdc.org.au

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02 9779 9999

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Playgroups at Camden Family Day Care



NSW FAMILY DAY CARE ASSOCIATION RESOURCE SHEET

SUMMER 2016

The playgroups both at educators' homes and at a Family Day Care venue offer great opportunities for children to socialise and form friendships in larger groups in a variety of environments. They gain confidence and self-esteem and are able to practice their social skills such as communicating, sharing and taking turns, while having fun. They are able to form relationships with other adults which also promotes feelings of belonging and connectedness.

Sue who takes turns hosting a playgroup at her home with four other educators says:

"The playgroup allows us, the educators, to have adult conversations in a relaxed and friendly environment. We can share ideas and experiences, the highs and the frustrations. We feel understood and supported by others who are doing same job and we have lots of laughs along the way. We are able to observe how the children play in these different environments in order to plan better to meet their needs."

The educators take turns each week to host the playgroup which Sue suggests is beneficial, "every environment is different therefore the activities that we offer at each place are varied. There are opportunities for gross motor play, creative activities, water play and space to run or ride bikes. We offer loose parts play and lots of open-ended opportunities for children to explore at their own leisure".

The parents of the children who attend these playgroups also see the benefits.

"My child enjoys the time with children from other FDC groups and it gives him the chance to interact with a larger number of children which will be beneficial for when he goes to kindergarten." The parent goes on further, "there are times when he wants to only play with his small group but we talk about how it's a time to learn to play with lots of kids and that we aren't going to get along with everyone, so he will have to learn to be patient and kind to everyone."

One mum suggested that her child Callum loves to socialise with other children but is easily over-excited by large groups. "FDC provides the perfect balance of mixing with other children in small groups and occasionally larger groups (...) and not becoming one of the crowd. His communication skills have improved and he is confident to take risks and engage in new experiences without fear."

Another parent commented about Sue's playgroup, stating that the benefit to her child is in contributing to his sense of belonging. "I was able to witness it. Upon drop off at playgroup, which had just started; he just walked up and sat down with one of the Family Day Care educators' groups that's not his. It shows too that being a part of a bigger group is a good transitioning experience towards the school framework."

By Julia Matthews, manager Camden FDC



FDC Educators and Superannuation



NSW FAMILY DAY CARE ASSOCIATION RESOURCE SHEET

SUMMER 2016

Get your Super into gear now

Women on average live longer than men, but most women begin their retirements with much less money in the bank. Unfortunately, the situation for self-employed women can be even worse. The Association of Super Funds Australia (ASFA) found that women who are self-employed have balances that are one-third lower than female employees.

Most working Australians have 9.5 per cent of their salary paid to their superannuation fund by their employer each year. These compulsory contributions are taxed at a low rate to encourage more Australians to be able to support themselves in retirement.

Why should I set up a super fund?

- In 2013-14, Australian women aged 60-64 had on average \$138,150 in super savings which was less than half of the average male account balance (moneysmart.gov.au). ASFA research has found that self-employed women have balances one-third lower than female employees.
- It's estimated that the average single person needs \$23,767 a year to maintain modest living conditions. A couple will need \$34,216 a year. To live comfortably, a single person would need about \$43,062 and a couple \$59,160 (moneysmart.gov.au).

However, because super is not compulsory for the self-employed, they may be missing out by not adequately preparing for their retirement. AFSA has found that 22 per cent of self-employed people have no super at all.

If you are self-employed, now is the time to take control and plan for your retirement. A superannuation fund is one of the best ways to

plan for a comfortable life after work. Unlike a self-employed plumber or florist, self-employed educators often do not have a business asset to sell when they retire. If you have no other investments, you may end up being forced to work longer than you wanted to, or relying on an age pension.

Self-employed educators do vital work and should be rewarded with a comfortable retirement just as much as their employee counterparts. Setting up a personal super account is a sound business decision that will bring rewards at the end of your working life.

The great news is, it's quick and easy to get started. A fund like MyLife My Super will give you all the help you need to set up your super. It's also flexible – you can choose your investment options, contribution amounts and frequency. It doesn't matter if you start off small – the important thing is to get started. Any money you put away today will allow you a better lifestyle when you finish work.

MyLife MySuper has Superannuation Specialists that are available to help you with any query on the phone from 8am to 8pm AEST, Monday to Friday. When you call, you'll speak to a person who will be able to help you straight away. As a member, you also have access to financial planners who are paid a salary – not commissions – to ensure their advice is always in your best interests.

By MyLife My Super



Contact MyLife MySuper for more information at mylifemysuper.com.au or 1300 695 433.