DIAMOND HILLS PRE-SCHOOL
Play, Learn, Laugh and Shine

Newsletter
2017 - Issue 9

President's Report

Wow is it just me or has this year flown? It has been a very busy year for the Committee this year and we have achieved so much.

We have had a truly committed committee this year, each committee member has dedicated so much of their time to help make Diamond Hills Kinder an even better place for our children.

Again, I would like to highlight the awesome year we have had with fundraising, the fundraising and events committee have worked tirelessly to raise an extraordinary amount of money this year. As I hope you all are aware we are a community based kinder and without this fundraising money we wouldn't able to give our children the amazing setting and opportunities that we do at Diamond Hills.

We had another successful fundraising event at Bunnings, thank you and well done to everyone that helped on the day or leading up to the event.

Our four-year olds are well under way with their orientation sessions for school, I am sure many are excited and nervous all at the same time. We wish all our 4-year-old children good luck at school next year.

(Continued on page 3)

Reminder

2017 Diamond Hills Pre-School Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 28th November, 7pm for a 7:30pm start

Inside This Issue

- Presidents Report
- Uniform Orders
- AGM Details
- Expressions Of Interest 2018 Committee
- Recycle Your Uniform Items
- Tea Towel Orders
- Important Dates
- Fundraising Purchases
- Fundraising Tally
- Parent Satisfaction Survey Results
- 2018 Newsletter Advertising
- Christmas Food Donations
- Koala, Possum & Wombats Report
- Platypus Report
- Penguin Report
- Staff & Committee Details
- Contact Details

2017 Class Activities Presentation

Important Information

Door Prize

Fee Payment

2017 Fundraising & Events Presentation

Financial Report

2nd Hand Uniform Sale

Drinks & Nibbles

Meet & Greet

Volunteer

Uniform Orders

2017 Diamond Hills Pre-School Annual General Meeting

The 2017 Diamond Hills Pre-School Annual General Meeting is being held at Diamond Hill's Pre-School on Tuesday 28th of November 2017 at 7pm, for a 7.30pm start.

We would encourage at least one member of all 2018 enrolled families to attend, as well as existing 2017 families. This AGM is also open to the general public. Make sure you collect your door prize ticket on arrival at the sign in, to be in the running to win a $100 Mitre10 Gift Voucher.* Drinks & nibbles supplied.

Please note that we have already received a number of expressions of interest for positions on the 2018 Committee from existing committee members and some new members, however we still have a few positions to be filled. We would like to assure all attending that committee positions are voluntary and there is no expectation of attendees to join the committee if they do not wish to. Expressions of interest can be submitted via our website or at the AGM.

Fee payment (direct deposit, credit/debit card or cash), uniform orders and a second hand uniform sale will also be available from 7pm to 7.30pm. This is also a good time to meet the staff, existing committee and other families.

*1 door prize ticket per family. Ticket holder must be in attendance when the door prize is drawn, if the ticket holder is not in attendance another ticket will be drawn.

Presidents Report Continued

I am sure the 3 year old group children are excited for the next stage at Diamond Hills Kinder, 4 year old, they have all grown and developed so much over the last year.

For me personally it has been a wonderful year at Diamond Hills Kinder getting to know many local parents and connecting with a new community. I would like to thank you all for being so supportive.

Kind Regards

Anna Henderson
President

Recycle Your Child's Diamond Hills Uniform!

Did you know that you can donate uniform items back to the kinder for the Second Hand Uniform Sale!

A donation basket is located near the sign in book.
All proceeds go back into the kinder.

Would you like to be more involved with kinder outside of kinder hours? Why not consider joining the 2018 Committee of Management!

The Committee is made up of volunteer members, usually parents, carers or grandparents within the Diamond Hills Pre-School community. Some committee roles require specific skills, while others only require a can do attitude. Being a member of the committee also affords you the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of our Pre-School and to have input in Pre-School matters.

In addition to the committee there are a number of volunteer positions. These positions do not require attendance at the monthly committee meetings.

Committee and volunteer positions also provide you with a great opportunity to meet other parents and support our Diamond Hills Community.

CHILD FRIENDLY GROUP FITNESS SESSIONS IN A RELAXED, SAFE & FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT!
EVERYONE IS WELCOME -
FITNESS FOR ALL AGES & FITNESS LEVELS

Call Katherine: 0414426010
Or bring this ad for first session free

39 CLEMENTS AVE, BUNDOORA
MON & FRI 9.45AM

SESSIONS NOW ALSO AVAILABLE IN ELTHAM

2018 Committee of Management Expressions of Interest

We have already received a number of expressions of interest for our 2018 Committee including existing committee members who would like to stay on and some new Diamond Hills members. We are still seeking expressions of interest for the following roles;

- Vice President (Exec Committee) - Have you got an eye for details? The VP is our OH&S auditor and policies coordinator. (Experience in these areas would be beneficial but not required)
- Treasurer (Exec Committee) – Love crunching numbers? This is the position for you (Financial skills required)
- Assistant Secretary (Social Media & Digital Communications) (Committee) – Fun for someone who enjoys working with social media, websites and digital publishing (Social media, website design & Microsoft Publisher or similar skills required).
- Fees Officer (Committee) – Like working behind the scenes? This role is perfect for someone with accounts payable/receivable experience (knowledge of MYOB or similar benificial).
- 3 Year Old Enrolment Officer (Committee) – Happy to have a chat with perspective families, this is the role for you (basic excel skills needed).
- Grants Officer (Volunteer) – If you're a Wordsmith, this is the position for you? Help us find and successfully apply for a range of Grants. Experience and understanding of the grants process would be beneficial.
- Environmental Officer (Volunteer) – Are you an Eco Warrior? We care about the environment too. Help promote our eco initiatives within our kinder community.

Full Position Descriptions are available on our website.

Please don't hesitate to talk to a member of this years committee if you would like more information. The list of current committee members is on page 39 of this newsletter. You can express your interest in any of these roles via the form on our website www.diamondhillspreschool.com.au/committee-expressions-of-interest-2018.html or at the AGM. Parents, Carers and Grandparents welcome.

MADE IN MELBOURNE
max&me DESIGNS

Making memories last forever

Beautiful personalised jewellery & cufflinks.
The perfect keepsake gift for Christmas.

*To receive your exclusive 20% discount off all our products simply enter the code **DHPS** upon checkout at*
www.maxandmedesigns.com
Valid until December 30th, 2017

www.maxandmedesigns.com
www.facebook.com/maxandmedesigns

2017 Class Tea Towel Orders

It's not too late to order a 2017 Tea Towel as seen here.

They are $9.50 each and money and order must be in ASAP as we only order a limited number of extras.

The colour of the Tea Towel is navy and white.

Please see your child's teacher for more details.

TRAVEL COORDINATES

******GIVEAWAY******

WIN 5 NIGHTS IN COOLUM BEACH!

Register your details on our website and go into the draw:
www.travelcoordinates.com/latest-news

For a 5 NIGHT stay in a 3 Bedroom Superior Apartment
AT
ELEMENT ON COOLUM BEACH

Element on Coolum Beach is located on the Sunshine Coast - Boasting kilometres of stunning beach, crystal clear waters and a majestic hinterland.

PLUS: REFER YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING!

Terms & Conditions are on our website
Hayley van Dinter | hayley@travelcoordinates.com | www.travelcoordinates.com
M: 0448 338 488 | P: 9434 4746

element
on coolum beach
luxury holiday apartments
sunshine coast - queensland

Important Dates

Tuesday 28th November
AGM 7pm
Term 1 2018 Fees Due

Sunday 3rd December
Whole Kinder Christmas Party

Wednesday 6th December
2018 3yr old & 4yr old Orientation Day
NO 2017 CLASS SESSIONS

Monday 11th December
Platypus Group Family Christmas Night 6.30pm

Tuesday 12th December
Penguin Group Family Christmas Night

Wednesday 13th December
Koala, Possum & Wombat Christmas Concert & Family Morning Tea

Tuesday 19th December
Penguin Group Last Day & End of Year Party

Tuesday 19th December
Wombat/Koala Groups End of year party & **Koala Group** Last Day

Wednesday 20th December
Possum/Wombat Groups
Last Day & End of Year Party
Platypus Group
Last Day & End of Year Party

Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd December
Kinder Clean-Up– All families welcome on one or both days

Reminder
All children are required to wear a sunsmart hat & sunscreen when outside during Term 4 kinder sessions.

MELICAN GRAINGER
ACCOUNTANTS

(03) 9432 9611
www.melicangrainger.com.au

Business Advice | Financial Planning | Taxation

What can we do for you?

Prepare your tax

Whether you need a simple tax return, or full service advice we are ready to be by your side. At Melican Grainger Accountants we're more than a calculator, we're your partner.

Plan your finances

For all your financial planning needs, whether you require superannuation, insurance or you're wanting to set up for retirement, we can be there every step of the way to ensure peace of mind.

Provide business advice

While taxes might seem mundane to some, the truth is that in learning how to manage your taxes properly you enable yourself to improve your cash flow and increase chances of building your wealth.

About Melican Grainger

Melican Grainger Accountants Pty Ltd in Greensborough are eager to work together with you in seeking to build and establish opportunities to grow your wealth and add value to your business.
We have a client first approach ensuring that each client has a personalised service that is directly catered to their individual and professional needs.

Connect with us

Your success is our business

Ph. (03) 9432 9611
E. melican@melican.com.au

Level 1
103 Grimshaw Street,
Greensborough VIC 3088

CPA AUSTRALIA

www.melicangrainger.com.au

Sunday 3rd December

2017 Christmas & Farewell Party

Eltham Miniature Railway

Christmas Crafts

Sausage Sizzle

Raffle

11am to 2:30pm

Special Visitor

Train Rides

Further details will be in Photo Pockets early next week

Bunning BBQ Fundraiser

Thank you so much to the many families who donated supplies for the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. Your support really helped us to maximise profits. We raised a fantastic $1746!!!

Special mention to Bob and Vesna Jovanovski who organised the sausages and made a substantial cash donation to partially cover their purchase. Bob also got us set-up in the morning, then came back for an afternoon shift too!

Thanks also to Margherita Pizza in Lower Plenty for slicing 10kg of onions for us. You saved us a lot of tears!!

Huge thanks to all our helpers on the day – many of whom stayed for several hours. Quite literally the day would not have happened without you.

Bec & Laura
Fundraising &
Events Coordinators

2017 Fundraising Tally

Fundraising Purchases

Have you seen all the exciting new items that have been purchased recently with some of this years Fundraising money. They include a range of imaginative play furniture, a heavy duty digger, a picnic table, a big book reading stand and a new big book, 2 Samsung Galaxy kinder phones and 4 wheelbarrows.

Hi families…

We like to teach the children about other aspects of Christmas ... the gift of giving in our local community to those who may need a little extra help this season. Diamond Valley food share is collecting special Christmas food goods and other non - perishable items.

If you would like to contribute, please bring along the goods over the next week and place in basket provided.

Suggestions:
Plum puddings, tinned ham, Bon bons, Lollies, Shortbreads
Also.... tinned fruit, meat, tuna, pasta sauces, pasta, rice, sugar, flour, long life milk, tea, coffee, cereals, biscuits, sweets, cake mixes, jams, peanut butter & Toiletries

Margherita
Pizza&Pasta
At the heart of your community
9434 4980
Open 7 Days a Week 5.00 - til late
Pick up or Home Delivery
89 main rd lower plenty

Uniform Orders

2018 Uniform orders are currently available online www.diamondhillspreschool.com.au/current-families or at the AGM. Please note that as minimum order numbers are required this may be your only opportunity to purchase uniforms for 2018.

Mini MAESTROS
Nurturing Confident Learners
Mini Maestros
Greensborough, Eltham and Montmorency
Chantelle - 0411 248 889
chantelle.alvaro@minimaestros.com.au

www.leapaheadlearning.com.au

2017
PRE-PREP
&
SCHOOL
READINESS

LEAP AHEAD LEARNING

BOOK NOW for 2017!
LIMITED PLACES LEFT

Full Days Pre-Prep Program

- For children in their 1st & ***especially*** 2nd year of 4 year old kinder
- Explicit social, literacy and mindfulness taught by the best staff
- In a fully-equipped learning space in **Montmorency**

Tues, Wed & Fri

9:30 am – 3.00 pm

School Readiness Classes

- 60 & 90 min. classes on Thursday in **Greensborough** for 3 – 6 year olds

Skills for Life!

GIVING YOUR CHILD
A HEAD START!

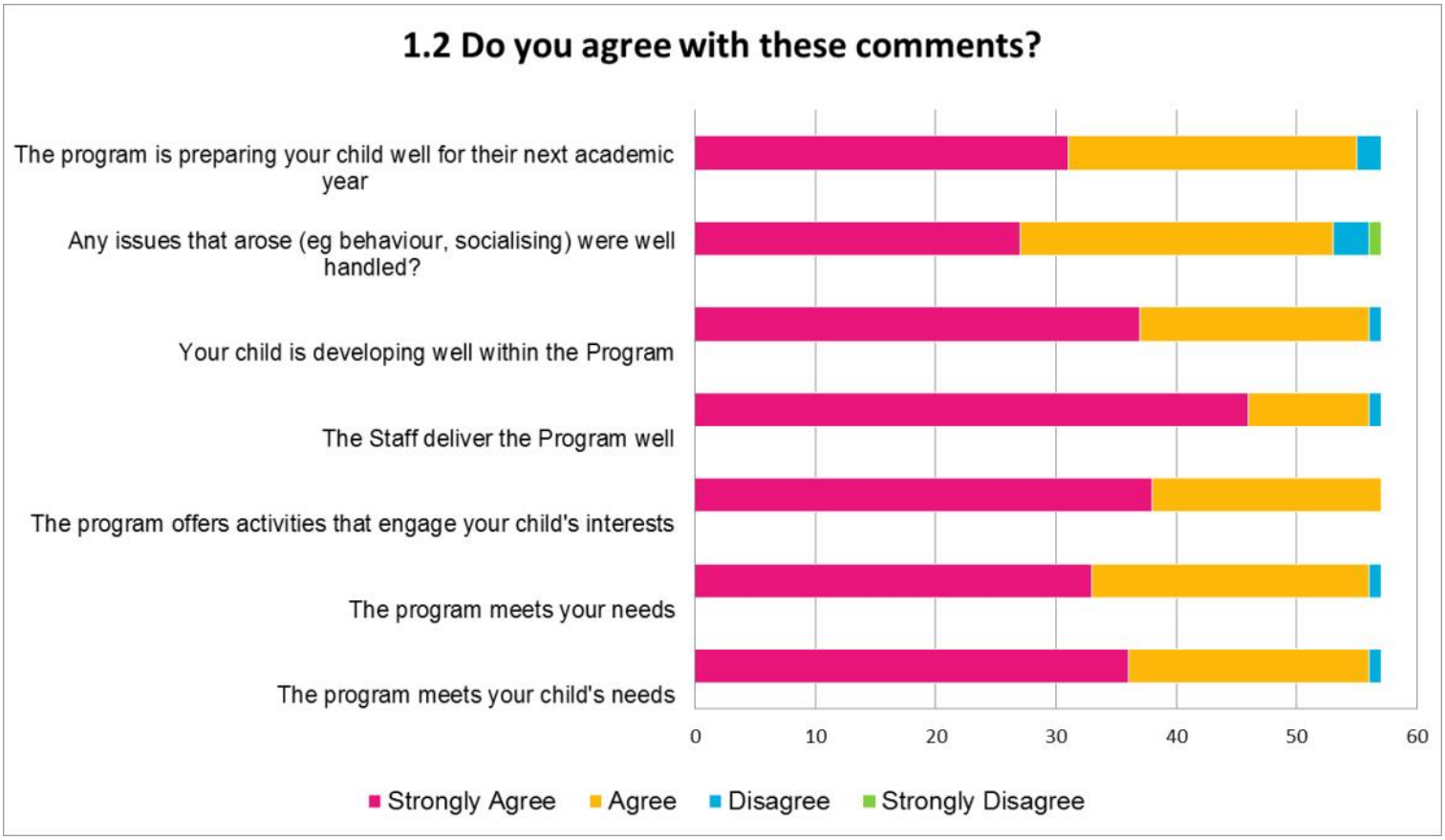
Building Skills for Life

We stand by the quality of our teaching and programs achieving guaranteed results.

0407 324 901 keryn@leapaheadlearning.com.au

2017 Diamond Hills Pre-School Parent Satisfaction Survey Results Summary

Thank you to all the families that completed our 2017 survey. We received 57 Responses, 40 4YO families and 17 3YO families, that's over 70% of all 2017 families. Below is a summary of results including some great feedback.



Best things about the program - Top 3

Program and range of activities
Staff
Learning environment including indoor & outdoor areas, animals etc

(Continued on page 17)

2017 DHPS Parent Satisfaction Survey Results

Summary Continued

What about your child's learning this year are you most proud of - Highlights

“This is a great year that gets them ready for school, it is a much different format to long day care kinder. I like that the teachers extend each individuals child learning based on what they are playing without them realizing it.”

“Creativity. Her ideas and attitude towards trying and inventing things. Her social skills.”

“My child loves attending kinder, even on a day when he doesn't go he says the favourite thing of the day is that 'he is going to kinder tomorrow'!!”

“Sense of wonder and enthusiasm which has been not only maintained but nurtured in this environment.”

“My son has become a little social butterfly as prior he was introverted and did not understand how to engage other children. He now is a confident and sociable little boy.”

“Her ability to problem solve, her resilience and her emotional growth”

Additional comments about the program - Highlights

“We have loved our time at Diamond Hills. It is sad to be moving on. It is a wonderful program, lovely setting with amazing, caring, innovative teachers. Thank you for everything you do.”

“I couldn't have asked for a better kinder year for my daughter. She absolutely loves going to kinder each day. She experiences a bit of separation anxiety but the staff know exactly how to deal with it to make sure she is happy and comfortable.”

(Continued on page 18)

2017 DHPS Parent Satisfaction Survey Results

Summary Continued

Additional comments about the program - Highlights Continued

“Thank you so much for creating such a wonderful learning community and for your dedication to giving all the students a great start to their education. We love Diamond Hills Preschool!”

“Its lovely to see the staff so engaged and committed to delivering a good program and being actively involved with the students”

Preferred Method of Communication - Top 3

Email
Kinderloop (4YO Only)
Photo Pockets

100% of families felt well informed about Pre-School matters!

Thank You! Half of all families that responded found out about Diamond Hills Pre-School from Family or Friends

Why did you choose Diamond Hills Pre-School

“Good reputation, within my local community (ie: close to home) and great first and subsequent impressions when touring/calling to discuss preschool for my children. Staff and volunteers were patient informative, realistic and honest with an emphasis on what is good for the children. This prioritisation of the children was probably the main point.”

“Coming from a childcare program we had also made the decision that the preschool program at a kindergarten was more valuable than long day care provided. I do not regret this decision and for anyone that can make it work I definitely encourage switching”

(Continued on page 19)

2017 DHPS Parent Satisfaction Survey Results

Summary Continued

Why did you choose Diamond Hills Pre-School Continued

“Long term committed staff, Very welcoming, lovely outdoor area. Any kinder that can be bothered with the commitment of having animals has my vote! Had a lovely 'feel'”

“The lovely environment, which includes the teachers we met on our tour and the animals. The kinder felt welcoming and comfortable as soon as we walked through the gate.”

”It's close to home and as soon as we walked in the gates to visit the first time we knew this is where we wanted our children to go to kinder. The staff are always welcoming, the programs are amazing and the grounds are well maintained and engaging for the students. We love that there are a range of class pets/animals.”

Is there anything else you would like to add about your time at Diamond Hills Pre-School in 2017.

“What a fantastic start to our daughter’s educational experience! Thank you to all the staff and committee who genuinely care about the kids and the kinder. You definitely help the kids shine!”

“We have loved our time at diamond hills pre-School, we feel as though we are part of a big happy family.”

“We love Diamond Hills! The teachers, program, friends and all the animals.”

2018 Newsletter Advertising Early Bird Offer

Book a **10 Issue** or **10 Issue + Facebook** 2018 Newsletter Advertising Package before the end of 2017 and receive **2 FREE Facebook Posts** in 2018.*

Full Page Newsletter Ad
Approx 20cm x 24.5cm Full Colour

Facebook Newsletter Sponsor Post
Tag in Post and/or share your company details on our public page

Number of Issues	Price	Save
1	$18	$0
3	$43	$11
5	$60	$30
10	$90	$90
10 + 4 Facebook Posts (1 per term)	$100	$95

To book email the Assistant Secretary at diamond.hills.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Please note that artwork needs to be supplied as an image file. All Newsletters are emailed as a pdf document.

*Offer limited to the first 10 advertisers. Post dates at DHPS discretion.

POSSUM, WOMBAT & KOALA REPORT

November 2017

It's incredible to believe that we have almost come to the end of the year. Term 4 always seems to fly by so quickly and before we know it, we are saying goodbye to our 3 years olds as they prepare their journey into 4-year-old kindergarten. This time of the year, when we have an opportunity to reflect on the children's cognitive, social, emotional and physical growth, we feel so proud of the children to see just how far they have come, mixed with a little sadness to see them moving on. The best part however, is that I will have the opportunity to see the children again next year and observe how much further they will grow under the guidance and skills of Annmarree and Kim with support from Nicole, Kyla, Bronwen and Brenda.

How far have the children come…?

We noticed children's sense of identity has grown and new friendships formed. We saw that children felt connected to and developed a sense of belonging to their kinder community when they became comfortable in their environment and responded in a positive and playful manner with their peers. We noticed children's language skills and ability to interact with others and engage in co-constructive and cooperative play increased exponentially.

We have watched children's sense of agency, independence and confidence grow as they became confident and involved learners to explore their environment through curiosity, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence and imagination, as well as their ability to further engage in their learning through problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising and investigating, and how these dispositions and skills for learning played a role in their journey of discovery.

We noticed that children's sense of health and physical wellbeing has increased through the development of their fine and gross motor skills, balance and co-ordination, spatial awareness, competence and skills. We saw this when we noticed

(Continued on page 22)

POSSUM, WOMBAT & KOALA REPORT CONTINUED

children challenge themselves by attempting new experiences such as climbing a little higher in the trees, confidently using the flying fox, climbing equipment and obstacle courses, or using a hammer and nails for the first time. Children's sense of social and emotional wellbeing was evident when we saw children empathising, working together, share humour, happiness and satisfaction and celebrate their achievements with their peers and educators.

So, what have the children been up to this month…??

As mentioned in our last newsletter, our main focus this month has been on identifying and regulating our emotions and practising techniques for developing friendships. We introduced the song "Where is Thumbkin?" to demonstrate the concept of facing each other to greet, acknowledge and talk to each other. This seems to be working really well and the children appear to have an understanding of the concept. We have continued to role-play aspects of listening to each other and being friendly, using finger puppets and my Peter Rabbit. The children really engaged in the experience, turning to their peers and adding voices to their puppets.

We continued to reinforce the whole idea of identifying our emotions using stories and songs such as 'If you're happy and you know it? and puppet play. We have also over the past few weeks made a visual representation of the children's feelings by creating artwork of facial expressions, with each child adding language to their pictures. Take a moment when you are next at kinder to look at the wall to see your child's picture. You may find a few surprises in what the children say makes them feel happy or sad. We are hoping to add to their work by adding a photo of the children holding their picture and incorporating a technological app AURASMA which allows the children's voices to be recorded and superimposed onto their artwork (If I can manage to make it work!!).

(Continued on page 23)

POSSUM, WOMBAT & KOALA REPORT CONTINUED

(**EYLF: Identity** – Children have a strong sense of identity when they develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency. **Wellbeing** – Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing when they show an increasing capacity to understand, self-regulate and manage their emotions in ways that reflect the feelings and needs of others))

The weather of the past week has been quite hot. Another opportunity to focus on our bodies and regulate our emotions presented itself. At the end of outdoor play as a transition into the room, we asked the children to lie down anywhere around the room and close their eyes. We then played some relaxing music and gently placed a glass pebble on the forehead of each child, asking them to keep their eyes closed, be very still, focus on the pebble and listen to the relaxing music. Most children were able to follow instructions and they really seemed to enjoy the quiet time and listened intently to the instructions. We noted that the children's facial features and body language relaxed, they became very still feeling as they slowly breathed in and out. At the end, Coree and I gently waved some ribbons over the children's bodies, before we removed the stones and asked the children to find an activity to do within the room. (EYLF: **Community** – Children are connected with and contribute to their world when they develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities. **Wellbeing –** Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing)

The hot weather has also provide many opportunities to play and explore with water. Water play is a sensory activity that is soothing, invigorating or relaxing as well as enjoyable and educational.

(Continued on page 24)

POSSUM, WOMBAT & KOALA REPORT CONTINUED

Throughout my studies, I was constantly reminded of how the environment is also a teacher and Coree and I wanted to provide a variety of activities that would engage the children differently.

Over several sessions, areas with funnels, tubes and containers caught the attention of many of the children. They spent some time pouring and transferring the water from container to funnel and positioning the hose so that other containers could be filled. Giving the children time to explore the properties of how water flows provides learning of many scientific and mathematical concepts such as full, empty, half, more or less, fast and slow. It provides opportunities to develop creative thinking as they engage problem solving skills when they experiment using different containers or discovering how the positioning of the hose affects the flow of the water or how fast or slow they need to pour the water. It provides opportunities for social skills such as turn-taking, negotiation and cooperation as well as being a rich environment for language development. Scooping and pouring helps children develop eye-hand coordination and strengthen their fine motor muscles.

The riverbed provided opportunities for children to use their imagination in play. It also afforded the children an avenue to see how the water flow is affected when items such as rocks or dinosaurs are placed along the path as well as opportunities to experiment how to transfer water using natural items such as bark.

(Continued on page 25)

POSSUM, WOMBAT & KOALA REPORT CONTINUED

Quieter zones of water play provided the children with areas where they were able to relax and feel the soothing properties of the water, be that in scooping and pouring, washing dolls in soapy water or immersing their feet in the cool water. Quieter areas increase children's ability to unwind, order their thoughts and concentrate for longer periods of time on one activity.(EYLF Learning – Children are confident and involved learners when they: -
* develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, imagination and reflexivity
*develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating
*transfer and adapt what they have learnt from one context to another).

There is nothing better on a hot sticky day than to sit under the cool shade of a beautiful golden elm tree and feel the breeze as it filters through the canopy of leaves. Our children thought that a picnic under the tree would be just the right spot. When we had finished our snacks, some of the children and myself, lay on our backs and looked up into the beautiful canopy of the elm.

(Continued on page 26)

POSSUM, WOMBAT & KOALA REPORT CONTINUED

The children noticed many things including the many different size branches, blossoms, bird feeders, birds and a hula-hoop which was stuck in the branches. **(EYLF: Community** – Children are connected with and contribute to their world when they show an appreciation and care for natural and constructed environments).

The children's interest in mixing colours in some form or another has continued throughout the year. Coree and I decided to provide an experience where the children were free to mix combinations of the primary colours red, blue and yellow, to create new and exciting colours. The exercise provided the children with the opportunity to learn through experimentation. Some children appeared to be purely focused on filling each receptacle, whilst other children were actively and purposefully engaged in mixing different combinations to create new colours. The learning area provided opportunities for expressive language, problem solving, hand-eye co-ordination and fine motor control. Brain research tells us that revisiting experiences which allows children to build on existing knowledge and information, helps to strengthen the neuron connections in the developing brain, which builds on and cements new knowledge (Jack Shonkoff). **(EYLF: Learning** – Children are confident and involved learners when they develop dispositions and skills such as curiosity, enthusiasm, imagination, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising and investigating).

And now….

I would like to thank my colleagues who have all contributed to the supportive and fun environment that makes Diamond Hills a special place to be. A special thankyou to **Coree** who stepped into the role mid-way through the year to replace Kathryn. Coree past experience as a teacher has provided me with some valuable resources and knowledge which have adding to the children's experiences and to my skills as a teacher. **Kathryn** brought an element of fun to the children and calmness when needed.

(Continued on page 27)

POSSUM, WOMBAT & KOALA REPORT CONTINUED

To **Annmaree and Kim**, thankyou for your continued support and faith in me, especially whilst I was completing my studies. Your constant support and guidance are truly appreciated. You are truly amazing teachers and I aspire to be like you one day.

To **Nicole, Kyla, Bronwen and Brenda,** thankyou for making work such a fun place to be. Your dedication and commitment to the children, your sense of humour, funny takes on life, your stories and friendship are truly appreciated. You are all amazing educators and we are so lucky to have you at Diamond Hills.

A huge thankyou to all the **committee members** who have volunteered so much of their time and worked so hard to keep the kinder running at its best. You all bring so many skills and expertise in your area which benefit the kinder and children. A huge thankyou to **Rebecca and Laura** in the events and fundraising team who have managed to raise so much for our kinder. Our children reap the benefits of all your hard work with new equipment such as the wheelbarrows, wooden screens and furniture pieces, iPads, bookstand and much, much more. Thankyou. To **Hayley,** thank you so much for all that you have done to support the recognition of my degree. You were patient with me and thorough in your presentation. I am forever grateful.

The most important is left to the last. Thankyou to all the **parents and grandparents** that have entrusted their children in our care. They are such amazing children and we are so proud of how they have grown social and emotionally and of all they have achieved this year. We have enjoyed listening to their funny stories and feel privileged to have shared their journey as they became confident and independent children. We will miss them.

Preparations for the end of the year celebrations are beginning to ramp up. We will be practicing Christmas songs as well as some of the favourites that the children have sung throughout the year. We hope you will be able to join your children for the end of the year Christmas morning tea.

Coree and I would like to wish you all the best for a Merry Christmas and a safe and

(Continued on page 28)

happy New Year.

Till next year,
Tania and Coree

Dates for your Diary

AGM – Tuesday 28th November 2017
Orientation Day for 2018 children – Wednesday 6th December
End of Year Christmas Concert/family morning tea
Wednesday 13th December
End of year parties
Wombat/Koala – Tuesday 19th December
Possum/Wombat – Wednesday 20th December

Clean up of Kinder
Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd December

PENGUIN REPORT

November, 2017

Hi Penguin families,

It is at this time of year, when we reflect on the Penguin year, write reports for our families and their school teachers and countdown to Christmas celebrations and farewells. But before we get sentimental, …what have the Penguin's been up to?

Highlights from our busy month have included our Grandparent's and special friends week, Sewing with kids incursion and the 'Fun with Food' program.

Grandparents and Special Friends Week: The children prepared for this special week with drawings and stories about their special visitors, cooking yummy scones, jam and cream and decorating the tables with flowers from their kinder garden. The children were very excited to show their visitors around their kinder – introducing them to their pets and favourite activities. The Penguin children chose what they would like to sing to their grandparents and their visitors joined in with gusto! It is a pleasure to witness the pride the children exhibit when sharing this part of their community with their family members. It was also a pleasure to meet these wonderful people, who have such an influence on your children lives. Sharing their preschool with people they love further develops the children's sense of belonging. Belonging helps to give children the security and confidence to explore their world. It also builds identity, wellbeing and the ability to learn. Thank you to all the lovely people who came to our preschool during this week ☺

(Continued on page 30)

PENGUIN REPORT CONTINUED

'Fun with Food'… the children provided ingredients, prepared and cooked the food, made place name cards, decorated tables with freshly picked flowers, serviettes, shells, stones and candles, and washed the dishes. The staff hunted local opportunity shops for glass jugs, china plates, candle holders and a tea trolley to provide special equipment for this learning focus. The educational values in this activity are extensive. Rituals such as meal times respect children's competencies, preferences and rights. Children are able to develop the values of kindness, responsibility, gratitude, sharing and leadership through engaging in rituals and using 'real objects' (and offering choices extends the physical, emotional and cognitive abilities of young children. And of course, developing the children's awareness of nutrition and a healthy lifestyle. The menu included wraps, banana and honey pikelets with fruit, rice paper rolls and pasta.

Friendship quilt… The children created a quilt of their special drawings with Susan from 'Sewing for the kids' this month. Each child was given the opportunity to set the sewing machine and use the pedal to help Susan sew their drawing together with their friend's. This activity was a great way to increase the children's awareness on how things are made, developing their sense of responsibility and

(Continued on page 31)

PENGUIN REPORT CONTINUED

using their 'calm brains' to use special equipment and of course a wonderful sense of community, belonging and celebration of Friendship.

The children continue to develop their sense of identity as the kinder year draws to a close. We have seen some wonderful expressions of self through portrait paintings while looking at themselves in the mirror. This activity encourages the children to transfer their representation from what they see in the mirror to its design on the page – thinking carefully about details of colour, symbols on clothing and body features.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

November:

Friday 24th: Breakfast at kinder in our pyjama's ☺ Normal session time. Children come in pj's for breakfast and some fun activities.

December:

Tuesday 12th: Family Christmas Evening – plate of supper to share please

It is important to note, that experiences like these can be daunting for some children, and others are 'show offs' and absolutely love it - either way, it will be unique and precious!!

Tuesday 19th: Party and final day for the Penguins

Children come dressed for Christmas if they would like to – fun day of games, music and party food. Parents asked to bring a plate to share for either children or parents (list of suggestions will go out soon). We ask the parents to come back early (dependent on school break up times for last day) for goodbyes, final gifts from the children and for the children and for lunch.

Thursday 21st December: Clean up Day/move equipment for renovations. This is the day everything comes off the walls, toys, equipment and furniture is washed/wiped, sheds are tidies, rubbish removed, cupboards tidied and equipment put away/moved while new storeroom being built. Many hands make light work and we would really appreciate your help. Believe it or not, we have lots of laughs and eat leftover party food!

(Continued on page 32)

PENGUIN REPORT CONTINUED

THANK YOU'S…

We would like to take this opportunity to say some heart felt thank you's.

I would like to sincerely thank our wonderful editor, **Nikki,** who has created a fantastic newsletter, website and face book administration. We really appreciate your time, effort and expertise and we wish you all the very best in your exciting new role next year.

To the incredible **Committee team**…the staff would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you so much for all your voluntary time, dedication and undying commitment to our kinder. As much as we would like to mention everyone's achievements this year and their incredible individual contributions in a variety of areas, it would take too long and I may commit the injustice of leaving something out! Among the many things you do, the funds you raise, the community spirit you evoke and the administration you supply, you are what makes a kinder program of this nature viable. A cheeky special thank you to **Ru, Bec, Hayley and Jo** who represented the Penguins on the committee this year and achieved amazing things for our kinder.

Special mention to one of our past parents – **Dan Wood**. The project management for the additions and upgrades to the preschool have been ongoing for a number of years. Dan's passion and contribution to this project has been huge. Hopefully, all his work will come to fruition with works scheduled to start at the end of this year. How exciting!

Big thanks to **Kerrie** our financial administrator for her continuing role in the running of our centre. She is a much loved part of the team and we really appreciate her role at Diamond Hills.

To **Annmaree, Bronwen, Kyla, Tania, Nicole, Brenda, Kathryn, Coree** - I thank you sincerely for all your friendship, support, laughs and dedication to Diamond Hills. We are lucky to have these people in our lives and especially in the lives of your children. These incredible women bring so much to this program and I am so lucky to work with them. To **Bronwen, Kyla, Kathryn and Brenda** … heartfelt thanks for your work in the Penguin teaching team. You all bring very special qualities and strengths to our group and want nothing but the best for our children. I could not do it without you.

To **Kyla…**Kyla is finishing up with the Penguin group this year. We will miss her wonderful way of communicating with the children and families, her amazing work ethic and her

(Continued on page 33)

PENGUIN REPORT CONTINUED

stories that make us laugh. She's not leaving the centre thank goodness, so we will work together now and then!

To **Annmaree** …an amazing leader and director of this centre. The epicentre of Diamond Hills Preschool. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

And last but definitely not least, to our beautiful **Diamond Hills families**. We get a little sad at this time of year at the thought of our Penguin team moving forward, because we really do become a family. We thank you for lending us your precious children. They have achieved and experienced some incredible learning and fun together and individually. It seems like only yesterday, that your wide-eyed children came through the door with their Penguin name tags on. Kyla, Bronwen, Brenda, Kathryn and I have thoroughly enjoyed your gorgeous children and getting to know you all. We hope it has been a positive experience for all of you and that you will look back at your preschool year with fond memories.

Thank you so much for all your support for our program – the kinder roster, donations, fundraising, working bees, garden roster, and so on. We really appreciate your efforts, time and friendship. This sense of community is why we love Diamond Hills.

Another special mention to those **families who are leaving Diamond Hills for the last time.** We have been blessed to be a part of this incredible period of your family's lives and we wish you all the very best that life has to offer in the future. We will miss you. Please don't be strangers. Thank you to Katrina and Suzi for being our group representatives over the last 2 years.

The Penguin staff would like to wish all of our Diamond Hills community the very best for Christmas and the holiday season. Have a well-deserved rest if you can, ready for school or coming back to kinder. Please come back and visit us soon before these Penguins turn 21 in the blink of an eye!! We hope that Santa smiles upon you all and that you have a peace-filled and magical family Christmas. We look forward to catching up next year. Take care throughout the coming busy times,

Bronwen, Kyla, Kathryn, Brenda and Kim xxxxx

PLATYPUS REPORT

Final Monthly Report for 2017

How unreal does that sound - the final report for this year? It just doesn't seem possible but it is! On Tuesday 28th November the Preschool will hold its AGM. Even if you do not feel that you can volunteer for the Committee of Management for next year why not still come along as the staff for the 3's and 4's present a brief overview of the year that was and it's a great way to get a snapshot of the year.

There are so many people that I need to thank as there are so many special people that make up the wonderful Diamond Hills Preschool and seeing as this is my last 'official' report for this year, I would like to take this opportunity to do just that, and say Thank You.

Firstly Kyla, Nicole and myself would like to thank all of you, our wonderful Platypus families for your support and belief in Diamond Hills. You have all played a very special part in our Kinder community. We will be very sad to say farewell to quite a number of our families as their last child moves onto school at the end of this year. Can I just say that we have loved every minute of getting to know each and everyone of you. We would also like to thank the grandparents who each session either drop off, pick up or do both. Thank you for becoming such an important part of our family network. We value just how much time you commit so that your grandchildren can share in the experience of Kinder.

Because our final committee meeting for this year has also been held, I would like to thank all of our volunteer committee of management for their support and commitment this year. As always it is very important to the staff, not only as we undergo the continuing changes that are occurring within our industry but in the day to day running of the Kinder. Thank you for all of the unpaid hours you have committed. Without you, the

(Continued on page 35)

PLATYPUS REPORT CONTINUED

Preschool would not exist as it currently does, **as part of a community**. Each and everyone of you has played an integral part in this Preschool and words are not enough to let you know how much you are ALL appreciated as we do realise ALL the time and effort you give so freely. THANK YOU.

I would also like to express a very special thank you to Kerrie (our financial administration officer) who works hard behind the scenes to ensure that the Kinder's financial affairs are well maintained and that the kinder remains sustainable. Kerrie's dedication and the continuity that she provides to the Kinder and staff is amazing and highly valued. Again words are not enough to say Thank you. Again we do all recognise your commitment to the staff and the Preschool and it is VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express a very big thank you to the wonderful team that are Kim, Tania, Nicole, Kyla, Bronwen, Coree, Brenda and earlier in the year Kathryn. You provide so much commitment, support and belief in Diamond Hills, this centre would not be the place that it is without you. These 8 exceptional ladies are dedicated to making our kinder the best it can be. They value the kinder families that make up our community and this shows in all that they do. A big Congratulations, to Tania who after 4 years of study has completed her teaching degree. This took a lot of commitment and Tania truly believes in the value of the Early Years Profession and the educational journey that starts at Kinder. I look forward to continuing to work with them all.

After saying this there are 3 ladies on this 'team' who deserve a very, very special recognition and they are Kim, Kerrie and Bronwen. We are so lucky to have not only a dedicated team but an experienced one who love what they do. On behalf of the rest of the staff I would like to express our extreme gratitude.

(Continued on page 36)

PLATYPUS REPORT CONTINUED

And of course I must thank my amazing work colleagues and friends, Kyla and Nicole. I don't need to tell the Platypus families how wonderful these 2 ladies are. They are truly exceptional and always want the very best for each child that comes into their care. They are very committed and I honestly don't know what I would do without them.

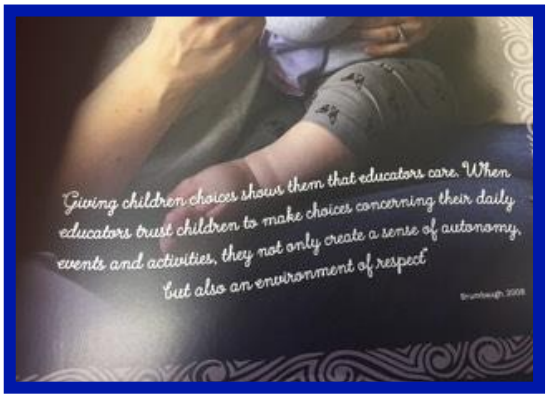
So now what have the Platypus group been doing?

Since my last report the Platypus children have been as busy as always learning, discovering and extending their knowledge and skills. Some of the highlights have been - extending and discovering interesting ideas and facts by using the kinder ipad. The children enjoy sitting together as a small group and then sharing what they've learnt to the adults and their peers. This term has seen a new interest in learning more about sustainability and caring for our environment. Some of this has been expressed by, the children helping to establish a new herb garden, making bird feeders and welcoming some new baby chickens.

Throughout this year the creative arts (painting, collage, play dough) has been very popular and continues to be so.

(Continued on page 37)

PLATYPUS REPORT CONTINUED



Just recently we invited the children's grandparents or a special friend to come and see what Kinder is all about. The children absolutely loved this experience. They made scones to share with these very special people in their lives.

Thank you to everyone who wrote a message on our banner for Children's Week. Your messages were all amazing. The banners from each group are on display so please come on in and read them.

And finally one more thing that is worth a mention is the amazing time we have just experienced over nearly 3 weeks with the introduction of following a Ritual for snack time which has made this usually very routine time a very special time for everyone. The children have been responsible for preparing the food, setting the tables, clearing the tables and every child has washed their own dishes. One thing that I would like to comment on is that in our very busy lives that this time at kinder has proven that it is so very important to make one meal a day a time where the family sit down altogether at the table to eat and chat about their day with no interruptions. The kinder children have absolutely loved spending time together with an adult and just taking time and talking. It is one small thing that can be easily put to the side but it is so worth doing.

And finally thank you so much for all the effort that has gone into raising extra funds for the preschool this year. Just recently we have been able to use some of this money to buy new furniture, 2 new phones, 4 new wheelbarrows, books and there is more to come, so on behalf of the children and staff - THANK YOU.

(Continued on page 38)

PLATYPUS REPORT CONTINUED

Also to those who were able to support us by collecting the earn and learn stickers, one of the highlights from this is that the kinder has been able to purchase a microscope for the children to use.

Our kinder community is one that we should all be very proud of as it is a real community so thank you so very much.

Annmaree

Staff & Committee

Teachers

Annmaree Watkins Kim Walker Tania Mantovani

Co-Educators

Brenda Anderson Bronwen Gear Coree Brewster-Devlin
Kyla Ridgeway Nicole De Cata

Committee of Management

President: Anna Henderson
Vice President: Melissa Kayrooz
Secretary: Karina Papadakis
Assistant Secretary / Digital Media: Nikki Reid
Treasurer: Ru Thomas
Fees Officer: Position Available
4 Year Old Enrolment Officer: Joanne Hall
3 Year Old Enrolment Officer: Faye Di Fabio
Staff Liaison Officer: Hayley Van Dinter
Fundraising & Events Coordinators: Rebecca Zappia & Laura Wade

Sub-Committee

Fundraising & Events: Ben Agar, Belinda Brentkovich, Katrina Naish & Melanie McKertich
Maintenance Officer: Damien Hanan
Grants Officer: Position Available
Environmental Officer: Position Available
Duty Roster & Purchasing Officer: Regan Sailah

Financial Administration Assistant: Kerrie Hayes

Contact Information

9-11 Diamond Hills Drive, Greensborough, VIC 3088
PO Box 56, Greensborough, VIC 3088
Ph: 03 9435 8694
www.diamondhillspreschool.com.au
Facebook: DiamondHillsPreschoolVIC
diamond.hills.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Teachers

Penguin Group (Kim) - penguin.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
Platypus Group (Annmaree) - platypus.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
Koala, Possum & Wombats (Tania) - 3yo.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Committee

Diamond Hills General - diamond.hills.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
President - president.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
Vice President - vice.pres.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
Secretary - secretary.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
Treasurer - treasurer.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
Fundraising & Events Officers– fundraising.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
Enrolment Officers (3 & 4 Year Old) - enrol.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
Staff Liasion - staffing.dhps@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Newsletter Compiled by Nikki Reid

Thankyou to the following companies for their generous fundraising donations...

Aarons Outdoors

Ace Airport Parking

Airosmith Airconditioning & Heating

Amcal
St Helena Marketplace

Amcal - Tom Lane Pharmacy

Aqueduct News & Lotto

Arthur's Creek Garlic

Aspire Pilates

Aumanns

Australia Post Shop - Greensborough

Baby Hi-5

Balance Gymnastics

Bargain Depot - Epping

Beaurepaires - Greensborough

Bedhead hats

Bellissimo Restaurant

Ben & Jerry's -

Bicycle Centre - Eltham

Big 4

Bundoora Hotel

Thankyou to the following companies for their generous fundraising donations...

Bundoora Pool and Spa Shop

Bunnings - Eltham

BWS - St Helena

Centreview Café -

Chef's Fine Foods

Coles - Greensborough

Collingwood Children's Farm

Costco - Ringwood

Crust Pizza Eltham

Cycle House - Greensborough

Dairy Bell

Dance Plus

Diamond Creek Tavern

Diamond Valley Dance Academy

Dimmeys - South Morang

Driver Dynamics

Eltham Little Theatre

Eltham Swimming School

Empire Hair and Beauty

EOS Greek Tavern

Thankyou to the following companies for their generous fundraising donations...

Essential Beauty - Greensborough

Eureka Skydeck

Face Painting By Bec

Footy Plus More - Greensborough Plaza

Forty Winks - Eltham

Funfields

Godfreys - Greensborough

Gold FM

Greensborough Hotel

Greensborough Plaza

Guava Tea

Hair 4 Kids- Watsonia

Hairhouse Warehouse - Greensborough

Happy Popcorn

Happy Tummies

Harper Hair Company

Hashtag 86

Heritage Garden Centre

Hogs Breath Café - Epping

Hoyts - Greensborough

Thankyou to the following companies for their generous fundraising donations...

IGA - Apollo Parkways

Inflatable World -

Jack 'N' Jill Toothpaste

Jam and Cream

JDN Tax Solutions

Jsala Soy Candles

Kelly Mini Sports

Kids Space

Kings Of Kangaroo Ground

La Petite France

La Porchetta - Greensborough

Latrobe Golf Park

Little By Nature

Living Music

Lollipops

Lower Plenty Hotel

Luna Park

Mabel Jones

Margherita Pizza

Max & Me

Thankyou to the following companies for their generous fundraising donations...

Mini Maestros

Misk - Uni Hill

Mitre 10 - Diamond Valley

Move Dance Co

Napoleon Perdis - Greensborough

Nelsons Photography - Kodak Shop

Nillumbik Cellar

NRG Force

Officeworks - Bundoora

Oz Tenpin Bowling - Bundoora

Panton Hill Estate

Partylite - Sonja Harvy

Pastel and Bloom

Paw Prints

Peppercorn Thai Restaurant

Piccoli Portraits

Platters

Puffing Billy

Purdy's Furniture

Readings Cinema

Thankyou to the following companies for their generous fundraising donations...

Ready Steady Go Kids

Rooftop Drive-In

Safe in Motion

Schnitz - Greensborough

Scienceworks

Sentient Being

Shillinglaw Cafe

Skaterz

Soap Hand Car Wash

Supercheap Auto - South Morang

Sweetbox - Greensborough

Taco Bill - Greensborough

Tea Blossoms

TGI Fridays

The Blues Train

The Cheesecake Shop - Eltham

The Comics Lounge

The Glasshouse Eltham

The Good Guys- Thomastown

The Groove Train - Greensborough

Thankyou to the following companies for their generous fundraising donations...

The Party Pantry

The Windsor Hotel

Thermomix - Katrina Naish

Titans

Total Bliss

Tulip Beauty

Two Beans and a Farm

Ultra Tune Diamond Valley

Urban Grooves

Veronica's Pantry

Victorian State Ballet

Waxing Ninja

Wish upon a cupcake

Witches In Britches

Woolworths

Yarrambat Estate

Zahra Rose Design

Zoos Victoria

4 Gems