

February/March  
2007



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## News from Tracey



Well here we are in March already, time is just going far too quickly.

Thank you to all of you who attended the Parent Night on Wednesday, it was a very informative evening and all the parents who attended said it was worth coming for. A big Thank you to all the team, they did a fantastic job, Well Done! I am sure you will all agree with me that the 4

rooms are running very smoothly and the teams are working brilliantly together.

Thank You to all the families who have been paying their accounts on time but to all those other families, please pay by the due date to avoid reminders and fines being issued. The centre has many methods of paying your account, please see the front desk for more information.

We have lots of events

coming up so please keep an eye out for notices. As part of our Easter celebrations we will be having an Easter Bonnet parade and afternoon tea which we are inviting Thursday families along to.

I hope you all have a safe Easter break, I will be on leave the week of the 9th April, however Angie and Sandra will be here as normal.

## News from Angie



We have had a fantastic start to the year. The children are settling well into their rooms and routines whilst exploring their environments and making new friends.

Thank you to all the parents that came to our Parent Night. It was a great success and we hope that you now have a clearer insight into your child's room. For those parents who could not make it and are interested in meeting with your child's team leader, please feel free to make an appointment at front reception for a time that suits you. There are

also left over booklets that were prepared by your team leader in your child's room. The booklets hold a wealth of information from the room philosophy and goals to parent information and tip sheets.

We have some very exciting news to share. All the rooms have now been given laptops with internet access to enhance our programs and planning process. You can now directly email the staff in your room about your child and share any stories or events that have been occurring at home, so that we can link them into our program.

A big thank you to all the parents and children who have participated in our dress-up and family days so far. We have celebrated Purim, Chinese New Year, Sunnies for Sight day and St Patrick's Day. Keep an eye out in your child's room and on the notice boards in the corridor for more up coming events. There is also a section in the newsletter of events that you can pin up at home. Please remember if you celebrate any special occasions at home to let the staff in your child's room know so that we too can celebrate them with your child.

# News from the Possum Room

*“We believe that children in this age group learn best through repetition in their play. Young children learn about the world around them by imitating familiar people and situations. This is a way of furthering their understanding of the world and people in it who are important to them.”*

Hello to all the families in the Possum room. Well, what a busy few months, they have gone by us so quickly already.

Firstly, Fab, Courtenay and Mel would like to welcome Heidi to the Possum room team.

The Possum children have settled well in to the routines of the room.

The children have loved the tea set so much, we have changed the original plastic one over for a metal tea set to extend interest and senses. We have also placed one in the sandpit so that children can continue their imitative and dramatic play, by pouring cups of tea for one another.

Bubbles have been such a

highlight with all of the children wanting to play with them, stretching up high to pop them and even trying to catch them. We now have a bubble machine and we still can't get enough. Some of the Possums are even trying to say "Bubble"

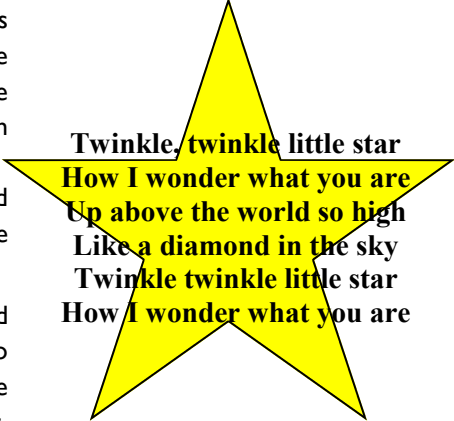
As our language is developing so is our love for music. Songs have been big of late with "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" being a favourite and they're even imitating the actions.

In February we celebrated Valentine's day and also Chinese New Year. Some of us did finger paintings, drawings and made lanterns.

In March (so far) we have celebrated Purim and we

dressed up as fairies, kings and queens. Don't forget that March will bring us another dress up day: Friday 16th March is St. Patrick's Day so don't forget to wear your green!

The words to our favourite song are:



**Twinkle, twinkle little star  
How I wonder what you are  
Up above the world so high  
Like a diamond in the sky  
Twinkle twinkle little star  
How I wonder what you are**

## Lets Meet Courtenay!

Hello everyone. My name is Courtenay and this year you will find me in the Possum room.

This is my 3rd year at Roseberry House, with the last two years being spent in

the two older rooms. So this year is a big change for me, and I'm loving it!

I look forward to working with all the families and children in the Possum room this year.



In my spare time I like to read, write letters to my pen pals overseas, go to the movies and catch up with friends.

# News from the Wombat Room

*“The world is an exciting place for toddlers, a place full of many different environments.*

*These environments confront the children in their everyday lives, creating challenges and achievements, friendships and bonds, knowledge and development.*

*These areas and many more are faced by the children, through the enjoyment of play. We believe it's the process that the children benefit from, not the product.”*

The year of course is flying by, and we are already welcoming the winter months. It's been a busy first half of the year. The children have settled in to the room and are really enjoying the new environment; they are now confident with the surroundings and are thriving to experience new and interesting activities and experiences.

The outdoor yard is full of different adventures; the children have taken an extra special liking to the bikes and the trampolines. Both experiences involve the children taking turns, the idea at first of turn taking was one which the children were not so keen on. However as the children continued to practice the behaviour the process has become a little easier each time. When there is a group of children, all eager to have a jump on the trampoline, we decided to add a very special rule, a rule to make the process and the idea of waiting easier. We decided

that counting to 10 for every child's turn and then when we reached 10 it meant that it was the next persons go. At first a teacher needed to be close by at all times, helping the children count and ensuring that all children had a go. But now, as the trampolines have been out for a couple of weeks, the children have become fantastic at counting and taking turns all by themselves. Of course, we sometimes forget who's turn it actually is, especially when there is a large group of children waiting, therefore we always have a teacher near by, listening and watching ever so closely and quietly. It is a similar process with the bikes however their turns are much longer and the children are playing at different activities whilst they are waiting. Martine also added a road to the outside area so that the children could have something to follow around and around.

We have had many different celebrations and events on at

Roseberry House. First we celebrated Purim a Jewish festival, the children came dressed up as a king, queen, fairy or clowns. The children that were dressed up looked adorable and we thank you for being involved. We also dressed in green to celebrate St Patrick's Day which was very successful as most of the children had something green on. Another recent event was parent night, a big thank you to all the parents that made the effort to come and be involved.

We also have the lap tops in the rooms now with email access. This has been so successful as we have been receiving many emails from most of you. We love receiving emails so please keep them coming. We appreciate and enjoy hearing stories about your child, we are welcome any other sort of email too, whether it's a question about your child, or to pass on information. So start typing J

## Let's Meet Caitlin!

Hi, my name is Caitlin, however most of the children call me Cait. I'm working full time in the Wombat room this year.

Some of you may remember me from last year, I was in the

Possum room and have since moved up with all your beautiful children.

In my spare time I love to be with my friends and go to the beach.

I have become very



attached to all the Wombats and look forward to spending another year with them.

X Caitlin X

# News from the Koala Room

*“We aim to maintain an inviting, warm and happy environment that promotes children’s development through play. The carers in the room encourage, support and guide the children through positive verbal and non verbal communication to ensure all have a sense of belonging and feel secure within the environment.”*

Lots has been happening in the Koala room this past month.

We celebrated Chinese New Year by making a paper mache dragon head decorated with coloured paper and then painted the dragon’s body all different colours. We then put on a parade for all our families and friends. We have documented the process in our room reflection book, the children really enjoyed working together as a group during this time.

I just came back from my honeymoon in Thailand. And told the Koalas all about my adventures. I told the children how I rode an elephant and patted a tiger. The Koalas then launched into stories about their own trips to the zoo and how

they have seen tigers and elephants. But they are behind the fence and you are not allowed to touch them. When I explained that the tigers were sleeping, the Koalas informed me that you need to be careful, because the tiger can wake up and eat you! I will have to bring in a photo to prove that the tiger didn’t try to gobble me up.

From this discussion we decided to play with the animal dress ups. We now have zebra’s, elephants and lions in our room. These dress ups are also great for independence skills as the children are encouraged to dress/undress themselves.

We also encourage independence skills throughout the day. We

encourage children to dress/undress themselves at rest/sleep time, to use tongs to serve themselves fruit at morning tea, pour their own drinks from jugs and the drinking fountain and to put their own shoes/socks on or off when entering the sandpit. We of course assist the children when needed however, these independence skills are valuable for the children’s confidence in themselves and their abilities.

Monday is our Hey De Ho class and we have been learning “I Can Sing a Rainbow” and “The Transport Song” which the children have also learnt sign language to. You may notice your children signing colours as we are teaching all the children the colours in sign.

## Lets Meet Kate!

Hi, my name is Kate and I am working in the Koala room.

I have been at Roseberry House for 5 months. Before I came to Roseberry House I was at another centre for 2

years and I also had a nanny position with a French family overseas for 2 years.

I have a 2 year old daughter whose name is Charlotte.

In my spare time I like to go for walks at the



beach, see friends and go shopping.

I am looking forward to 2007 with the Koala team.

*“Our kindergarten program is based around 2 fundamental ideas: a) Children learn through play and these play experiences need to be an extension of their own needs and interests and b) Children learn through their senses therefore a rich sensory environment leads to rich learning experiences. We look at the “whole” child, we are interested in all their areas of development.”*

## News from the Bilby Room

The year is now in full swing and the Bilby room is always a fun, exciting and happy room to visit.

Our enriching program has been warmly received by all our children. Hey De Ho gets the week off to a great start with singing, followed by dancing, library and cooking being the week fillers and PMP on a Friday completes the sandwich and rounds off our week beautifully.

The Bilbies have experienced their first excursion, that being our Wednesday children visit to the Traffic School. Our kids were wonderfully behaved both on the bus and at the Traffic School and made all the staff and parents who accompanied them, very proud. Our painted box cars added to the enjoyment of the day, so thank you to all the Bilbies who painted the boxes—even those who were

not Wednesday children.

“Sunnies For Sight Day” was celebrated in our room on Friday 23rd February. We enjoyed making our own sunglasses out of pipe cleaners and cellophane. We encourage all parents to look through our reflection book to see our photos and efforts.

Monday 5th March brought more laughter to the Bilby room. Thank you to the children for their wonderful effort to dress up as fairies, clowns, knights, princesses and kings.

Other events that we are looking forward to are our “Responsible Pet Program” incursion taking place on Wednesday 14th March, St Patrick’s Dress Up day on Friday 16th March and our excursion to the Botanical Gardens on Monday 2nd April.

The staff in the Bilby room look forward to meeting as many parents as possible at our parent night which will take place on Wednesday 14th March. This is the perfect opportunity for all of you to get to meet all of the staff on a more informal level as well as to chat to Charlene about any concerns, suggestions or feedback you wish to share. Positive parent communication is one of our main objectives here at Roseberry House, so we encourage as many of you as possible to attend this information evening.

We see this year as an educational journey. The car is loaded. Our seatbelts are on, the engine is running and we have just set off on the road of discovery, learning and playing. Join us on this magical ride and let us where the road takes us.....

## Lets Meet Mel!

Hi, my name is Mel and I am working in the Bilby room. I have a Diploma in Children’s Services and have been at Roseberry House for two years. Last year I was in the Koala room so I know lots of the

children and families.

I have a 4 year old daughter called Tinikar.

At the moment I am studying part time on Saturday mornings doing my Certificate IV in Legal Administration.



On weekends or in my spare time I relax by playing XBox or watching the Discovery Channel.



# News from Jen in the Kitchen

Hi Everyone,  
Children of all ages at Roseberry House love cake, and in particular birthday cake. While we do not eat cake everyday, it is always good to have it for special occasions, for example when it is someone's birthday, or a friend is leaving, a special celebration. The recipe we have included below is easily adapted to any flavour and freezes well for those unexpected guests and moments. It is also egg free, like all our recipes at Roseberry House.



## Cake (Egg Free)

### Ingredients

2 ½ cups Self Raising Flour  
1 ½ cups of Sugar  
½ cup of Baking Powder  
350mls Milk  
25mls White Vinegar  
75mls Cooking Oil  
25grms Melted Butter

### Method

1. Place all dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl
2. In a plastic measuring jug measure the milk and add the vinegar
3. In a separate jug add cooking oil and melted butter
4. Combine all wet ingredients into large mixing bowl and mix well
5. Pour the mixture into a greased pan and bake at 180° for 20—30 minutes

### Hints & Alternatives

If you are wanting a different flavour try adding a cup of any of the following to create a new taste:

- Apple with ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- Small tin of drained two fruits
- 2 mashed bananas and ½ cup honey
- ¼ cup orange juice and 1 teaspoon of the rind
- 2 tablespoons of cocoa with 50mls extra milk

### Handy Tip

Strawberries are a great source of insoluble fibre which helps to break down food and send water from the body to the intestine. This helps with the relief of constipation. Strawberries are also low in kilojoules.



## Kitchen Feedback

**What are your child's favourite meals at home that we could incorporate here at Roseberry House?**

**What other recipes would you like to see featured in our Roseberry House newsletter?**

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*“Good nutrition plays an important role in promoting a healthy, happy and alert child. The staff at Roseberry House are sensitive and responsive to each child’s daily nutritional needs and eating patterns, food preferences and cultural/religious or special dietary requirements.”*

“Working in partnership with parents will facilitate and support continuous improvement of the quality of care provided. This will help shape the children’s experiences and interactions and helps children to understand their community whilst building their social skills.”

## Dates to Remember For April & May

Date	Event/Information
Monday 2nd April	Botanical Gardens Excursion for Bilbies
Wednesday 4th April	Great Australian Bite Afternoon Tea—Gold coin donation
Thursday 5th April	Easter Hunt and Easter Bonnet Parade
<b>Thursday 5th April</b>	<b>April Fees Due</b>
Friday 6th April	Good Friday Public Holiday—Centre Closed
Monday 9th April	Easter Monday Public Holiday—Centre Closed
Wednesday 25th April	Anzac Day Public Holiday—Centre Closed
<b>Friday 4th May</b>	<b>May Fees Due</b>
Friday 11th May	Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea
Tuesday 22nd May	Wild Action Incursion for Koala and Bilby children
Monday 28th May	School Readiness Presentation Night 7:30pm T.B.C



### Did you know that you could now email the staff in your child’s room directly?

*Please ensure that emails regarding extra days, holidays, absences and invoicing are still directed to reception at [bentleigh@roseberryhouse.com.au](mailto:bentleigh@roseberryhouse.com.au)*

Possum Room  
[possums@roseberryhouse.com.au](mailto:possums@roseberryhouse.com.au)

Koala Room  
[koalas@roseberryhouse.com.au](mailto:koalas@roseberryhouse.com.au)

Wombat Room  
[wombats@roseberryhouse.com.au](mailto:wombats@roseberryhouse.com.au)

Bilby Room  
[bilbies@roseberryhouse.com.au](mailto:bilbies@roseberryhouse.com.au)