

In this month's Newsletter...

- * Administration * Support services available.
- * Kinder Start. * Little Diggers pass on books.
 - * QIP QA3 updated technology ☺.
 - * Child Protection week gathering.
- * From the Children - some of our ongoing projects and experiences... learning about bees in the garden; play with words - flower / flour leading to baking and growing wheat; sharing our pets and learning to live safely with pets; moon viewing and pizza family night.
- * Inclusion visitors. * Totem pole revamp and cultural learning. * PTTR visit... LR and Parkes.

* Important dates coming up...

- * **Families and children are invited to attend a Cooking Day with Mission Australia on Thursday 25th of October between 10 - 12 to Celebrate Children's Week.**
- * Dates for the **Kinder Start Program** for Little Diggers ... Program commences on **Thursday 29th of November**, as well as... the 6th and 13th of December. Combined Graduation - being held on the 18th of December.
- * Between 1st Nov and 14th of Dec we will have our **National Quality Assurance Assessment Visit** ... help us shine. ☺

QA7.1 Governance and Leadership. Administration Position Booking Forms for 2019 will be coming out to you shortly. Be sure to **indicate your last day of attendance for 2018 and start date in 2019**, as we require this information to manage our staffing. **Reopening on Monday 21st of January 2019.** If you have a child who is **going to school**, you will not be required to have one of these and **your end date will be the Friday 21st of December**, unless you talk to me and we can see what we can do to accommodate your needs, or you are leaving earlier. In November the accounts will be finalised to the end of the year / your last day.

All accounts must be paid in full before the end of this year, so we can start the New Year fresh.

To keep information current... If you need to update any information, please use the change of details form at the front desk.

*QA6.1.3 Support services available.

Christie Pacey from MacKillop Family Services is able to provide **Therapy Assistant Program** tailored to the child and family needs. Call 0438 807 857. See full details on our notice board. Also just to make an amendment from our last newsletter... The **Early Childhood Nurse** comes to LR Community Health on Tuesdays and her name is **Belinda Bailey**.

Kinder Start Children returning from their first visit to the LRCS... Teddy's Picnic! ...**becoming ready for school.** QA6.2.1 Continuity of learning and transitions for each child are supported. The children reported that they had seen the Turtle Rules, as we had discussed, which will help them remember what to do.



*** Photo Day...** Thank you to everyone for coming on the day... and for your patience. Photos will be here shortly ☺



* Little Diggers pass on books...

QA6.2.3 Community engagement the service builds relationships and engages with its community. Little Diggers pass on books from **Books 4Outback** to **Liz from Family Day Care** and **Carol from MacKillop Family Services**.

This also supports our community project **Paint The Town REaD.**

QIP QA3 Thank you to POLD for their support in us being able to purchase our two tablets and achieving our goal. We will continue to work towards the total tally. At the beginning of October we reached \$471.90.

. Thank you to Natasha Earl for her contribution and the ongoing ones from Karnie from NSW Outback Division.

Thank you to Dimity our OT for putting together a social story to go with new technology that has our expectations which the children helped to come up with. We look forward to where this new technology will take us... and what we have learned together along the way... reflecting our philosophy. 😊



On Monday the 24th of September we gathered with our Early Childhood Community in a Friendship Day.

Thank you to Karnie from Did ya know? NSW Outback Division, LR Preschool, McKillop Rural Services from Lightning Ridge, Walgett and Brewarrina, Goodooga Preschool and PAT Group (Parent and Teacher playgroup) for coming together for the day.

September - 2 – 8 Child protection Week.
Play your part - NAPCAN - prevent Child Abuse and Neglect.
Stronger Communities, Safer Children.

“It takes a village to raise a child” and in Lightning Ridge united we stand in the prevention of child abuse & neglect.

My Underpants Rule!

“What’s under my pants belongs only to me!
 No one can touch there or ask me to see.”

PANTS stands for:

- Privates are private
- Always remember your body belongs to you
- No means no
- Talk about secrets that upset you
- Speak up, someone can help



There were some special visitors... a Kangaroo and a Dinosaur. Later we sat together and enjoyed a lovely lunch thanks to Morilla’s and the Bowling Club for the food and guests. Thanks to Jason for driving us in the bus and the Aboriginal Child and Family Centre for this service. Thanks also to Brad (one of our Dads) for joining us, making this excursion possible. Our appreciation ...to all... it was a lovely outing, spending time in our community.

*** From the Children - Some of our ongoing projects and experiences...**

From play outside and in the garden ...we have been learning about bees.

We need Bees... to pollenate our plants, gather nectar and make honey.



From play with words - flower / flour... We compared words (literacy learning) and objects questioning... What we use them for? and Where they come from?... We revisited one of our favourite stories The Little Red Hen who baked bread using flour... we decided to make damper.



“Like a chef” says Hunter. “Yeah, we chefs” agrees Lucas P. Left Lucas explains to Phoenix how to “roll it” into a ball. Melanie, Lucas K and Malakii all help to make our damper and they turned out... “just right” and “eat it now” says Hunter... which we did. Yum!

Most children knew that milk comes from a cow, but not many knew that flour comes from wheat... again we reflected back onto the Little Red Hen and this lead to **growing some wheat** .



Through conversations with families about what we were investigating, Ellie and her Mum brought in some grains of wheat, some wheat growing in a pot and some flour in a jar. They had footage to show us how the grains of wheat were ground to make flour. **Thank you Natasha for contributing** to our program and what the children are learning. We planted the grains in the bottom of egg cartons to sprout and when they had grown enough we planted the sprouts into our garden. Be sure to check this out in the garden.

The Sparkles have been following an interest about ... **My Pet** LO4.4c Children experience the benefits and pleasures of shared learning, exploration of their families pet with their friends.



Thank you to all the families for bringing in photos of their pets for this project, which encouraged conversation, connecting centre and home with a common interest. As well as extending on children's knowledge of different animals and putting this on paper...drawing.

QA2 Safety Each child is protected... Living with Pets.



Jackie from Responsible Pets came to teach us about living with pets... in particularly dogs. Always play safe have an adult nearby. Jackie introduced us to Elmo who also came to help our learning. Jackie talked about **how dog feels** i.e. face space tired, scared cranky etc. Highlight **when not to touch - if the dog is sleeping, eating, not well or with their babies.**



If a strange dog comes up to us and we are scared - stand still, keeps hands down, stay quiet, look down at the ground, when the dog loses interest, back away slowly. If you see a dog with... **no lead, no owner - no touch!** Always ask "May I pat your dog?" Let the dog smell the back of your hand (Thumbelina in a blanket). **Pat the dog on the back- from the collar to the top of the tail.**

***Moon viewing and pizza... Family night.**

LO4 Children are confident and involved learners.
LO4.2d explore their environment... the world around us.



Thank you to **Keith** being the telescope controller.



"It has hole in it! Holes with hard bits" **Hunter** describes.



Frank says, "A ball".



Skylar and **Jayhli** were supported to have a look.



"I'm hungry, yum pizza" says **Jacob** as we all sat down to eat.



Luke and his family also joined us. At first Luke looked for aliens. Once Luke got to look through the telescope, he comments that "The moon looks like a golf ball".

***Inclusion Support Visitors...**



We recently had **Julie Ward** and **Kerrie Wood** from **NSW IA** (Inclusion Agency) come to see **Myra Wells** (who is our **IP** - Inclusion Professional) working area, connecting with her centres and learn about the outback. Myra also came to spend time with us. Pictured here reading with the children. We took this opportunity to have a team meeting with Myra to reflect on barriers we face and strategies to work with this along with our **SIP Strategic Inclusion Plan**. QA6.2.2 Access and participation... **Effective partnerships support children's access, inclusion and participation in the program.**

* Totem Pole revamp and Cultural Learning...

Darryl Ferguson came to revamp and preserve our Totem Pole, so that we will have it for many more years to come. He talked with the children about what he was doing and why; and they got to help in this process. Also talking about our local language and totem - **girrabirrii** the **long neck turtle**. Darryl explained how the Totem Pole is one way aboriginal people tell stories.



Our beautiful Totem Pole.



Another way of telling stories is drawing in the sand. Darryl drew symbols and described what they meant. **Hunter & Izak** add their symbols; **Ryder** makes his hand prints in the sand. **LO1.3f Children develop their social and cultural heritage through engagement with community members. Thank you for spending time with us and sharing your knowledge.**



QA6.2.3 Our Community Project... PTTR - Paint the Town REaD



While **Barbie Bates** (Executive Director of PTTR) was visiting Lightning Ridge she was able to spend some time reading with the children under a tree at Little Diggers. The **Parkes** mascot **The Reading Bug** and **Mel Evans**. On the day the crowd gather for their Reading day event in Cook Park. **Ruby Roo** (Martina) and **Robyne Harrison** from **Paint Penrith REaD**, alongside **Rhonda Brain** one of the **cofounders** of **Paint the Town Read**.



Our project is progressing and it was great to have Barbie in the Ridge to meet children, families and community members of Little Diggers, other services and our town. I had the opportunity to go to **Parkes** to celebrate their **REaDiculous Reading Day**. A day where lots of ideas were gathered, and from this experience we are introducing **Books for Babies** to Lightning Ridge. **Books4Outback** have once again supported this side of the project, with some books to get it started. We are excited to announce that **Karnie Walford** (from the Did ya know? Project) and **Belinda Bailey** (our Early Childhood Nurse) have come on board to implement this in our community.

Barbie, Sarah and **cofounder Cheree Rosser** reading at the monument.