

Booleroo Centre & District Kindergarten Annual Report



2014



Context

Preschool Name: Booleroo Centre & District Kindergarten

Preschool Number: 6608

Preschool Leader: Jennifer Stringer

Pirie Portfolio: Flinder's Partnership

This year we again had myself as leader over the kindergarten, as well as leader for the school, with Angela Hamlyn employed as the preschool teacher and Karen Blesing as Early Childhood Worker (ECW1).

The Kindy/Care/Playgroup committee with Emma McSporrان as Chair and Sarah Arthur as secretary worked hard to ensure that questions were answered about communication and management of the centre as I was leading off site.

As my appointment to Booleroo Centre District School was term by term, Angela's position was also term by term and we were fortunate that we could have continuity with Angela as a teacher, for familiar faces are important for the circle of security in early years learning.

Rachel Girdham, Vanessa Hook and Elfie Woolford were employed for additional hours to ensure the smooth operation of both kindergarten and rural care. Vanessa worked a day a week at Melrose Rural Care to undertake administrative tasks, Elfie the same at Booleroo Rural Care and Rachel worked on tasks such as the Quality Improvement Plan for both Booleroo and Melrose, policies for both sites, philosophies for both sites and learning programs with Angela.

I would like to thank Rachel for the work that she did in these areas for it meant that both centres were continually improving.

I would like to thank Emma, Sarah and the committee for their work and passion to ensure quality learning in 2014.

With my appointment to BCDS for five years it will be possible to have a Kindergarten Director appointed for a substantial time and ensure leadership from within the site.

Thank you to staff over my 10 years at Melrose Rural Care (Kindergarten/Outreach Preschool) as Director and 8 years at Booleroo Centre and District Kindergarten, we were all on a learning journey. Thanks also to the relief staff who stepped up to undertake training and be part of the professional care network for both centres.



Lurline Mills, Rachel Yates, Denise Walter and Rachel Girdham during the farewell for Rachel Yates!

Kindy Highlights 2015

- There a rather busy start to our year. In Term 1 we:
- Used our literacy books to practise writing letters and our names.
- Went to the swimming pool and joined in with the junior school carnival
- Visited the R/1 class twice and they came to visit us.
- Read Slinky Malinky every day and did different phonological activities based on the book.
- Cooked on Fridays, our new half day. We have used apples and pears from our garden as well of lots of other healthy food.Had two Show & Tell mornings.
- Had baby chicks arrive.
- Walked around school trying to find Easter Bilby.



In Term2 we:

- Had Kindy photos taken.
- Di and Bec visited us from the Rural Health team with the 'Eat a Rainbow' programme.
- Cooked on Fridays, using the rainbow theme.
- Visits to and from the R/1 class.
- 2 Show & Tell mornings.
- Made a marvellous Mother's Day present.
- Held our 'Mothers Evening' which was enjoyed by all.
- Brought in pictures of our pets, had a show and tell then added them to our pet collage.
- Planted seeds and seedlings in our garden.
- Alisha came to read us a story and we painted teddy bears.
- Visited Mount View Homes and acted out stories.



In term 3 we:

- Went with junior school to Wilmington to watch a drumming performance.
- Walked over to school to collect gumnuts to make our own drums and shakers.
- We cooked on Friday mornings including scones, tacos and a special fathers present.
- Children each had a turn choosing what equipment to play with outside.
- Visited the school.
- Went to Port Pirie with the junior school and visited the bike safety track and went and watched Patch Theatre 'Cranky Bear' performance.

- Our dads came to kindy and we showed them all the different things we do. We made pizza for tea.
- Show and Tell mornings.
- Watched the Year 9's play soccer.

In term 4 we:

- Practiced for the end of year concert as busy insects
- Visited each other's houses and farms
- Transitioned to school
- Performed in the concert and received our graduation certificates
- Had our Christmas party with a special visit from Santa Claus.
- We farewelled and thanked Angela Hamlyn for being our teacher and Jenny Stringer for being our Director, wished our graduates well in their life at school. Good luck to Ethan Arthur, Gemma O'Callaghan, Henley Smith, Henry Zwar, Iris Folkers, Jemma Groves, Ned Woolford, Olivia Roocke, Paige Bishop, Xavier Waldon and Zaiden Van Der Werf.



News to hand, we welcome Chris Baldock as Kindy Director for 2015.

Quality Improvement Plan

The staff from the Booleroo Rural Care, Melrose Rural Care, Booleroo Centre & District Kindergarten worked with Rachel Girdham to review each Quality Improvement Plan, addressing for each site a new Philosophy which encompassed views of current families and staff with the learning, safety and development of children as the focus. Both QIP's were presented to Governing Council.

Intervention and Support Programs

Throughout 2014 we had received 1 hour per week targeted funding for intervention and support in speech. We continued to support each child individually in their learning programme and speech development.

Financial Statement

Income by Funding Source: for Booleroo Centre and District Kindergarten and Rural Care and Melrose Rural Care.

	Funding Source	Amount
1	Resource Entitlement	429,524.05
2	Grants: Facilities	19,847.00
3	Parent Contributions	4,745.00
4	Fundraising	199.97
5	Other	311.00

Report from Governing Council

2014 was a year of change for the Booleroo Centre and District Kindergarten, with implementation of the 15 hours of Universal Access, implementation of the Same Day Policy intake and initiation of the Preschool Associated program.

The year commenced with a visit to both Booleroo Centre and Melrose sites by DECS officials on February 19th. Namely, Kathryn Jordan (Director Early Childhood Services), Helen Leo (Manager Preschool Policy and Programs) and Jess Arbon (Early Childhood Leader, Flinders Partnership) for an Early Childhood Service Consultation. This was well attended by parents. A working group of two representatives from each town was formed. The purpose of this group was to review and action recommendations from the consultations and explore a future model of early childhood services considering declining kindergarten numbers across some of the towns.

The preschool service at Melrose continued not to reopen, despite ongoing campaigning by Melrose parents and the wider Melrose community. Despite this, Rural Care at Melrose continued for 5 days a week, the Melrose Play Centre (financially supported by Melrose Primary School for 3 hours and 3 hours from DECD) was also operational on Wednesdays and playgroup continued at the Melrose integrated site.

Mrs Jenny Stringer continued on as Director, despite also assuming the position of Principal of Booleroo Centre District School. Existing rural care staff at Booleroo Centre and Melrose were employed in an additional capacity to take on duties in relation to Rural Care operations. Rachel Girdham was also employed mid-year to support with implementation of some administrative policy and procedural work. Booleroo Kindergarten secured Angela Hamlyn as teacher. This initially commenced as a term by term contract, but fortunately for the children, she continued in the position for all four terms providing much needed continuity. She worked closely alongside Karen Blesing as ECW and other staff to ensure that the Kindergarten ran smoothly. The arrangement of one person assuming both the Principal position of Booleroo Centre District School, the Kindergarten and Rural Care, was a concern to the parents. The parent group did voice this concern, however DECD human resource procedures meant that this continued for the entire year.

The Same Day Policy intake for 2014 meant that all kindergarten students born after May 2009, but before April 30th 2010 commenced together in Term one, 2015. This included some Melrose families who chose to send their children to Booleroo Centre. The preschool program consisted of 15 hours a week, which spanned over two full days (Tuesdays and Thursdays) and one half day every alternate Friday.

The Same Day Policy intake for 2014 also had implications for Rural Care, in that there were fewer rural care positions available throughout the year (due to the decreased movement of kindergarten students to school each term) and more places available at the end of the year. This meant Rural Care staff had to anticipate and plan ahead for this explosion of work at the end of the year, in managing the

waitlists, by starting a dialogue with families early in Term 4 about their child's anticipated transition to school.

Towards the end of term three, there was interest expressed from parents of children commencing school in 2015 for the need for more after school care. This resulted in parents being formally surveyed to examine the need further. Unfortunately, for those families who indicated the need for after school care, insufficient interest was obtained to extend after school care places entering 2015.

The Preschool Associated Program was implemented following enquiries from parents. This is an additional service now offered at Booleroo Centre Kindergarten upon negotiation with the Director to support children with additional needs or special circumstances; for example, allowing a child to start the program prior to commencement of Kindergarten. A Preschool Expression of Interest form was distributed to families to determine their preferred preschool sites, to predict numbers for future enrolments.

Booleroo Centre and Melrose Rural Care were fortunate to obtain funding for \$2500 at each site for resources targeting birth to two year old children accessing care. Parents were consulted on and valuable resources secured. Five hundred dollars of OPAL grant funding was also obtained for the purchase of a pedal bike and large blocks and mobile phones provided to each site.

As a committee we also had to decide on who should be nominated for the inaugural Booleroo Centre and Districts Kindergarten Volunteer award. Despite a wide range of volunteers assisting in different ways throughout the year; the committee felt that David Prosser stood out as an initial winner, for his tireless work at the kindergarten over numerous years in the grounds, undertaking a great deal of 'behind the scenes' work.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking the volunteer parents on our committee (whom the majority were new to the committee) and those who may have volunteered during the year in various roles or assisting with activities (planting grass, pruning trees, accompanying excursions). I would also like to thank the staff who worked tirelessly throughout 2014 to improve the service available in the community, whilst adapting to a significant amount of change in order to support our children's healthy learning and development.

Thanks again,
Emma McSporran (Kindergarten/ Rural
Care/Playgroup Chairperson)



Student Data

Enrolments for BCDK

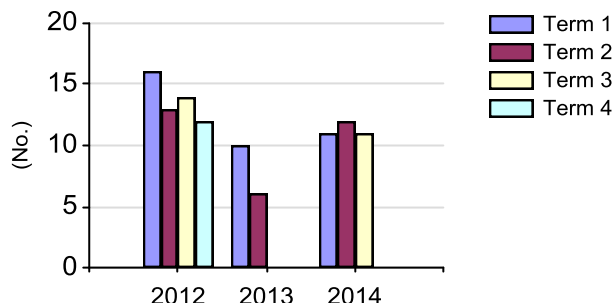


Table 1: Enrolments by Term

Enrolment by Term				
Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2012	16	13	14	12
2013	10	6		
2014	11	12	11	

Based on person counts in the two week reference period each term.

Excludes pre-entry.

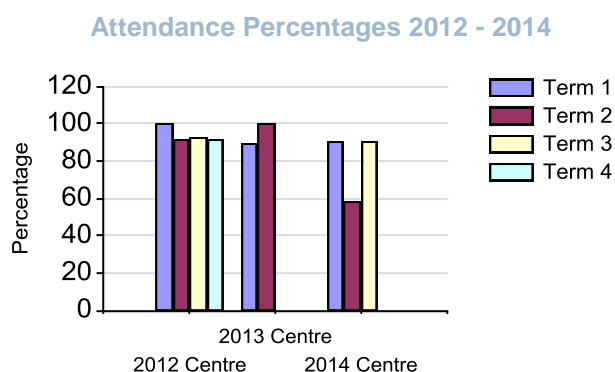
Source: Preschool Data Collection, Data Management and Information Systems

Figures for term four remained stable, although not given in graph form. Our figure forecast for 2015 looks to be the same, although we may receive enrolments from the Melrose catchment. Bus service will be available for these children. Enrolment figures need to be above 10 for a preschool service to be viable and as such will continue as an area of concern in our local geographical area.



Attendance for BCDK.

Figure 2: Attendance by Term



DECD attendance expectations are for 100% attendance with an expected target of 93%, a drive for 2015 will be to lift attendance, for regular attendance ensures continuity of learning and skill development.

Table 2: Attendance Percentages 2012 - 2014

Attendance Percentage				
Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2012 Centre	100.0	92.3	92.9	91.7
2013 Centre	90.0	100.0		
2014 Centre	90.9	58.3	90.9	
2012 State	87.4	85.9	84.5	85.5
2013 State	88.7	88.0		
2014 State	89.9	88.8	85.9	

Based on attendances recorded in the two week reference period each term, and calculated to an average unadjusted daily attendance (deemed attendance). Attendance percentages are based on the calculated deemed attendance (integer), divided by the number of enrolments. Excludes pre-entry Note: Figures have been revised for previous years, using integer deemed attendance not decimal.

Source: Preschool Data Collection, Data Management and Information Systems



Booleroo Rural Child Care

JULY 2013 TO JUN 2014

WEEKLY AVERAGE (calculated over 5 days)

2013/14	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK5	Average for month
JUL	4.6	4.5	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.6
AUG	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.7		4.6
SEP	4.8	4.7	4.6	5.1		4.8
OCT	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.7
NOV	4.8	4.7	4.7	5.2		4.8
DEC	4.8	5.0	4.9			4.9
JAN		4.1	4.4	5.4	4.9	4.7
FEB	4.8	5.1	4.8	4.9		4.9
MAR	5.1	4.8	4.9	4.9		4.9
APR	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	5.0	4.8

- * Public Holiday Mon Wk 2
- * Public Holiday Wed & Thurs Wk 4
- * Public Holiday Wed Wk 1 & Mon Wk 5
- * Public Holiday Mon Wk 2
- * Public Holiday Fri Wk 3; Mon & Fri Wk 4

Booleroo Rural Child Care

JULY 2014 TO JUN 2015

WEEKLY AVERAGE (calculated over 5 days)

2014/15	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK5	Average for month
JUL	5.0	4.9	5.5	4.8	5.0	5.0
AUG	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8		4.8
SEP	4.8	5.5	4.8	4.9		5.0
OCT	5.1	4.7	4.6	4.7		4.8
NOV	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.9		4.8
DEC	4.8					
JAN						

- * Public Holiday Mon Wk 2
- * Public Holiday Thurs & Fri Wk 4, Thurs Wk5
- * Public Holiday Mon Wk 4

Booleroo centredistrictschool



Melrose Rural Child Care

JULY 2013 TO JUN 2014

WEEKLY AVERAGE (calculated over 5 days)

2013/14	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK5	Average for month
JUL	4.5	4.8	5.4	4.2	4.4	4.6
AUG	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.1		4.3
SEP	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.4		4.4
OCT	5.8	5.2	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.7
NOV	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.4		4.4
DEC	4.4	4.5	4.4			4.4
JAN		4.2	3.6	5.3	3.8	4.2
FEB	4.3	3.5	4.0	4.2		4.0
MAR	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.0		4.1
APR	4.2	4.7	4.8	4.2	4.2	4.4
MAY						
JUN						

- * Public Holiday Mon Wk 2
- * Public Holiday Wed & Thurs Wk 4
- * Public Holiday Wed Wk 1 & Mon Wk 5
- * Public Holiday Mon Wk 2
- * Public Holiday Fri Wk 3, Mon & Fri Wk 4
- * Public Holiday Mon Wk 2

Melrose Rural Child Care

JULY 2014 TO JUN 2015

WEEKLY AVERAGE (calculated over 5 days)

2014/15	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK5	Average for month
JUL	4.1	4.4	5.1	4.3	4.3	4.4
AUG	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.3		4.3
SEP	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.7		4.5
OCT	5.1	5.3	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.7
NOV	4.4	4.2	4.5	4.3		4.3
DEC	4.2					
JAN						

- * Public Holiday Mon Wk 2
- * Public Holiday Thurs & Fri Wk 4, Thurs Wk5
- * Public Holiday Mon Wk 4

Both the Booleroo and Melrose Rural Care centres are maintaining Full Time Equivalences (FTE) above 3.9 FTE. 3.9 is the viability figure for a Rural Care Centre across the state. Combined with after school care and with the maximum of 4 children under school age; gives rise to the average figures for both centres. There is a waiting list for both centres, however to employ another ECW2 to make an extra session we need to have 10 FTE to guarantee sustainability. The extra 6 children pay for the ECW2 salary for care. DECD fund the initial ECW2, however any subsequent employment of ECW2s is a site expense. Parents were surveyed in 2014 to ascertain any change in care needs for the geographical area.



Feeder Schools

Table 3: Feeder School Percentage Data 2012 - 2014

Feeder Schools				
Site number - Name	Type	2012	2013	2014
0253 - Melrose Primary School	Govt.		33.3	
0487 - Wirrabara Primary School	Govt.	12.5		
0771 - Booleroo Centre District School	Govt.	87.5	66.7	100.0
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0

Based on the percent of children currently enrolled who will attend school in the

following year, where the expected school is known.

Due to rounding totals may not add up to 100%.

Source: Term 3 Preschool Data Collection, Data Management and Information Systems

Parent concern from other towns often focusses on a preschool such as Booleroo Centre and District Kindergarten's ability to transition to schools other than Booleroo Centre District School. This tabulated data indicates the capacity for transitions to other sites, with regularly organized sessions within the destination school and sharing of information between staff enabling children to enter school of choice smoothly.

Client Opinion

Parent opinion was gathered with regard to Rural Care needs for Before School Care, After School Care, Holiday Care and the care positions available after the half day kindy session every fortnight. The emphasis of the surveys was to determine whether it was possible to run another after school session at Booleroo for school aged children. The difficulty which presented itself was that not each family needed the same day for care and whilst there were groupings of family needs, 6 families in addition to the 4 families already using care were required to make it economically viable. In essence we need a guarantee of 10 children to use the service to have two early childhood workers contracted. This will need to be a survey that is carried out periodically to determine if family's needs have changed over time.

