



Booleroo Centre District Preschool and Rural Care Governing Council Report Date 04/02/2013



ACECQA

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority

Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice

- Both Booleroo and Melrose sites have taken delivery of a lounge each. These have been placed in the reading areas to assist with shared reading experiences for staff/children, parents/children and children/children.
- Booleroo has received an hour support for Speech Pathology.
- Booleroo preschool children have suggested themes for the play theme corner and voted on what they would like to have set up for the term. As we have a cardboard cubby which can be painted to match the theme, we went with the two most popular votes and will paint $\frac{1}{2}$ the cubby as a road-works office and the other $\frac{1}{2}$ as a fairy tree-house. This will enable us to turn the cubby according to children's needs of the day!
- The children have spoken to staff about what they did during the holidays, using crayons to depict and a paint wash to experience a different art medium.
- This week at Booleroo has primarily been based on getting to know one another and the centre again, re-acquaint ourselves with the "rules" of the centre and be introduced to the characters from the "You Can Do It" programme, Oscar Organised, Gabby Get-a-along, Pete Persistence, Ricky Resilience and Connie Confidence.
- At Booleroo the children have checked out the newly hatched chicken which arrived over the Christmas! Out the back of the building we also have pears and apples ripening to use for healthy eating/cooking, later in the term. As part of the healthy eating the children have made peach pops, using peaches from home, I will take peaches to Melrose next week. Hygiene practices were also highlighted.
- Pencils and paper were put out for drawing and also to work on pencil grip for writing practice purpose.
- The children have made handprints which will go up as a numerical display, with a number line, words and stamp shapes grouped in number order.
- Think Feet First through the Opal programme begins this term as well, with some pedometers waiting to be worn by children to walk to a destination. We will discuss with children where they would like to "go"!! We will map as we go.
- Notices have gone home to parents asking them to bring along bathers; George has agreed that we can share the facilities while the school is having swim instructors. We tend to do our own thing at the wading pool and occasionally go from step to step in the larger pool. We will need to have parent support to keep the ratio of 1 adult to 2 children under the new guidelines for 3 to 5 year olds. We most likely undertake this on Tuesdays for weeks 2 and 3 from 11.50 to 12.30 and ask parents to pick up children from the pool. Thinking to have parent info session at pool to save time on shifting chn...will ask parents.



Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

- At both Booleroo and Melrose we were able to secure \$10,000 each for maintenance. Anthony Pisani has been for tours of each site with me to discuss the maintenance. At Melrose we are going to have the cement tank stand removed as it is fretting. The wheelchair walkway will be lifted to the height of the verandah and will have the whole walkway resheeted in a non-slip material as it has a crack running down the centre of it. The interior play space will be repainted and the signage updated to reflect the Rural Care opening hours. At Booleroo the air conditioner in the sleep room will be replaced with a temperature controlled version adequate for sleep standards for child care. The flooring in the main eating area will be replaced as it is dimpling and cracking due to white ant activity (we have had white treatment), the paint sink will be removed from inside and fixed outside as well as having pinup boards located under the windows in the main eating area (I was seeking a repaint, but at Anthony's suggestion we'll go for pin up boards).
- Children during group time have listened and discussed the book "No Hat Brigade" with emphasis on sun safety.
- Rule reminders about where it safe to run and where it is better to walk, respect for others for what we say and do.
- Emphasis on hand washing routines.
- Walk in storage shed has been retidied and sorted for safer access.

Quality Area 3: Physical environment

- Both Booleroo and Melrose outdoor environments are looking great, functional and safe, due to the work of the groundsmen and volunteers. Inside play spaces are also functional, safe and appropriate for learning through play.
- Ken Walter has come into Booleroo to measure up for the jetty (to complement the boat) and indicated that he can make our "jetty" in February, when things are reasonably quiet for him.

Quality Area 4: Staffing arrangements

- Melrose Outreach Preschool service has gone into recess. The preschool teacher whom was on contract now has a contract with Solomon Town Kindergarten and Karen Blesing as ECW1 maintains her position at Booleroo.
- With the advent of a Play centre at Melrose (run by the primary school) one of the rural care staff applied and won the position and as a result rescinded 5.5hrs of her contract, This has been taken up by Rachel Yates (was working at the centre for 11 hours, now 16)
- Liz, Roweena and Rachel have taken up positions behind Katrina. ECW2's with Diploma are hard to find with the National Quality requirements. Liz and Roweena have begun their study for the Diploma, making visits to the Gowrie training centre together.
- I would like to thank Karin Pascoe for taking on my position for the last three weeks of last term. Not an easy task when there are concerts, graduations, portfolios, summative reports and oral literacy reports to coordinate and collate. Thankfully I was able to do computer work, so all the summative and oral reports could be completed and sent out before the end of the year.
- Karin Pascoe has again been in this year for me all ready, as I have had a meeting on Tuesday with Jane Moore (YMN Early Childhood Consultant) to answer some questions from the new Education Minister, Jennifer Rankine about staffing at Melrose around the outreach service going into recess. I also had a line management meeting on Thursday with the new Assistant Regional Director, Joann Weckert (maybe known to some when she was principal at Gladstone High School).

Quality Area 5: Relationships with children

- Staff continue to work with children on attachment to make the transition points of drop off at either service easy for the children and parents. If a child is upset upon the parent leaving, staff ring the parents later to let the parent know how the child is travelling. Most times once the parent has left the tears dry and the child becomes engrossed in activities which are happening.
- 3 children will be transitioning from Booleroo this term
- A transition package will be organised after discussion with Paul Arthur, the new junior primary coordinator. Parents have begun to look for information and suggested that a handbook and uniform order

form goes up on the schools website, for easy access. Younger families access online materials more than the printed.

Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

- Committee meeting to be held in week 4 at Booleroo Tuesday 19th February.
- Survey results for parent opinion poll are in, where there were less than 4 responses (Melrose) there are no graphs available for the questions asked, the data for Booleroo quite positive, but only 4 responses. Last year we trialled sending home the surveys with families who had just finished at the centre, as they receive summative assessments, oral language reports on top of the normal portfolio. The thought being we would gain more responses. At the end of term 3, we changed tack and handed out to everybody. This left a short turn around and an overall small response, so in 2013 we will revert to handing out the survey as soon as it comes out and reminding parents of the due date.
- There is no pre entry this term. At the end of the year I am thinking that we would have orientation occur on days which current children undertake transition to the school, however yet to discuss with George, parents and sub-committee.
- I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank Lynne as GC chair and Jo as GC member for meeting with representatives from the Save the Melrose Kindy Group, along with Dan Van Holst Pellekan to discuss their concerns. Also thanks to all of you for responding quickly to Lynne's request regarding a letter of support. Lynne has sent this letter. The Education Minister of the time wrote to the Save the Melrose Kindy Group to advise that the outreach preschool service would close. With the advent of a new minister, the group have again sent requests in with supporting points. Many radio interviews, meetings, petitions and photo in local paper.
- I have been approached by Margaret Koch to be interviewed about the outreach preschool service and must advise her of DECD protocols, suggest

Quality Area 7: Leadership and service management

- FRRR grant funding still to purchase big and other books, once this is completed
- RES for 2013 will reflect change to PSD level, no teacher for Melrose. Booleroo and Melrose will receive just over \$10,000 for maintenance and repairs.
- Staff are beginning to receive their certificates of approval from the Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards Board of South Australia, as too the centres of Booleroo and Melrose. These certificates will go up on display for parent perusal as they come in.
- An OH issue of staff accessing the centres, bringing non centre staff on site during non-opening hours has been discussed and staff have been alerted to protocols of seeking the director approval and that non staff of the centre should be signing in. Procedures and protocols will be drawn up shortly to support the oral directive.
- Please be advised that DECD Rural Care have emailed today that there is a fee increase of \$5 per day, taking the gross fee to be \$68 per day, effective from February. This information will be forwarded to parents as soon as possible.
- Have changed the days that I undertake Rural Care at Booleroo and Melrose, to every second Monday is Melrose then Booleroo and every second Wednesday is Booleroo then Melrose. Hope to change perception at Melrose that I am never there. Rural Care funds me to be there one day per week. Rural Care funds all directors to oversee rural care for one day a week!
- DECD Rural Care have sent a letter thanking me for support to Catherine Hunt and Phil Megson during the development and consultation to complete the new Rural Care Program Guidelines, Enrolment and Fee Payment Policy. These are now available to centres online.
- Payroll and HR issues continue to dog staff, I spend considerable time chasing up why relievers haven't been paid or staff being overpaid/underpaid, leave issues etc. Will also have to chase up my leave which has been approved as some has been granted as with pay and some without pay! The with pay part I can do!! The without part (along with the rest of the staff) I can't!!
- Line management meeting to be organised as soon as possible to ensure that training matches the centres quality improvement plan and necessary requirements for working in a DECD site.
- I am again mentoring a leader at another kindy and am part of the YMN Regional Leaders Executive and PD Committee.

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