Tailem Bend Kindergarten
2008 Annual Report

Another Year of Learning & Fun at Tailem Bend Kindergarten!

It's been another year of happy times, great friendships and a huge variety of learning experiences focusing on all areas of the children’s development this year at Tailem Bend Kindergarten.

2008 began with a new teacher Emma Schulz, who we had previously employed as a Relief Teacher. Em’s approach to teaching, learning and behaviour management are closely aligned with our own, which meant that she was able to seamlessly join our staff team. We were also lucky enough to have consistency across the rest of the team, by being able to keep Toni Rabone and Vicki Wrigley on board. Toni and Vicki are fabulous in their support of Em and I, of the curriculum and most importantly, the children.

This year as always, we’ve worked tirelessly to provide learning experiences for the children that are challenging yet fun, and that bring a broad experience of the world to the children. It's impossible to describe all of the learning experiences that the children participated in this year. However, some particular foci for 2008 included learning about gardening and plants, ourselves and each other, families, similarities and differences, diversity, acceptance of others, all aspects of literacy and numeracy, the Child Protection Curriculum, keeping our bodies and brains healthy, and animals (especially mealworms!).

Dads & Grandads, and Mums & Grandmas Days

Raising awareness of & money for others: Hairlarious Day & Universal Children’s Day

Visits to: Morrell’s Farm and Tailem Bend Police Station

Visits from: Zoomobile & Artist-in-Residence

Mealworm set-up and delivery

Celebrating Literacy Week
Some other highlights for 2008 include:

- Support for the kindy through the Communities for Children Initiative, including $10,000 towards bikes, TV, DVD recorder, bookshelving, shed storage, video camera, felt boards.
- An additional $1720.00 in donations received.
- Another wonderful performance of 2 songs by the kindy children at the Tailem Bend Primary School concert.
- Our continuing close connection with, and excursions to Monarto Zoo, through the Mealworm Breeding Program.
- An increase in usage in Terms 3 & 4 of our afternoon Occasional Care program.
- A strong Kindy-Reception transition program with Tailem Bend Primary, and ongoing visits from their SRC.
- The support of parents for lunch and dishes duties.
- A steady number of enrolments.
- Exceptionally positive comments from parents on the Parent Opinion Surveys returned.
- Another successful year of attendance, fun and fundraising at a well organised Playgroup (thanks to Kirsti Gale and Tanya Pitman for volunteering to run Playgroup this year).
- A successful transition from end-of-term clean-up duties to a well supported ‘Coffee, Chat & Clean-up Day’.
- The children had the opportunity to experience the entire process of vegetable gardening, from preparing the patch, planting, feeding, watering and harvesting, to cooking with the vegies and of course, eating!

Some GC Achievements for 2008

- The Governing Council (GC) fundraised over $3300.00 this year, thanks also to the support of families and friends.
- Purchase of an energy efficient lunch fridge.
- Development of a new Sun Protection Policy, which led to the kindy’s recognition as a Sun Smart Centre by Cancer Council SA.
- Review of the Site Behaviour Code.
- Installation of 2 new reverse-cycle split system air-conditioners.
- Members attended Preschool Governance Training.
- GC applied for and was awarded a grant from SA Urban Forests to plant a native bird-attracting garden.
- Organisation of and support for the annual Obstacle-a-thon, End of Year Celebration and 2009 Welcome Night.
Enrolment and Attendance Data

The kindergarten continues to receive relatively consistent enrolment numbers. The termly average for 2008 was 31, compared with 27 and 24 for 2007 and 2006 respectively.

The average attendance was 93% over all four terms in 2008. This is a positive percentage when compared with the State and District averages for the same period of 87% and 89% respectively.

Parents are routinely reminded through the year, of the importance of good attendance at kindergarten, both for their child’s education and for kindergarten funding. This may be having a positive impact on our attendance percentages.

We continue to have a small number (1 or 2 each term) of children enrolled whose parents identify them as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Student Achievement

Staff develop Individual Learning Plans (ILP) for all full time kindergarten children each term. In addition, all Aboriginal children have an ILP that is negotiated with their family. All ILP’s are established through observation, discussion and reflection on each child’s learning in the kindergarten environment. The majority of the short term goals for children continue to be based around social development.

Children also receive a Summative Report when they leave to go to school. These report on children’s progress in the Developmental Learning Outcomes of the South Australian Curriculum, Standards & Accountability Framework (SACSA). The results of the children’s achievements in these Outcomes for 2008 are tabled below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SACSA Developmental Learning Outcome</th>
<th>No. children achieving Outcome (out of 30)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children develop trust and confidence.</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children develop a positive sense of self and a confident personal and group identity.</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children develop a sense of being connected with others and their worlds.</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children are intellectually inquisitive.</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children develop a range of thinking skills.</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children are effective communicators.</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children demonstrate a sense of physical wellbeing.</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children develop a range of physical competencies.</td>
<td>29</td>
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Parent Opinion Survey Data

We have once again had many positive comments returned to us via the Parent Opinion Surveys that are given to families with children in their 1st and last terms of full time kindergarten. Here are some examples:

“Children are all happy and enjoy their time at the kindy.”

“I love the services at T/B Kindy. It's a friendly & comfortable environment & facilities & staff are great.”

“It’s sad our time is finishing but having used other kindies TB should be extremely proud of their program & contact/feedback.”

“The staff at the kindergarten provide the children with a safe, positive learning environment which I believe is important. My child absolutely loved her kindy experience and it certainly helped her transition into the school system.”

“I am impressed with the range and variety of activities available in the program.”

“My daughter loves the kindy and the staff and kids there—loves it!”

“TB Kindy has surpassed all our expectations. The staff deserve the highest praise for providing such an outstanding place for children to learn about all aspects of life. Each and every child received dedicated attention with staff showing genuine care and concern. We as a family were made to feel very welcome and loved the way younger siblings were always invited to be part of activities, where appropriate. We will miss the relationships we have all formed with the staff and other kindy families.”

Graphs and tables of the above data are included in the Appendices for DECS District and State offices. Please see the Director if you would like to view them.
Lastly thank you, the parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles for your support and kind words, your commitment to your child’s early education and for taking the time to read this report. I love my work and I often say to family and friends, “Who wouldn’t love it?” What other job is there where you go to work, have 30 odd people so happy to see you and eager to learn and please, where you spend half your day outside and at least two thirds of the day laughing?! Your beautiful children mean so much to me, and I thank you for trusting me with their care and for giving me the opportunity to be part of their early education. It is a very important job that I never take for granted.

Cheers,
Kell
Kelly Grear—Director