

FROM THE CEO

Easter is upon us and families are again adjusting to school holidays after a very short first term. To all families, Mums, Dads and carers the staff at Kalparrin do wish you a special time together.

Our new look Newsletter is part of the complete re-branding being put across Kalparrin as we reinvigorate and restructure the organisation and its services in preparation for the new formats of operation that the National Disability Insurance Scheme will bring to early childhood intervention from July 2016. The NDIS will benefit all families and Kalparrin will commence Awareness Workshops for parents on the NDIS during Term 2.

Our new website, which includes Blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and eventually a virtual private network for parents to communicate within will be sent live at the end of next week. It too looks completely different from our tired old website which has served us well but no longer meets our needs.

There will be many more changes to follow including new programs, changes to the building, and new staff, all of which are designed to dramatically expand services and the quality of supports to families. More information will be published in the next Newsletter to ensure you remain fully informed.

Mark Baigent.

PARENT INFORMATION

SCHOOL TRANSITION WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



A FANTASTIC, INFORMATIVE, AND RELAXED WORKSHOP IDEAL FOR FAMILIES WITH A CHILD DUE TO START PREP IN 2016 OR 2017

Join us for our next highly regarded School Transition parent information sessions conveniently held at Kalparrin and designed to give an overview of schools in the local area, including funding provisions for Government, Independent and Catholic Schools. Lots of opportunity for open questions and discussion with other parents. Tea and coffee and 'bikkies' served.

Cost : Free (funded by Term Fees)
RSVP: By Wednesday 1st April
on 9435 8311 or email
reception@kalparrin.com.au

Wednesday 15th April 2015
10am - 12pm
Kalparrin 1 Kalparrin Ave,
Greensborough



Creative art workshop for mothers and carers of children with Autism. Sessions held during Term 2 with free qualified onsite childcare available. Weekly sessions will provide a creative escape covering simple, practical art techniques associated with 'art journaling for fun'. All materials supplied and no experience necessary!

Facilitated by Artist Helen Platania

Where: Greenhills Neighbourhood Centre,
Community Drive, Greensborough.
When: Monday's 1:45pm - 3:15pm (4th May -
22nd June 2015)
Cost: Free.
Bookings & enquiries: Helen Platania
0419 327 616 or Greenhills Neighbourhood
Centre 9435 9287

Book now! This workshop will fill fast!

Kalparrin ECIS
(Early Childhood Intervention Service)
1 Kalparrin Avenue, PO Box 93,
Greensborough Vic 3088
Phone +61 3 9435 8311 Email
info@kalparrin.com.au



We Have Been Busy

We have lots of projects underway and families will start to notice many changes around Kalparrin. You may have already noticed our new look newsletter. The new logo, images and colours are slowly being integrated into all of our documentation.

And we finally have a new sign on the outside of the building some 5 metres wide and 1.5 metres high which makes us a lot easier to find for new families and increases our profile in the area.

We would like to thank our fabulous parents and the 'incredible kids' who volunteered to have their photos taken so that we can use these images as part of our branding. We really love having pictures of the families and children in our service - after all - they are the reason we are here..

Building/office relocation

We are undertaking some major maintenance to our building and every staff member is being relocated within the building over the next few months to dramatically improve workflow and office flow. We are also creating a new entry to the right of the old entry to provide direct access for families to the services they come to Kalparrin for rather than having to wind their way through the corridors. Our 39 year old building is certainly overdue for repairs and a tidy up.

If you know of a business or individual who would be willing to assist us, with our maintenance projects, we'd love to hear from them.

Staff Changes

We had two of our Key Workers resign late last year. Claire Jones a Speech Pathologist/Specialist Teacher and KeyWorker/Team Manager has returned to full time teaching position at Diamond Valley Special School and Dhushinka Jayasuriya our KeyWorker/Psychologist has gone back to her previous area of work with adults in a hospital setting. We thank them for the time they spent with us and wish them all the best.

We now have two new Key Workers appointed to replace them - Vanessa Cole-Sinclair is a Speech Therapist and Frances Mylonopoulos is a Occupational Therapist.

Brigita Balbata, our Speech Therapist in the HCWA and Better Start program has returned to full time study, so has reduced her days at Kalparrin to Wednesdays and Thursdays only.

To assist with the Speech Pathology workload we have appointed Chrystal Symons a very experienced Speech Pathologist (and Mum of 4) with a strong school background. Chrystal is available on Mondays and Fridays.

Professional Development

Kalparrin runs a series of workshops tailored to people working in the Early Years fields (staff of childcare centres and kindergartens). These workshops educate attendees on how to work with additional needs children and their families. The sessions are proving popular with many attendees booking into more sessions once they have attended their first.

As part of this program special Awareness Workshops on the National Disability Insurance Scheme will be run as of mid Term 2 by our CEO Mark Baigent. Many parents are yet to hear of the NDIS but understanding it and how it works is crucial to every family's ongoing supports. The good news is that funding for most families appears likely to increase under the NDIS which rolls out across Victoria in July 2016 eventually replacing all existing funding accessed by our families.

If you would like more information on these Awareness Workshops or our



Education and Training Programs in general please refer to the Education and Training section of our website or simply call Kalparrin on 9435 8311.

Face Lift

Kalparrin's garden beds and front fencing and internal lighting are all soon to be dramatically improved. We hope you'll enjoy the changes as much as the staff will.

Kalparrin ECIS
(Early Childhood Intervention Service)
1 Kalparrin Avenue, PO Box 93,
Greensborough Vic 3088
Phone +61 3 9435 8311 Email
info@kalparrin.com.au
kalparrin.com.au
Kalparrin is a registered charity



Trivia Night



This years incredible, fantabulous and much celebrated Kalparrin Trivia Night will be at the beautiful Rosanna Golf Club on

Sat 20th June 2015 7.00pm

Tickets to attend will be \$35 per person and tables of 10 or individual tickets will be available.

The ticket price includes sumptuous finger food served all night, coffee and tea and drinks will be at the Club's low bar prices. Please note this venue does not allow BYO. If you would like to get in early and book your seat or a table with friends call (03) 94358311.

Kalparrin's Trivia Night has become somewhat legendary—a quality event, run with a touch of class and a lot of fun for all.

Numerous staff members will be in attendance and we'd love to see families, Mums, Dads and carers attending if they can. All funds raised go directly to Kalparrin's programs, most often to the Hydrotherapy Program which is expensive to run and offered free to families paying Term fees.

Do you have any goods or vouchers you are able to donate to be raffled, auctioned or used as a prize? All prizes, donations or sponsorship are tax deductible and will be acknowledged at the event, on our new and soon to be launched website, and through public advertising. To make a donation please contact Laura on (03) 94358311 or via lauranardoza@kalparrin.com.au

Cost: Free

Childcare: Free childcare available (booking required)

When is My Time held

Meetings are every fortnight (excluding school holidays). Current groups are Tuesday, 9.30-11.00am and Friday 9.30-11.00am.

See "What's Coming Up at Kalparrin" for session dates.

Where: Kalparrin

1 Kalparrin Avenue, Greensborough (lots of free parking)

How to join

Call Angie on (03) 94358311 or angiekristens@kalparrin.com

Community News

HAIRDRESSER

Stella, an ex-Kalparrin parent with a child with disabilities, is a Hairdresser with 22 yrs of experience. She is offering to organise haircuts either at Kalparrin or at her home in Thomastown for any of our families. She has been providing hairdressing services at Merriang Special School for both the junior and senior campuses for many years. We have now had the offer extended to our families, receiving the services either at Kalparrin or her home.

Stella's contact details 0402906536

MyTime



MyTime is a federally funded program aimed at creating time and space for parents and carers of children with additional needs to come together and support each other through the sharing of experiences and information.

Who Can attend

Any parent, grandparent, or other carer of a child with a disability or chronic medical condition who is up to the age of 16.



Kalparrin ECIS
(Early Childhood Intervention Service)
1 Kalparrin Avenue, PO Box 93,
Greensborough Vic 3088
Phone +61 3 9435 8311 Email
info@kalparrin.com.au
kalparrin.com.au
Kalparrin is a registered charity



Visit our website: kalparrin.com.au

Dads Can

PIZZA NIGHT



Are you a father of a child with additional needs? Maybe your child has a physical or learning disability. Or your child has a chronic medical condition. Perhaps your son or daughter is on the Autism Spectrum.

If you've answered yes to these questions, you are welcome to come along to a pizza night where you can meet other Dads.

It will be a laid back evening where you will have the opportunity to share experiences, information and advice.



Research confirms that children whose fathers are more involved with their development show better outcomes. Research also tells us that parents who have a peer support network build better skills and confidence in supporting their child

Sunday 29th March 2015
7.30pm — 9.30pm
1 Kalparrin Avenue,
Greensborough

RSVP
Annette Magro 9435 8311 or
annettemagro@kalparrin.com.au

Parent Workshop

RELATIONSHIP WORKSHOP

FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN
WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

The Workshop will take the form of four 3-hour sessions aimed at increasing the bond between you and your partner. Develop knowledge and skills to help you deal with challenges together

Learn to manage conflict in a way that enriches your relationship. Reclaim the friendship and intimacy between you. These workshops are fully funded through your Term Fees and the nib foundation. There is no cost to you. Assistance with childcare is provided (with prior arrangements)

Why are these workshops unique? Because they address the strain of parenting a child with a disability or additional needs.

Why are these workshops important?

Because families living with disability are at greater risk of relationship breakdown

If you would like to learn more about these workshops contact:

Annette Magro
Ph (03) 9435 8311
annettemagro@kalparrin.com.au



The Dads Can Project is made possible through the generous support of

nib foundation

Kalparrin ECIS
(Early Childhood Intervention Service)
1 Kalparrin Avenue, PO Box 93,
Greensborough Vic 3088
Phone +61 3 9435 8311 Email
info@kalparrin.com.au
kalparrin.com.au
Kalparrin is a registered charity



Visit our website: kalparrin.com.au

Fundraising Update

Pool Renovations

Last years fundraising efforts concentrated on raising money to cover the costs of refurbishing your hydrotherapy pool which was long over due for major reconditioning.

The funds raised from our Trivia Night and with the further incredible assistance of donations from local community groups, have allowed the pool to be repaired and resurfaced and repainted. All the lighting has been replaced and upgraded to low energy LED lighting and the wood panelling has been re-stained and resealed. We have also used the funds to cover the cost of Austswim training for additional staff members.



We would like to thank all the individuals who attended the Trivia Night, and express our heartfelt thanks to the Elrona Masonic Lodge, The Greensborough Masonic Lodge and the Diamond Valley Rotaract Club and the Eltham Rural Group and the Diamond Valley Men's Shed for making this complex and expensive undertaking possible!!!.

We have also been able to completely replace the tired and water damaged

electric hoist and hydrotherapy sling courtesy of a significant financial contribution from the Plenty Valley Masonic Lodge. What an amazing group of people Kalparrin has supporting its programs and services, Thank you to all involved once again!!



Giddy Up

Riding for the Disabled

This year, Kalparrin secured a weekly group time with the Riding for the Disabled program in Viewbank. We have an allocation of 6 places which has been booked up very quickly. If you are interested please place your name on the waiting list as this is a long term program.



RDA Victoria is a not for profit organisation that enables individuals with a variety of disabilities, ages and backgrounds to develop independence, a sense of freedom.



People with disabilities can obtain beneficial results from association with horses. The movement of a horse strengthens muscles throughout a rider's body and promotes better overall health. In many cases, riding has also led to increased mobility for the rider. Horses can also provide psychological benefits to people whether they actually ride or not.

Therapeutic riding begins with gentle exercises performed on horseback. These exercises include such things as leaning forward to pet the horse's neck, leaning backwards to pat his rump, twisting left and right in the saddle and are often performed using a bare back pad secured by a surcingle.

Each rider is assisted by 'side walkers' who make sure that they remain secure while performing the exercises. The rhythmic movement of the horses walk can stimulate nerves and the exercises increase mobility.

If you would like more information or to be placed on the waiting list, call Angie at Kalparrin on 9435 8311

Kalparrin ECIS
(Early Childhood Intervention Service)
1 Kalparrin Avenue, PO Box 93,
Greensborough Vic 3088
Phone +61 3 9435 8311 Email
info@kalparrin.com.au
kalparrin.com.au
Kalparrin is a registered charity

