

Milford Lodge



Dear Milford Families & Friends,

We have somehow managed to make it through Term 3 yet again! The photograph we have chosen for our front cover is of our awesome Milford Mumma Sally Lawrence delivering her workshop at Village Ways in July.

Presenting alongside International Super Star Gever Tulley and his colleague Mackenzie-Rose Price as well as the volunteers at the Ration Shed and Niki Buchan, many comment cards suggested that Sally was the workshop of the day. As an Early Childhood Service, we feel we have worked extremely hard over the past 5 years on embedding a culture of continuous improvement. We are very proud of the efforts of all of our team who continually put in time and money toward their chosen career of working with the youngest members of our society.

We are also looking forward to a full day in November, "Yarnin' up", fronted by our own Sally, which has already gained the attention (and bookings!) of many Early Year's Teachers working in our local Primary Schools. But first... MARKET DAY!

Thanks for reading!

X Team Milford

Village Ways III

Written by Molly Stewart

Since the changes in regulations at the beginning of 2012, we have been on a journey of rediscovery of the original Milford Lodge philosophy. Ideals and practices which were once rubbished and made to be removed, were now being held in the highest regard. A few years into this journey, we also experienced a change of government, and were greatly benefitted by the roll out of the LDCPDP (Long Day Care Professional Development Fund). Like any large hit of government funding, there are a whole bunch of cons to weigh up against the pros. Without a doubt the most negative result of the LDCPDP was the 'glut' that ensued – overnight our Nation seemed to have a very high population of Early Childhood Consultants, many of which had only been working in the field for what seemed like a few moments. Workshops which had previously been offered out at around \$60 were suddenly costing the individual \$300 plus. And after 3 years of this, we began to feel a rather underwhelming sense of déjà vu.

For us the LDCPDP was well timed. We had already begun hosting smaller one day workshops at Milford Lodge as a result of being irked that the Sunshine Coast was never a stop off. Why did we continually have to drive to Brisbane and the Gold Coast or fly interstate. Not that we didn't love a good weekend away (as it never feels like work), but surely the Sunshine Coast is a large enough catchment to host an International Guest.

It was during this time that we began to toy with the idea of hosting a full weekend conference, feeling that the grounds of Milford Lodge would be much nicer than sitting in a custom built, white-walled (not to mention expensive) conference centre. Every discussion that took place with the bigger players in professional development however, kept ending up with a long list of demands – 100 adult sized chairs and tables to match, 5 projectors and screens, half a dozen bathrooms etc..

We gave up.

And then we began taking our Christmas Party back out to Dusty Hill, the Family Vineyard.

We put it back on the table.

3 years later, we have hosted Teacher Tom, Prue Walsh, Wendy Lee, Niki Buchan, Michelle Scheu and now Gever Tulley, Mackenzie-Rose Price and our own Sally Lawrence, all at a setting which is far from a custom-built conference venue – but

it is absolutely perfect!

Coming toward Village Ways 2018 was risky business. The LDCPDP had dried up at the end of financial year the previous year, and many services who previously did not invest in their team's development, sadly reverted back to this zero-budget method. But our small group of 'die hard' Village Ways fans would not let us off the hook, the show must go on! They even offered to start paying the day after Village Ways 2017, for the 2018 event.

OK. Let's do this.

We re-booked the venue, and made plans with the Ration Shed and the bus company. Services booked into local accommodation and asked us to email invoices. They did not even know who would be speaking.

And neither did we. We still did not know in December, in February, or even in April.

Then all of a sudden I received the most amazing email. I had been trying to entice Gever Tulley to come to Australia for 3 years. We had messaged and emailed each other at times, and a few times, a tour looked promising, but the communication line kept going dead, so I gave up.

A new video appeared on Gever's Facebook page, from his school SF Brightworks, and I offhandedly remarked that he had not booked his tour yet. He replied with a new email address as a contact for his bookings. A

lovely lady called Libby responded to my email request for an Australian tour, and she asked if late July would be suitable? I almost cried.

A few short months later Gever and his colleague Mackenzie-Rose Price disembarked at Brisbane International Airport, with Milford Lodge and Dusty Hill Vineyard their first stops ever in Australia.

We were again blessed with amazing weather for our 3rd Village Ways conference, always important as many of our workshops are outside surrounded by the beautiful settings. The new delegates were blown away once again at the Ration Shed, and the return delegates were so impressed with the personal growth of young resident artist James, who shared his knowledge and story with us.





Gever's workshop was a good mixture of theory and hands on practical – an exercise in teamwork including loose parts and balls resulted in plenty of competitiveness and also loads of laughs. Mackenzie left us with some new tricks, and we know from continuous feedback, even now, that many services are now building and experimenting with wind tunnels with their children.



Many of our returning delegates opted for a Professional Conversation, facilitated by Nancy, Narelle (Bribie Kindy) and Niki Buchan.

But by far, the most favoured workshop of the day was delivered by one of our Milford Lodge Mum's, Sally Lawrence. None of us had ever heard Sally present before, but had been informed by her husband Peter that Sally's father had been an amazing speaker, and that Sally was in fact just as amazing. Sally shared her journey with us, from her realisations

from an early age of 'white privilege', through her experiences in the Torres Straight, and remote parts of our country, as well as teaching in the Middle East. Peppered throughout her workshop were stories of life, love and laughter, but also tears. Sally encouraged us to reflect on where we have come from, where we are now, and where we are going. In 2016, we managed to take Teacher Tom to the Ration Shed, who was deeply moved, so much that his next blog post was all about his experience there. It was wonderful that our international guests Gever & Mackenzie could experience Sally's workshop on cultural capability, with Gever commenting that she had been extremely captivating and a born story teller.

(Not sure if he was referring to her daytime workshop, or her stories of the constellations after a few 'sherbets' on

Saturday Night at the Network dinner!)

Feedback from 2017 led to the first keynote on Sunday being delivered by Milford Lodge & Bribie Island Kindy. Clearly a result of the previously mentioned 'glut' of PD as many delegates suggested wanting to hear from people working with children on a daily basis.

Both Narelle and I were extremely nervous, but as expected, the time flew, and 80 minutes later we were receiving thanks, congratulations and offers to consult at other services! For our part, we shared our program and practise around children learning through real work, and flooded them with pictures of children making sandwiches, cleaning cars, moving chip bark, gardening, rolling sushi, baking, feeding animals, and even fashion designing! We also shared our philosophy surrounding children having the choice to where they spend



their day, and who they spend it with. Throughout this was had beautiful photographs highlighting the importance of family groupings and also children choosing their own 'key' educator. Our families and community were also a large part of the knowledge shared. Narelle shared very similar beliefs, especially where it came to their community. Bribie Island Community Kindy are renowned for their relationship with their local community and we loved listening to the stories from their visits to the elderly and also the Bribie Rocks – which has sparked interest from all ages.

Whilst it was always going to be a risk to bring over a lesser known speaker than that of previous years (in fact, I now realised he was almost completely unknown!) Gever and Mackenzie exceeded our expectations. Their keynote, an adaption of 5 Dangerous Things, was simply brilliant, and left the audience 'wowed', with many now adopting these principles for themselves.

Whilst our numbers had dropped slightly, Village Ways covered itself and made just enough to also the free events that we offered with Gever at Milford Lodge (for our families) and at Woombye State School (for the community). One beautiful teacher in particular has already thrown a few reflections my way since then, including implementing "Yes" is



the default answer, just stopping herself from 'no' in time to change her answer to one of her year 4 students.

Hopefully our 'die-hard' fans will all return again in 2019. It's safe to say we would love to have Sally present again, and we are currently arranging a tour with an even lesser known speaker from Canada, known to us only through coming across her memoir at the local library. (A little like stumbling across Gever Tulley's TED talk all those years ago...)

At my father's funeral, his best friend told his loved ones that there was one thing that set my parents apart, and that was risk. They always took a risk.

Words to live by.

Bring on Village Ways 2019!

Mindfulness @ Milford Lodge

Written by Emily Spurling

Over the past 10 weeks the Milford Lodge Library (Kindergarten) children participated in the 'Mindful Schools' program with great success. They learnt to be mindful of many things including, emotions, thoughts, sounds, sights and feelings. The children learnt what it means to be generous and empathetic to those around them and also how to become generators of happiness by sending kind thoughts to friends, family and themselves.

Here is what the children thought about the program:

"I loved mindfulness because it makes me feel good like eating lollies" ~ Amelia

"I'm sad mindfulness is over" ~ Alexis

"I felt great things, I loved mindfulness" ~ Nellie

"I'm happy about Mindfulness" ~ Imogen

"It helped me to feel good things" ~ Oliver



If anyone is interested in having the Mindfulness Program run at their School or Kindergarten please contact Emily Spurling on 0411150414 or email emily@karmabeing.com



Thank you to Emily for approaching us with this offer. We will be offering this program for our Library (Kindergarten) children again in the 3rd quarter of 2019 ~ Molly.

Team News

CONGRATULATIONS!!! Our School Based Trainees Ty (Thursdays) & Molly (Fridays) have both successfully completed their Certificate III in Early Childhood. Both these students have been an absolute pleasure to have within our team.

Both have displayed amazing initiative and work ethic.

Kelly, their trainer from Kath Dickson Institute, has only had praise for both Molly and Ty. Well done ladies 😊

We have two new School Based Trainees signing on from Term 4.

Madisson & Chloe

Unfortunately, Thomas decided to take a position elsewhere.

This was very disappointing at such short notice, as we know he was a favourite amongst the children and families. Christina has joined our team, and has been working alongside Sharon, Izzy & Tiffany in our Wandiny room. We have already received wonderful feedback from our team and families – thank you.

Sue, one of our diploma placement students has been helping out in our School House, alongside Migi, Ann & Sue.

Ilya is joining our team on a daily basis for a few hours.

Professional Development

July ~ August ~ September

Village Ways: Gever Tulley, Mackenzie-Rose Price, Sally Lawrence, The Ration Shed, Milford Lodge, Bribie Kindy
Nature Nurture (UK)

Educational Leadership Network Meetings

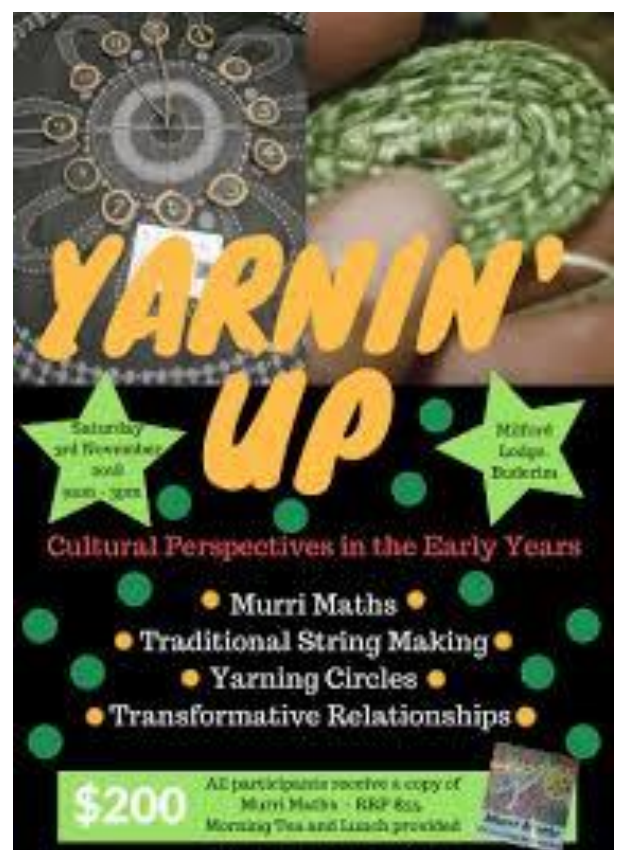
OECEC Network Meeting – Critical Reflection

Australian Learning Tracks (Documentation with and for children): Niki Buchan

Mind Stretchers (online)

October ~ November ~ December

Yarnin' Up: Sally Lawrence, Nicole Simone-Dreise, Brianna Hanson





World Team

Recently we have realised just how far and wide our team hail from. Currently we have educators from England, Ireland, Scotland, Spain, Russia, Japan, Korea, China, Philippines, South Africa, America, even Nambour! 😊

We have loved watching Mayumi's Genki Kids, which includes making sushi for the morning tea, language & songs. Our Before School children have been very involved in these sessions and have also begun taking the sushi to school for lunch. Oishii! (Delicious)



Father's Day (Early Knock-off Friday) at Milford Lodge

What a fantastic turnout we had again this year for our Father's Day celebration.

It is always wonderful to see our children sharing time with the special people in their lives.

Nathaniel (Rhythm Culture) was awesome again this year, with a full crowd surrounding him the entire time. We also enjoyed a variety of outdoor games, beautiful fruit platters and a yummy sausage sizzle.

Thanks to everyone for coming along and sharing this wonderful afternoon.

www.rhythmculture.com.au





Sadly, we lost Muffin a few months ago.
A great big thank you to Aurora's family who
offered to go to the pet shop and find Snowy a
new friend.

Aurora named him Feather.
Snowy & Feather are great friends.
Thank you Aurora!