



Dear Milford Lodge Families,

What an exciting start to 2017 we have had with the opening of our brand new Library and beautiful outdoor spaces. As you can well imagine, a huge amount of work has gone into creating the new building and surrounding landscape – we would like to thank everyone for their feedback, it has actually been quite overwhelming! (We are definitely feeling the love!).

We have also been enjoying the larger dining space when we gather for mealtimes – having the larger space has allowed us to again reflect on our practise and make changes to the routines surrounding meal times.

Other changes we have been enjoying are the music sessions with our dance teacher Tegan as well as more frequent outings for all ages which you can read more about further on in this newsletter ☺

Happy Reading! X Team Milford.

Staff News

Sadly, we say goodbye to Peta in April, as she has come to realise that completing her final year of study (Bachelor of Early Childhood) at the same time as working full time as a Kindergarten Teacher is just a little too much on her plate at this point in her life. Peta has been a fantastic addition to our team and she will be missed by her colleagues, the children and the families. We wish her all the very best for the future ☺

We are very proud of Suzanna (Suzie) who graduated at the beginning of April and now holds her Bachelor of Early Childhood. Suzie was extremely excited to be offered the role of Kindergarten Teacher for our Library room.

We would like to welcome Tyleia (Ty) to Milford Lodge. Ty has been offered one of our School Based Traineeships, completing her Certificate III in Early Childhood over her senior high school years.

Sturai has also joined Milford Lodge as a School Based Trainee, however is completing her Certificate II in Kitchen Operations, working alongside our awesome chefs.

Both of these young ladies have joined us on Tuesdays.

Megan has been away on personal leave, however is due to return at the beginning of Term 2.

Sam is away due to injury and her return date is unknown at this point.

Given that it is very unusual for us to experience this much staff absence; we would like to thank the families for their understanding over the past few months.

We would also like to acknowledge the educators working in those groups most affected and thank them for their amazing effort to provide continuous care for our children and families. They have done a fantastic job!

Tegan Shaves for Cancer



page Leanne's Fight to Survive.

We will also be accepting cash donations for Tegan's GoFundMe Fundraiser. Please see the link below for more information. Can't wait to see you all there! www.gofundme.com/thickthinandshaved



Budding Artists

By Olivia Banks,
Art Nuvo



Being an art gallery we often have parents apologising for bring their kids into the gallery. I can understand with so many 'breakables' however at Art Nuvo we are trying to encourage visits by kids to ensure that we have artists for the future. It's often a good belly laugh to hear their explanation on some of the artwork hanging in the gallery, lots of temptation to touch

but if you spend time with the kids they learn super quickly to look with their eyes. Being able to display their own artwork in a gallery shows kids that they too can open up their world and mind to being proud of their achievements and to get them used to being surrounded by art. We started with our 'Milford feature artist of the month' but have found that this would mean we would only get to view 12 works a year and as such have made it now every 2 weeks we get to enjoy new artists works. Our clientele love seeing the new artworks and often comment on the art. The frame is now a permanent feature in the gallery for our budding Milford Artists - we have hung it down low so the kids can easily view the art. We often find we have a visit from Mum, Dad,



Grandparents and even Aunties to come and see their artwork in the gallery. Most times we end up framing the returning artist works for their parents as they can see the excitement and skill in these particular paintings. Each painting has a description on them - my favourite so far was Snail with Spikes - how cool is a snail with spikes! So why not come and visit us here at Art Nuvo or follow us on Facebook and Instagram where we load up the artists' works when they arrive.



MONDAY BY APPOINTMENT
TUES TO FRI 10AM TO 5PM | SAT 9AM TO 12 NOON

25 Gloucester Road, Buderim, Qld | P. 07 5456 2445
WWW.ARTNUVOBUDERIM.COM.AU 

Forest Dwellers



By Susan & Jayne

We have had lots of exciting adventures in the forest this term.

As this was a new experience for most of the children, we started off by having the children familiarising themselves with the walk to the forest, which entails going through Buderim School. This led to meeting up with old friends from Milford, our Prep children. As we gained more confidence, we gradually introduced variety of tools to use in the forest; these include fishing nets, saws, chisels, ropes and binoculars. This led to the children having to utilise different skills, such as safety, team work, sharing and caring of one another. On entry to the forest, we first approach a small waterfall, where the children enjoy having leaf and twig races. There is also a large pipe which runs across the rocks of the waterfall. The children have so much fun as they attempt to maneuver themselves from one end of the pipe to the other. This has led to the children gaining so much confidence in their own ability as the week's progress. There is also a large rock which the children have named "Pride Rock". We then venture on into the forest, where the real fun and adventures begin!! We have seen many changes in the forest since our adventures began, which is due to different weather systems. Our first day at the forest, we were greeted with new friends, BABY TOADS! Since then, we have caught many fish and tadpoles in the stream, but we also remember that we must care for our wildlife and we place them gently back in the stream. Together we brainstormed, as to how we could cross the other side of the stream. Firstly, we started off by walking around the stream, climbing over large trees and rocks. The children then decided that we needed to have a bridge, which led to lots of excitement and conversations around how we were going to manage this. We explored our surroundings to look for old debris that we could utilise. This led to amazing Milford Lodge teamwork!!

Watch this space for the next newsletter as we approach the autumn and winter months! <https://www.facebook.com/53589939657/videos/10155168684934658/>



Ballroom Blitz

By Tegan

We have had so much fun in the Ballroom this term!



We began the term by slowly introducing the music and dance program that will be unfolding throughout the year. The children really enjoyed learning ballet last year, so it is nice to be able to do it on a more regular basis. We've enjoyed being colourful butterflies, fluttering our wings while doing our ballet runs, as well as learning the fundamentals of ballet, such as ballet positions and basic terminology. The children have started learning a ballet dance which showcases what they have learnt and they are excited to show their friends and teachers next term. We have enjoyed burning lots of energy in Jazz while learning steps such as kicks and leaps. We have also had a few Hip Hop sessions, which have been a lot of fun! We hope to include this more in term 2.

The children have been so engaged in our fitness sessions. These sessions have been implemented to

develop their gross motor skills, balance, coordination and team work. Next term we will be including new exercises for the children to have fun with.

After the children have done their dancing or their fitness, we often move on to yoga either in the ballroom, or on the mat under the tree near the library. It has been lovely to see their strong interest in yoga. We have been telling the story of the Hungry Caterpillar through our yoga poses and have been improving throughout the term.

Next term, we will move on to a special story about a Thankful Bear.

We have enjoyed exploring different areas of music in Term 1.

We've had soldier music session as well as dolly music sessions. These have involved singing, rhythm and developing knowledge on different instruments. It is safe to say, the favourite has been the soldier treasure hunt, where the children search for the soldiers around the room, while singing the soldier song. We look forward to moving on to other themed music sessions in Term 2!

The younger children have loved coming up to the Ballroom for Baby Rhyme Time, they enjoy participating in the actions and singing! They have lots of fun playing with the instruments and dressing up after their singing time.

Throughout the term, it has been really lovely to see children of all ages be involved in the same dance or music session. It is really special to see. I look forward to another fun term in the

Ballroom after Easter!



LIBRARY VISITS – BUDERIM MOUNTAIN STATE SCHOOL



This term we've been visiting the Library (Buderim Mountain State School) every Tuesday morning with small groups to read and borrow books. Each week we walk down together, often picking flowers on the way and discussing road rules, looking at signs and waving at people having breakfast in the cafes or driving past in their cars. When we arrive at the school we know to walk quietly past the classrooms as we make our way to the Library door where we are greeted by June the librarian. We then make our way to the blue mat and choose a story to read together before choosing our own books to read and borrow, taking them back to Milford to use during group times. This year the books have been individually labelled with letters making it easy for us to select and put back on the shelf. It has been wonderful to see the children already have a good grasp on early literacy concepts and are enjoying engaging with texts of their choice as they select them. This year we've also been lucky enough to watch a short movie each week of an author reading one of their own books, which the children have found to be a bit of a treat! The library experiences are a great way to assist those children who are attending the school next year to transition smoothly as they familiarise themselves with the school and the teachers, including June, who is super hospitable each week. On our way back to Milford, we pass by the classrooms of the prep children and often say 'hello' to last year's School House children. Next term we will be visiting the Library at the same day and time (9:30am-10:00am every Tuesday), and as the year progresses we will be reading with some of the older children in the school (some of whom would have attended Milford Lodge in

the past!)

By Peta

Buderim Park Outings



This last term six or so of our friends from the Art Shed have joined the Library children to play in Buderim Park. We have loved our adventures, learning how to walk safely and crossing the road takes practice! It is totally worth it when we get there and enter a world of imaginary play. At jumping rock there are Lions and Tigers and usually lots of baddies in the bushes, but don't panic Superman and Captain America are there to save us. We talk a lot about nature and collect as much as possible to make fires, fishing rods and ant houses mostly. We also had a lesson from a friendly council gardener, boy he earned his pay that morning!!

Thanks, Marianne x



GREAT NEWS!

We will now be offering swimming lessons as part of our Kindergarten Program at no additional cost to our families. These will take place over two days once per term.

Professional Development



Nature Play Symposium – “Just for the Fun of it”

Saturday 11th March, Gold Coast

By Karen

Sharon and I had the privilege of attending the QLD Nature Play annual conference in March and are very happy to share that playing outdoors is ‘in’! Here are some of the key messages we would like to share with you all...

Firstly, let our children play outdoors as much as possible. Nature is the best teacher in so many ways.

Let our children take risks as they will learn so much for everyday life. Risk taking and general play outdoors assists our children to learn about natural consequences, learn to cope with the unexpected and learn from these experiences. The statistics on young children suffering from anxiety related illnesses has been directly linked to children having no play time outdoors to learn how to cope with situations. It’s a fact of life that not everything always goes to plan in all our lives. Children who have not had the opportunity to learn from mistakes, to learn how to do it differently next time, to realise that sometimes life just doesn’t go as planned (and we need to move on), do not cope with everyday situations, such as friendships, school work and sport involvement.

So please keep children's play unstructured without an abundance of adult involvement. Please step back and listen - you will be amazed what children can do all on their own and I am sure you will learn something too!

DR Michael Carr–Gregg has a relevant saying “1 hour of screen time for 1 hour of green time”. It would be a good start! Bruce McLachlan, school principal of Swanson Primary School (New Zealand) spoke to us in regards to his school stopping saying NO. His school promotes scooters, bikes, skateboards, tree climbing, large logs, large tyres to roll your friends down the hill in and mud slides (bring your own spare clothes). The school has not banned devices however Bruce says the children choose not to use them. His students are busy and engaged - no telling tales, no time out room, no bullying, no vandalism, less teachers on duty, less injuries reported, physically active and all ages play together.

Food for thought I think.

I could go on more as it was very interesting, but I do hope as you read this you realise how much of this is happening at Milford. Your children are very lucky to attend a service that genuinely values the child’s right to play. And Sharon and I were very proud to listen to all the ideas this conference was promoting knowing full well how much we already have happening at Milford ☺



QECSN Annual Conference

Saturday 18th March 2017

This was my first time attending professional development facilitated by QECSN but most definitely won't be my last. The day brought together a large group of like-minded educators and took place in the beautiful Maroochy Botanical Gardens in Tanawha.



Lyndon Davis preformed a heartwarming Welcome to Country and as usual added his own touch of humour and sentimentality. Following on from Lyndon our first keynote of the day was Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives with Diana Homer and Jackie Bennet. We engaged in professional conversations about creating a sense of belonging within our services. Di and Jackie invited us to watch the 2008 National Apology delivered by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

This date 13th February is now known as Sorry Day in Australian history. I have to admit watching this had a profound effect on my understanding of what this apology meant to the generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. I would strongly encourage you to take a few moments to watch this YouTube clip below as the first part of your journey about wanting to know more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspective. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKWfiP24rA>

As we reflected together as a group we were saddened to hear of the ongoing experiences of disadvantage by our Indigenous brothers and sisters across a number of areas including education, health and employment. We need to make sure that the lives of Indigenous Australians remain a part of the national narrative, as a touchstone to our rich cultural heritage, as well as ensuring that issues arising from disadvantage remain at the forefront of our minds. We then listened to Dr. Rachael Sharman from USC and her research on Bulldozer Parents who are creating psychologically fragile children. This keynote was so enlightening that I am hoping to invite Rachael to Milford Lodge for a parent's information night in Term 2. I am sure you are all familiar with the term Helicopter parenting? Well, Bulldozer parents clear the paths for their children so they never have to experience fear, pain or rejection. Rachael's research has seen her observe very young children not knowing to put their hands out when falling because their parents always catch them before they fall!

I especially enjoyed watching some video clips of adolescents playing rugby. Rachael is the current principal supervisor for projects investigating concussion in junior rugby union players. Observing body language clip by clip enabled us to discuss the emotions the young boys were experiencing. When someone missed an important catch some fellow teammates were so caught up in their own emotions they ignored how the other young boy must be feeling.

A simple pat on the back from another player portrayed the feeling "its ok! We still need you, don't leave the herd/team".

Rachael then explored what makes a successful person?

They take responsibility for both success and failures.

They see failure as a learning experience

They persist.

They are optimistic.

When the chips are down, they get by with a little help from their friends.

After a delicious lunch catered by Kunara Market Place we delved deeper into Understanding and Rationalising Climate Change at an Early Age with Professor Patrick Nunn also from USC. Patrick has researched Climate change for more than thirty years and he shared lots of facts and figures relating to the Australian context.

I am sure it is no surprise to hear that 2016 was the hottest year on record in Australia! He discussed the relationship between the Brisbane, Manila and New Orleans floods. The impact of Climate Change on the way we live will only become significant in the next 20-30 years. To minimize these impacts, we owe it to future generations to explain and rationalise what is happening to the Earth's climate. A great way to introduce the concept of climate change to very young children would be by watching carefully chosen children's movies e.g. Happy Feet, Fern Gully or Over the Hedge.

As if all the above-mentioned keynotes weren't enough food for thought for one day we were treated to a reading of a newly published children's book A Patch from Scratch read by the author herself Megan Forward. The book, which we have purchased for our library, covers issues of sustainability, growing fruit and vegetables, caring for chickens and recycling. The day finished with a fun observational drawing workshop with Meghan.

I gained so much from this one-day conference and hope to implement some changes into our everyday program and practice here at Milford Lodge.

By Nancy Andrews



Other Professional Development Opportunities:

JANUARY → MARCH 2017

- Nature Play Symposium: Just for the fun of it
The Abecedarian Approach – Department of Education & Training
- Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme Information Session - QKFS / DETE
- Beyond the Gate: Where to from here? – QECSN
- Sensory Detective Workshop (Autism) – Nelle Frances
- Nature Play: Take Childhood Back – Niki Buchan Natural Learning / Luke Addison
- Transitions to School (Chevallum State School)
- Sensory Processing: Helping children belong & learn
- Educational Leaders Networking Sessions
 - In Safe Hands (Child Safety)
- ACECQA Educational Leadership with Rhonda Livingstone
- Including Children on the Autism Spectrum in the Early Years

APRIL → JUNE 2017

- Mandatory Child Protection
- CPR / First Aid Refresher
 - Programming Expo
- 3A (Abecedarian Approach) Part II
- Educational Leadership Network Sessions



The poster for the Village Ways Early Years Conference features a central image of a sunset over a vineyard. At the top left is a map showing the location of the conference at Dusty Hill / Moffatdale, with nearby towns like Maroon, Cherbourg, and Glendaloo marked. At the top right is a wooden signpost with arrows pointing to 'Maroon', 'Cherbourg', 'Moffatdale', and 'Dusty Hill'. The title 'VILLAGE WAYS' is prominently displayed in a decorative font. Below the title, the text reads 'Early Years Conference' and 'Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th July 2016'. Three small photographs show speakers Wendy Lee (NZ), Michelle Scheu, and Niki Buchan. To the right is a logo for the Ration Shed Museum with the tagline 'Preserving Our History'. A quote at the bottom reads, 'It takes a village to raise a child'. Contact information for Molly Stewart at Milford Lodge is provided at the very bottom.

VILLAGE WAYS

Early Years Conference
Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th July 2016

Wendy Lee (NZ) Michelle Scheu Niki Buchan
The Ration Shed

"It takes a village to raise a child"

Dusty Hill Vineyard
Moffatdale QLD 4560

Contact Molly Stewart at Milford Lodge for more details
Phone (07) 54456228 Email milfordlodge@bigpond.com

A Letter to Harper...

<http://www.milfordlodge.com.au/blog/a-letter-to-harper>

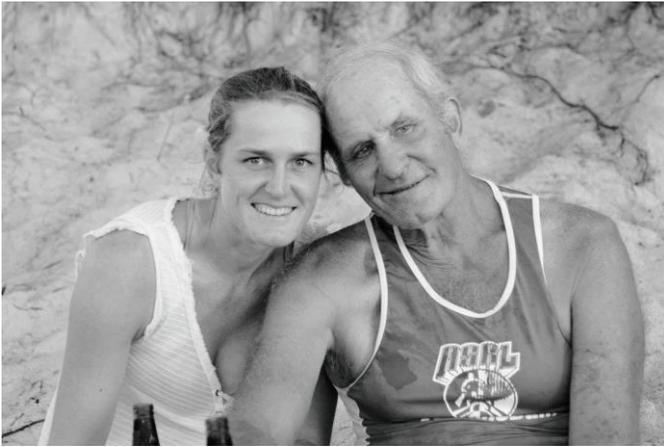
'We have had the privilege of listening to amazing speakers over the past few years, including Peter Gray, Teacher Tom, Alistair Bryce-Clegg, Niki Buchan, Kathy Walker, Prue Walsh and Juliet Robertson to name just a handful. One of the first speakers we heard at our first Inspired EC "Unwrapping" Conference back in 2014 was the gentle and softly spoken Wendy Lee from New Zealand.

Wendy shared many beautiful messages and memories with us, but her main focus for that particular conference was meaningful documentation.

It was time to rid ourselves of the DAP system and checklist style documentation that the 'trauma years' provided and really strip back, and start to think about documentation that a child and their family would cherish well past their Early Years and hopefully for their entire life. What an exciting time for us, to be able to really put thoughts on paper in the form of stories and letters for children to keep a memory of their time with us, and not just a tick box chart of whether they could kick a 10cm ball through a 20cm hoop while standing on one leg with their eyes closed.

(OK, the checklists weren't that bad, but we were still very happy to rip, tear and destroy!)
Wendy said that many people suggest to her that they cannot write, or that they aren't writers. But she says that everyone can write. They just have to start.

~ (continued over page)



2014 through to 2015 was a difficult time for my family. My father, after 6 years of living with an extremely debilitating stroke, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and we all knew that he had actually just had enough. He could no longer handle living like he was. With a little help from the medical profession, he prolonged his few weeks to around 3 months, but it was not easy on him, or anyone around him, especially his family. Whilst it felt like odd timing to write one of my first learning stories, it had been on my mind, and so I actually wrote this while he slept, and about half an hour before I said goodbye to him for the last time.

Dear Harper,

I wanted to let you know how happy I am that you have come to Milford Lodge and also how amazing it is to watch you find your sense of belonging. When you first started coming to play at Milford Lodge you were very sad to say goodbye to your dad and I could see how sad that made him, which made me sad too. There were lots of tears and you would tell him "Don't be too long now dad, ok?" We would have lots of cuddles throughout the day to help make you feel better.

Over the past few months your days with us are changing, and there are very rarely sad moments throughout the day. In your first few weeks, you did not want to have lunch with us, as you were waiting to have lunch at home with your dad. I loved that you wanted to wait to have lunch with your dad, but I just made sure that you had a snack while you sat on my lap anyway. Eventually you started walking to the kitchen to ask Tahneeka for a snack yourself, and now we fast forward a few more weeks and you sit and eat with your friends at the table and casually say hi to me if I walk past. I wonder if you still have another lunch later when you get home, with your dad.

One day when we were having a cuddle in the foyer, you asked me about my dad. You told me to phone up and ask my dad if I could stay longer at Milford until your dad came to pick you up. A few weeks later I introduced you to my mum. You looked at her, and so confidently (as always when you talk to adults) asked her if she could take you to see him. So you went with my mum, hand in hand, upstairs to meet my dad. Did you know that only you and red chicken have been up to see my dad? Lucky!

You still cry a little bit when your dad says goodbye in the morning and you always say to him "Don't be too long now dad, ok?" I wanted to let you know that it is ok to feel like this, and I want you to know that even big people feel like this. See Harper, I understand how you feel and this is why I have formed such a special bond with you over the past few months. We are so lucky, you and I, to have such awesome dads. I am about to say goodbye to my dad and I will probably cry, you might have to give me lots of cuddles throughout the day and if it's ok with you, I may even borrow your line and tell him "Don't be too long now dad, ok?"

Thank you Harper. I think you came to Milford at just the right time.

Love Molly.

6th November 2014

Harper's family loved my letter, and I would like to think that they will keep it forever.

I am very much looking forward to listening to Wendy Lee again this year, as she headlines at our Village Ways conference.

I might even take her up the hill to have a drink with my dad.

Other Blog posts available at www.milfordlodge.com.au :

- Don't Keep Walking Past
- We Don't Do Food



Visitors Log



Thank you for the opportunity to visit Milford Lodge. What an amazing learning space for children and adults. The rich array of textures, experiences, aesthetically pleasing spaces for children and adults to explore, adapt, engage with and create and learn in. The approved learning framework promotes a vision of children as capable competent and able to make decisions and choices on issues affecting them. Throughout the service it was clear that Molly and educators shared this vision and view of children. The cottages and range of places and spaces for children to engage brought back memories of my childhood. Keep up the great work and I look forward to hearing of your continued progress.

Thanks again for the opportunity to visit.

Rhonda Livingstone

National Education Leader, ACECQA

*Dear Molly, Nancy and all the Milford Lodge family,
Thank you so very much for allowing me to spend time in your beautiful setting. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your work and seeing the fantastic practice here. You have all created a magical space and positive environment where children and adults can grow together, learn from each other and experience joy, love and happiness with one another.*

I can see you all are strong advocates for children and work tirelessly to ensure positive outcomes for the families using your service. I have been particularly warmed by the relationships and trust between the adults and children here, which allows children the freedom to explore, discover and socialise across the whole setting.

The children passing through here are lucky to have had such a fantastic start in life and I feel just as lucky to have shared in it for this short time. I hope to return soon - perhaps with more of my team - and would like you all to know that you are more than welcome to visit us at Riverside next time you are in Scotland. We have spare rooms so you have no excuse not to!

Keep up the inspiring work!

Luke Addison, Riverside Cottage Nursery, Scotland





#10 & #11: Brooke Zohn & Joshua Villani



We attended Milford Lodge together in 1997 and 1998. Our fondest memories are of picking mulberries and eating them straight from the trees with our class. Back then, Milford Lodge also had a large variety of farm animals that we absolutely adored! Having the opportunity to ride around on the ponies whilst being assisted by the educators, was a huge highlight of our days.

We went on to attend Caloundra Christian College, where we both became School Captain's in our final year of schooling in 2011. After being heavily involved in the sport of dragon boating, we went on to represent Australia at the Dragon Boating World Titles in Prague in 2009.

After graduating high school, Josh spent time in the Defence Force before following his dream of becoming a pilot. He is now a qualified Private Pilot, and is continuing his training, where he will qualify as a commercial pilot in July this year.

Brooke is now an Early Childhood Educator for Goodstart Early Learning in Townsville, and is currently completing her Bachelor of Professional Communication, majoring in Journalism.

We will always have such wonderful memories of attending Milford Lodge, and are thankful for the education we were given in our early years, to allow us to thrive throughout our school years and succeed in our lives today. We're both so glad to see the place still thriving and as beautiful as ever!

Written by Brooke Zohn



HAPPY SNAPS 2017



Pony Rides on Macca – Thanks “Grandma” Margie ~



Our favourite Children’s Musician Brett Campbell



Hide’N’Seek Corn with Max & Ghillie ~



Up close and personal with sea creatures during Ocean Life



Furry friend visits ~



Team Milford heading out: Rain, Hail or Shine!



Special Thanks to Niki Buchan for these pictures ☺



CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DATES 2017 / 2018:
LAST DAY OF 2017: FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER
FIRST DAY OF 2018: MONDAY 15TH JANUARY