Milford Lodge

Term One News 2017

Dear Milford Lodge Families,

Welcome to all of our new families to Milford Lodge!

After an epic year in 2016, full of milestones and achievements, we are very excited about 2017. As with the beginning of the previous year, we have not waited to implement change, and are already adjusting well to new routines in our dining room, ball room and of course our beautiful new spaces in and around the library.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for the praise of the work completed in the holidays within the bike track area and dining room. For the two weeks that we worked to refresh these areas it was ridiculously hot and humid, and needless to say absolutely exhausted by the time we reopened. So again, thank you for the appreciation - it makes it all worthwhile!

Happy Reading.

X Team Milford

Team Milford

Forrest
Nancy Andrews
Jayne Hurd

Avocado Cottage
Karen Bird
Migi Lee
Alyssa Randall
Gemma Neenan

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Samantha Anderson
Pristine Amrock
Isabella Turner
Sue Alderson

School House
Jillian Sellwood
Rebecca Parkes
Molly Fisher
Megan Mackie

Library
Mary Leonardo
Peta Muggeridge
Susan Forrest
Carly Sloman
Ann Wilkins

Art Shed
Marianne Tiffney
Louise Stickland
Sharon Knight
Sharna Ward

Ballroom
Tegan Avolio

Dining Room
Ravena Ingham
Monica Topliss
Harriet Wilson

Nominated Supervisor: Molly Stewart
Educational Leader: Nancy Andrews

Relief: Kerstin Nordang, Alison Stevenson, Milli Hurd, Jayne Hurd
School Based Trainees:
Jade Shuttlewood, Emily Blanchard, Lucy Brookes, Makayla Henry, Molly Bale

Team News

We would like to welcome Gemma to our team. Gemma joined us as a relief educator in 2016 after completing a practical placement (Bachelor Education) earlier in the year. She will be working alongside Karen, Migi & Alyssa in the Avocado Cottage.

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Welcome back to Sharna (from maternity leave) who has joined the Art Shed.

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Congratulations Molly Fisher on the completion of her School Based Traineeship and Certificate III in Early Childhood. Molly has taken a permanent position in our School House.

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You can never have too many Mollys! Molly Bale has signed up under a School Based Traineeship and is with us on a Friday.

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“We Don’t Do Food”

http://www.milfordlodge.com.au/blog/we-dont-do-food

When we ask people their recollections of Milford Lodge, even from before we offered a full kitchen, they almost always include the enticing smell of baking wafting through the front entrance upon arrival.
As children attending Milford Lodge in those first few decades, we collected the eggs from the chook pen, which then went into those daily enticements better known as morning tea.
There are always many more recollections from the children and families who once attended, however for some reason those wonderful and welcoming aromas seem to have their own special safe place within the memory bank and manage to come wafting back at the mention of their time at Milford Lodge.

There are memories surrounding food that are no longer acceptable now like these children licking the bowl after helping make a cake including eggs from our own chickens. Where do we even begin to list the health and safety issues surrounding that! I recall bobbing for apples against my best friend on another occasion. And I am certain that when it came to lunch time, we all shared from our lunch boxes with our friends.

Fast forward to today and we have had a full kitchen for the past decade, complete with chefs who are extremely passionate about providing good, wholesome food for our children.
But is it all about employing someone to plate food up for children?
Not it is not. It is about so much more than that.
The chefs have a pivotal role in making food a massive part of our daily program, from the garden to the plate.
Our chefs are not only interested in the food that they are serving to the children, they are genuinely concerned of the health and wellbeing of every child in our care. They ensure children are given the opportunity to work in small groups, helping prepare food, take leftovers to our pets, and even go to the trouble to find odd jobs for the child that just wants to have some quality time with them - like peeling stickers off apples! (No joke!)
Our chefs have conversations with our children, and take a genuine interest in their learning.
They are also extremely patient, and happy to answer the 100 questions that can emerge from a four year old within minutes.

I was part of a conversation of families discussing Early Childhood services recently. The conversation began due to one parent's impending 'return to work' from Maternity Leave. After the general discussion on the service itself, days and the transitions from home to care the conversation moved to the 'perks'. The service was open for those extended long hours that most services are now. The service was currently discussing the implementation of a courtesy bus. The service 'does food'. It was at this point that the other family chipped in "you're on a good wicket when they do the food."
The general consensus seemed to be that the more the service could convenience the family the better that would be.

I absolutely understand the pressure of today on a parent. I am a parent too. We both work, many weekends thrown in the mix. We both have other commitments which take time away from 'family'.
I am in no way judging these families, who happen to be friends of mine, or belittling them in their decision making surrounding care. They are great parents and have happy, healthy children.

I am questioning the sales gimmicks that we now see rampant in the Early Childhood Industry. Many people within the industry detest that word - industry. But the truth of the matter it is an industry, and many services look and feel more like a factory than a home for children. And where sales gimmicks are involved, that screams industry.

There are many Early Childhood services who 'do food' by having a truck come around with pre-prepared and portioned meals that can feed every child at a low, low $2.50 each. They even get up to 2 hot meals a week. There are so many things I find alarming in Early Childhood, and these 'Food Truck' businesses would be right up there.
You can't 'do food'.
Food is so much more than that.

In the first five years of life, a child's brain develops more and faster than at any other time in their life. The early experiences a child has – the things they experience, see, hear, touch, smell and taste – stimulate their brain, creating millions of connections.
Why would we remove an entire experience and one in which is arguably one of the most important, by providing meals from a truck, which apparently meet some tick of approval from some department regarding their 'nutritional value'.

Food deserves so much more than that.

Our friends over at Urban Food Street have re-created an entire community, and it is all from food.
The Urban Food Street neighbourhood is thriving - kids play in the street, families actually know each other, the elderly are cared for, and yes, they gather over food. People have always gathered over food.

But why have they transformed their nature strips?
They are not a business. It is not for monetary purposes.
Duncan & Caroline, and all of the people who live in and around Urban Food Street are passionate about making a positive change for our future. At every quarterly family walk, Duncan is very specific about how important it is for the children to be immersed in this from a young age.

To understand where real food comes from.
To understand where real community comes from.
To understand about really caring for the land and each other.
No gimmicks required.
The results of the passion and hard work from this community speak for themselves.

So, we don't "do food" at Milford Lodge.
If doing food only costs $2.50 per child, then we have gone over the budget at least 10 times over! (...and some?)
Children who attend Milford Lodge are actively involved in planting, weeding, watering, growing, harvesting, chopping, plucking, slicing, squeezing, mixing, pouring, measuring, tasting, licking, smelling, sharing, serving, carrying, counting, setting.... and yes, gathering... over food, glorious food!

Written by Molly Stewart

Milford Lodge Child Care

Accounts Information for Families

Milford Lodge is a Long Day Care Service offering permanent bookings on a weekly basis.
We are an approved service for Child Care Benefit & Rebate Payments

Initial Payment & Two Weeks' Full Fees in Advance

To secure your booking, Milford Lodge asks that two weeks of full fees be paid.
Milford Lodge ***does not*** apply any estimates for Child Care Benefit, Rebate or any other future payments from the Government (eg. Kindergarten Plus, JET, etc).

Milford Lodge requires all families to keep their account two weeks full fees in advance at all times.
Again, the advance fees will not include any estimates.
Any child care benefit or rebates paid to families are automatically applied to accounts upon receipt by the service.

Account Frequency

All current family accounts are emailed on a weekly basis on a Tuesday, or after remittance has been received for all Child Care Benefit & Child Care Rebate for our families.
The accounts emailed on Tuesday are due for full payment by the Friday of the same week, and will include the additional two full weeks in advance.

Government Assistance

Milford Lodge "Child Care Benefit Explained" helps families to work out their GAP fee based on their percentage.
Families should contact the Family Assistance Office on 136150 to check their eligibility for assistance with their weekly child care fees.

Child Care Benefit

"Helps with costs for approved and registered care such as long, family or occasional day care, outside school hour care, vacation care, pre-school and kindergarten."

Child Care Rebate Payments

"Covers 50% of out of pocket child care expenses for approved child care, up to an annual limit per child, in addition to any other child care assistance."

Child Care Benefit / Child Care Rebate Payments

Milford Lodge submits all child attendance for the week (Monday through Friday) each Friday afternoon (or last day of the week due to Public Holidays etc).
The remittance is generally received by the service on the following Tuesday, thus why accounts are emailed on a Tuesday.
All Child Care Benefit and Rebate payments are paid to the service via CCMS (Child Care Management System).

Payment of Fees

Milford Lodge accepts the following methods of payment:

- Cash
- Cheque
- EFTPOS (No AMEX)
- Direct Credit (Jumofini Pty Ltd BSB 014306 ACC 905419869 Ref Account Holder Full Name)

Public Holidays / Service Closure

Milford Lodge does not charge families for Public Holidays when the service is not in operation.

PLEASE NOTE:

All Public Holidays will be removed from accounts on the Friday of the week they fall in, just prior to the service submitting attendance to CCMS.

The reason for this is so that all Child Care Benefit and Rebate Payments align with the full fee advance payment.
(On the Tuesday that the family receives the account with less child care benefit and / or rebate due to the closure, it will be at the same time that the full day fee has been removed).

Siblings in other registered care

For families with a child or children in other registered care (Long Day Care, After School Care, etc), please inform all services how many children are in care and for what periods of time.
Additional children in other care are entered manually (to access the higher child care percentage).
If the service is not informed the percentage paid will be only for the number of children in our care.

Absent Days

Milford Lodge employs above minimum requirements for educator to child ratios.
We value our employees, and do not enforce earlier end of shift times when ratios allow.
For a child who is absent due to illness or holiday, the usual daily fees will apply.
All children can access 42 Allowable Absences per financial year where applicable Child Care Benefit and / or Rebate will be paid.
For families at risk of going above the 42 Allowable Absent Days, please see management, as documentation will be required to be able to claim Child Care Benefit / Rebate for any additional absent days. (Medical Certificate, Proof of Shift employment etc)

'Selling' Days

Whilst we do not discount fees for absent days, we do try our best to help out our families.
Where possible, inform us in advance of any holidays or periods of time where your child will be away from care.
It is not guaranteed, however occasionally we may have another child who requires the day as a casual booking and thus will remove your booked day.
Milford Lodge does not offer swap days.

Notification to Book Care

Milford Lodge offers families two weeks' notice to add a booked day / days of care.
The service will not hold positions of care open for any longer than the two weeks, unless extraordinary circumstances apply (at service discretion).

Notification to Cancel Care

For any family cancelling any or all days of booked care for their child, two weeks written notification is required.
Please note that the service can only claim Child Care Benefit and / or Rebate up until the child's last physical day of attendance. If a family provides the written notification to cancel care but the child does not attend, we cannot legally claim any payments on the family's behalf.
Child Care Benefit and / or Rebate is also only payable from the child's first physical day of attendance.
For any booked days before the child's first physical day of attendance or after the child's last physical day of attendance, full fees will apply.

Kindergarten Subsidy for Health Care Card Holders

For families with a child enrolled in our Kindergarten Program (2 day minimum) who hold a current Health Care Card or Concession Card, please bring it into the service for us to sight and copy.
At the end of each quarter, the service will apply for the QKFS+ subsidy on your behalf.
Upon remittance, this payment from the funding team will go directly onto your account.

Fee Reimbursements

For families ending care, the service will reimburse any credit applicable via direct credit or cheque payment.
This payment will be processed after all child care benefit, rebate and other payments are received.

Late Fees

Milford Lodge operational hours:
Monday to Friday 7.30am – 5.30pm
For any time a child is in care outside of these times the following fees will apply per child:
>10minutes - $20.00
10 – 20 minutes - $40.00
20 – 30 minutes - $60.00
30 – 40 minutes - $80.00

For all account queries please contact Molly ☺

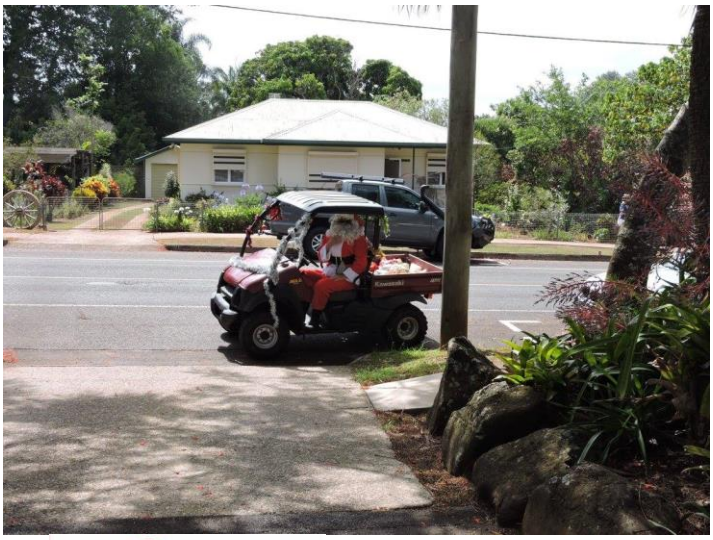
Milford's Big Birthday Week!

We enjoyed an entire week of celebrations for Milford Lodge's Big Birthday Week from 24th – 28th October.
Here are some pictures from the fun we had to celebrate 30 years of Milford Lodge and the centenary of the house ☺

Thanks again to Ty Tamblyn (Milford class of 1987!) for coming along to photograph with his drone.
www.tytamblynphotographer.com

Thanks to the man in the big red suit for coming along on our last day for 2016 ♥

(What a fabulous job he did!)



And thanks to Mammoth Self Store for their very kind donation ☺

What a wonderful send-off we shared with our Kindergarten Graduation.
Thanks to Monica for the amazingly huge and delicious cake!

Thank you to everyone for supporting yet another fantastic Milford Lodge Community Market Day.
Whilst we did not break any records in 2016, we still raised over $3000, which was shared equally between
"Buderim Men's Shed"
& "A Beautiful You".
Looking forward to Market Day 2017!