

K.I.C.S News

February—April 2017

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Playgroup Leader
Carmel Coutts
Playgroup Support Assistant
Colin Coutts

Administration

Royelene Hill
Hours: Tues. Wed. Thurs. 8-2pm

Field Team 2

Playgroup Leader
Liz O'Brien
Playgroup Support Assistant
Jamie O'Brien

[Find us on Facebook](#)



Elliott



Marlinja



Hodgson River



Kalala



Myatt



Beswick

...from our archives! KICS is heading towards its 30th Birthday!

Below: John & Kate King our first playgroup field team and children Amaranth and Nathan. Late in 1987 a custom built vehicle and caravan were purchased in readiness for the first KICS field trip which finally took place in March 1988. During 2017 and into 2018, through the pages of our newsletter, we will head down that long, beaten, bush track with past playgroup teams to share the memories and to celebrate this auspicious milestone.



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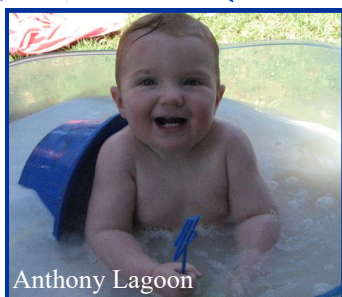
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Hello Everyone

Lots of rain, lots of rejuvenation and lots of optimism has 2017 off to a great start! We hope likewise for all of you as we knuckle down for another year of doing what we do best. KICS are well underway with our itinerary and programmes prepared, resources and toys carefully selected and trailers packed. Our Field Teams, Carmel & Col, Liz & Jamie have been out and about since mid February to venues that are accessible as dictated by the 'wet season'! Mandy is busy with her role of keeping the service on the road which involves a multitude of tasks and has also been managing to attend some of the closer to town playgroups. Please see the Teams and Mandy's reports in this issue.

Some of you would be aware of KICS nearing its 30th year of service to geographically isolated children and families. We are envisaging celebrating this event through the pages of our newsletters during this year and into 2018. John and Kate King our very first Field Team kindly passed on the great photos on the front page. We will gather reports, stories and photos from previous KICS Teams and staff, and hopefully from our families to share with you along the way. It would be very special to hear from second generation KICS families who are now enjoying our playgroups with their children. Your memories of KICS jotted down and a photo or two would be greatly received to add to the KICS story. Actually, we would love to hear from anyone out there who may have something to add to the memories, past and present. It is in the pipeline that we will do something celebratory such as a Fun Day to mark this big event. Watch this space!

Cheers from us all...Royelene



Anthony Lagoon



Lingara



The Hockey Family ...spot the pink bow!

... more photos from our archives, sharing the memories!



Menngen 2004



VRD 2006



Manangoora 2004



Urapunga 2004



Bone Lagoon 2004



Top Springs 2003



Bulla 2004

A word from Mandy...

Welcome back to another year of KICS and we are off to an early start with our mobile playgroup service underway in those communities and stations that we can easily access in the wet weather! The teams hope to get further afield as the roads dry out, and hopefully get graded to minimise damage to the vehicles and trailers!

KICS is grateful to have returning teams this year with Liz and Jamie O'Brien continuing from last year and Carmel and Col Coutts returning from some time away! The teams began the year by updating their First Aid certificates through St John Ambulance. Carmel and Liz then joined in on a 3 day Abecedarian (3a) training course through the NT Dept. of Education that was aimed at FaFT (Families as First Teachers). It was great that we could be included in this training opportunity for our staff!

I flew down to Sydney for a BBF (Budget Based Funding) Mobile forum on the 7th March 2017 to meet with other BBF mobile services and representatives for the Federal Dept. of Education. It was reassuring to hear that about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the BBF mobile services were unable to transition to the new funding model, so we are not alone. The 'Jobs for Families' legislation was passed last week, so we look forward to learning what the changes for KICS will be. Our funding will continue under a different department, so be rest assured that the KICS mobile playgroup service will continue!

We have also received a grant from the Whites Group for \$4K which has been used to purchase new resources such as STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) activities, role play items such as dress ups, pretend fruit, strollers and craft items for our children to use at KICS mobile playgroups across our very large part of the Territory. Thank you so much Whites Group!

I am in the process of planning our itinerary for Term 2, we have a few invitational events such as campdrafts and Ladies Days on the agenda but please let me know if there are more!

Mandy Tootell
KICS Coordinator



Above: Mandy, Flynn and Liam trying on new dress ups.

Right: Tim Smeets presenting Mandy with the Whites Rural Community Grants certificate.



Below: Mandy with Jacinta from Smile-A-Mile (based at Humpty Doo) at the BBF Mobile Forum in Sydney.



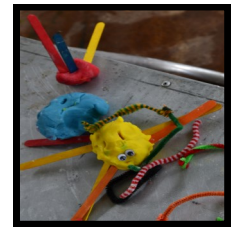
WHITES RURAL





Field Teams reporting...

Team 1 Carmel & Col



We're Baacckk

After managing the Borroloola caravan park for 6 months and living in the centre of Darwin for the last 18 months Carmel & I are back at KICS to do it all again. Last year we celebrated our Silver wedding anniversary and more importantly got our first grandchild- a boy- Chase. Carmel added to her extensive time in the Early Childhood Education field with 18 months at a Childcare Centre at Nightcliff as well as working part time at Smile A Mile the Darwin based Mobile Playgroup, while I worked in the Spare Parts department of NT Motorcycle Centre. A couple of camping trips gave us the urge to head bush again and when the KICS position became available we jumped straight on board and are relishing the thought of staying in the billion star hotel again. We are looking forward to visiting all the families we got to know on our first stint at KICS and are excited to visit all the new people and places that have joined the wonderful world of KICS since we have been gone.

Carmel & Col



Kalkaringi ... all set up and ready for play!



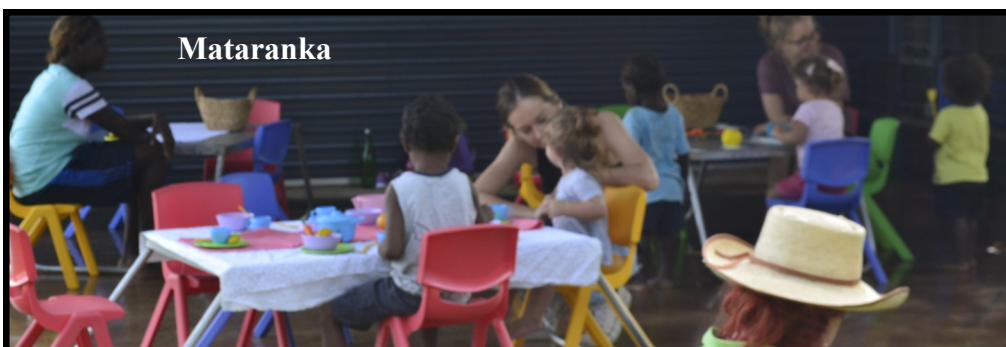
...before the tea party!



... tea party time at Beswick



Myatt



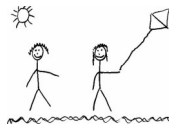
Mataranka



Mataranka

Field Teams reporting cont. . .

Team 2 Liz & Jamie



We hope everyone had a nice Christmas/New Year break. Jamie and I have returned for 2017 refreshed and ready for another exciting year of KICS. Term 1 started off a little wet as you all know which restricted our first couple of weeks visiting some places. We have been welcomed with many children enjoying our visits, some of which are familiar faces which is always nice to see. Jamie and I look forward to catching up with you all and meeting new KICS families and visiting new Communities in the coming weeks.

Liz & Jamie



Elliott



Kybrook Farm



Barunga



Beswick



King River



Jilkminggan



Kalala



Bulla

The Very Special Birthday List...

February

04/02/2017 *Alfred Walsh*
 08/02/2013 *Jessie Hoar*
 09/02/2006 *Michael Skerrett*
 13/02/2008 *Larran Cook*
 14/02/2011 *Alexandria Underwood*
 16/02/2011 *Cambell Payne*
 18/02/2008 *Emily Watts*
 19/02/2012 *Issabella Heeb*
 19/02/2016 *Kate Milne*
 19/02/2016 *Nina Milne*
 22/02/2008 *Cody Bauer*
 22/02/2008 *Thomas Leslie*
 23/02/2010 *Ian Andrews*
 23/02/2006 *Luke Pearson*
 24/02/2007 *Steven (Wobbles) Craig*
 25/02/2009 *Daequan Boddington*
 25/02/2011 *Bailey Hoar*
 26/02/2016 *Archie McMillan*

March

04/03/2014 *Felix Walsh*
 06/03/2014 *Jack Murphy*
 06/03/2015 *Leila Angel*
 07/03/2006 *Jessie Miller*
 12/03/2013 *Aaron Andrews*
 14/03/2012 *Isaac Hockey*
 17/03/2007 *Taylen Campbell*
 23/03/2014 *Evie Kessner*
 25/03/2014 *Lydia Armstrong*
 28/03/2008 *Becky Miller*

April

01/04/2009 *Nathan Richter*
 03/04/2008 *Elise Brown*
 03/04/2012 *Zahli Scott*
 06/04/2010 *Lucas Elliott*
 09/04/2009 *Mia Lorimer*
 10/04/2006 *Charlotte Armstrong*
 23/04/2009 *Eli Hockey*
 24/04/2008 *Evelyn James*
 27/04/2004 *Brodie Craig*



K.I.C.S is funded through Budget Based Funding (BBF) from the Commonwealth Department of Education and through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) by the Prime Minister & Cabinet (PMC).

feedback from you...

'Great to see the awesome work continuing strong!' ... from a Mataranka Cluster Family

'Yesterday we had another fabulous visit to Kiana by your KICS team. This will be our seventh year of receiving the happiness that the KICS playgroup brings our small but remote community and we are grateful. What would we do without KICS?! ... Nicole Lorimer

'KICS make each child feel special by travelling huge distances to remote places to hold their playgroups'.
... Tanya Hockey

I've learned that ... our dog doesn't want to eat broccoli either. ...from a 7 year old!



Bulman 2011



Helen Springs 2005



Top Springs 2003



Kalkaringi 2013



Kalkaringi 2003



Daly Waters 2004



Margaret Downs 2010



Limmer Bight 2004



Jilkminggan 2004



Mataranka 2010



Newry 2003



Kalkaringi 2005

14/06/2005



Yarralin 2003



Avago 2006



Scholastic Book Club

Scholastic Book Club Issue 1 & 2 have been out and about with families partaking of this great opportunity to purchase quality books and resources. Keep an eye out for Issue 3!

If you do not wish to receive **Book Club in 2017** please let us know. As a non profit service it will help with unnecessary postal costs.

facebook

If you are into FB'ing then do a search for K.I.C.S. and 'like' our page.

For Sale



K.I.C.S T-Shirts

- \$15

Sizes 00 to 14 (generous fit).

Available in a range of colours.

Easy to clean!

K.I.C.S.



Great for campdrafts - camping- school rooms - playgroups.

Indoor / Outdoor Waterproof Mats.
Made from 100% recycled plastic.

Road tested at K.I.C.S Playgroups.

1.8 x 3 m

\$110 each

Also comes in **green**.

Reversible,

Foldable

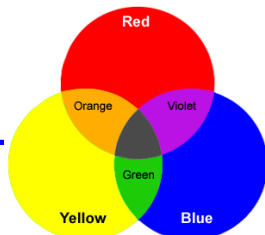
Contact K.I.C.S - 08 8971 0196

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Vegetable dye powder in the primary colours,

Red - Blue - Yellow for the home classroom can be expensive. We have packaged smaller amounts of the 3 colours to accompany our Kid's Recipes / Activity Card. At \$5 this handy little kit will be an asset when preparing daily, fun activities for the little people.

A **win, win** situation, as you will be supporting our fund raising effort as well!



K.I.C.S Cluster Groups

Could you please look over the Cluster grouping below and decide if you would like to be placed in other clusters. In many cases some families are in travel distance of more than one cluster area, giving the opportunity to attend extra playgroups. Please fill out this form and return ASAP.
If you are unsure of your cluster areas, please contact us.

Name: _____

Station / Community: _____

Preferred Cluster / Clusters: _____

Clusters
Barkly New Castle Waters Elliot Kiana
Daly Waters Gorrie Loop
Limmen
Kalkarindji Lajamanu Riveren
WA Border Timber Creek
Mataranka Roper
Ngukurr
Numbulwar
Top Springs VRD

K.I.C.S CLIENT INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE

The K.I.C.S Web Site can be found at www.kics.org.au
Check it out!

*Thanks to Mick Elligett from www.tropics.net.au for designing
this fabulous site for us.*



We have a vast collection of photos from the K.I.C.S. Playgroup albums and would like to give you the opportunity to browse through them by including them on our web site. This would make the photos available for public viewing. We need your permission to place your child's photo on our web site and face book. The photos will not disclose personal details (names etc.) other than the Playgroup venue and date.

There would also be occasions when K.I.C.S need visual material for broader publication to promote the Service to a wider community eg. media articles and presentations at Conferences.

Before K.I.C.S can go ahead with this we need you as parents or guardians to complete the following form and return to us ASAP. If you have already completed a permission form you would only need to do so again if you have new children to add.

Many thanks.

PERMISSION FOR USE OF VISUAL MATERIAL

I give approval for visual materials containing my children/family to be used for the purpose of promoting K.I.C.S. to the wider community through our web site, face book, media articles and children's services conference presentations.

Parent/s/Guardian Name: _____

Child/Children's Name: _____

Station/Community _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

K.I.C.S is a non profit organisation.
To enhance our funds and to enable us to purchase
resources we fundraise throughout the year.

The *Scholastic Book Club* is our ongoing fundraiser, raising credit
vouchers to purchase books for our ever growing library.

We also sell Indoor/Outdoor waterproof mats, *K.I.C.S Kid's T-shirts*,
adult polo and chambray shirts and *Kid's Fun Stuff recipe cards/with*
vegetable dye.

We have tried different fund
raising ideas over the years which have been well received.

Our end of the year *Toy Catalogue Fundraiser* gives families the
opportunity to shop for quality toys and
educational resources. K.I.C.S receive 20% on all orders placed
allowing us to purchase resources with the money earned.

In order to keep mailing costs at a minimum we need to ascertain
who is interested in receiving *fundraising information*
throughout the year.

Could you please take a moment and fill in the form below and
return at your earliest convenience.

Thank You.

I do I don't wish to receive: Book Club

I do ☐ I don't ☐ wish to receive: Toy Catalogues

I do ☐ I don't ☐ wish to receive: information on other fund raising
ventures as they arise.

☐ ☐

Name.....

Address.....