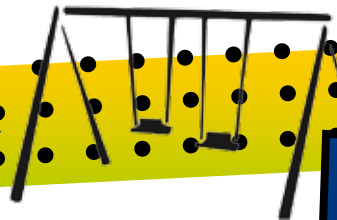




# playground



June 2007

The Illawarra Children's Services newsletter

*For the information of parents, carers and staff*



## The Greatest Shave

Two staff members and one parent have taken up the challenge to "be brave and shave".

Philip Anderson and parent Nichollette East from Dapto Children's Centre and Pam Booth at Northern Suburbs OSHC all shaved their heads for the World's Greatest Shave, raising over \$1300 for the Leukaemia Foundation. Children at the centres also took part, making gold coin donations to have their hair coloured.

The Leukaemia Foundation assists with research, as well as information and support services for patients and their families. This is the second year the centres have participated.

On 22 May, Central Office also raised funds for The Cancer Council by taking part in Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.



*Pam Booth from Northern Suburbs OSHC (above) and Philip Anderson and Nichollette East from Dapto children's centre (left) taking part in the World's Greatest Shave*

## Bulli's star performers step out

With dress-ups and their own fantastic shows, children at Bulli Children's Centre have become seasoned performers. To build on this interest, staff took the children to IPAC in Wollongong to see a live show called 'Pearlie in the Park'.

The children were excited to see the big stage, flip-up chairs in the theatre and real actors performing.

A picnic lunch followed the show, expertly organised by the centre's cook, Lee Karayiannis. After a day of great fun, some very tired children and staff filed back onto the bus for the trip home.

Staff conveyed a big thank you to parents who supported the excursion and helped make it such a success.



## National Families Week

National Families Week began on 14 May with the theme 'Families Investing in Time Together'.

Wollongong City Preschool began the week with a transition to school forum. Last year's preschool graduates came back to talk about big school to the children who will graduate this year.

Parents and preschoolers asked lots of questions and the children were left in no doubt that moving to big school is fun.

Tuesday 15 May marked International Day of the Family. Families enjoyed a picnic at McCabe Park before participating in games and afternoon activities.

A family breakfast to model healthy eating followed, along with a dress-up day when the preschoolers dressed in their parents' work uniforms.

Creativity ruled on Thursday when the children reflected on the week's activities through writing, poetry and painting. They also shared their stories and learned about the many ways that 'family' can be defined.



*Children enjoying National Families Week activities at Wollongong City Preschool*

## Child Care Benefit now available for long day care at Narellan

The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has approved 14 Child Care Benefit places for children attending long day care at Narellan Early Learning Centre.

These places complement the centre's 22 occasional care places.

Families seeking long day care and Child Care Benefit should contact the Family Assistance Office and confirm that your child/ren are attending Narellan Early Learning Centre, quoting the centre's customer reference number (CRN) 407 299 342J.

The Family Assistance Office will provide you with a percentage that can be used at the service to calculate your reduced child care fee.

This is a welcome development and any queries can be referred in the first instance to Susan Boddey, Centre Director, or Sharlene Wright, Administration Officer, at Narellan Early Learning Centre on 4647 1076.

## Raising Resilient Kids

Sponsored by Barnardos and Families First, the Raising Resilient Kids workshop for parents and carers will be held on Wednesday 27 June from 9:30am-12:00pm at Shellharbour Workers' Club.

Lyn Worsley, child and adolescent psychologist, will speak on developmental changes in children that affect family harmony, factors that raise resilience in children, ways of strengthening the family unit and how to help children build a strong sense of family identity.



*Magician Joey Presto*

For program details and RSVPs, contact Kath Smith, Transition to School Project Officer on 4283 9900 or email [kath.smith@ics.org.au](mailto:kath.smith@ics.org.au) by Friday 22 June.

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## “Abracadabra!”

Children from Illawarra Special Needs Vacation Care and Western Suburbs Child Care Centre joined children at Unanderra Vacation Care last holidays.

The occasion was Joey Presto's fantastic magic show. The show was a great hit with the children, many of whom joined Joey on stage.

It was a day of high energy and the children enjoyed a great atmosphere and made new friends.

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## Family fun on the right track at Corrimal

More than 150 people attended a family fun day at Illawarra Live Steamers on Saturday 19 May.

Corrimal Children's Centre parents organised a sausage sizzle and ice cream truck, along with the all-important coffee van for the over 18s.

It was a great day for families to get to know each other and for the children to enjoy the sunshine and physical activity.





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## Tell your friends!

Limited places are available at the following Illawarra Children's Services centres:

- Kenny Street Children's Centre
- Port Kembla Preschool
- Stewart Street Children's House
- Wollongong City Preschool

To book your place or for more information phone Liz Depers on 4283 9948.

Submissions or suggestions for future issues of Playground are welcome and encouraged!

### Deadlines for 2007:

September edition: August 10  
December edition: November 9

Send all material to:  
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## Mums spoilt for choice at Kiama Downs

Kiama Downs Children's Centre held its Mothers' Day lunch and morning tea on 10-11 May.

The centre had a fantastic response from mothers and grandmothers who were served pink iced cupcakes, cinnamon biscuits and iced chocolates at morning tea.

At lunch time, 18 mums and grandmas joined the preschoolers for quiche and salad, as well as ice-cream sundaes and cranberry cocktails - non alcoholic of course! The staff set up the outdoor veranda like a banquet room for the special guests where the children then helped to serve lunch.

The centre's cook, Cheryl Bird, led staff in making the day one that all guests will remember.

All fathers are now keen to see what's in store for Father's Day!

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