

**Whitehorse Pre School Association
Annual General Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday 11th March 2009

7:30pm

Box Hill Town Hall Hub

Visual Arts Room, First Floor

27 Banks St, Box Hill

Present: Benwerrin, Birralee, Box Hill Sth, Dr Stanley Cochrane, Eastmont, Florence Rd, Indra, Larch St, New Hope Baptist, Pope Rd, Rangeview, St Augustine's, Terrara, Warekila, Wattle Hill, Woodhouse Grove, Pat Brown, Sofi Galanis, Leanne Mits (WKG), Carol Franklyn (KPV)

Apologies: Barriburn, Blackburn, East Burwood, Heatherdale, Parkside, St Scholastica's, Donna Matthews WELS and Tony Johnston Council, Ana Tsaganos DEECD

Absent: Box Hill Nth Primary, Burwood Heights, Friend St, Holbury, Katrina, Mt Pleasant, Nunawading, Parkmore, St James, St Peter's, Surrey Hills Baptist, Taralye, Vermont,

Meeting opened 7:30pm

Welcome

David Bradley (WPSA President) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He introduced the 2009 WPSA Executive Committee, which included the President, Secretary, Treasurer and General Committee member.

Received and accepted, with question time:

- a. Presidents Report
- b. Association manager's report
- c. Financial report
- d. Whitehorse Kindergarten Group Report

**Guest Speaker: Carol Franklyn, Early Childhood Consultant from
Kindergarten Parents Victoria (KPV)**

Carol has been with KPV since July 2008. She has 30 years experience and is a professional trainer. She delivers a lot of training for KPV.

The role of KPV is to:

- *deal with calls and provide support to committee members/local government
- *support parents of pre school children,
- *support facilities of childhood development,
- *support you in management and governance role,

- *provide information about renewing policies, industrial relations advice, wage rates and answer any other simple questions, and
- *support parents and parent preparation

Currently there is lots of funding in early childhood.

KPV has a vision - "to prepare children for life", hence they are aware that it is a life long learning journey for our children.

There are 1200 kindergartens that are members of KPV.

Carol informed us that there were 4 childhood centres that were lost in the recent bushfires.

Carol also informed us that KPV provides a lot of training. Staff travel all over the state to provide this training and assistance.

KPV does not provide mediation or dispute training as they are not qualified to do this. They do however provide training for budgets and provide ideas and suggestions in this area, there is training in payline/wages, and in governance, for example how to hold a meeting/AGM and how important a handover is from one committee to another.

KPV has a yearly planner available on their website: www.kpv.org.au (you access this using your membership number)

Carol suggested that it is best to start recruiting early in the year for committee positions for the following year. She also advised that KPV hold conferences and offer professional development for teachers and assistants. Customised training is also available.

KPV provides resources for committees to use, and Carol also suggested that it is a good idea to subscribe to enews.

KPV is in partnership with worksafe and hence offers assistance with occupational health and safety issues. There are also training sessions on offer currently for those interested in using payline.

Carol provided pamphlets and materials of what KPV has to offer.

Guest Speaker: Ana Tsaganos, DEECD Program and Service Adviser

(Unfortunately Ana cancelled her attendance at this meeting late this afternoon)

General Business

*Kim advised us that WPSA have registered their interest in providing assistance to those affected by the Bushfires. This interest has been registered on the DEECD website which is available for associations or individuals to indicate that when required and if required they are on board to assist in some way, whether that be to provide materials or monetary donations. WPSA have indicated that they have a skeleton that they are willing to donate to a preschool when up and running.

*Kim also brought to our attention an explanation of the changing categories of membership that she had indicated in her Association Manager Report. There are a few kinders in the city of Whitehorse that due to how their licence works do not have a parent committee because they are part of a centre or school that holds their licence. Hence a full executive membership is where a parent committee exists, and a non-executive membership is where the centre/complex or school manages the kinder. These kinders will be required to pay a small additional amount as part of their WPSA membership as they do not provide an Executive committee member. There are 6 or 7 kinders in this municipality that fall into this category. Those preschools on our Executive roster will now be rotated about every 4 years.

*Leanne Mits spoke on behalf of the Whitehorse Kindergarten Group (WKG) and provided some valuable information as to what the group does and offers. They now have approx 30 people who attend their meetings. They undertake their roles as coordinators as volunteers. She encouraged all of those in attendance that we should support and encourage the teacher at the centres to be the best teachers that they can be and to also ensure that the teachers and assistants are aware of the groups existence. Each term 2-3 professional development opportunities are available. There is an annual fee of \$40.00 to join.

Leanne acknowledged and thanked with great sincerity the funding that WPSA has so generously offered and for the ongoing assistance that WPSA provides. WPSA recently made a \$3000 donation to the group.

Leanne also indicated that kinder assistants should be appreciated and valued in the role they provide to the centre. They too should be valued as educators to our children. And that by the year 2014 it will be mandatory that all assistants have Certificate 3 in childcare studies.

*Kim reminded all of the call for expression of interest for Membership on Council's Municipal Early Years Plan Advisory Committee. Applications close March 20th, 2009 and that all enquiries go to Neil Rogers at the Whitehorse Council.

*March 24th, 2009 - Partnership Meeting. Open to any committee members. It is a good night for new committee members to attend and a good night for networking and sound boarding.

Meeting closed 8:30pm

Next Annual General Meeting: March 2010

Next General Meeting: Tuesday 2nd June, 2009.
Meeting Room D, Box Hill Town Hall Hub.