



*"learning through play"*

# Greenhills Gazette

**August 2017**

Find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/GreenhillsPreschool>

## Reminders...

- **Students**

You may have noticed we have had a number of students undertake their placement with us this term. We believe it is important to share what we do at Greenhills with Early Childhood students and you will continue to see new faces throughout the year.

- **Snack Boxes**

Remember we are encouraging growing independence within our program – please pack your child's snack in a lunchbox / container that they can open and get out of their bag independently. Some of the food packaging can also prove challenging and we would suggest that you trial the containers/lids with your child at home.

- **Updating details**

If you have changed / updated enrolment information such as address, telephone & mobile numbers, email address – please provide staff with current information.

## President's Report

Welcome back to term 3, and so far we've had some cold mornings. Hopefully the days bring more sun and warmth. A big welcome back to Jo Garner who has returned after 6 months leave. It's great to see you back!

As Spring is on the horizon the weeds will be going gang busters in our outdoor area and garden. So now more than ever we will be needing helpers in the garden. So please remember to sign up for the Gardening roster. This term Growling grass frogs will see this roster next to their sign in sheet. Swift Parrots parents will see the washing roster next to their sign in sheet.

The teachers would like to ask if you could put your name down for parent helper. Siblings are more than welcome and you can be there as long as you like! It doesn't have to be for the whole session. The Parent Helper sheet is also next to the sign in sheet. Just remember when you do, it is a requirement that you sign yourself and the sibling in as well. If you are unsure please ask the teachers.

Photos were done at the end of last term and I can say that they look really fantastic. I am having trouble which one to pick. Orders are due back by Tuesday 8th Aug.

There are a couple of things coming up in the next few months. So please put these in your diary for you to remember.

**Sunday August 20th:** WORKING BEE 9am – 12pm

**Thursday 31st August:** Fire Night. For families and teachers. It is a great way a getting the whole community together and it is a great night.

**Saturday Sep 9th:** Bunnings BBQ. If you can spare a few hours on this date please put your name down as this is one of the preschools biggest and most profitable fundraisers.

Until next newsletter,

**Jacqui Armstrong**

President - Greenhills Committee.

## Did you know?



### Swift Parrot

*Lathamus discolor*

**Swift Parrots** are the world's fastest flying parrot reaching speeds of up to 100km/h & also the longest distance migrating parrot flying up to 5,000km on a return journey. From September to January they breed in east coast Tasmanian woodlands & **nest in old trees with hollows**. Swift Parrots fly north to mainland Australia & over-winter in a variety of flowering eucalypt forests, from box-ironbark country in Victoria to coastal forests in southern Queensland. Moving in flocks they're noisy & active & often seen hanging upside down feeding in flowers on nectar, galls, lerp & small insects. **Endangered Swift Parrots fly along the Yarra & Plenty river 'woodland corridors' when migrating further north.** In the Greenhills area of Greensborough, the protected **Yellow Gum woodlands** are important for resting & feeding.



[www.banyule.vic.gov.au/environment/](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/environment/)

IMAGE: Chris Tzeras



### Growling Grass Frog

*Litoria raniformis*

**Growling Grass Frogs** are found close to water in woodlands & shrublands across Victoria. They eat insects & occasionally smaller frogs & are one of the few frogs active by day. Males make a growl like 'crawark crawark crok crok crok' call. Females lay eggs in floating creamy coloured spawn that breaks up & sinks to the bottom of still water wetlands. **Tadpoles** are pinkish grey in colour with yellowish fins & feed on algae & a variety of wetland plants. Once common, they're now **endangered** with a patchy distribution. **Growling Grass Frogs are found in some of Melbourne's wetlands near the Werribee, Maribyrnong & Yarra Rivers, & the Moonee Ponds, Merri, Edgars, Darebin & Dandenong Creeks.** Pollution from oil, paint, cigarette butts, plastic & fertilisers kills our frogs. We can help by keeping our stormwater drains clean & clear of rubbish.

[www.connies.com.au](http://www.connies.com.au)

IMAGE: John Milkins



Our kinder group names  
Swift Parrot & Growling Grass Frog  
were chosen because they represent  
some of the wonderful wildlife found  
in the Banyule and Victoria regions

## Meet Some of the committee. They are doing a great job.



**Melissa Moore**  
Fundraising



**Jemma Rossel**  
Fundraising



**Charlie Smithson**  
Website

If you would like to join the committee for the last 6 months or are thinking about being on the committee next year then please email Jacqui Armstrong  
[jacqui\\_carter7@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jacqui_carter7@yahoo.com.au)

Jacqui Armstrong, President Greenhills Preschool Committee.



# Educators Report

## Growling Grass Frogs

Term 3 already!!!! This year is going along so fast.....

We welcome our new kinder friends Owen and Emily and their families to our Greenhills Preschool community. We are so proud of the way our current kinder friends have embraced our new friends and taken on the job of helping welcome Owen and Emily into our kinder program.

Congratulations to Charlotte who was very pleased to inform her peers that her baby had arrived, Celeste Olive Cassidy. Congratulations Megan & Graham. The children had many interesting questions for Charlotte who proudly answered them all.

**Mason** "Does your baby play with toys?"

**Charlotte** "No because she is too little"

**Lucas** "What does your baby eat?"

**Charlotte** "Just milk"

**Nyah** "Is she cute?"

**Charlotte** "Yes"

**Akane** "What does she wear?"

**Charlotte** "Her pyjamas all day!"

**Juliet** "How much hair does she have?"

**Charlotte** "just a little bit"

**Ben** "Where does she sleep?"

**Charlotte** "In my daddy's arms because she cries and cries and cries when he puts her in her bassinet"

**Nova** "What does she smell like, because all babies smell nice"

**Charlotte** "I don't know because I haven't smelt her yet, I will let you know tomorrow when I see you"

**Mason** "Why does she sleep?"

**Charlotte** "so she grows"

You may have noticed our new trampoline has arrived! We had many disappointed friends last term when our original unrepairable trampoline had to be added to our pile of hard rubbish. Big thank you to Todd (Ben's Dad) for assembling the trampoline, our fundraising team for helping us purchase the new trampoline and to Ben for "testing" it out.





To celebrate National Tree Day, Kate from Bunnings helped the children plant a lemon tree and a range of vegetable seedlings in our veggie patch.



We hope to create opportunities for children to water, weed, mulch, plant, harvest and share fresh produce once our seedlings grow – we believe these concrete, hands-on experiences provide children with lifelong lessons such as the importance of caring for our environment and the joy that comes from growing and sharing your own fresh produce.





We have started to investigate plants and are currently waiting for our broad bean seeds to start sprouting so we can observe how plants grow.

We asked the children: Why are trees important?

**Charlotte:** give us oxygen

**Nova:** give us paper

**Madison:** they have bark

**Josh:** they have leaves

**Lucas:** paper for drawing

**Juliet:** trees are beautiful to look at  
and give us food

**Naomi:** birds & bats like trees

**Isaac:** so, do possums, sugar gliders  
and owls

**Tahlia:** Kookaburra's like trees

**Charlie:** birds make nests

**Madison:** birds have homes in trees

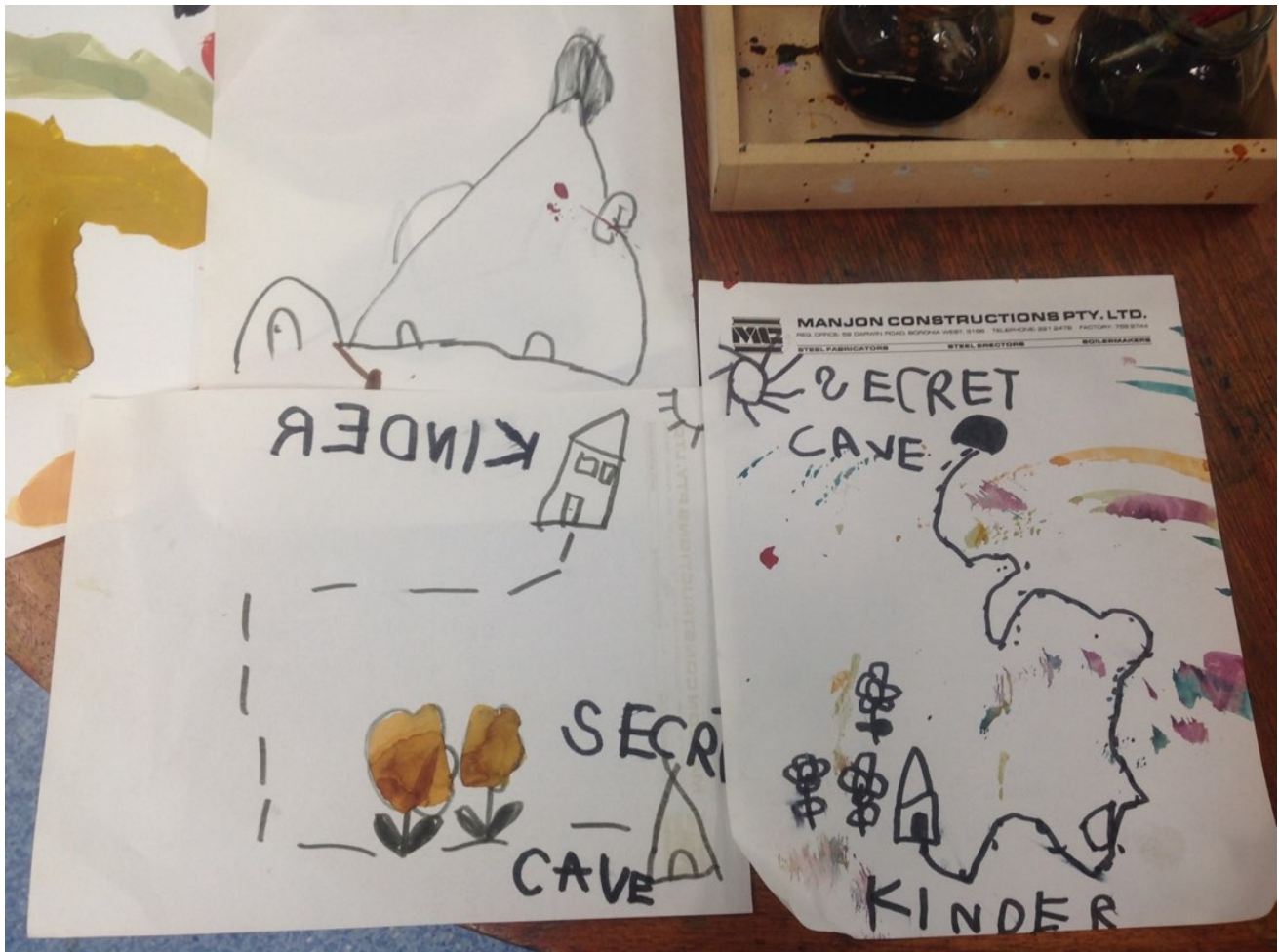


Venturing into the reserve this week we again find our "secret cave" (that we discovered last term). One of our objectives around the tepee is to find out who built the cave and why. If you have any information on this structure, please let us know!

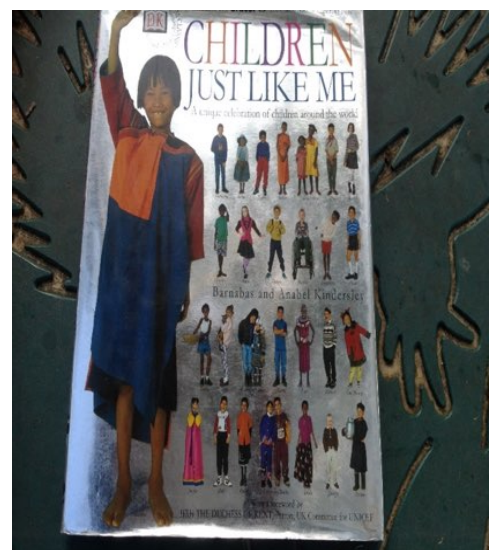




If you get a chance to visit the cave, please do, some kinder friends have drawn maps for you to follow.



You may have read on the community post via story park that we are asking families to share their culture & traditions with us at kinder. Please consider spending some time with our kinder friends; you may like to read a story or sing a song in another language, cook a favourite family recipe, tell a dream time story, share some dance moves and music and/ or traditional costumes.



Emily, Karen, Tracey & Debbie



## Save the date for our annual **Community Fire Night Walk**

on

**Thursday 31st August**  
**5.30 – 7pm**

This is an opportunity to bring our kinder families together in a communal activity. The children who participated last year have been recalling the event are eagerly awaiting the following:

- The beginning of spring
- Creating their lanterns to use in the reserve walk
- A time to have our Fathers at kinder in recognition of Father's Day
- Spending time around the fire pit and toasting some damper and marshmallows

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### [Opportunity to help shape our kinder philosophy](#)

Thank you to those families who have added their ideas and suggestions as we review our current kinder philosophy. Please see the community post on story park for further details and add your voice to this project.

### [Meetings with Greenhills Educators](#)

Greenhills Educators would like to remind you that they are always available to speak to you if needed as stated in the 'Family Handbook' below. You can contact them for an appointment via email, phone or in person at any time, to arrange a mutually appropriate time.

*Communication* (From the Greenhills Preschool Family Handbook)

*It is most important to maintain an open, accessible communication link between the kinder and parents. We have an open-door policy and invite any questions and feedback. The Program book and story park stories are great ways to inform the parents as to what is happening at kinder.*

*Parents can request an interview if needed to discuss a matter about your child. Please approach the educator for an appointment so there is ample time to have your queries answered. It is advisable to notify your child's educator of any unusual or stressful situations which may affect your child. Please note that during session times it is not appropriate to discuss any problems as the educators are busy spending time with all the children.*



## Educator's Report

### Swift Parrots

So lovely to be back at Greenhills and meet all of the Swift Parrot children and their families. I wasn't the only new member of the Swift Parrots this term, we also welcomed two new children – William and Lydia to our group.

Art experiences have been offered to the children regularly by Debbie over the last couple of weeks. Golf ball painting, marble painting and spin art using a salad spinner. This has provided opportunities for the children to practice and improve their fine and gross motor skills, patience and persistence – it is tricky to roll those balls and you need muscles for the salad spinner! The studio has also produced lots of unique art pieces. We will be encouraging the children to work together with some group art activities over the next few weeks.



Promoting the love of reading and books is a major part of Jo's teaching and we have read quite a few so far. Reading during session at the snack table inside, has encouraged some children to take some time out to have a snack and a story. We have also been playing games, singing and sharing songs and dance as part of our group participation at meeting time. The children are getting quite skilled at packing away at the end of session, finding time to have snacks and sitting for longer periods of time.



We had a very successful first trip out the back door of kinder and walked along the path behind kindergarten and back through the front gate. The children and adults enjoyed the cold and were





very thankful that the rain held off. We will be building these trips up slowly over the coming weeks and plan to be taking the children to the large area of Yandell Reserve by the end of term. This is reliant on parent help so please consider putting your hand up if you can. We will be scheduling these early next week and will communicate the dates via Storypark.

We would love parents, grandparents, uncles etc. to come to kinder and share a hobby, interest or spend time with the children. This could be knitting, cooking, woodwork, playing an instrument, sewing, painting, reading a book or anything else you would like to share. Please let one of us know and we will organise a time.

**Jo & Debbie**





## Working Bee

The next Kinder working be will be

**Sunday 20th August**  
**9:00am – 12:00pm**

There will be some fresh sand to shift into the sand-pit and other jobs to do around the kinder.  
Bring the kids – they can play while we work.  
Look out for flyers at Kinder closer to the day.



## Greenhills Fundraising

### Picture Plates:

Many of you will remember these from last year (some of you may even still have your picture plate from your own Kinder days!)

The company we are using is a family-owned small business in Sydney, which has been making Picture plates since 1977.

Your child's drawing will be turned into a melamine dinner plate, and it comes with a 40 year guarantee.

We will be placing information and templates into the Kinder pockets soon. The picture plates cost \$30 each.



### Bunnings BBQ fundraiser:

Greenhills Pre-school was selected in a ballot to hold a fundraising BBQ at Eltham Bunnings.

Our BBQ date is Saturday September 9. We are required to be there 8am-4.30pm. We will need help from lots of volunteers.

There is a volunteer sign-up sheet at Kinder.

Thank you to the parents who have already signed up to help. We really appreciate your support.



### Woolworths Earn & Learn stickers

Greenhills Pre-school is registered in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. From July 26th 2017 until September 19th 2017, you can collect stickers at Woolworths that go towards Earn & Learn points. For every \$10 you spend at Woolworths instore or online (excluding the purchase of tobacco, liquor and gift cards), you will receive a sticker. These stickers can then be given to your children to collect on a special sticker sheet. Please ask your family and friends to collect stickers for us. We have a box set up at Kinder to put your sticker sheets into.







Jets Gymnastics

<http://www.jetsgym.com.au/>



WaterMarc

<http://www.watermarcbanyule.com.au/>

### Stuck On You Labels

Our Stuck On You labels fundraiser is still in progress. These labels are a fantastic way to keep track of your child's belongings and reduce the ever-growing pile of lost property at Kinder! When you visit <http://www.stuckonyou.com.au/> to order from a fantastic range of kids' labels and gifts simply enter the code "GREENHILLSPRESCHOOL" for us to get up to 20% commission!

stuckonyou®

### Newsletter Advertising

We are still selling advertising space in the Greenhills Newsletter. If you, or anyone you know, owns a business that may be interested in advertising in our Newsletter, which reaches all Kinder families as well as prospective families who may be perusing our website, please contact [melissa.moore@live.com.au](mailto:melissa.moore@live.com.au) to get further details on the newly revised prices.

### Facebook Page

Please take the time to "like" our Facebook page – "Fundraising for Greenhills Pre-school" to keep up to date with our various events.



## Uniforms

Our new purple and green uniforms, in line with the kinder colours, have arrived they look awesome! They are up on display at kinder, so check them out next time you're in.

It's \$15 for a hat \$20 for a t-shirt or \$30 for both.

Please see the Educators if you would like to purchase something.

The Fundraising Team

