

## CC UPDATE - 2023 IN REVIEW



### Welcome to our 2023 Community Centre Update!

It was a very busy year and we have much to highlight and celebrate.

We have well and truly settled into the new Community Centre building and its relocated location in our school. We have worked hard to make the space a welcoming and friendly place for our parents, caregivers, school community and local community members to visit.

Our Community Centre encourages the inclusion of all Paralowie school families and staff members and we love offering and hosting many events and activities for everyone to enjoy.

Our focus is to be a safe and accessible second home for our school families and Hub participants and we welcome all people from many and diverse backgrounds. As a staff we offer help to those who need support and love to celebrate member achievements. We are about adult learning and parent participation, offering a crèche three times a week whilst running our English, Citizenship support and computing classes.



Our aim is to build strong parent-school partnerships, which help to support positive learning outcomes for our Paralowie children and young people.

### Hub Activities

#### ENGLISH CLASSES

In 2023 we offered 3 English conversation support classes, 1 class specifically for Citizenship support and another Nepalese Citizenship support class. Selia works with all our adult participants to assist them in gaining more

confidence with their English conversation skills and to further develop their reading and writing skills. We are so proud of the outstanding efforts of our participants and always look forward to celebrating the many successes they have with them. 😊



#### THANK YOU ROQIA

This year we farewelled our crèche worker Roqia. Roqia is such a wonderful success story for our Hub. As a school parent she started attending English classes, then further tuition including her Child Care Worker qualifications. We

are very grateful for the time and commitment she gave to our Hub over her 4 years with us and know her journey is only just beginning as she continues her career in child care! Thank you Roqia.

#### CRECHE FUN

In Term 3 this year we welcomed 2 new staff members to our Hub team. Win and Sidiqa share the 3 days we offer creche sessions to support our adult learning. They have fitted in to our Hub family so well and we are thrilled to enjoy their warmth and the fun energy they bring.



#### PLAYGROUP

Playgroup is held once a week in our crèche room! Early in the year Sadie visited us from **HIPPY** to talk to our parents about this great parent and child learning at home program. Every week is full of fun activities, music, craft and early learning, whilst parents can engage with each other and make new friends. This year our families participated in two new projects:

1. Play, Grow and Learn Garden Project
2. Toy Well Toy Library





Playgroup offers a valuable opportunity for children to develop skills and confidence, and it helps them to 'get ready' for Kindergarten too!

## PLAY, GROWN AND LEARN GARDEN PROJECT

This year we successfully received a \$10,000 grant from Australian Neighborhood Houses & Centres Association (ANHCA), to further develop the garden we started in 2022 with Green Adelaide. This grant has enabled us to engage volunteers and purchase garden equipment needed to create an outdoor nature space for our pre-school aged school and their parents. This project has brought together a diverse range of people from our Hub, our school (parents and staff) and various community groups. Our volunteers are gaining new skills,



assisting with planning and learning about gardening at the same time. Thank you to Naomi from Green Adelaide for her time, sharing of her knowledge and invaluable support and to Parafield Bunnings and their Community Development Team for their donation of items for our garden project.



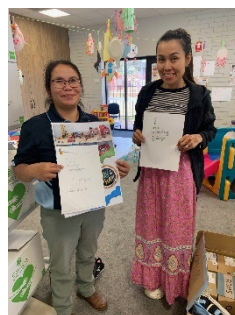
## TOY LIBRARY AT PARALOWIE COMMUNITY HUB!

In October we celebrated the Official Opening of our new Toy Library. Our space was jam packed with guests and friends of our Hub at this event including Hon Amanda Rishworth, (who officially opened our library), Hon Matthew Burnell, Sonja Hood and Hiranthi Perera from CHA, guests representing Hon Zoe Bettison, Toy Libraries Australia, Lutheran Care and Paralowie Kindy. Too many to mention them all here, but we were so very grateful for everyone who joined us, especially our Hub and school families, our CLO's and Paralowie school staff.

A special thank you to Year 5 Paralowie Student Lylah who presented us with her outstanding Welcome to

Country and our awesome Toy Library volunteers Farzana, Huma, Koldaphea, Shwe and Tammy. It was also an amazing help to have Win and Koldaphea translate the words for our Toy Library posters into their own languages (Burmese and Khmer).

Thank you to Toy Well Toy Library Coordinator in SA, Bearta Pye and Diane Bish Toy Well Manager for working with us on this amazing initiative.



With the generous support of Toy Well, Toy Libraries Australia and Community Hubs Australia, we are so excited to have a toy library in our Creche / Playgroup room for our families to enjoy! We look forward to many more volunteers signing up in 2024!





## FREE PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

This year we hosted a range of informative sessions for our families in our Community Centre including:

- Department Human Services Families Growing Together (a 4-part series of parenting workshops)
- ThinkUKnow Cyber Safety session by SAPOL
- Water Safety presentation by Royal Life Saving South Australia

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the providers who visit our Hub and spend time with our parents, offering incredibly valuable sessions for our families. Despite the barriers with language, our parents feel valued and very much appreciate the help of volunteer interpreters and our very special CLO's from the DfE who happily assist and support our sessions. Thank you to Bala, Fariba and Sander who are always keen to help!



## Citizenship Success

Well done to all of our hard-working participants who successfully passed their Citizenship tests in 2024! Congratulations on all your hard work throughout the year.

## Special Events

The following special events were celebrated and recognised in 2023, including:

- Refugee Week
- Reconciliation Week
- Harmony Week
- Multicultural Week
- Nepali Welcome
- Volunteer Week
- Book Week

Below: Our Playgroup families gifting our Parents and Friends members on Harmony Day, Reconciliation Week with Margy in the Primary School and special Farewells as a part of Volunteer Week 2023. ☺







## PLAQUE UNVEILING CEREMONY



Six years ago a community project was launched at our Paralowie Community Hub. Many people came together sharing ideas, culture and language and at the same time creating a valued and deep sense of community.

A few people were instrumental including artist Simon Burt (Storre) who worked creatively with our community members and Roselia Mrkic who worked alongside our families, (and still does with immense passion and love).

Two people in particular were the reason it all came together - Mary Jo Bellew and Paralowie Principal at the time, Peter McKay. At our End of Year Celebration Event on Friday 8 December we officially recognised their contributions by having them unveil a plaque to commemorate the project.



## PARENTS & FRIENDS

We are fortunate to have a very dedicated and hardworking team of parents who volunteer their time running school fundraising events. This team works out of our Community Centre and they organise events such as the R-6 Disco, Sports Day's Sausage Sizzle and various stalls. We greatly value their input and appreciate how their work benefits our school community.

Through their fundraising efforts they have dedicated funds to the Primary landscaping project and seating and shading for the High School.

Well done on another fantastic year of fundraising!



Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate with us - it was a very moving and special day.



## End of Year Celebration Event Our 2023 Award Winners

The following special awards for 2023 were presented:

Community Centre Award  
Community Centre Award  
Excellent Effort Award  
Outstanding Improvement Award  
Caring Classroom Award  
Student of the Year  
Student of the Year

Koldaphea Hai  
Farzana Ikhkasi  
Bhagi Magar  
Sinat Say  
Niang Hatzaw  
Razia Muqadas  
Thi Vo





## OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!

