Thankyou

Thanks to everyone who has contributed some of their precious time to being on the committee. It is wonderful to have a group of people who have committed some of their time to making the job of the preschool director a bit more manageable for us all!

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**Introduction of President**

I recently became the President of the Preschool Directors Association and so I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I am Jen Mathwin-Raymond and have been a Preschool Director for about 31 years, yes indeed that long. I have also had short bursts as a Special Educator or as they are now known, Disability Coordinator and a very short burst as a Project Officer for the Inclusive Preschool Program.

Over that time I have found it to be a privilege to work in the public education system as we provide high quality education for all not simply the selected few. Most of all I have found it a privilege to work in the field of Early Childhood which is after all at the sharp end of education and learning and not the blunt end that the poor unfortunate secondary’s must deal with day in day out, or the primary’s who are neither one nor the other. It is indeed at the sharp end where the foundation for learning is formed and as we all know if the foundations are solid then what comes later has a greater chance to flourish.

I intend to work closely with you all and the PDA Committee to ensure that the great things that we do are recognised and preserved and the less than great things that we are asked to do are modified where possible.

These are interesting times, times of great change and it is essential that we all become involved and not choose to sit back and hope that things will improve. This is the time to become active participants in the broader picture, to keep safe not only the great outcomes that you provide for the children and families at your respective centres but the great outcomes for all children across the state.

I often hear Preschool Directors referred to as precious. You bet I am precious if that means that I am proud of the amazing system of Early Childhood education that we have collectively developed in this state.

Please join the Preschool Directors Association as this year in particular we need you. We seek your voice on the many interest groups under the Portfolio headings we have set up. This year there are conveners who will be actively creating opportunities for groups to meet and create position papers to ensure that we fight for the services that young children and families require in this state. Do not let this chance slip by. Take an active role and join us, and besides we could all have a lot of fun doing it. See you there.

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**Preschoolchatline**

If your email address has changed during the changeover to edu-connect the chat-line will not automatically adjust to your new email and you will have to re-subscribe. Many of our members have not signed up to the chat-line and as a consequence they are missing “hot off the press” PDA information and the chance to read other members views about current issues. I strongly encourage all of you to join the chat-line A.S.A.P.

**Chat-line Help**

Please contact Rosy Gerlach on rosygerlach@yahoo.com.au, the current administrator of our chat-line, to request details about how to re-subscribe.
I was fortunate to hear Marc Prensky’s presentation at the education.au conference. Prensky has drawn a good deal of media attention with headlines such as “Violent games can spur quick thinkers” (Adelaide Advertiser 04.03.06). Prensky believes that some of these games will “help transform students into quick thinkers with skills that could make them better surgeons racing car drivers and jet pilots” (Advertiser). However the essence of his presentation to over 200 people from all over Australia at the Grand Hotel of was the urgent need for schools and each teacher to engage children in learning.

Mr Prensky stressed the need for us all to move our teaching methodologies into the twenty first century. This will include our acknowledgment that children are spending hundreds of hours playing games and communicating in ways that are seemingly impossible for us to keep up with. Computers, mobile phones, game playing devices both mobile and attached to TVs have our children completely engaged! Teachers need to learn ABOUT new technologies not necessarily learn HOW to use them all.

Marc Prensky believes this important in the context of our all being LEARNERS and all TEACHERS ie students can be OUR teachers of the more complex technologies. Prensky believes there is a place for games in our curriculum as engaging tools to enhance our children’s learning. Hopefully we can avoid what one high school student was quoted saying he needed to “power down” when he goes to school.


Neil Tregenza 0438722187
neilt@leadingdigital.com.au

Most of this work has to be done in the first term of 2006 (if not before) so if you have an opportunity to provide input into the process through colleagues who are members please do so!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>12-30pm to 4pm</td>
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Note for Committee Members
- Please send in your apologies for meetings unable to attend to Nadia Caruozzo
- TRT is available for committee members to attend meetings during work time if necessary.
Following the AGM, the executive met for the first time to set up portfolios with convenors and co-convenors so that the business of the association can begin to be managed.

At the next committee meeting (list of dates for committee meetings are attached) each convenor will receive a folder with background information about their portfolio and future directions and plans can begin to be made at this meeting also.

**EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO**

President - Jen Mathwin-Raymond, The Lady George Kindergarten
Vice President - Annette Mazzeo, Greenwith Kindergarten
Secretary - Nadia Caruazzo, Hackney Kindergarten
Treasurer - Julie May, McKellar Stewart Kindergarten
Victoria Buchanan, Project Officer, Learner Wellbeing (Early Years)

**OPERATIONS PORTFOLIO**

Convenor  Lesley Hooper, Flagstaff Oval Kindergarten
Co-convenor Lynette Jones, Jean Bonython Kindergarten

**SERVICE DELIVERY PORTFOLIO**

Convenor  Leanne Mattsen, O'Sullivan Beach Kindergarten
Co-convenor Roslyn Usher, Seaview Downs Kindergarten

**HUMAN RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

Convenor  Marian Nayda, Woodcroft Heights Kindergarten
Co-convenor Ali McKenna, St Philips Kindergarten
Co-convenor Jenny Kustermann, on leave

**CURRICULUM PORTFOLIO**

Convenor  Barb Soult, Largs North Kindergarten
Co-convenor Liz Mitchell, Netherby Kindergarten

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO**

Convenor  Tracey McLaren, Lockleys Kindergarten
Co-convenor Debbie George, SACLE
Co-convenor Ann Millhouse, St James Park Kindergarten

**PROMOTION/MARKETING PORTFOLIO**

Marnie Hillier, Highbury Kindergarten