**Site Context**

- Preschool operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:45 am to 3:15 pm and alternate Mondays 8:45 am to 12:45 pm, offering 15 hours of preschool.
- The Centre's operating hours are aligned with the school, helping parents with arrival and departure times, and for children using the school buses. This has been successful for parents as the school and kindergarten are co-located.
- The Crystal Brook Kindergarten also runs Funded Occasional Care for children 0-5 years on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. This is well utilized and often full.
- In 2014 CaFHS used the Centre to run clinic on Fridays. Playgroup meets on Friday mornings allowing parents to network whilst clinic is running. This is well supported by families in the community.
- Preschool enrolments started at 29 in term one, 30 in term two, 34 in term three and four. 27 children are enrolled for Term 1 2015.
- Occasional Care operating at near capacity each week for 0-2 years and 2-5 years.

**Achievements**

- Assessment of Centre against National Quality Standards in July 2014
- Quality Area 1-4 (Meeting), Quality Area 5 (Working towards) and Quality Area 6 & 7 (Exceeding)
- Staff engagement with Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standards to be able to articulate practices
- Parent chats were held, beginning term 2, to promote opportunities to foster a learning program based on children's strengths, interests and individual needs.
- Focus on the Planning and Programming Cycle so that daily reflection is an integral component of the cycle.
- Learning stories are developed as a meaningful tool to document children's learning through play based and structured intentional teaching experiences.
- Staff attended Guiding Children's Behaviour professional development training run by Lady Gowrie Training Centre.
- Engagement with Outdoor Play consultant to assist with redevelopment of physical learning environment for children.
- Introducing sustainable practices throughout Centre, recycling station, worm farm, colour coded bins etc.

**Other highlights**

- Redevelopment of vegetable garden, purchase of four raised garden beds
- Construction of a concrete water way, relocation of chooks, natural logs and rocks in outdoor yard, bark chips replenished in soft fall zone
- Home visits to all Kindy children's homes in Crystal Brook, including districts of Narridy, Redhill and Merriton
- Premier's Be Active Challenge, Grandparent's Day, Dad's Night, Pancake Day to support UnitingCare and Pyjama Day
- Book Week activities, dressing up as favourite character, and having face painted
- Visit to Patch Theatre at Keith Michell Theatre in Port Pirie and Port Pirie Public Library, participating in a library story session
- Excursion to Port Pirie to visit Road Safety Centre visit and Train Ride
- Graduation Celebrations—28 children graduated from Kindergarten with a wonderful afternoon celebrating each child's learning journey.

**What are we planning for 2015?**

Recommendations derived from site audit and improvement planning and are grouped under National Quality Framework headings.

- Simultaneous implementation of 'You Can Do It' Program and Child Protection Curriculum as part of educational programme.
- Use of numeracy and literacy indicators when planning intentional learning opportunities for children through their play.
- Greater engagement by families with the documentation we collate for children and more opportunities to discuss children's progress.
- Use of Respect Reflect Relate tool to measure children's involvement in the preschool environment and program.
- Development of outdoor play environment (sand pit development) and extension of yard to incorporate mound and dry creek bed.
- Staff and families knowledge and involvement with policy and procedure review and development increased, a focus on Behaviour Management Policy and guiding children's behaviour positively.
- Staff to increase knowledge of and engagement with professional standards
- Change in how preschool children are accessing their 600 hours of preschool. Kindy will operate on Mondays and Tuesdays for terms 1, 2 and 3. A Wednesday will be introduced from week 7 of term 3 until end of week 8 in term 4.
Enrolments increased by 1-2 children each term with 32 children enrolled by term 3 and 4. This included new ATSI enrolments and children with additional needs, supported with an early entry.

**Attendance Percentages 2012 - 2014**

- **Term 1**
  - 2012 Centre: 81.8%
  - 2013 Centre: 86.9%
  - 2014 Centre: 96.6%
  - 2012 State: 87.4%
  - 2013 State: 88.7%
  - 2014 State: 89.9%

- **Term 2**
  - 2012 Centre: 92.9%
  - 2013 Centre: 87.0%
  - 2014 Centre: 96.7%
  - 2012 State: 85.9%
  - 2013 State: 88.0%
  - 2014 State: 88.5%

- **Term 3**
  - 2012 Centre: 82.1%
  - 2013 Centre: 79.4%
  - 2014 Centre: 84.5%
  - 2012 State: 84.5%
  - 2013 State: 88.0%
  - 2014 State: 85.9%

- **Term 4**
  - 2012 Centre: 76.2%
  - 2013 Centre: 85.5%
  - 2014 Centre: 85.5%
  - 2012 State: 85.5%
  - 2013 State: 85.5%
  - 2014 State: 85.5%

**Parent Opinion Survey**

Preschool and Occasional Care opinion surveys were sent to families accessing the services in November 2014. In the preschool 19/29 possible families responded which was a very pleasing response. In the Occasional Care there was 11 responses from families accessing the service. In the Preschool, areas that scored very highly were Quality Areas (QA) 2—Children’s health and safety, QA 3—Physical environment, QA 4—Staffing arrangements, QA 5—Relationships with children, QA 6—Collaborative partnerships with families and communities and QA 7—Leadership and service management. In QA 1—Education program and practice 3 parents raised comment that they would like greater access to the educational program. This is an area identified by parents and supported by staff as an area to work on in 2015. The Occasional Care data highlighted QA 1 as an area of development with parents wanting to access information about their child’s daily learning program. Detailed analysis of the data will be tabled at Governing Council meetings during term 1, 2015.

**Governing Council Chairperson Report**

Last year the Crystal Brook Kindergarten was a successful and very productive centre. Thank you very much to all those involved with running the centre; Director, teachers, support workers, parents, volunteers and families. Your effort in maintaining our centre is greatly appreciated!

Fundraising was again; very successful in supporting the centre allowing extra resources to be purchased that would otherwise not be within the budget. From everyone’s efforts this year we purchased four raised garden beds, replaced bark chips in soft fall zones, paid for Betty Fox to come and redesign the yard, recycling station, colour coded recycling bins, worm bin, blower vac and hedge saw. Fundraising events included the Family Market Day, chocolate sales (was very successful) movie night, Easter raffle, tea towels and mugs.

The Market Day subcommittee continued to make their decisions outside of the Governing Council meetings. They bought items for discussion/approval to the meetings to receive feedback if required. This made our meeting more time efficient, allowing completion by 3:20pm. I think this set up would be beneficial to continue again for 2015, may even form a separate Fundraising committee depending on Governing Council numbers.

The staff at the Kindergarten provided an enriched learning program for all students with extracurricular activities throughout the year including Grandparent’s Day, Patch Theatre production & Port Pirie Library for Book Week and getting faces painted, Premiers Be Active Challenge, Dad’s Night, excursions to children’s homes, Pyjama Day (starlight café), Road Safety Day at Port Pirie and the trains.

Projects for 2014 consisted mainly of the kindergarten ‘makeover’ ensuring it was ready for the National Quality Standards Assessment. A big focus was redesigning the outdoor yard, improving vegetable garden boxes, shifting chook house, making water way, setting up recycling practices and worm farm, putting log in yard and making log steps. Many people (some not directly involved with the Kindy) volunteered their time and resources to better our educational setting for our learners. It is amazing to see how much a little Kindy ground can transform in such a short time! A credit to Karena and her staff to manage this project, all while providing an outstanding educational programme for our children.

The Kindergarten Facebook page has continued to run successfully, informing families of the happenings at Kindy in 2014. This will continue in 2015, along with text messages and emails, ensuring effective communication between Kindy and home.

We experimented with a ‘Yard Roster’ for our Kindy’s grounds in an attempt to save funds for the centre. This was received reasonable well, however a little too difficult to manage and not all families were able to participate. The grounds maintenance will continue as it was at the beginning of 2014.

The Kindergarten is providing a great transition programme to ease the children into school life, including the introduction of some of the jolly phonics into their curriculum. This is setting up a great foundation for their literacy learning as the children move into Primary School. The school starters also return to Kindergarten at some stage in the first term for a play with their ‘old’ Kindy friends. This is enjoyed by all the students and is a result of an amazing communication network between the Kindergarten and School.

Playgroup families are an important part of our kindergarten group along with the occasional care families. Thank you to all those who attended these sessions and keep our kindergarten well attended and supported. Thank you to all parents and caregivers for all the support, advice and generosity you have given both the staff and the Governing Council in 2014.

Leanne Clements, Chairperson, 2013-14