

2016, Term 2

newsletter

Hills Community Toy Library



Chair Report - Kathy Billingham

Well, what a great start to the year! Firstly I'd like to thank all our HCTL members for their patience and support as we commenced our workshop renovations. It has been a phenomenal undertaking and Penny has essentially been project managing this and doing an amazing job. We cannot wait to move back into the new space very soon.

In addition to this, the committee have been very busy with a huge number of other projects.

- We won a \$1000 grant from Toy Libraries Australia and Celine and Zoe were given only a few weeks notice to complete all their toy purchases
- Celine and Zoe have also been busy upgrading our displays
- We have been busy promoting our Movie and High Tea at the Capri fundraiser event which was held with great success on Sunday April 30
- Sharon attended the Toy Libraries Australia Conference and has compiled many exciting ideas for continuing to improve our Toy Library
- Floria arranged our successful Living Fundraisers (many now have little leaves showing in our seedling pots), raising just over \$400 toward our workshop project
- Penny and I have been meeting with The Hut Community Centre to commence a partnership to improve our Toy Library volunteer support
- Jenn has been busy writing more grant applications - watch this space
- Pam set up a great toy display in the Coventry Library to promote the HCTL
- And committee member Karolina has given birth to a little baby boy, Edgar.

We look forward to sharing more news as the year progresses, but in the mean-time, enjoy borrowing toys!

Important Dates

2016 Term 2 Dates: 2 May - 8 July, 2016

Opening Times:

Wednesday 10:30am-12:00noon

Friday 4:00-5:00pm

Saturday 9:30-11:00am

Sunday 10:30am-12:00noon

HCTL Committee Members

Kathy Billingham Chair & Public Officer

Jenn Vaughan Treasurer & Vice Chair

Sharon Passfield Secretary, Social Media and Building Maintenance

Penny Kretschmer Volunteer Coordinator, New Members and Overdues

Samantha Schultz Systems Management & IT

Celine Barnes Cataloguing

Zoe Lewis New Toy Purchasing

Karolina Van Der Linden Toy Doctor, Fundraising and Social Media Strategy

Floria Talajan Cataloguing Assistant

Pam Barrien Public Documents

Party Pack

Even though it is heading toward winter, please still consider borrowing our Party Pack for your next celebration – a great way to keep the kids happy. Contact Barbara Davies at the HCTL for your booking enquiries.



facebook

Have you 'LIKED' us on Facebook? Go to - www.facebook.com/HillsCTL

Toy Libraries Australia AGM/Training Day

Sharon Passfield's Melbourne Trip - March, 2016



Sharon was supported by the committee to travel to Melbourne to attend the Toy Libraries Australia AGM/Training Day and the (Toy Library) Bus Tour. It had been a few years since the HCTL had been represented in person at this inspirational and informative annual event. We thought it was time to attend it again.

Toy Libraries Australia (TLA) is the peak body for toy libraries within Australia. TLA promote the importance of play and its aim is to increase the profile of toy libraries across the country.

The HCTL access insurance through the TLA and is able to use the TLA as a resource for information, training and advice, as well as networking with other toy libraries.

The committee were excited to hear the ideas and suggestions for improvements that Sharon brought back with her, specifically with regard to new toys, memberships, strategy planning, payment options, benefits for; and recruiting volunteers, fundraising and promotional ideas.

The HCTL committee are already in the process of implementing a couple of the new ideas. One of which means that we are one step closer to being able to hire out a BOUNCY CASTLE to our members. SO, watch this space!!

Sharon Passfield

HCTL Secretary, Building Maintenance and Social Media

Our New
Toys!

Toy Library catalogue upgrade

You will shortly begin to see changes in the way the toy catalogue is presented. As part of our ongoing improvement initiatives we have come up with some new category names which we feel more modern and we hope resonate more with you as HCTL users. The sections of the toy library will have new signs with these names and also a bit of info about the type of toy or resource you can find in each section.

We are also adding some new categories:

Story packs - books with supporting resources to help your child interact with the story

Sensory - toys to help with sensory needs

Nature play - sand, water and nature

Lastly, we'll be trying out some new ways of visually presenting the toys/resources to keep things interesting for you all. If you have any suggestions around toys/resources to add into new or existing sections we welcome your ideas!

Celine Barnes Cataloguing



The first delivery of toys from the proceeds of our Forrest Hill grant have arrived and are currently being catalogued, processed and photographed.

Some highlights include a (kid-powered) Dantoy ride-on motorbike, a beautiful new wooden shopping trolley and a John Deere excavator and dump truck. We also purchased a delicious looking wooden sushi set, two giant claw grabbers and a crocodile bean bag toss for our party pack. Keep an eye out in the toy library or on the catalogue, as these great new toy additions will be available for your family to borrow soon!

Zoe Lewis New Toy Purchasing

Volunteer Corner

New Members join HCTL!

I am very pleased to report an overwhelming number of new members joined up this past term. Twenty three new members in total including volunteers Helen Cooper, Belinda Baker, Alyssa Forrest, Lindsay Tootell, Cynthia Petiet and Lija Rogers. THANK YOU so much for all your volunteering hours - without our volunteer members we would not be able to open as often as we do.

A couple of recent changes to go along with our brand new workshop room next term. We are replacing the 'Grey Cards' with a simple New Membership Form (including the 'Ride On Bike waiver form on the reverse side). These will then be filed in a folder for reference if needed. There will be a Master Member list next to the computer that includes all of the member's membership numbers and names to work off on shift. Remember when filling out the diary at the end of shift the Total Toys and Members for that shift tallies as you go and is in the mid/bottom of the loans page that you use for processing loans. Our intention is to then use the barcoding application to process the toys when borrowing.

Shift reminders via SMS text!

We have set up automatic SMS text reminders for shifts so you will no longer be getting a reminder email from me.

Helmet alert for Ride-On safety

Lastly you may notice we have put in an Alert for Helmets when hiring out ride on toys. This is a requirement for Insurance purposes as Sharon learnt at the National Toy Library Conference in Melbourne, held in March, 2016.



Penny Kretschmer
Volunteer Coordinator, New Members & Overdues

Workshop Project update

Since March 2016, our toy library office has been totally dismantled and new renovations have taken place - largely funded by our recent S.A. Community Benefit Grant, and also from our fundraising drive in 2015 and this April 2016.

Like all building projects it has had its expected hiccups and delays - but we are happy to report we will be back to full operation very soon! The building team are students from Heathfield High School's 'Doorway 2 Construction' programme and they have done an outstanding job on our workshop project. The new reception and office space will be a joy for our members as they manage the operational functions with more comfort and ease. Special thanks to our Penny Kretschmer who has driven this major HCTL project through to a successful completion.

Opening Soon!



HCTL Workshop Project Fundraising Event

Mother's Day High Tea @ Capri



Everyone had a wonderful time at our most recent fundraising movie event **High Tea at Capri**. With just over 50 people present, the room was full of laughter and conversation while everyone feasted on the vast array of sweet and savoury petit treats, divine scones and scrumptious sandwiches.

Thanks again to O'Leary Walker and Aldgate Pump for providing our sparkling wine on the night, and a huge thank you to all the committee for providing and baking the delicious food.

A Month of Sunday's was a great choice of movie for the evening. We also look forward to using the Capri Cinema again in the future, as not only was it a beautiful Art Nouveau venue, but the staff and volunteers went over and above our greatest expectations in supporting us on the night.

Floria arranged our successful Living Fundraisers gift table and raised just over \$400 and the High Tea @ Capri raised just over \$550. All proceeds will go towards our workshop project.



Kathy Billingham
Chair and Public Officer

Well done to everyone who attended, promoted and supported this great event - and for a lovely celebration of Mother's Day!

Contact us

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