

BATES DRIVE BUZZ

Exceptional Learning Opportunities For All

TERM 4 WEEK 7

30th November 2018

Principal's Message

It's difficult to believe that we are already in our final weeks of term 4, 2018. It is wonderful, during the final term, to look back and see how far the students have progressed since the start of the year.

Thank you to everyone in the Bates Drive School community for making this a successful year for our children and our school. It has been another exciting year with many new and different things happening that continue to engage and challenge our students and also seeking out new ways to make our school the best it can be.

Firstly, thank you to our dedicated team of staff (leadership team, teachers, office staff, SLSO'S and our OT), who work together to give your children the very best learning environment that they can provide at Bates Drive Public School. I know we are all looking forward to a well-deserved break with Christmas and New Year celebrations. I know that with school running up to December 19 this year, many staff are having to fit their own Christmas preparations into a few days, such has been the ferocity of the workload in this final part of the school year. Well done to all staff for a sensational year of learning, challenges, reflection and development at Bates Drive.

Graduation - 2018 was a big occasion for all involved. We had 11 graduates this year and you can tell by the photos that it was an extremely successful night. The night gave everyone involved time to appreciate the great things that they had achieved and the people that they had achieved them with. I know from speaking to the staff that the graduates have often left staff with amazement of their resilience and fighting spirit. I truly hope that your school years were filled with fond memories. I wish all the new graduates good luck in their future endeavours.

On Monday afternoon I attended, along with Keltie Ward, the Toyota Australia Sponsorship Awards. EJ, one of our year 9 students, gained a sponsorship. This sponsorship will make a significant difference to a very deserving student.



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As most of you would be aware, Karen—our Bates Drive School Administration Manager, has had a long history with the school... 13 years to be exact.

Her dedication has been rewarded with a Metropolitan South Operational Directorate Award.

The Miranda Office Network Awards night is held yearly to recognise people that go the 'Extra Mile'.

Below is the citation that will be read out and published at the awards night held at Engadine High School.

Award: School Administrative & Support Staff /Education Office Administration & Support Staff.

Humble beginnings and difficult challenges are the foundation of every great accomplishment. Thank you Karen Coughlan for shining through. The successful year you helped create at Bates Drive Public School was never an accident. It was the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, and skilful execution on your behalf. I can honestly say that as a first year SAM, your can-do attitude has made a positive difference to every single member of staff, parents and students.

Karen was appointed to the position of SAM at Bates Drive Public School at the beginning of term 4 2017. I was appointed to the role of Principal term 1 2018. We began the journey together and Karen's philosophy that the foundations of any great organisation is entrenched in service, care and mutual respect as a guiding light set the direction of excellence at Bates Drive Public School from day one.

The challenges of 2018 for Karen have come and successfully gone. Karen as a true team player and leader believes that, coming together is a beginning... keeping together is progress... working together is success. Karen has worked in many different roles within Bates Drive Public School in the past 13 years. Her deep understanding and corporate knowledge of all facets of the school have allowed her to deliver in a very special way a service that only she can do to obtain positive outcomes in the extremely complex environment in which she operates.

Karen's exceptional achievements have been reached because she stands tall on a foundation of personal integrity, hard work and unwavering determination.

Karen, it has been an absolute pleasure to watch you each and everyday, the strength of your achievement is rooted in the depth of your passion.

David Toogood.



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As the summer term draws to an end, I would like to thank each and every parent and carer for their ongoing support of Bates Drive School, for their commitment in helping us thrive and for the strong partnerships developed in my first year as Principal of Bates Drive School. We know that children achieve their very best through strong partnerships between home and school.

Please keep checking the SkoolBag App as we aim to keep the school community up to date with current information, news, items of interest, student achievements and upcoming school events and activities.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year!



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NEPTUNE

This year has flown by and I can't believe we are almost at the end! The Neptunes have had a lovely fourth term and as the year draws to a close it is amazing to look back over all the achievements and progress they've made this year. The three students in Kindergarten in particular have settled in beautifully to all class and school routines and it's been great to see them participating in whole school events such as Halloween and KLA theme days.

All the Neptunes have made great gains in communication throughout the year and enjoy chatting up a storm, either through speech or using visuals. Two students have also begun commenting on the world around them and I was surprised and pleased to be told, "That was silly!" by one student when I dropped a visual board recently. Our story time has always been a popular activity and we've also seen lots of progress in this program. Some students that were initially reluctant to hold a book are now happily flicking through books as their chosen leisure activity. In general, there has been more engagement in our group story time and some students have begun to read familiar words and phrases in their favourite stories.

As the weather is warming up, we've started our regular swimming sessions again this term. Most of the Neptunes have become little fish over the year and are working hard towards using their arms and legs to paddle and kick through the water. Even our reluctant swimmer is far more comfortable in the water and calmly walking around the shallow end.

Rebecca and I have enjoyed getting to know these delightful little people through the year and are so proud of all their achievements.



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COMETS

Wow! How is it time to write the last newsletter of the year? What a bittersweet feeling it is sitting here, reminiscing about the past year with the 6 wonderful Comet boys.

This year we have placed an emphasis on developing our play and communication skills, as well as our self-regulation strategies. All the Comets have done exceptionally well in all these areas.

Through our developmental play sessions this year we have been able to integrate maths and literacy. This has helped make all of our learning fun and relevant. We started the year off working with games and toys we knew the students enjoyed and now at the end of the year all the boys are eager to try out new activities – alongside / with one another! Building blocks have been a favoured task among us all, especially the knocking down of block towers. Our developmental play has also helped us all with our turn taking and sharing skills. Along with our developmental play sessions, gross motor activities have been a hit. We started going to the trampoline in term 1, just after recess and it has been a wonderful activity to help keep us alert for the next lesson and have continued this all year at visual request from the Comets.

We have all loved music this year, both with Dan from Rhythm Village and with our very own rock star, Lee. We have been very lucky to explore a number of musical genres and instruments over the year. On behalf of all the Comets, we want to say a big, **“Thank you!”** to Dan and Lee for all your musical talent and knowledge you have shared with us.

It has been an absolute blast having Oscar, Akif, Aaron, Brady, Jeremy and Connor as students this year. There are way too many magical moments to write about to even begin summing up how proud we are of them all and how much fun this year has been.

We wish each and every one of these wonderful students the best of luck for next year. We know you will all continue to grow and learn with enthusiasm and joy! For now we are going to enjoy the last few weeks, celebrating Christmas and all our achievements from 2018.

From Ciara and Carmen!



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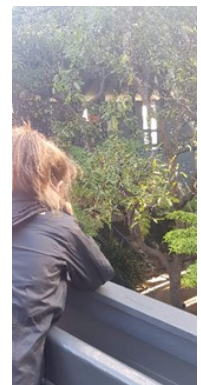
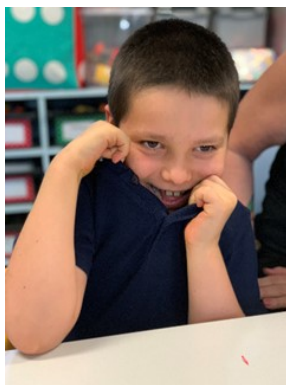
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VENUS

Hello dear families and welcome to Venus' newsletter article for term 4! Each term has flown by and this term is no exception. A few weeks ago, we welcomed another student to the class, Maxim. Maxim has received a warm welcome from all students and we are very excited to have another friend – he is very popular! Meanwhile, the Venus class have been continuing with our favourite programs including Integration at Oyster Bay, however, this is pending each week with all of the special events that occur at both schools during term 4. Unfortunately, we have not been for a few weeks, however, we would like to go at least one more time and wish all of our friends a very Merry Christmas! Speaking of Christmas, we have been busy elves, creating lots of Christmas artworks. To share the joy this year, we have participated in a Christmas Exchange program, which includes 18 schools across the country, sending artworks and Christmas letters to each other. We have sent 18 envelopes and received 6 back already – displaying the letters and special artwork within our classroom for all of us to see and enjoy. This has linked to our unit of work about 'Celebrations' and also has gotten us to reflect on our Geography unit from earlier in the year about locations around Australia. While Rhythm Village has not been able to continue this term, we have been very fortunate to have Lee; our resident Rock Star, conducting music lessons with us each week. Students have had opportunities to play guitar, piano (keyboard), drums and xylophone and bang the large gong, which is definitely a crowd favourite!

Now, Deb and I (Victoria) would like to take this opportunity to say a big, "Thank you!" to all of our amazing friends and families, for your ongoing support during the year. It has been a wonderful year full of student achievements and we are very proud of everyone. We wish you a very Merry Christmas, safe holidays and all the best for 2019!

Victoria and Deb

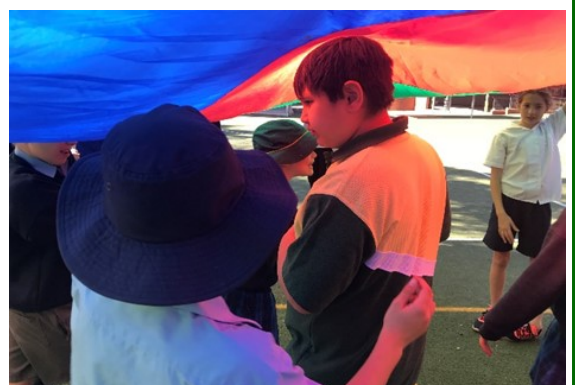


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KSTARS

I am so proud of the K-stars this year. These kids have tried their best and successfully increased their skills in monitoring their behaviour and self-regulation skills. Using the framework from the Zones of Regulation, we have introduced skills that they can use for the rest of their lives. The language skills overall have improved greatly and now five of our six legends make clear verbal requests, followed by our manners of course and our 6th student responds with her device, visuals or 'arms up if your excited' response. In term one, we began work on self-regulating and developing our safety skills whilst out in the community. We started with lessons on how to behave appropriately on the bus and manage changes to routine. Once we mastered these skills, we supported our literacy programs with visits to the library. Our little legends impressed us by using their inside voices, remaining seated, calmly making choices and transitioning to and from the bus safely. By mid-year we were going on integration excursions to Oyster Bay Public School where we have fostered some lovely new friendships. We started recycling to help our year 12 students save for their graduation night (and what a night it was!) and the K-Stars found this process amazing—every one of us watched the bottles disappear with wide-eyed amazement. With all their efforts recycling and listening, the K-stars were treated with a visit to the bird cage café at Engadine for hot chips and a baby chino or milkshake. The K-stars walked the two blocks to the café and thoroughly enjoyed the food, atmosphere and company. With all this going on, you'd think they would be exhausted, but not our group! We have seen increases in their focus and they have all made improvements across the curriculum with literacy and mathematical skills developing for every one of the K-Stars. I couldn't be any prouder of their achievements and how hard they have worked, they have tried their best this year and these kids are awesome!



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MERCURY

Hello Mercury families!

Wow, this year flew by! The Mercury class had an awesome year full of excursions and new programs. Term 4 was full of new places and a new way of transportation—we went walking! The class started their walking programs going to the beautiful bushland next door at Sir Joseph Banks Nature Reserve and also to the Kareela Athletics Oval. Everyone had a relaxing stroll through the shaded and leafy nature walk. At the top, we had a picnic lunch and enjoyed watching the birds. There was cool moss and rough rocks to feel on the way back. At Kareela Oval, we played games and brought our favourite activity, the parachute! We also recently started going to Kareela Golf Club to have lunch. Students are encouraged to choose their lunch, order and pay at the counter. The students have enjoyed the new opportunities and have followed their PBL expectations to be safe and caring learners whilst out in the community.

This term, the students participated in the ultimate excursion, a 'ZoosnooZ' sleepover at the Taronga Zoo with some of their peers and staff members. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all and students are still chatting about their favourite memories. The first night they had pasta and veggies for dinner, followed by an ice cream and walk around the zoo after hours. The students were able to touch snakes, turtles, tortoises and lizards while learning about the calm animals. They saw a wonderful animation on the big amp-theatre screen and said, "Goodnight." to the tigers. The next day, the students fed goats and chickens in the farm yard and climbed on exciting play equipment. It was an awesome experience and the students should be commended for their fantastic participation.

The Mercury class has enjoyed running the school mobile canteen on Tuesday mornings. Students take turns wearing their uniform, an apron and pushing the trolley to each class. They hold the menu while students select their purchases. The Mercury students have done a fantastic job retrieving the items, handing them over to their peers and collecting money. It has not only been a fun job, but students are developing communication, numeracy and social skills as well.

I'd like to take the time to acknowledge the hard work of the Mercury students. They have demonstrated consistent hard work and actively participated in programs throughout the year. They are an absolute joy to teach and wish them the best of luck for 2019!

Molly, Natalie, Donna and the Mercury class



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HSC

Dear HSC families and Carers,

Our class has been flying through Term 4. We have continued our work in Geography by focusing on Asian countries. This has allowed HSC to explore different forms of art including shaving cream paint and bubble paint. We have also explored Asia through different sensory tubs. The boys particularly enjoyed searching through uncooked rice to find PECS images of Asian inspired objects. We also joined the whole school in celebrating Halloween by getting involved with a whole range of fun, interactive and 'hands-on' activities, including exploring slime, uncooked pasta and taking selfies at the photo booth.

The weather has finally warmed up and HSC have been having a blast in the pool during our weekly swimming program. The students have been working on their swimming and water safety skills, as well as focusing on stretching, movement and relaxation in the pool. I think all will agree that we have a lot of fun and always look forward to swimming each Wednesday.

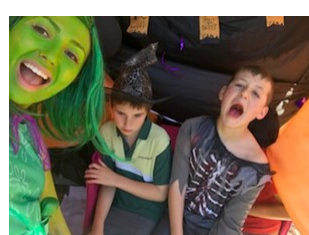
It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas—we are all very excited about our upcoming Carols night. We have been preparing to contribute on the night and getting into the spirit by listening to Christmas songs and playing along with musical instruments. We can't wait to see you there!

Overall, we are so proud of each of our students this year. Yann, Byron, Luke, Riley, Ahdil and Hayden have worked so hard and made some wonderful achievements. It has been a pleasure getting to know them and their families throughout the year. Bravo on a great year!

I also need to send out a huge thankyou to Jen (our fantastic SLSO) for all her hard work in helping to make this year a great one for HSC. We couldn't have done it without you. Thankyou!

Finally, we would like to thank our wonderful families for all your support this year. We wish you all a very happy and relaxing Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone back in 2019.

Best wishes for the very last time...



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HSK

As the 2018 school year is coming to an end, we take a look back at the year that was. We have had a lot of great times in HSK this year and have enjoyed many experiences together. With a large focus on our life skills program, we have gained expertise in a number of areas including gardening, school yard cleaning and pool maintenance. The students have assisted to clear leaves, weeds and branches. They have also taken turns sweeping and loading buckets and bins. As beautiful as our natural setting around our school is, there are a large amount of gum leaves to constantly deal with—we definitely don't run out of work! We have also had experience matching socks from a BIG pile of patterns and colours and have sorted light and dark piles of clothing to learn some new laundry skills. In the kitchen, we have been counting, measuring and adding quantities of ingredients to our recipes. HSK students have also been responsible for chores in the classroom. They've assisted to pack away their lunches, clean the tables, sweep the floors and wash the dishes. The students have become more familiar and thorough in completing these daily skills as the year has progressed and we are awfully proud of their efforts. All this work chat doesn't mean their isn't any time for fun—with areas like the swings, pool and buses for excursions, there have been plenty of fun times. The student enjoyed the canteen where they sold items on certain days and bought items on others. They were happy being both the merchant and the customer. As we craft and splash and work our way to Christmas, we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Until next time

Keltie, Cassie, Teresa, Donna, Tracey and all the fellas in HSK



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HSS

Wow, it's Term 4 already! This year has gone by so quickly. And what a year it has been! Our class have come so far in all areas of the curriculum, as well as in their social development! Amna has shown improvement in her ability to walk independently walking around the classroom. Her favourite time in the week is cooking, and especially making and eating cheese quesadillas. James has developed his communication skills, working on PECS and trialling different technologies as well. He has flown through Phase 2 in PECS and can push his wheelchair to a table, pick up a visual and then push his wheelchair to a staff member to make a request. He is now working on discriminating visuals. His favourite activity is music, especially experiencing new musical instruments that he hasn't tried before. Joshua has shown an increased interest in reading and is working on placing the books in a finished tray after looking at them. This is also his favourite time during the day, sitting quietly with his books! Joel has been working on his receptive communication, especially when following two step directions before asking to go to the new swings. He has also been working on self-regulating when he is frustrated, particularly deep breathing and head massages. His favourite time is cooking, and he is slowly learning to try new and delicious foods! Angelina is another student that has shown amazing progress in her communication skills! She is now at Phase 3 in PECS, and is discriminating visuals, especially when requesting ice and her body sock. Her favourite time is our class daily regulation circle, when she gets hand and head massages, completes deep breathing exercises and is gently misted with a lavender water spray. Harry has shown significant improvement in his listening skills this term. He is sitting in his chair for longer periods independently, and is also developing his self-regulation strategies like deep breathing to help when he is frustrated. His favourite time of the week is a tie between swimming and cooking! Narelle and I will miss this class next year, they are full of life and have made us more aware of how to help students that need intense, one on one support in all areas of school life. Good luck for 2019, everyone!



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HSV

A big hello to the families and friends of HSV; it's hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of another school year!

The students of HSV have had a fantastic Term 4 so far, with familiar routines continuing and well as a classroom full of new and engaging learning experiences

Earlier in the term we had a visit from some special family members for Grandparents' Day, and we also celebrated Halloween with some spooky school activities.

In Geography, we've been focusing on Asia and have 38 flags displayed in our classroom representing all of the region's countries. So far we've studied countries including China, Japan and India with more to come.

In English, the students have participated in shared reading of our focus texts, '*Possum Magic*' and '*We're Going on a Bear Hunt*'. There have been many one-on-one and whole-class literacy activities that have integrated other Key Learning Areas such as Maths, PDHPE and Creative Arts. The students have also had the opportunity to engage with other related texts including visual, digital, non-fiction and imaginative texts.

We have continued our class bowling competition where maths is explored in a functional way such as counting pins, tallying scores then graphing these. The functional aspect of maths is continued in our exploration of money with students ordering their lunches and making purchases from the school canteen.

The students adore our swimming and sports ready programs. Swimming is fun and also encourages movement, stretching and is a really calming activity. The students also love Sports Ready, where they have the opportunity to participate in different sports such as basketball and hockey, and get their bodies moving.

I have loved every moment of teaching HSV this year and getting to know the students. I would like to thank our two SLSO's, Kelly and Teresa, for their incredible support in the classroom during my time on class.

Christmas is almost upon us; may your family and loved ones be happy, healthy and safe during the Christmas period.

Merry Christmas and our very best,

Jennifer, Kelly & Teresa



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HSA

With only a few weeks to go till the end of the 2018 school year, we are all wondering where the year has gone. Some of the families of students in HSA and HSL must be wondering where 13 years of schooling has gone!?

With the year 12 graduation, Carols in the Park, the Funathon and the end of year assembly, we have certainly had a busy term 4!

The year 12 graduation was a wonderful night. It wouldn't have been achieved without all the support of our staff, families and the Golf Club. Congratulations to all eleven of our 2018 school leavers. Our year 12 leavers for 2018 are Eamon Harry, Jessica Biber, Robbie Anderson, Samuel Leishman, Reece Johnston, Rick Guan, Mark Clifton, Julian Lesnie, Connor Long, James Williams and Egypt Webber.

All of the students in HSA are in year 12. It's been nice that they were able to share their last year at Bates Drive school together in the same class. As they move onto new pathways, we wish all of our 2018 school leavers all the best in their post school programs next year.

In HSA, we have had a happy and productive year.

Thank you for the 'year that was', in 2018 and for all of your support.

We would like to wish all our families a happy Christmas and a safe holiday.

Farewell, graduates:

Samuel Leishman, Robbie Anderson, Eamon Harry, Rick Guan, Reece Johnston and Jessica Biber

Annemarie and Cassandra



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HSL

Wow... The last newsletter of 2018!

Every year just seems to go quicker and quicker.

It is a bittersweet time to be in HSL. We have had a fantastic year at school. I can honestly say it has been the most fulfilling and satisfying year of teaching and learning in my time at Bates Drive. To acknowledge a few hits, HSL have:

- Experimented with cognitive rehabilitation exercises to rewire the brain. The activities have been fantastic and have shown great results
- Successfully learnt to ride bikes at school and out in the community
- Successfully learnt to read and play music in a percussion ensemble
- Integrated to Kirrawee High School
- Hit the Sylvania Bowling Club and Kareela Golf Club to learn social and money skills
- Engaged in the PBL program
- Started the first rock band in Bates Drive history 'HS Hell'

I am extremely proud of all of HSL and their accomplishments for 2018. I would like to thank the great work of Belinda Sheehy as our SLSO, it has been an absolute pleasure to have Belinda as part of our class.

It is time for sad smiles and goodbyes to our graduating students – Connor Long, Mark Clifton, James Williams, Egypt Webber and Julian Lesnie. It has been a pleasure being your teacher for your last year of school. Thank you for a great year and fond memories and I wish you all the best in your post school programs.

Here is to a new exciting school year in 2019. Have a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday.

Cheers

Lee Carey

HSL



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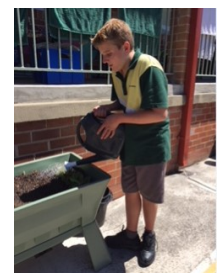
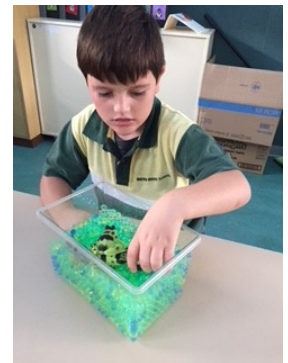
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RFF Science—Year in Review

It has been a busy and absorbing year for the students' involvement in the Science curriculum.

Each class has participated in a variety of interactive and practical activities as well as desk work and craft to consolidate their learning for each topic we have covered.

Matt & Genevieve



November 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Graduation	21	22	23	24
25	26 P & C Meeting	27	28	29	30 Carols in the Park	

December 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 Haircuts	5	6 Fun-a-thon	7 End of Year Assembly	8
9	10	11	12 Zones of regulation— Parents sessions	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Last Day of Term	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

FREE



Caring for Carers

This is a free specialised counselling service for full-time carers who have a dependent child or adult with a disability, mental illness, chronic condition or terminal illness.

This service will help carers to:

- manage their stress, anxiety or depression
- learn new skills to cope with their life as a carer
- learn practical problem-solving techniques
- work through family and relationship issues
- deal with any grief and loss they may be experiencing
- get emotional support
- enhance their health and wellbeing
- consider succession planning and transition counselling

We support respite / carer service providers through:

- **Workshops, training and education**
- **Group counselling and therapy**

Contact us to discuss training and education options

Bookings Essential – Phone 8522 4450
383 – 385 Port Hacking Rd South at CARINGBAH



Supporting Siblings

Why support siblings?

Siblings of children with a disability can face their own challenges, and may struggle to make sense of what is happening around them. Support for siblings helps them to adjust more positively to having a brother or sister with a disability. Also, siblings will likely have the longest relationship of any with the child/adult with a disability and support can help to nurture and strengthen their relationship.

Siblings need...

- information about the disability
- to feel listened to and understood
- opportunities to express a mix of feelings
- to feel special themselves; that they are valued
- not too much responsibility
- strategies to manage difficult situations
- social support
- contact with siblings in similar situations
- help with independence

Most children
will cope better with
stress if they feel listened
to, understood and
supported by caring
adults.

Each sibling will respond differently, even within the same family, but concerns that have been expressed by siblings include:

- lack of understanding of the disability
- various fears and anxieties
- feeling confused and isolated, a perception that no-one understands what it is like for them
- resentment when things seem unfair
- embarrassment about the behaviour or appearance of the child with a disability
- guilt about their own capabilities when their brother or sister struggles
- extra responsibilities in the family
- the reactions of others, e.g. staring, teasing or bullying
- concerns about the future care needs of a brother or sister

If siblings don't have an opportunity to talk about their feelings their concerns might show up in their behaviour. They may withdraw or show signs of anxiety or low self-worth. They may try to be perfect, to be the 'good child', and then stress when they feel they fail. They may 'act out' their feelings with aggression or attention seeking.

They may develop sleep problems, physical complaints or social difficulties.