

# news



The team at Family Day Care Gympie Region would like to take this opportunity to wish all the children and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We would also like to thank all our Educators for their efforts this year and for being a part of and making a difference in

children's lives. Your dedication and commitment does not go unnoticed. Thank You!! We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable Christmas season and we look forward to seeing you all in 2016.

**FDC CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS:** Our office will be closed for the Christmas break from 4pm Wednesday 23rd December, 2015 and will re-open at 8:30am on Monday 4th January, 2016. A Co-ordinator can be contacted on the Service mobile on 0417 768 864 for emergencies only, otherwise please leave a message on the Service's landline and your call will be returned in the New Year.

**THE YEAR IN BRIEF:** I welcomed in 2015 as the new Service Manager / Nominated Supervisor and we commenced with our new restructure. Shortly afterwards we welcomed on board our Registrar Nicky.

This year we have presented awards to our Educators who have reached 5 and 20 years of education and care for the children within our Service. A big "Congratulations" to these ladies:-

5 Years Leah Schulz  
5 Years Kathy Pitt  
20 years Muriel Sellars

Our Service was successful in obtaining our funding that supports the operational costs of running a Co-ordination Unit. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who made the effort to write letters of support and complete forms to support this application.

We have commenced work in our front yard. We do have to work around Council approvals etc. so it will take some time but watch this space!!!

Finally I would like to thank each of our staff, all of whom have assumed far more responsibility and work than anticipated, without complaining. They do an amazing amount of work behind the scenes and in the field. I look forward with anticipation to an exciting 2016 and all that it may bring.

*Sue Williams,  
Service Manager / Nominated Supervisor*

## What's On?

### Fortnight ending:

13 & 27 December

### Public Holidays:

25 December—Christmas Day

28 December—Boxing Day

### School Holidays:

12/12/2015-26/01/2016

## Birthdays

### December:

9th Annette Hayes  
17th Pat McKee  
19th Wendy Crook



### **FDC Gympie Region Team**

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Email: [admin@fdgympie.org.au](mailto:admin@fdgympie.org.au)

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#### **Service Manager/Nominated Supervisor**

Sue Williams

#### **Educational Leader/Certified Supervisor**

Kay Braddock

#### **Certified Supervisor**

Merril Patrick

#### **Administration Officer**

Susan Duncan

#### **Registrar**

Nicky Giesen

#### **Office Hours**

Mon-Fri: 8.30am—4.00pm

#### **Approved Provider**

The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q)

#### **Management Committee**

Uniting Church Child Care Association  
(Gympie Congregation)





**EDUCATIONAL LEADER**—There is no regulation that states Educators have to document in certain formats. However Educators are required to have written evidence of the planning cycle which has elements of observing, noticing, recording, interpreting, planning and evaluating. There also needs to be written evidence of children's' progress against the outcomes.

Modern technology gives Educators opportunity to often "work smarter not harder" in order to implement a high quality program. There are some great tools that allow Educators to take photos on their phones, iPads or tablets to document the learning that has taken place in a quick and simple manner. This can be done "in the moment" and some apps allow users to link directly to the EYLF. The information is in a professional format and can easily be share with parents.

Facebook pages are great way to connect Educators with other Educators to share ideas and resources, brainstorm ideas, offer support and connection to our wider community.

I have completed a list of websites, apps, and Facebook pages that Educators have recommended to me. Some of the apps are free, while others come at a cost. I will add to this list when new information is relayed to me. The list can be found in the Educational Leader tab of our website. Please remember these are suggestions only and are not a recommendation. I look forward to hearing your feedback and also if you come across something you think is worthwhile sharing please let me know.

Early next year I will be adding some podcast links on relevant topics that you might find interesting.

Kay



**REV'S RAMBLINGS**— I took the opportunity earlier this week to go to the movies – something that rarely happens in our family. However, being a bit of a Bond tragic, I had to see the latest James Bond in Spectre. As with all

Bond movies, and yes I have them all on DVD, so much is totally unbelievable, and yet there is something about them which attracts me and I know I am not alone. If you have seen Spectre, you will know the scene at the start where a building opposite to where Bond is blown up and as the building begins to fall towards him, he has to run for his life. The building crashes just behind him causing an avalanche effect on the roof top on which he is running. He is left hanging from a piece of roof with a drop behind him to the ground strewn with fallen debris etc. He can't hang on, drops some 3 storeys I suspect and - wait for it – lands sitting down on a lounge chair (well it is James Bond 007). He stands up brushes some dust off and moves on.. That scene made me stop and ponder. How many times in life do we find ourselves hanging on – sometimes grimly - with chaos, hurt, disappointment, frustration, anxiety, fear all around us, not sure what might happen if we lose our grip? Wouldn't it be reassuring to know in advance that if you need to let go because the pressure is too great, that the landing would be on a nice comfortable cushioned space, where you get up and get going – to the next issue, problem, mission? In theory at least, Bond wasn't to know he would land in such a way when his grip was taken from him. In theory at least, that fall may have been his last. But it wasn't. We live in a world of chaos and often we find ourselves hanging on to 'stuff' in life that won't last. It might be traditions, hand me downs from past generations, our own toughness or resilience, all of which can easily break all too quickly and we find ourselves falling. I believe Jesus gives us the ultimate cushioned landing from our running and falling, if we only let go of our pride and say yes to Him. Then too, we will be able to stand up, brush off and move on...

**Reverend Dave Thomas is the Chairman of the Uniting Church Child Care Association Management Committee.**

*Muriel Sellars has been an educator with our service for over 20 years. She has now handed the reins to her niece Carol Kilpatrick who will be operating from the same residence. Muriel is now working with Carol as a Co-Educator as she moves towards retirement. Thank you Muriel for your many years of service and we look forward to working with Carol and still catching up with you on our visits.*

**TIMESHEET PROCESSING**—Timesheets for fortnight ending 27 December 2015 will be processed on 29th and 30th December. The office will only be open from 9am-11am on 29th December to accept timesheets, but you can as usual leave these in the locked timesheet box at any stage beforehand. If you are able to submit your timesheets in the week prior, please do so. This will assist us in completing these as early as possible.



We have welcomed three new educators to our service—Tahnee

Armstrong, Yvonne

Smith and Carol Kilpatrick. We hope you enjoy your time with us!



We have now said farewell to Sam Kerridge who has finished up as an educator with our service. We wish her all the best in the future.