

Welcome to our Community Chatter Newsletter!

Thank you for registering your interest in Connecting Community for Kids and we hope you enjoy this newsletter. We hope everyone had an enjoyable Easter break and enjoyed some time with the kids during the school holidays. We have so much to share this month! Our Action Teams have been busy and our rapid trial for 2 year old health checks and Community Mothers Program are launching in May/June. Happy reading!

Alcoa Children's Festival

Connecting Community for Kids hosted two stalls at the Alcoa Children's Festival on **Saturday 17th March** with the help of our fabulous Community Champions. The Celebrate Culture Kwinana Action Team put together a whole program under the 'Cultural Zone' big tent to raise awareness of the different cultures within Kwinana. The team presented Indian dancers, African drumming, henna painting and Dinka Bor Traditional Dancing from South Sudan. Craft members of the Frank Konecny Community Centre made a Celebrate Culture banner where attendees could place their painted hand print and share their cultural background.

Our second stall provided a great opportunity to promote the Community Mothers Program. Our Community Champions enjoyed chatting about the exciting initiative and walked the oval with flyers to recruit volunteers. Attendees were also asked to vote on a new name for our Peer Support for Dads program with an enticing meat pack to be won. It was great to see so many smiling faces enjoying the entertainment and sunshine.



School Holiday Chefs & Musicians

Cockburn Community Facilitator; Belinda Ngoroyemoto, has been working closely with Meerilinga Children and Family Centre and Yangebup Family Centre, to bring varied school holiday activities to families. Meerilinga hosted two sessions of Little Chefs Cooking Classes on **Tuesday 17th and 24th April**, where kids and parents got their hands dirty making Yogurt & Fruit Cups and Pizza. All participants had a great time, leaving with a little recipe file so they can prepare the meals again at home. This program will be offered again in the July school holidays, so keep an eye on our Facebook page for event details.

A Kids Music Workshop for children aged 6 to 12 years was hosted at Yangebup Family Centre on **Thursday 19th April** thanks to Brady St Music Inc. Kids were able to make some noise with African drums and Spanish instruments as part of our Celebrate Culture approach. The sold out session was enjoyed by all, with the children relishing in creating sounds and forming friendships among the group.



Our Community Champions

We have some fabulous Community Champions in our Action Teams, who are extremely passionate and supportive of each initiative. We will be sharing their stories on building capacity in their community.

Bonnie's Story

Our Community Champion Bonnie Madsen hosted her first local community event on **Friday 23rd March** to celebrate Neighbour Day! The gloomy weather didn't stop Bonnie; as she set up tables and chairs in the local park in her street.

Bonnie has attended every Neighbourhoods Connected Kwinana Action Team meeting and participated in the training facilitated by Street by Street; a national project building neighbourhood networks and turning streets into communities.

The Street by Street workshops provided participants with tips and hints on what type of event to host to encourage neighbours to attend, and how to approach new people. Bonnie invited her neighbours to the street party by door knocking and personally handing out invites. This face-to-face meeting helped establish the first point of contact and built rapport.

Bonnie's first get-together was kindly supported by City of Kwinana's Neighbour Day funding, to help with catering costs. The gathering was such a success, that the neighbours are keen to attend the next party and have plans to host a bring-a-plate picnic in six months time.

Bonnie says "The importance of knowing your neighbours really struck home since having kids. Being able to look out for one another is so important on a daily basis, as these are the closest people around you in the case of an emergency".

Well done Bonnie for taking the leap and getting to know your neighbours! You are helping develop a greater feeling of safety and sense of community in your street.

Rapid Trial in Cockburn

The Target 100% 2 year old Health Checks Action Team has progressed plans and will be launching a rapid trial in May.

Practitioners from NursePrac Australia and Telethon Speech & Hearing will be conducting 2 year old health checks in various dedicated Child Care Centre's within the City of Cockburn.

The trial will begin on **Monday 14th May** at **South Lake Child Care Centre**, and continue on **Tuesday 15th May** at **Kids Corner Child Care Centre** in Munster and **Monday 28th May** at **Meerilinga Children and Family Centre** in Coolbellup.



Regular health and development checks are vital during the early years, to make sure children are growing and developing as they should. Research tells us that the first five years of a child's life are the most important for emotional, social, intellectual and physical development.

During this time, a child's brain changes faster and grows larger than any other stage of their life.

This 2 year old health check trial is part funded by City of Cockburn and offers parents a flexible alternative of accessing a health assessment. The aim is to help families struggling to attend a standard health check at their local Child Health Centre, by bringing the health check to them as they drop their child to Child Care. Data from the trial will be used to inform future projects.

Focus on Dads

In partnership with The Fathering Project, Connecting Community for Kids is hosting a Pizza Night on **Wednesday 16th May**, 6pm to 7.30pm at Meerilinga Children and Family Centre in Coolbellup. Dads, Granddads, Step-Dads and Father-figures will be given the opportunity to chat to the team over a slice of pizza and find out all there is to know about The Fathering Project and their awesome Champion Dads Program. Check out our event on our Facebook page for RSVP details.

Cockburn Community Facilitator; Belinda Ngoroyemoto, has been working closely with City of Cockburn in supporting their Dads N Tods Mud Trek on **Saturday 16th June**.

Held at Boodjar Moolyiny Reserve in Munster, Dads and their kids will be guided on an adventure walk to discover the secret sites of Cockburn. Check out our event on our Facebook page for ticket purchase information.



Cultural Fair

Connecting Community for Kids had the pleasure of attending City of Cockburn's Cultural Fair on **Saturday 7th April**. Held at Harmony Oval in Atwell, the event was an opportunity to showcase the wealth of different cultures in Cockburn. The Celebrate Culture Cockburn Action Team engaged The Free Spirit Dance Community and the Celtic Thistle Highland Dancers to perform on the big stage. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.



Community Mothers Program

Connecting Community for Kids is currently recruiting **volunteers** for the Community Mothers Program! Are you passionate, respectful, empathetic and willing to help in your community? We are looking for Mums, Grandmas and female carers who can impart wisdom and support for a Mum in need. We need people who can provide the link between families and community. If this sounds like you, then please call us for a chat and application form.

Recruitment for round one of our initiative closes on **13th May 2018**. An information session will be held once applications are received and shortlisted.

Training for Community Mothers will be held over a 2 day period (4 hours each day), with the first round of training commencing Thursday 7th and Friday 8th June, 10am to 2pm at the John Wellard Community Centre. Crèche facilities will be available during training, with child care offered if you need support in caring for your own children while you volunteer.

It is envisaged that Community Mothers will take care of between one and 3 families each, visiting each family once a month for approximately 1 hour. The length of support per family will be determined by need.

We aim to have Community Mothers trained and ready to support new Mums towards the end of June. Ongoing training and support will be provided by Curtin University School of Nursing.

Our team and Community Champions are extremely excited to be bringing this initiative to our community!



Let's Introduce Our Team

We would like to introduce our newest Backbone Team Member!

Wendy King

Community Engagement Officer



Wendy joins Connecting Community for Kids with over 22 years of administrative and managerial experience.

After arriving in Australia from the U.K. in 2015, Wendy joined the not-for-profit sector and soon developed a passion for community work. She has experience working with Early Years Networks and social and multicultural groups.

Wendy joins the team as our Community Engagement Officer and will be responsible for the administration of the Collective's activities to ensure the office runs smoothly. She will also be the first point of contact for all our community groups and Action Teams. Wendy is looking forward to improving outcomes for children and families.

Welcome to the team Wendy!

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