



## Small Centre with a Big Difference

What is it about KinderMarlee that has all the tongues wagging? Two years ago, when Janet Schluter transformed Landsborough Childcare into KinderMarlee Early Childhood Centre she never imagined that her little centre would create such an impression. Janet has worked in the childcare field since 2004 and is committed to advocating for children to be viewed as competent, contributing citizens; including the right to experience a carefree childhood with a strong sense of home and community. The difference between more traditional childcare models and



KinderMarlee is a team that have created an innovative and authentic early childhood space. KinderMarlee is a place that allows children time to wander and wonder; to be who they truly are, spaces to be alone, to be with others, to move freely, to be inspired and to learn. The pace is flexible, unhurried and child oriented. There is a vast array of learning possibilities through freely accessed indoor / outdoor natural environments. These spaces invite open ended interactions, explorations and a connection with nature. The centre is unique in providing opportunities for siblings to be together if and when they choose, and whenever they choose. Studies have shown that children in mixed age groups have more varied interactions and positive benefits that do not occur as deeply or frequently as children that only interact with peers their own age – in confined and age segregated rooms. Being a forerunner in the examination of meaningful and organic childhood pedagogy has been challenging for the team as they work to share with local community the benefits for children in a less common setting. In fact all staff that worked the old model state that they wouldn't go back to the traditional model of 'teaching' as the benefits they see now out weight the old ways by far – including a huge reduction in behavioural outbursts, separation anxiety and children's sense of dependency. The centre has generated so much interest in the field of early education, that the team regularly hosts other centre directors, educators, professors



and education experts who are inspired to experience the methods first hand. The staff are committed to early childhood education and attend regular training to keep abreast of the latest research on child development and studies. They support active learning and encourage hands on investigation with the teacher and children seen as co-researchers. The team promote play as the most meaningful and appropriate way for young children to learn and develop. The staff at the centre are all long term and qualified, boasting two Early Childhood teachers to facilitate a Government Approved Kindergarten Program. So if you happen to hear about a 'hippy little alternate centre' in Landsborough, pop in and feel the difference for yourself. It could be just the place that you and your children are looking for to connect, contribute and create.



## Seasons Greetings

TO OUR FAMILIES  
& COMMUNITY  
THANK YOU FOR  
A MEMORABLE YEAR

10 MILL STREET, LANDSBOROUGH.

Ph 5494 8200

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