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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the last newsletter for 2021!

Term 4 has been full of excitement. We held our first family fun day at the Quorn swimming pool. Our end of year celebrations included Kindy Graduation for Honey-May, Jack & Eloise.

As many of you would be aware, in November the State Government announced mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for Education & Early Childhood settings. This mandate includes:

- All of our staff and contractors
- Anyone who visits our preschool & creche for work purposes
- Our Board of Management
- All volunteers and parent helpers

Under this Direction, all of the above-mentioned people must receive at least 1 dose of a Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA) approved COVID-19 vaccination and provide a proof of booking to receive a second dose, by 11.59pm on 10 December 2021, which was the last day of term.

We want to assure all of our members that, our number one priority is providing a safe environment for our children and for our staff, and this new measure aims to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

At the end of term, we have farewelled Tegan Mudge from the Creche Team Leader role and Paula Bishop from the Wellbeing Officer position.

Tegan has been a wonderful asset to the creche team and I wish her all the best with her next adventure. Deb Tuip will be stepping into Tegan's role until the position is filled permanently.

Paula may have only been with us briefly, however she has been able to kick start the wellbeing program after being vacant for sometime. Wishing Paula luck in her future endeavours.

We have also welcomed Eliza back from maternity leave. Eliza will now be assisting Abbie in the office. We also farewelled Megan Hamper, who has recently welcomed a beautiful baby girl with her husband, Ash. Congratulations to Megan & Ash on the arrival of Jada and hoping the ride of parenthood isn't too wild! After recently completing her traineeship, Teagan Murray will be leaving RICE in January to pursue other options. Wishing Teagan all the best in her new venture.

2021 has seen RICE achieve new goals with updating the mission & vision statements, our values, strategic planning & lastly our constitution. Whilst there have been a few challenges, I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment here at RICE in 2021.

We have begun planning our 2022 goals for where we want RICE to go as a team, moving forward. It is very rewarding having a great team around me, that supports a continually evolving vision for RICE.

Much of what we have accomplished wouldn't be possible without the continued support of our members, stakeholders and the clubs that have made very generous donations to our organisation.

This support has not gone unnoticed and is very much appreciated by myself and everyone here at RICE.

Wishing all of our members & their families a very ***Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!***

I look forward to seeing you all in 2022!

Chloe Hunter
Director



FROM THE BOARD

It is exciting times at RICE after a busy year on all fronts. As we have learnt to navigate our lives in the 'Covid world', RICE staff have continued to service families across rural and remote SA through creches, playdays, activity days and the kindy program. The Board have continued to gain more clarity around various operational aspects at RICE enabling discussions around the efficiency and effectiveness of particular programs. We are continually looking for ways that will enhance the service for families and there are some exciting ideas for the future.

After a number of hours of workshops and discussions, the Board and staff are pleased to introduce a new strategic plan. The strategic plan provides a great framework of achievable goals for staff, the Board and members to focus on in the near future ensuring a strong and sustainable organisation.

The 4 key focus areas include;

- Enhancing governance
- Enhancing operation
- Boosting community engagement
- Improve Financial Management

2021 also came with some changes to our Constitution to reflect the current service and to help mitigate potential problems that may arise as a result of some of the previous rules. Whilst RICE does receive some funding from both the State and Commonwealth governments, we once again thank Oz Minerals for their on-going support in 2021. Also thank you to the handful of race/gymkhana clubs that donated. Every cent helps keep RICE on the ground in your area and we are so grateful for donations as funding does not cover the full extent of programs and resources.

On the staffing front, there have been a number of changes this year with a number of new staff as well as a number of departing staff due to new directions, babies and the government mandated Covid vaccination ruling. The Board thank Chloe for hitting the ground running and to all of the staff for bringing such a positive attitude to RICE.

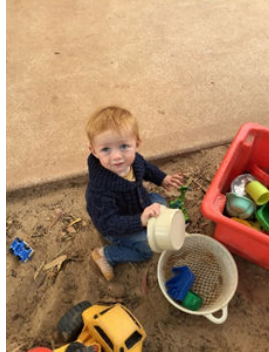
With the ultimate goal to service as many families as possible in rural and remote SA, we are looking forward to a bright and exciting 2022. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2022.

Cheers for now,

Kirsty Williams
Chairperson



CRECHE REPORT



Hi there!

We have had a wonderful few terms this year with all the children from Hawker and Orroroo. This year the children have really enjoyed water play, construction, dramatic play, investigating & exploring experiments. We have achieved so much this term, getting ready for Christmas and creating some wonderful art works for all the children to take home for their family to enjoy. It has also been a sad time for us, with Tegan Mudge leaving the team. Tegan has been such a wonderful Team Leader for the past year and has left such a positive contribution to the team and the children.

Term four holidays have seen us trial a few holiday creche sessions, which have so far been successful. We still have places available for the January sessions if you'd like to book your children in.

It has been wonderful seeing the children grow and flourish into the little characters they are today.

We would like to wish those that are going off to school next year all the best for the years to come. Hope their schooling brings many adventures and achievements. We look forward to seeing you all next year after a refreshing break with many more adventures and bright ideas for your children to enjoy!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all of our families!



CRECHE CONTACTS

PORT AUGUSTA OFFICE: (08)8642 4477

CRECHE TEAM LEADER (CRECHE DAYS ONLY): 0497 009 907

EMAIL: admin@rice.org.au

CRECHE OPERATING TIMES

ORROROO: MONDAY 8:45AM - 3:15PM

HAWKER: FRIDAY 8:45AM - 3:15PM

REMOTE CRECHE: ONCE A TERM & ONCE DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

KINDY REPORT

We celebrated our Kindy Graduation on 1st December 2021, as part of our Family Fun Day and end of year celebrations.

Congratulations to Honey-May, Eloise and Jack on their graduation! Everyone here at RICE wish you all the best starting school!



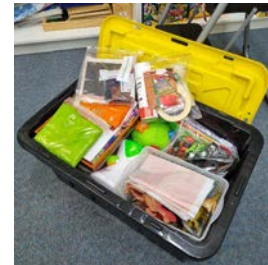
RESOURCE CENTRE

Hi Everyone

These past few months have been very exciting, making changes to the Resource room and purchasing some new and exciting resources for all the children to enjoy. We have been continuing with the "Play Kits" with new additions like the "Barbie Play Kits", "Pirate Play Kits" and the Tee Pee with the campfire kit.



We have been busy mailing out our new Toy Boxes to families, filling them with fun and wonderful activities for children to enjoy. Since starting I have added planned activities for children to do with their families in the toy boxes, as well as toys from our resource library.



All activities are designed for their ages and consist of sensory activities, stem activities, construction, fine motor activities and so much more.

It's been wonderful getting to know families over the past few months and look forward meeting more families along my travels.

*"May the peace and joy that Christmas brings
always be with you and your family!
Merry Christmas!"*

Teagan Karger
Resource Educator





KIDS CORNER



Riddle Time

Q: An elephant in Africa is called Lala. An elephant in Asia is called Lulu. What do you call and elephant in Antarctica?

A: Lost

Q: What is worse than a Reindeer with a cold?

A: A snowman with a hot flush



Christmas Activity

Salt Dough Christmas Ornaments:

Make some salt dough ornaments to decorate your tree.

2 Cups of Plain Flour
1 Cup Salt
1 Cup Cold Water

1. Preheat Oven to 120C.
2. Mix together your ingredients until well combined. If the mixture is crumbly, add a small amount of water. If the mixture is runny, add some more flour.
3. Place flour on your counter top and knead together the dough.
4. Flour a rolling pin and roll the dough out to 0.5cm thick. Use Christmas cookie cutters to cut out shapes.
5. Score patterns into the top of the salt dough. Don't forget to cut a hole in the top of your decorations to hang them from.
6. Transfer your decorations to lined baking trays and bake in the oven for 2 hours or until dried out.
7. Remove from oven and allow to dry completely.
8. Add paint to your decorations to make them even more festive!

3 Ingredient Short Bread

340g butter softened
130g icing sugar
375g plain flour



1. Preheat oven to 160C (fan-forced). Line 2 baking trays with baking paper.
2. Beat the butter with an electric mixer until smooth (approx. 30 seconds).
3. Slowly add the icing sugar and continue mixing until combined. Scrape down the sides of the bowl.
4. Add flour and mix on a low speed until combined.
5. Gently knead the dough into a ball (don't over work it) and chill for 30 minutes. Roll to 1/2cm thick and use cookie cutters to cut out christmas shapes.
6. Place on pre-prepared trays in the oven for 12-15 minutes or until very lightly golden. Allow to cool for 10 minutes and then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.
7. Mix together icing sugar, water and food colouring to make icing and decorate your biscuits as you see fit.

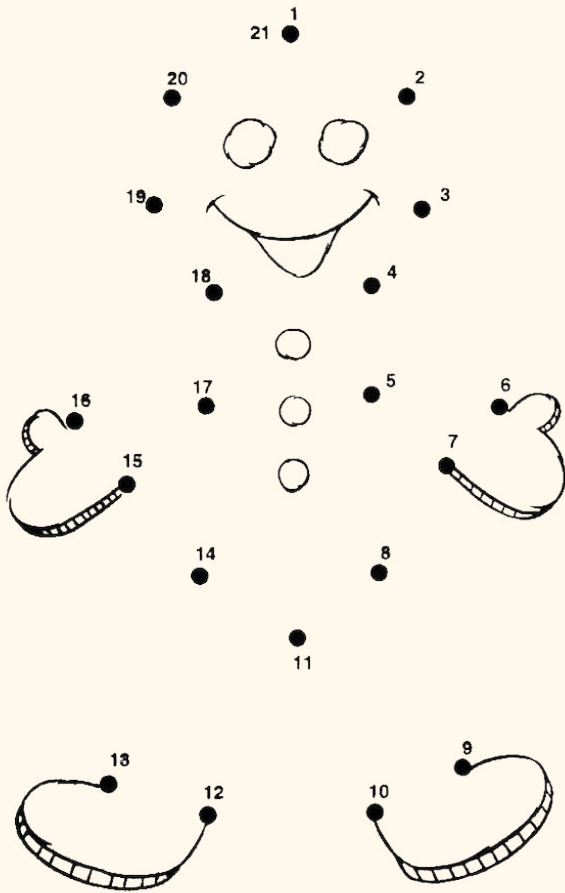
<https://bakeplaysmile.com/>





KIDS CORNER

https://www.bestcoloringpagesforkids.com/



Santa's House

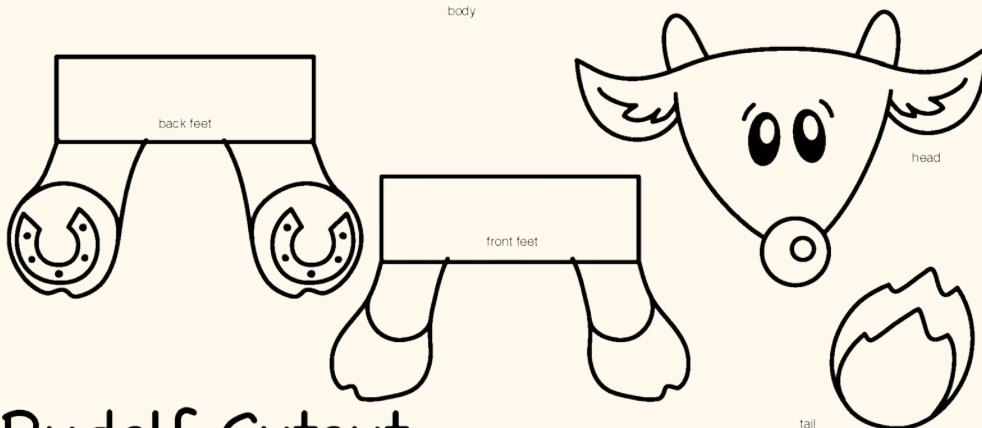
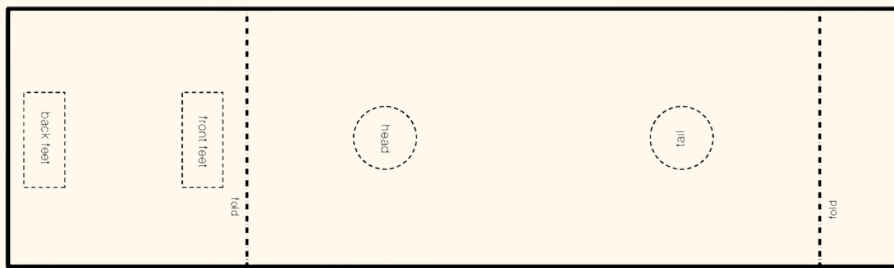
- milk
- bed
- fireplace
- candy
- cookie
- chair
- tree
- lamp
- oven
- table
- present
- cocoa



b e d a b h e p c r
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Rudolf Cutout

© Art for Kids!

Get more art for kid activities at [ArtforKidsHub.com/subscribe/](https://www.artforkidshub.com/subscribe/)



2022 ACTIVITY DAYS

Hosting a
community
event in
2022?

You can now
place your
booking request
for an Activity
Day through our
website!



RICE Membership is now open!

Membership entitles families access to:

- **Activity Days**
 - Provided for children at community events, offering fun & creative activities for children
- **Kindergarten**
 - Program provided by an Early Childhood Teacher for children of preschool age
- **Outback Childcare**
 - A mobile childcare program, providing care in the family home for children 0-12 years of age
- **Playdays**
 - Bringing families within the district together to provide opportunities to interact, play & learn in a safe and positive environment
- **Remote Creche**
 - Creche services provided at Hawker & Orroroo
- **Resource Centre**
 - Housing a huge range of educational games & toys to promote fun, creativity and play
- **Wellbeing**
 - Supporting rural & remote families by integrating holistic approaches with quality referral services.

REGISTER TODAY AT

WWW.RICE.ORG.AU/ABOUT/MEMBERSHIP

REMOTE & ISOLATED CHILDREN'S EXERCISE

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM
THE 23RD DECEMBER 2021 AND WILL
REOPEN ON 10TH JANUARY 2022



EMERGENCY CONTACT:
CHLOE - 0497 009 896

WE'RE SEEKING A

- Creche Team Leader
- Wellbeing Officer
- Educators



TO JOIN OUR TEAM!



Based in Port Augusta, RICE is a unique mobile children's service offering a range of education and care services to families living in remote towns, communities and stations in South Australia.

Are you chasing a unique experience?

Want to travel Outback SA?

Interested in childcare being delivered differently?

www.rice.org.au

- FULL & PART TIME POSITIONS BASED IN PORT AUGUSTA
- WAGE DETERMINED ON PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE
- FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS OFFERED

DOWNLOAD THE POSITION DESCRIPTION AT
WWW.RICE.ORG.AU/ABOUT/EMPLOYMENT

OR CALL CHLOE ON (08) 8642 4477

CONTACT US

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Lorena Shackelford
Jasmine Kimber

