

WELCOME BACK

March - October 2020

Issue 2 Term 4

Contents

Acting Director's News	1
Board Report	2
Upcoming Events	3
Kindy Update	4
Creche	5
Playday News	6
Resource Centre	7
Events & Info	8-11
Kid's Corner	12-14
RICE Contacts	15



We are back!!! Finally, we are able to produce a newsletter with activities that have been happening after a very uncertain first half of the year. Hopefully, many families have had some significant rain by now and that the weather pattern is changing to our favour. Young children may be experiencing the joys of playing in mud for the very first time in their lives.

We welcome two new staff members who both started at the end of August. Abbie Cimarosti, the new Administrative Assistant and Tegan Mudge the new Team Leader, whilst Eliza McIntosh is on leave. Both staff have settled in quickly and easily and are an asset to the rest of our very capable team.

We are currently advertising for an Educator, which will hopefully be filled during this term. Unfortunately, we have been unable to provide in home care to families most of this year, due to Covid 19 and a lack of staff. We are very disappointed that we have been unable to provide this service as we know how beneficial it is during busy times, respite and for many other reasons. We are opening up the opportunity for families to bring their children to creche at RICE in Port Augusta during the school term and holidays on a designated day. These will be advertised prior to the event. Please remember that the Resource Centre has many new educational resources to borrow and don't forget to look at the Facebook page too.

The end of year is fast approaching information on planned activities on the 3rd and 4th of December are provided in this Newsletter, unfortunately our annual activities clash with the Field days this year.

I would personally like to thank the staff and Board for the enormous time and effort they put into making RICE function to the best of its capacity. Please feel free to inform us of what we are doing well and what we could improve on. This service is for our families and constructive feedback is always appreciated so we can continue to improve and grow.

Acting Director
Lucy McTaggart
office@rice.org.au

RICE REFLECTIONS

BOARD REPORT

2020 has definitely been a year like no other. It has thrown new challenges at us in all shapes and sizes and forced everyone to change the way things have been done in the past. Whether those changes are here to stay is unknown as life on the other side of COVID-19 transpires.

RICE has continued to be dedicated to the rural and remote families of SA despite Covid. The creches for Orroroo and Hawker were required to stay open, deemed an 'essential service' by the government as centre-based childcare, whereas the other services were put on hold to avoid unnecessary travel. A huge thank you must go to the staff who continued to do what they do best and for enabling the service to remain open despite the trying times. It's exciting to have play days happening again in many areas and hopefully before too long, outback childcare can ramp back up.

In Term 2 we welcomed Lucy McTaggart as Assistant Director. Lucy has done an outstanding job in leading the team and we cannot thank her enough for working through the various tasks and challenges that have arisen along the way. We also extend a warm welcome to Abbie Cimarosti and Tegan Mudge who also joined the team.

I thank and commend the Board of Management for their tireless efforts and dedication over the past year. RICE had an Organisational Health Check conducted in March and many of the items listed in the final report have been actioned to ensure RICE continues to be a sustainable, forward-moving organisation.

One of the major changes has been the necessity to work under the *Children's Services Award 2010* conditions. Staff will be paid overtime rates on weekends and for additional hours over 7.6 hours per day, this has huge implications on the budget but a move that was unavoidable. Given the unusual circumstances surrounding 2020, it will be difficult to anticipate the change in its entirety but it is something the board will monitor closely over the coming months.

We are looking at making some minor adjustments to the constitution, alterations will be sent out to community members for comment in the coming weeks.

The RICE Board of Management AGM is coming up and will be held via zoom on Wednesday 25th November, we hope to see many members tune in. There are a couple of board positions available for nomination providing a great opportunity for people to expand their knowledge of governance and management whilst ensuring RICE remains a sustainable organisation into the future.

Cheers for now,

Kirsty Williams
Chairperson

RICE REFLECTIONS

ADMIN REPORT

My name is Abbie, I am the new administrative assistant and the person on the other end of the phone. I am really enjoying my new role here at RICE and learning more about the amazing services RICE provide to the remote communities. I look forward to meeting you all in the coming months. Please feel free to contact me at the RICE office or email me if you have any questions, feedback or any account queries.

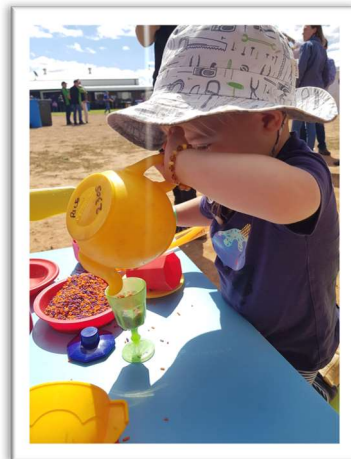
Abbie Cimarosti

Admin Assistant

acimarosti@rice.org.au



Hawker Drought Muster



UPCOMING EVENTS

PLAY DAY

11th of November – Marree school

12th of November – Blinman Hotel

12th of November – Office Creche

17th of November – Coober Pedy -Location TBA

END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES

3rd & 4th December

RICE REFLECTIONS

KINDY UPDATE

This year has been a bit different to prior years due to the complications brought on by covid-19. It was very exciting to finally have a kindy experience in term 3, it had been so long since we had all caught up!

During the week we extended on all of what we had been learning for the month of August.

In our exploration of the solar system the children viewed a 3D image of the planets rotating around the sun. We discussed ideas about the solar system and acknowledged some Aboriginal Australian perspectives and knowledge of space. It was so much fun making moon sand after we had heard Aboriginal Australian stories about the moon!

We also played a range of games to develop our recognition of shapes. The children hunted for shapes in the room, built using blocks with different shapes and searched for shapes for a game of Simon Says.

We explored other aspects of maths as the children developed their rote counting, became familiar with 10-frames and used 1:1 correspondence. During play the children shared out some pretend food which is foundational for the later learning of division.

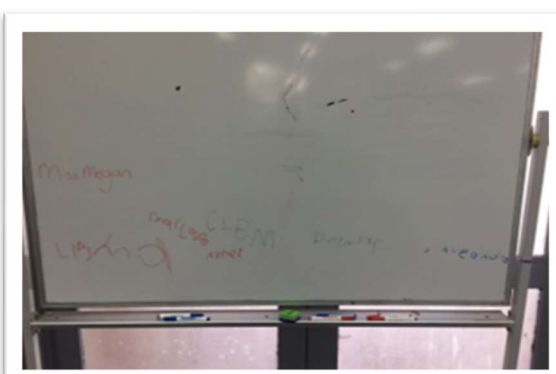
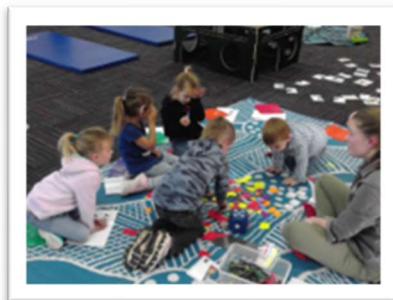
The group showed their engagement with writing and an interest in written language. The kindy children wrote their names on the whiteboard, in a sand tray, in shaving cream and using watercolour paints. Some of the children showed an interest in random letters as they wrote letters on to sticky notes and stuck these around the room for a scavenger hunt!

Kindy experience was an excellent opportunity for the children to present their understandings and to extend on their learning from online lessons.

Megan Hamper

Kindy Teacher

mhamper@rice.org.au



RICE REFLECTIONS

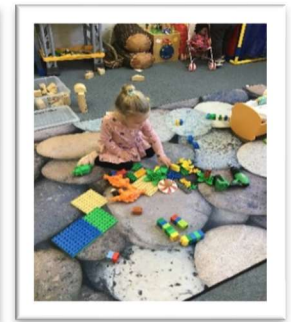
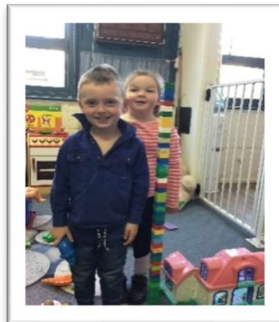
CRECHE

My name is Tegan Mudge and for those who have not met me, I am the Creche Team Leader while Eliza takes time off to enjoy her bundle of joy! I started in term three, week seven and have thoroughly enjoyed meeting the children at Creche and their families.

Over term three we have seen children express many interests and have watched them extend their knowledge through both intentional teaching and spontaneous play. It has been an exciting time watching them work through each activity and learn many new skills and challenging their current knowledge. A few activities we have enjoyed are water play mazes, moon sand, balance and jump obstacle course, dress-ups, animals in "mud", a variety of books and puzzles, arts, and crafts.



We have held one Remote Creche day. We welcomed two new families with enrolments and have enjoyed learning about them.



Over the holidays I have been busy talking with Creche educators, planning, and creating a program for the children using learning stories and interests made through term three. I am looking forward to a fun and engaging term four.

If you want to discuss anything with Creche including a child's new interests, then ring or email me.

Tegan Mudge

Creche Team Leader

tmudge@rice.org.au

Creche Operating Times

Orroroo: Monday 8:45am - 3:15pm

Hawker: Friday 8:45am - 3:15pm

Remote Creche: Once a term and once during school holidays.

(Dates TBC via email 2 weeks prior)

RICE REFLECTIONS

PLAYDAY NEWS

After a quiet first half of the year RICE was excited by the resuming of Play Days in term three. It was fantastic to see so many familiar and new faces in Carrieton, Innamincka, Oodnadatta, Yunta and Fowlers Bay.

Term four is looking like it is going to be jammed packed with Play Day fun. We started the term off by heading to Cradock and Olary during week one where the children enjoyed a variety of different activities and resources, with bubbles being an obvious favourite. Throughout the term we are planning on getting out to Yunta, Marree, Coober Pedy, Fowlers Bay and Blinman so be sure to keep an eye on your emails and the RICE Facebook page for information.

If you are interested in hosting a play day or would like more information, please contact the office on 8642 4477 or email myself.

We cannot wait to see you all throughout the term.

Heather Scanlon
Senior Educator
hscanlon@rice.org.au



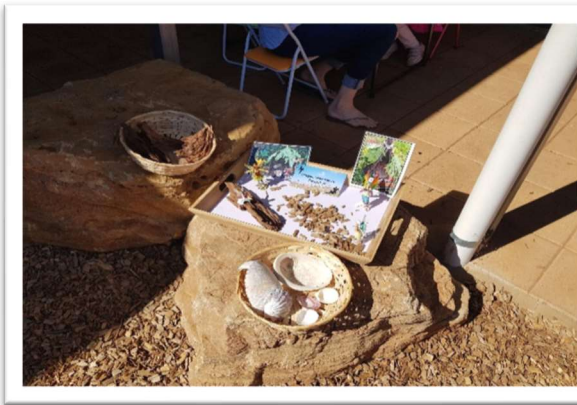
Innaminka play day



Olary Play Day



Cradock Play Day



Cradock Play Day

RICE REFLECTIONS

RESOURCE CENTRE

Term 3 has seen a change in name to Resource Centre and my role to Resource Educator. This change more accurately describes the area that holds the resources for all the services that RICE provides including toy library, kindy resources, playday/activity day equipment. These resources include but are not limited to: books, toys, art and craft, mats, puzzles, puppets and educational resources.

If you have not already done so, and have access to Facebook, please join our RICE Resource Centre private group. You will need to send me an email to add you as it is a secure group and may not show up on searches. I will regularly add new resources, different ideas for learning experiences using our resources and maybe the occasional book reading or something fun! I will also send out an email at the start of every term for those that do not access Facebook so no one misses out on getting information.



End of the year will see me finalising the stocktake of resources for 2020 so that I can follow up overdue and lost items. If you could, please make sure you have returned your items by the 14th of December or contact me to renew the borrowing period. Please do not hesitate to let me if there are missing or broken items. We understand that accidents happen and little pieces are easy to lose.

I have some exciting ideas for the new year in the Resource Centre so stay tuned and talk to you all soon.

Jasmine Kimber
Resource Educator
jkimber@rice.org.au



RICE REFLECTIONS

EVENTS AND INFO

Congratulations

Eliza and Liam on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Ella Rose, born on the 30th of September.



Congratulations to Megan on her Engagement to fiancé Ash. We wish you all the best for the future.



RICE Tea towels are available to purchase for \$10 each, all money raised will help to purchase new resources for the Resource Centre.



RICE would like to thank Oz Minerals for their ongoing support.



RICE REFLECTIONS

REMOTE & ISOLATED CHILDREN'S EXERCISE (RICE)



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER 2020

10AM VIA ZOOM

AGM Report and related documents to be
emailed out soon.

Please contact admin@rice.org.au
to register attendance

RICE REFLECTIONS

End-of-Year Celebrations 2020



THURSDAY 3rd & FRIDAY 4th December

THURSDAY 3rd

8:45pm – 3:15pm RICE creche

Location: To be confirmed

Cost: \$55.25 minus any CCS entitlements

Bookings Essential: Return booking for by Monday 23rd November



FRIDAY 4th

11:30am – 12:00pm Kindy Graduation

12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch and activities

1:00pm – 1:30pm Visit from Father Christmas

1:45pm – 2:45pm Water Awareness/Swimming



Location: Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre – Hannagan Street, Port Augusta

Cost: Pool entry and lunch covered by RICE

RSVP essential: Return booking form by Monday 23rd November

Email: admin@rice.org.au

Phone: 8642 4477

ALL members and their children are welcome to attend each activity!

*If your child does not wish to participate in water awareness led by the swimming instructors, they can still utilise the pool facilities if supervised by a parent/guardian.

RICE REFLECTIONS



1.

GIANT CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAY

Visit the GIANT Christmas Tree in the Barracks from **December 3 - 23** from **10am to 9pm daily**. Photo opportunities will be available in front of the tree.

While you are there, also see the **Port Augusta Christmas Tree Festival** display at the Institute Theatre and the **"What Christmas means to me"** school artwork display in the Yarta Purlti Art gallery.

Gladstone Square will also light up from **December 3**. Take an evening walk through Gladstone Square to see the lighting display.

Santa will make a special visit to the Barracks on **Friday 4th December** at approximately 8.45pm on his Christmas MFS truck.

COVID-19 Social Distancing Rules apply.

Donations of Pet Food, Canned or Dry Goods can be placed under the Tree. These will be given to charity organisations prior to Christmas.

Gold Coin Donation to Volunteer Clubs at the door.

2.

LIGHT UP AND SHINE

To make Port Augusta extra special this Christmas, the Community are invited to **"Light up and Shine"**. **December 3 - December 25**

- Light up and/or decorate your front yard
- Light up your business windows
- Use **#lightupandshineptaugusta** when sharing photos.
- Register your house or business on Council's website www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au

3.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO PORT AUGUSTA

Santa Claus will be visiting various locations across Port Augusta on the MFS truck, between **December 3-9 (weather permitting)**.

In 2020 Santa will be followed by some special helpers.

Follow the **"Santa is Coming to Port Augusta"**  to see the streets Santa will be visiting and further information.

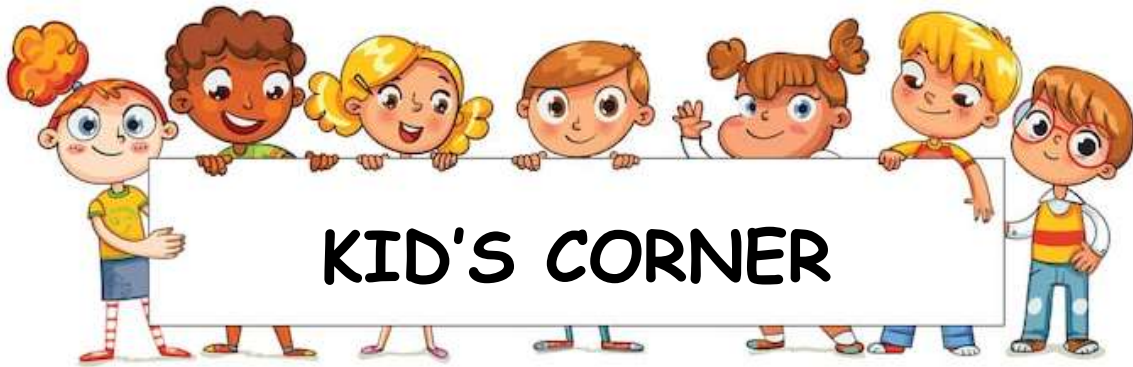
Why not **"Light up and Shine"** your house/driveway for his visit.

Supported by **Port Augusta City Council**, **Rotary Port Augusta** and **Metropolitan Fire Service**.

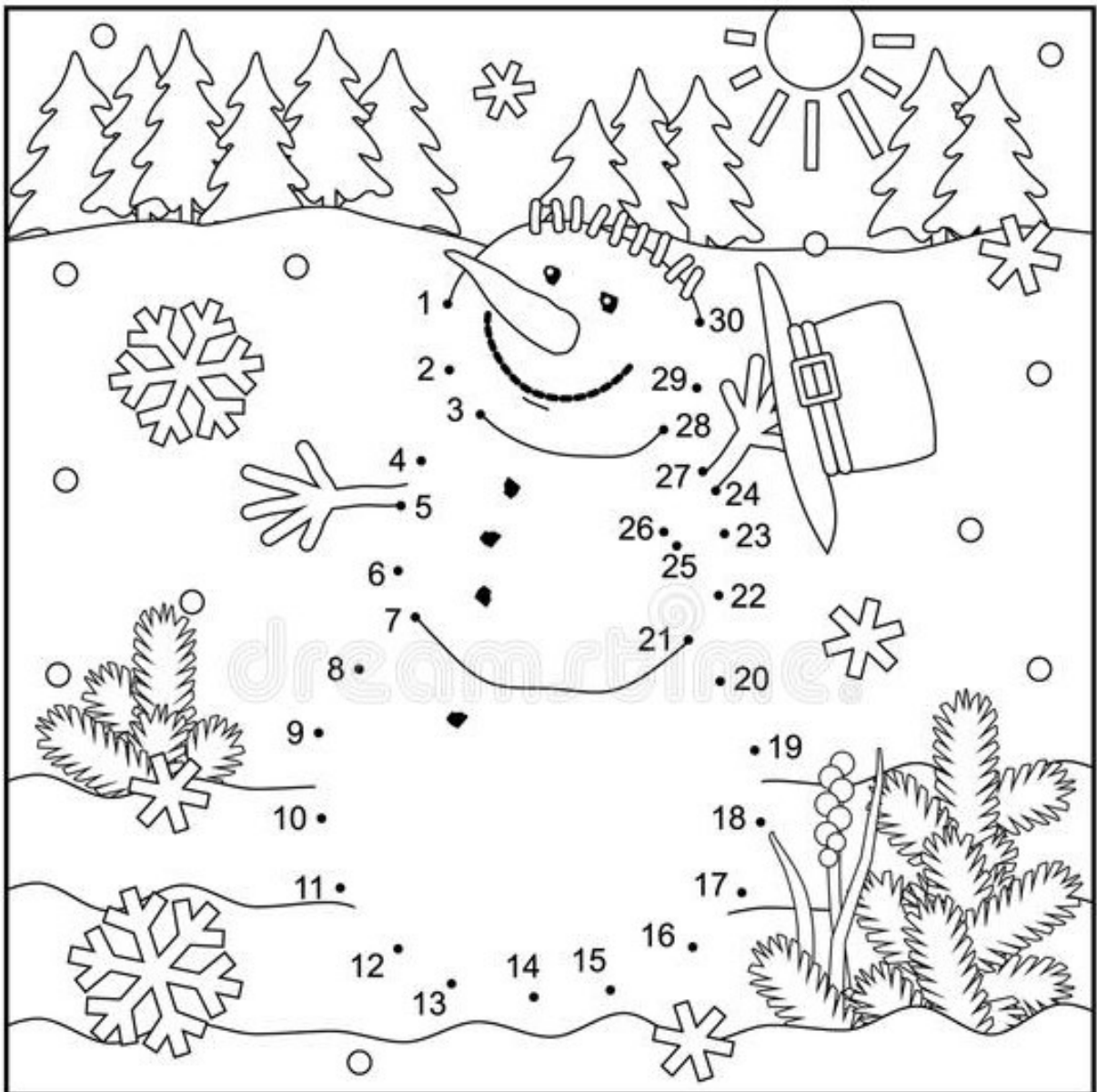
COVID-19 Social Distancing Rules apply.



RICE REFLECTIONS



Draw a line to join the dots and reveal the hidden picture, then colour the picture!



RICE REFLECTIONS

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



CANDY
CANE
CAROLING
CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER
HOLLY
LIGHTS
MERRY

MISLTOE
NORTH
POLE
PEACE
PRESENTS
REINDEER
SANTA CLAUS
SLEIGH

SNOWMAN
STAR
STOCKING
SUGARPLUM
TREE
WREATH



Q1: What did the gingerbread man get when he broke his leg?

Q2: What kind of car does an elf drive?

Q3: What do you call a reindeer with bad manners?

*Answers on page 14

RICE REFLECTIONS

RICE BUBBLES & SULTANA BISCUITS

Ingredients

- 1 Cup self-raising flour
- 1 cup Rice Bubbles
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- ½ cup sultanas
- ¾ cup caster sugar
- 125g butter (melted)
- 1 Egg (lightly beaten)



Method

- Preheat the oven to 180°C or 160° fan-forced. Line two baking trays with baking paper.
- In a bowl, combine the flour, Rice Bubbles, coconut, sultana's and sugar.
- Add the butter and egg and mix with a wooden spoon until well combined.
- Roll the mixture into tablespoon-sized balls and place them on the baking tray, leaving space between to allow for spreading.
- Bake for 10 minutes or until lightly golden.



Answers:
A1: A Candy Cane
A2: TOY-ota
A3: RUDE-olf

RICE REFLECTIONS

RICE CONTACT DETAILS

PO Box 1729
59 Power Crescent
Port Augusta, SA 5700
Email: admin@rice.org.au

Phone: (08) 8642 4477
Fax: (08) 8642 4446
Toll Free: 1800 631 301
Website: www.rice.org.au

Outback Childcare



RICE STAFF

Acting Director	Lucy McTaggart
Admin Assistant	Abbie Cimarosti
Kindy Teacher	Megan Hamper
Creche Team Leader	Tegan Mudge
Resource Educator	Jasmine Kimber
Senior Educator	Heather Scanlon
Educator (In Home Care)	TBA
Trainee Educator	Teagan Murray
Hawker & Orroroo Educators	Micaela Nicholls, Lorena Shackelford, Anna Schories-Williams Tasmin Key

BOARD MEMBERS

Chairperson	Kirsty Williams
Vice Chairperson	Penelope Rasheed
Secretary	Jessica Bell
Treasurer	Joanne Ridsdale
Zone Representatives	Bek Rasheed, Anna Nunn, Rhiannon Robinson, Francesca Fennell, Amy Cooper

We are currently seeking Board member nominations. If you would like to join or simply know more about the management Committee, please contact the office!