

Puffing Billy Toy Library



From the Secretary:

Welcome to The Toy Library

Hello there!

My name is Eden and I am the new secretary for the Puffing Billy Toy Library. I also manage the Fundraising and Events, like the "Family Fun Day" we held at Emerald Lake Park in January this

year. My family is fairly new to Emerald, as my husband Adam and I moved here three and a half years ago. We made the move from the bay in Elwood and were lucky to have two of my

sisters and their young families join us from interstate.

We moved on a scorching hot summer's day in February when our little girl Scarlet was 10 months old. Since moving here we have had another little girl, Piper. While I was pregnant and caring for our little ones at home, I studied online to become a teacher. This year is my first year working full time as a

primary school teacher...my husband and I have swapped our roles, so he is now full time stay at home parent with our girls. So far we are loving it!

We feel right at home here in the hills and love our community and the opportunity to garden a block of land with our girls running in and



Scarlet, Eden, Piper and Adam

out of fruit trees, playing in piles of compost and ever keen to be "helping". We are grateful to watch them grow up in Emerald amongst tall trees and kind people. I love being a part of the Toy Library as it gives me and my family a chance to catch up with local families, make new friends and be a part of our hills community. I truly

OPENING HOURS:

Thursday 11:00am — 12:30pm

Friday 11:00am - 12:30pm

Saturday 10:00am — 12:00pm

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Next to the Emerald
Library!

look forward to catching up with newly made friends at committee meetings, who I no longer get to see during weekdays when I am at work. During Saturday Toy Library shifts, Scarlet and Piper love checking out all the toys in the library and playing with all the little ones who pop in to return or borrow toys. I really enjoy the chats

with parents who come in and share advice and ideas around learning through play. I love a good party and organising the play dough making nights, fun days and the like has been a great opportunity to bring people together, have a good time, have a laugh, and support each other through the many challenges of

parenting. During our family friendly events, I love seeing children enjoy good quality toys as well as doing my part to help raise money and awareness of the Toy Library. If you'd like to be involved with any of our upcoming events, please let me know, we'd love to have you on board!

Toy Review:

What is your name? Tell us about yourself!

I'm Scarlet and I love playing outside with my little sister Piper. We make up stories and songs together and love running and jumping all through the back yard. We also go on adventures walking through the forest and visiting creeks and lakes around Emerald with our mum and dad.

What Toy from the PBTL are you really loving at the moment?

I love the slide! We set it up next to my sandpit and I learn to take turns with my sister.

Why do you love it?

We make up different ways to slide down it... backwards, sideways, lying down, and zipping down super fast. Sometimes I even try jumping from the top and landing in my sandpit! It is also fun to have when there are lots of friends over for a party!

Do you enjoy visiting the Toy Library?

Yes! It means a big long play with all kinds of different toys that my mummy would never buy me! Then I get to choose something to take home.

What do you enjoy doing when you are at the toy Library?

I play with all the different kids and babies that come to visit. And lately I've enjoyed trying all the different puzzles. I try to find one that is fun but also a bit tricky so I don't do it straight away like my puzzles at home!

When you go back to the Toy Library, what toy are you really excited about borrowing next?

The ride on bicycles! My sister and I get one each, that is just the right fit for us. We have races in the back yard while mum and dad try to do gardening jobs!



If your child would like to review a toy from the Puffing Billy Toy Library, we would like to hear from you.

Fun Fact...

Learning Through Play Outdoor Toys

Playing outdoors is a form of exercise that promotes well-being and wholesome physical development. Children are naturally drawn to active play outdoors: it allows them to explore their environment, develop muscle strength and coordination, and gain self-confidence. Playing actively outdoors also increases flexibility, fine and gross motor skills and is related to the development of a wide variety of physical skills.

Children have a great need for physical exercise and activity and a chance to use their muscles to run, swing, jump, skate and ride a bike, and to be out in the fresh air and sunshine. They like to use their whole body when they play outdoors, and find such physical activities interesting and challenging.

When children are pushed in a swing, or when they propel a swing themselves, they engage all of their muscles to hold on, balance and coordinate their body to the rhythm of moving back and forth. Swinging provides children with first-hand knowledge and experience of cause and effect and of understanding spatial learning, such as up and down and back and forth. Also, while swinging, children get a chance to see the world from a new perspective.

Toys that require balance and coordination, such as skates, scooters and bikes, seesaws, balance beams and stepping blocks teach children new skills, encourage the development of self-confidence and satisfy their interest in exploration. At the Toy Library you can choose outdoor toys that that are just the right fit for your child: going from beginner to advanced, so children have the opportunity to master skills at their own pace. Age appropriate challenge and developmentally appropriate toys will give children that extra boost of confidence they need when learning a new skill. As children progress to the advanced mode, they can practice their newly acquired skills and try new and exciting challenges when they're ready.

The outdoors has something more to offer than just physical benefits. Cognitive and social/emotional development are impacted, too. Outside, children are more likely to invent games. As they do, they're able to express themselves and learn about the world in their own way. They feel safe and in control, which promotes autonomy, decision-making, and organizational skills. Inventing rules for games (as preschoolers like to do) promotes an understanding of why rules are necessary. Although the children are only playing to have fun, they're learning

- communication skills and vocabulary (as they invent, modify, and enforce rules).
- number relationships (as they keep score and count)
- social customs (as they learn to play together and cooperate).

See more at:

Johnson, Christie & Wardle; *Play, Development and Early Education*, published by Allyn and Bacon, Boston, MA.

<http://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/2010/outdoor-play>

http://www.earlychildhoodnews.com/earlychildhood/article_view.aspx?ArticleID=275



New Toys

Over the Christmas break we have been busy researching and buying new toys for the Emerald Toy Library. We have now added some fantastic toys to the list;

- Bug Catcher
- Remote control car
- Build a Bouquet flower building set
- Pop Up Rocket
- Mini Trampoline
- Thomas the Tank Engine set with talking Thomas.
- Walking talking T-REX
- Lotty Dolls
- Action figures including the Hulk, Spiderman, Iron Man
- Walkie Talkies
- Skateboard

Look out for these great new toys in the coming weeks.



Previous Events

School Holiday Fun Day 11 Jan 2017

What a fabulous school holiday fun day we had! An incredible turn out on a picturesque cool summer's day at Emerald Lake Park. Thank you to the many families who joined us to play with our toys, explore the park, share in a picnic and enjoy meeting friends old and new. Thanks to everyone who lent a hand to set up and pack up! Our toy library is growing and overjoyed to connect with our local community from Emerald and surrounding regions. We hope to do it again soon!



The Cleaning Nights 16-18 Jan 2017

Well thanks to our wonderful new committee member Kate Watson and her self titled "Tidyler" role at the Toy Library, we successfully had 3 very productive summer nights of cleaning our toy library from top to bottom! A massive thank you to Rani, Wei, Sally & Steph for getting it done and doing a spectacular job. Rani, Sally & Steph each won a door prize of \$25 General Food Store Voucher - a well deserved thank you gift! And here are some after snaps of our Toy Library fresh and ready for borrowing! If you'd like to be involved in



the next cleaning night to lend a hand, get to know our lovely members and score a door prize then we'd love to have you!

Emerald Toy Library and Local News

We received a grant!!

Puffing Billy Toy Library are proud to announce that we have been successful in Cardinia Shire's Community Wellbeing Support Grants Program and have received \$2,710 funding for our project to strengthen the Puffing Billy Toy Library. As a result of this grant our wonderful community are now working on the development of a new website, online database for our toy catalogue and new promotional materials.



Thank you to The General Food Store

A big heartfelt thank you goes to the General Food Store for their generous sponsorship of The Puffing Billy Toy Library. Communication Designer Belinda Smullen is redesigning our logo and building an exciting brand new website for The Toy Library. The General Food Store has kindly provided 50% sponsorship for this valuable work. Keep your eyes peeled for our new look and materials coming soon!

THE GENERAL FOOD STORE

Join a local bush playgroup!

"Dandenong Ranges Family Nature Play Community"

Our wonderful member Sarah Rye runs a free weekly bush playgroup, usually held on Thursdays 10am-12pm at various locations around the Dandenong Ranges. It's essentially a child led, unstructured play in nature! Some day may be splashing in puddles or creeks, building bush cubbies, exploring or checking out bugs! Every session is different but really depends on what the kids want to do. Suitable for ages 1-5, although younger siblings are welcome. Also older home schoolers sometimes attend too!

To join or find out more, you can either email dandenongsnatureplay@gmail.com or join the facebook group 'Dandenong Ranges Family Nature Play Community'



St Mark's Playgroup

St Marks Playgroup is now welcoming new families. Located at St Mark's Children Centre, 5 Church St Emerald, on Thursday and Friday's 9:30am to 11:30am. All parent's and carer's are welcome to come along, make new friends and enjoy a cup of tea in a caring supportive environment. There will be art and craft, sensory play, music and stories. For more information contact;

www.stmarksemerald.org.au

Ph: 5968 4046

E: holiie.boniface@stmarksemerald.org.au

Upcoming Events:

There are exciting times ahead for the Puffing Billy Toy Library, and we would love you to be involved.

Thursday March 30th

7:30pm

Puffing Billy Toy Library

We will be holding a Special General Meeting to gather and vote on the new logo and colour scheme, that will all come together in a brand new brochure and website very soon. We will also be voting on our new price structure for the Toy Library. With many new members to the Puffing Billy Toy Library, this night will be a great opportunity to come down for a chat and to get to know everyone (KID FREE ☺). We need a minimum of 6 members for quorum to pass any decisions. Please RSVP Sally Dawe if you can make it puffingbillytoylibrary@gmail.com.



We Want to Hear from You:

- Do you have a suggestion for the Puffing Billy Toy Library?
- A toy we should purchase? Different Opening Hours?
- Do you want us to visit your playgroup? Childcare? Fundraising ideas?
- Would you like to write something in our next newsletter edition?

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