

Sandie graduates with a PhD in ECEC!



From left to right, **Dr Joy Goodfellow, Dr Manjula Waniganyake, Dr Sandie Wong, Dr Shelia Degotardi** and **Dr Emma Pearson.**

SDN Research Associate **Sandie Wong** received her PhD from Macquarie University on September 20th. Her PhD, entitled **Early Childhood Education and Care in NSW: Historicising the Present**, critically examined contemporary constructs of ECEC through an historical analysis.

Sandie explains why she was attracted to working with SDN; "Part of my study involved an examination of documents from the beginnings of SDN (then Sydney Day Nursery), so I felt a **close affinity** to the female pioneers of ECEC in Australia. It's a privilege to now contribute to that long and proud history of provision of services for children and families."

"My role as Research Associate is both to assist staff reflect on the work done within SDN, and to make the value of that work more known and accessible within the wider ECEC and broader community," Sandie says.



Vox Pop!

Introducing **Jayne Smythe**, teacher at Ngallia!

When I was small I wanted to be a ballerina or a rock star. I used to do the whole thing with the hair brush and the cricket bat.

My favourite children's story is Koala Lou by Mem Fox.

My favourite memory is the excitement I felt when my parents bought a new fridge. It meant my brother and I each had our own cardboard box to play with.

My favourite food is pasta with a creamy sauce.

One day I'd like to visit my family in Scotland.

I'm a keen cross stitcher!

Farewell Kathleen 1947—2006

SDN is sad to acknowledge the passing of **Kathleen Harnett**, on September 27th. Kath, a dedicated staff member of the babies' room at Linthorpe Street, was born in Nelson, New Zealand to Irish parents and began her work with SDN in 1989. She is known in the SDN community for her generosity, commitment and dedication to the children in her care and their families.



Colleague and friend Maria Jackson knew Kath for 4 years and says that Kath often went well above and beyond what was expected of her. "She was **devoted** to her work and an **inspiration** to all of us. She taught us all we knew and more. She meant so much to the families and the families meant so much to her," says Maria.

Friend Linda Crupi agrees, saying that Kathleen taught her a lot as a Karitane-trained mother craft nurse. "Kath was part of the furniture. She was an immaculate, **very dedicated** woman who was like a grandmother to us. Staff and families really looked up to her," Linda says.

Kath's funeral was held at St Anthony's Catholic church in Toongabbie on Wednesday 4th October. She will be sadly missed by everyone she touched during her 16 years with SDN.

Art in Early Childhood conference

The 2nd international **Art in Early Childhood Conference** *Our people, Our place, Our time*, will take place from the 5th to the 8th of February in 2007. The conference celebrates art in early childhood in and across international social, cultural and historical contexts and will be held at the University of New England, Armidale, NSW.

The conference aims to bring together art and early childhood/ primary educators, researchers, and practitioners into an expanding and increasingly interdisciplinary discussion about early childhood and art. All are welcome to attend. Early bird registration is now open- please see <http://www.artlearn.net/artEC/conference.html> for more details.

