Our Term 4 focus child program was about helping children identify their goals for learning. This program has been really successful with the children having ownership of their learning. They have been really excited and involved sharing their ideas, planning how to achieve their goal, resourcing equipment and engaging in the experience.

“I want to learn how to spell words”

“I want to learn how to play soccer and netball.”

“I want to learn about Port Power footy and learn how to kick the footy a long way through the goal posts.”

“I want to learn how to paint a house. We need paint and scissors to cut it out.”

“How to write mummy and daddy.”
Sustainability Project 2014

In 2013 the preschool garden went through a transformation. There were numerous safety concerns that steered the educators and the children to create a safer play environment. There were many tripping hazards which prevented the play area from being fully utilised. Considerable expense went into the redevelopment of the playground which opened up space for climbing, a new sand pit with a water course, a textured path and an extension of the stage area. Water saving plants were added throughout the playground. This project sparked the vision to begin the process of creating a sustainable and healthy environment. In 2013 children, families and educators became involved in planting vegetables and fruit trees. ‘Reduce, reuse and recycle’ was explored and practices were implemented i.e. collecting bottles, cans and tetra boxes for raising funds for the outdoor environment. In 2013 we have only touched the surface and in 2014 we agreed to continue to go further into our pursuit for a sustainable and healthy environment at Fulham Park Preschool Kindergarten.

Our Aims for 2014

Water Conservation
- Reduce the amount of water used by using the water collected from rainwater tanks to water our gardens and for sand play in the sandpit
- Plant drought resistant plants to reduce the amount of watering
- Plant trees that can tolerate drought conditions and attract local bird species as well as providing sun protection for children and educators

Vegetable Planting and Maintenance
- Link food growth with consumption to help children appreciate how our environment sustains life.

Reduce, reuse and recycle practices
- Litter less - lunches
- Litter reduction
- Reduce photo copying - use email and website for the dissemination of information
- Bottle, cans and tetra box collection to raise funds for the outdoor environment
- Preloved clothing collection for charity
- Add a green and yellow bin in the children’s garden for easy accessibility by the children, families and staff team.

In 2014 the preschool applied for an environment grant from the City of West Torrens to support our aims and were successful in securing funds to undertake the projects to support sustainable practice. The funds from the grant as well as funds allocated from our preschool budget were used to purchase another rainwater tank for the sandpit and nearby plants, two Australian evergreen native trees, irrigation and labour to connect the irrigation system from the existing water tank to water the vegetable garden, irrigation supply, connections and labour for the existing fruit trees and a second vegetable garden.

Throughout 2014 our aims were slowly coming to fruition.

We achieved the following
1. Irrigated vegetable garden using water collected from the existing water tank
2. A second vegetable garden
3. A second rainwater tank which is located by the sandpit
4. Two new trees,
5. Litter less lunches
6. Increase use of email and website
7. Preloved clothing collection—Diabetes SA
8. Extra recycling bins
9. Increase in the number of bottle, cans and tetra box collection from families

Roger from Vital Veggies supported us in our project by helping with the following
- Supplying plants
- Irrigation supplies,
- Soil
- Water tanks
- Labour
- Ongoing maintenance

Roger worked with the staff and children by listening to our goals. The children were involved in all aspects of planting and the management of the vegetable garden beds and all other plants in the playground.
Show and Tell Term 4, 2014

The children were invited to participate in a show and tell experience to share some information about who they are. This experience also provided the opportunity to support children’s development of oral language skills and confidence in speaking in front of a group. All children were each given a ‘SURPRISE ME’ bag to take home and fill it with 3 special items that informed us about who they are. The children were invited to share these items with everyone at preschool during our group time. It was amazing what we have learned about the children.
A collaborative project called ‘Learning Connections’ was developed this term between Fulham Park Preschool Kindergarten and a local school. The aim of the project was to bring early childhood professionals together to engage and share learning, plan and organise experiences for children across the two sites and explore current practices in the field of early childhood. The aim was also to build a shared understanding and a common language about early childhood pedagogy.

The ultimate aim for this collaborative work was to close the gap between schools and preschools and move towards a continuum of learning which will ultimately benefit the preschool child.

This term, the project gave the preschool children an opportunity to visit and explore a school environment and work alongside reception children and teachers in a classroom and the school outdoor environment.
**Parent Participation Program**

A calendar of activities were planned for families in term 4 to help promote family participation.

Each week families were given opportunities to participate in the following:
- Joining in learning activities
- Contributing to the program by sharing a learning experience or special talents
- Reading a story
- Implementing a cooking experience
- Implementing an arts and crafts activity
- Socialising with other families over a cup of coffee
- Staying to play with their child

It was a successful program enjoyed by all involved.