

## ST. MATTHEW'S WHEELERS HILL PLAYGROUP



In 2008 we continued our three morning sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Set up and pack up has become much easier with the discontinuation of the Tuesday afternoon tutoring sessions as we are now able to set up on Sunday after church and keep set-up until Thursday. I would like to thank my children, Steph, Tim and Matt, as well as Gail and Matt, for their muscle power each week. We set up the hall in different variations to create an inviting environment for the children to explore.

On the wall are three growth charts on which we have measured the height of each child. This sometimes amazes the mums to see how much their children do grow. We also have new posters and our latest project, hanging CD's with a photo of each child.

We have had a fun-filled and busy Playgroup year. Some new families joined us, as well as the arrival of new babies. Seven are due over the next few months. We have made several new additions to each play area, including a new

rack for the dress-ups, new puzzles, baby toys and a tea set. A bubble making machine has been very popular with both the operator and children and has been used indoor and outdoor. Other popular activities have been craft, painting and outside play.

Our Mother's Day week of celebration was appreciated by all mums and grandmas who came along, especially a group of mums who were experiencing their very first Mother's Day. Each mother and grandmother received a copy of David Mansfield's book "About Life". Our minister spoke briefly about the book and about how special each mum is. The mothers also received an envelope of goodies, and members of St Matthew's supplied chocolates and morning tea. The dads were not left out, receiving an envelope of items that their children had made for them.

A special highlight for me was receiving an award of Merit at the Playgroup Victoria AGM in May, presented to me by author Mem Fox. I was nominated by a former Playgroup mum. Then in June I received the Sir John Monash Community Leadership Award, which I was nominated for by our minister.

There are lots of people to thank for making Playgroup so successful. My team of Dot, Shirley, Gail and Mavis are amazing women and do whatever I



ask, showing the love of Jesus. Gail has been especially busy filling in for Mavis and doing lots of extras, always with a smile. Mavis sends each of our Playgroup children a birthday card to make them feel special. Shirley always has a word of encouragement for me and each of our special mums. Dot, the mums love

your hugs. Also thanks to my Tuesday morning girls, Cheryl, Karin and Mavis, for your continued prayer support and encouragement, and to John (our minister) and Dharshi for coming each Wednesday morning to get to know our mums.

Kerry Julius  
Playgroup Coordinator