

Becoming a parent for the first time is a major life-changing experience. BSCC offers you a unique environment in which to meet and gain support from other families confronting the same challenges.

Whilst BSCC offers a range of services, the primary focus is to provide a facility for parent-run playgroups. The leadership and direction of BSCC is based on this overriding principle and parents of playgroups and childcare primarily form the management committee of this unique community facility.

As a Playgroup member your responsibilities are:

- to sign the daybook (for insurance purposes);
- to pack away toys used at playgroup;
- to remove and report broken toys;
- to wash your dishes;
- to cover the sandpit;
- to vacuum/sweep floors;
- to lock all doors and turn off lighting and heating if Centre is unattended;
- to accept weekly housekeeping tasks at BSCC, as part of your playgroup session;
- to participate in working bees;
- to pay your membership fee.



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There are ten self managed Community Centres in the City of Boroondara. Bowen Street Community Centre is the only one whose primary focus is parent-run playgroups.

Through these we aim to meet the needs of families with young children, providing them with an opportunity to become part of a local community.

BSCC offers:

- Playgroup sessions for parents and children.
- Occasional Childcare - government subsidised quality programs.
- Community Education - new adult and children's classes each term.
- Community Outreach programs offering support to both established residents and newcomers.

The Bowen Street Community Centre...

In the early 1980s Sister Lois Thomas (Maternal and Child Health Nurse) encouraged mothers of the Centre to seek from Council the upgrading of an empty room behind the MCHC from which to provide a range of family services. Thus Bowen Street Family Centre was created out of the determination and fundraising efforts of local families. Soon demand exceeded space, so the committee of young mothers researched their needs, lobbied Council and ultimately, after four years of hard work, moved into the existing purpose built facility by Christmas 1991. The building was extensively renovated in 2005, and 2007 saw a name change to Bowen Street Community Centre.

How you and your child benefit...

By joining a BSCC playgroup you and your child/ren gain:

- * a clean, safe, attractive facility where children learn to play and explore;
- * location - close proximity to the Maternal Child and Health Centre, Bowen Gardens, bus stops and two local primary schools;
- * a weekly place to meet where your child becomes familiar with and confident in a stimulating environment with plenty of quality toys;
- * the opportunity to be part of your local community;
- * a support group of other families who live near you; and an opportunity to make lifelong friends.

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

As we are only partially funded by the Council & State Government there are charges for the services offered.

BSCC is managed by a volunteer committee made up of users of the Centre. As a parent in playgroup we need your help, ideas and contributions.

BSCC is a separate entity from the adjacent Maternal Child and Health Centre but we work cooperatively on our mutual goals of assisting families with young children.

The facilities on offer at BSCC are not standard for all community centres. Playgroups are not exclusive and new members will be added to maintain numbers and accommodate new families to Boroondara.

Membership Fee

BSCC, through hard work, continual fund raising and generous support by its members, has kept the fee at a reasonable amount per annum, with pro-rata adjustments.

Ways in which you can contribute !

- Participate as a playgroup leader ensuring your group knows of upcoming BSCC activities & needs;
- Participate actively in fundraising activities;
- Become a committee member;
- Assist with one of a myriad of tasks - skills you might have eg. accounting, marketing, handyman;
- Help identify new methods for fundraising.