

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Presidents Report September 2017

It has been a very busy month for our committee with enrolments and finalising our numbers for 2018. We are also organising some exciting events for term 4!

Our newsletter is full of wonderful reflections and information about the many activities and projects that our children have been participating in at Kinder. Please read through and make sure you note down our important events coming up in Term 4.....It's going to be an exciting term!

Bundjil Nest Project Update

Plans are underway for the third community event – see flier.

The sticks will be removed from the nest early next term in preparation for the event when new sticks will be added. Families are encouraged to begin looking for their special stick. The stick can be painted and decorated. Then write a message on the stick that supports Bundjil's Lore to protect and care for the bikk (land) and the bubups (children).

There is a possibility the children may have a session with N'arweet Carolyn Briggs before the event, if we can organise that. Carolyn will be conducting the Welcome to Country on the 27th October.

The community event will only be successful if the children all come along with the Bundjil's they made with Christabel. We are all going to help Bundjil take flight!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Award ceremony

We are planning a lunch for all our 4 year old and 3 year old families to join us as we receive our excellence rating award. It is an honour to receive this award from ACECQA, recognising the high quality program we have at Balnarring Preschool. Our Award ceremony will take place at Balnarring Preschool on Tuesday 24th October at 12.00pm. We will give you more information in Term 4.

Excellent rating awarded to Balnarring Preschool

Date awarded: 06/07/2017

Valid until: 05/07/2020

Balnarring Preschool has been awarded the Excellent rating by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA), the highest rating a service can achieve under the National Quality Framework.

Services that receive an overall rating of 'Exceeding National Quality Standard' can apply for the Excellent rating. The Excellent rating is awarded for three years. After this time services have the option to re-apply.

The Balnarring based service was recognised for its practice and environments that enhance children's learning and growth, its collaborative partnerships with professional, community or research organisations and its commitment to children that respects, reflects and celebrates culture and diversity, including place of origin.



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association



Learning and Living with nature

Examples of exceptional practice at the service include:

- *A strong collaborative partnership with a local primary school and early learning centre and two local Elders to facilitate ongoing learning, share knowledge and experience about the culture of Boon Wurrung and its traditions.*
- *Opportunities for children to connect to the land and investigate the natural environments through a Beach and Bush program.*
- *A strong commitment to acknowledging that they live and learn on Boon Wurrung Country and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and culture through the values, beliefs and practices embraced at the service.*
- *A sequential development program that aims to develop children's perceptions and understandings of themselves and the world around them.*

As a leader in the sector, Balnarring Preschool leads and inspires the local community, in particular to embed the beliefs and values of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into the community. In addition, the ECT teachers at the service actively promote the service's exceptional practices and programs by mentoring and sharing practice with others and taking a leadership role in inspiring others within the community to adopt a similar philosophy to the Learning and Living with nature philosophy and to advocate for best practice and quality outcomes for all children.

More information is available on the [ACECQA website](#).

Term 4 Fees

Please note Term 4 Fees are due this Friday 22nd of Sept.

Next Committee Meeting: 10th October 7pm

Jarna and Caroline



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Djeembana news September 2017

This last month has been a time of sharing the children and the teacher's skills with the student teachers: Nadia, Megan, Jacinta, Megan and Daylene. The program was developed in consultation with the students informed by their observations of the children: their skill levels and interests. The children have been asked to welcome these students and teach them what it is like to work in a preschool. It is with great pride that I can share with you how well the children adjusted to having extra people in their program each day. They developed relationships with the students and shared their thoughts and interests with them. They also taught them about the importance of developing the confidence to have a go and move out of your comfort zone.

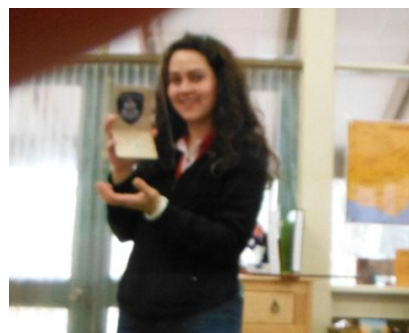
Through the students being part of the program the children have learnt about hockey, met a policeman and learnt that they have a shared interest with other children around barracking for a football team.



Megan



Jacinta



Daylene

Jacinta plays hockey and one week she got hit in the face. This led to the children asking her about hockey and her bringing in her gear for the children to play with. See Jacinta's news for more information.

Megan observed the children playing 'cops and robbers' and that the children had limited knowledge of the role of the police. So... she invited her recently graduated brother to speak to the children and explain his role. There was a big emphasis on the police being there to keep everyone safe and to help people. See Megan's news for more details.

Daylene and Jacinta are Tigers supporter and observed children talking about the football teams they barracked for. So they planned a footy day.... how special to observe the children singing and dancing to the footy club songs and then sharing in a sausage (thanks Uma for cooking the BBQ). We wish the students all the best for the rest of their course, we know they will enrich the programs they become part of.

The artist project was very special to the development of the Bundjil nest program and the children. Christabel was very positive and warm with the children valuing their efforts each week she visited. We have made a book about the children's drawings – why not take a look next time you have a moment. Through this project the children learnt how to safely use a hot glue gun and wood burning tool. Christabel is now working on the sculpture inspired by the children's knowledge and ideas. The sculpture will be unveiled on Friday 27th October at the Bundjil Community



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



event. Just before this day the children will bring the Bundjil's they made home so they can bring them to the event and be part of the unveiling. **PLEASE PLACE THIS DATE INTO YOUR PHONES AND CALENDARS**



Stage 1- draw Bundjil and share your story



Stage 2- create 3 dimensional Bundjil



Stage 3- design a symbol to burn onto wood

When learning with and in nature many things are presented that are unexpected. Each week at the beach and bush we walk around wondering what will be different what will our discoveries be? The children's curiosity is fostered as they begin to realise nature is not always predictable. Our biggest discovery was the Melbourne Skate- we learnt things that cannot be gained from a book or screen. Touching this beautiful creature, we learnt about how it breathes, what it looked and felt like in its mouth, how its skin felt; how it swims and moves along the bottom of the sea and participated in discussion on why it died. These discussion lead to the importance of us caring for the environment, and the potential consequences of us being careless with rubbish and having a lack of respect for nature.



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Special thanks to the dads that braved the story night to share an evening with their child at kindergarten. It seemed to be a night enjoyed by all despite the rain and wind. Many happy colourful faces left the centre that night.

The parents who have been able to participate in PMP will have observed the skill development in each child, not only the physical skills but also the skill of processing what is required of them. We have been most impressed with the progress and high skill level demonstrated by each child. There have been some quite challenging activities that have required the children to do two things at once- such as walk in a criss-cross pattern and bounce a ball or balance along a beam and bounce a ball. Each child has experienced achievement each week sharing their success with their peers and teachers. Special thanks to the adults who have assisted, without you we could not have run this program.

School transition- Some children are attending groups at the schools they are enrolled in and children enrolled at Balnarring will commence visits next term. While it assists children to be familiar with an environment be mindful about limiting the talk around going to school to avoid your child becoming anxious. It is still four and a half months until your child starts school which is a long time especially when you are five years old. If you are unsure how to approach school discussions with your child, please come and chat with me.

Funds raised from the trivia night were allocated to purchase puzzles designed by Kevin Williams. Each puzzle contains a painting which Kevin explained to Weelam group when he delivered them to us. Ask your child about the Bundjil, Barbarka and Waagn puzzle designed especially for Balnarring Preschool.



Balnarring are one of three finalists in the Narragunnawali awards. *The awards have been designed to recognise and celebrate educational environments that have implemented exceptional reconciliation initiatives. Services will be acknowledged for the level of integrity, intensity and innovation with which they are strengthening relationships, building respect and providing meaningful opportunities in the classroom, around the preschool and with the community.* Members of the judging panel are visiting in next few weeks and then winners



announced in October.



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Transition statements. As part of the transition to school all kindergarten teachers are required to complete a Transition to school statement. The statement has three parts – one for the child, one for the parents and one for the teachers to complete. The purpose of the statement is to provide the school with a clear understanding of what your child will need in order for the school to be ready for them. Information will be provided to parents with their section of the statement at the end of this week to **be returned at the commencement of term four.** Any questions please ask.

Coming events:

Friday 22nd September –Please meet at Somers school camp. Children will be learning in the environmental centre then walking along the beach to Coolart where we will explore the bush and wetlands. Pick up from Coolart picnic area

End of term 22nd September

Term four commences 10th October

Friday October 14th Principals from China will be visiting us at the beach to learn about the outdoor program. This will be extra interesting for the children as they will hear the interpreter share what we say with the principals

Fourth year Swinburne Student: Elizabeth 16th-27th September

Photographer- Will photograph the children on 17th October at the centre and 20th October at the beach

Sketch n tell 23rd October. Incursion from Lynton Allen - Story teller and artist. Lynton's drawings are framed on the walls in the kindergarten building.

International Children's day gathering 25th October at Hastings foreshore 4pm-7pm: a family night of entertainment- more details to follow

Bundjil Nest –community event Friday 27th October 5:30pm

Karen and Lisa



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Weelam group: News and reflections:

Term three Sept 2017

For the past month we have been incredibly busy. As I sort through the Weelam group photos for this newsletter it is hard to just pick a few highlights to share with you. The children have all grown so much this term, their confidence and social skills have continued to develop as we work together as a group. Being a kind and caring friend has become important and each Weelam group friend is trying very hard to remember the many skills involved in being a friend and a member of our team.



We have continued to intentionally teach the children to develop an understanding of empathy for another and to be thoughtful as they interact together e.g. being aware of what your voice / words sounds like, what actions you take and how your face looks too. Kind actions and words are being acknowledged as *'filling someone's bucket'* and it has been great to hear from the children's parents that the children are beginning to use this phrase at home too. This photo shows us working in a small group discussing and drawing about **"what kind words sound like?"** It is always insightful to hear each child's thoughts and understandings.

Bundjil Nest project: Throughout this term we have loved working with Christobel the Artist in our Bundjil Nest project for 2017. The children have explored 'Bundjil' in many ways, drawing Bundjil, making their own sculpture of Bundjil and adding their symbol to the magnificent sculpture Christobel will create for the community event to be held on 27th October next term. Remember to save the date.



Each child has made their own Bundjil using the natural material they had found and the glue gun. We started learning about symbols and what they mean.



**Each child added symbols to their Bundjil and used the wood burner to add to the special sculpture.*



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Our interest in plants and growing continues...

The Weelam group friends have been bringing in their pots of grass to show how tall they have grown. We have also made 'hairy caterpillars' and are watching them grow 'green hair'. Please take a look and feel free to water them too. You will find them on our nature shelf.



As the flowers have returned to our gardens and bush we have extended the interest in flowers and added them including daffodils to the painting area. These displays have inspired some children to look closely at the shape, colours and features of each flower and then paint their own flowers and trees. At bush camp the group has been actively noticing the new flowers that are appearing on the bushes, trees and grasses. The wattle is very beautiful at present. We discovered some wattle trees have spiky leaves and some do not. Also there are many different types of 'yellow'.

Reflections from our Learning and living with nature experiences:



Walking on the beach

Jumping in puddles

Climbing trees

Collecting sticks

Making cubbies



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association



Learning and Living with nature

The recent weather has challenged us to be more resilient. Despite the forecasts we have been able to do everything we love to do. We have become really great (well almost) at reading the black clouds and knowing when to seek shelter. Our reward has been many beautiful rainbows and discoveries.



**Recent discoveries as we walked the beach and explored the rock pools have included Port Jackson shark egg cases and a big crab -we returned these back to the sea as we leave the beach each time.*

Fun with seaweed: All the seaweed washed up onto the beach has offered many opportunities to create games with friends these have included the jumping games and making Islands.



Ranger Ron often stops by for a chat, the children now know the sound of his vehicle coming and always delight in hearing his news and being able to share our stories. We asked have you seen Gurboora?



The game was to collect as much sea weed as you could, make your Island and stand onto with a friend or two or if you made it bigger lots of friends! You had to wait for the waves to come in and see if they went all the way around your Island- the children tried to anticipate the big waves.

Sharing Preschool with our families: We have held two very special sessions recently.

1. VIP Camp night with our Dads, Grandads, Uncles and VIP's

As darkness fell we all gathered around the campfire to cook damper (sultana and cinnamon) and toast. Everyone was challenged to start the fire with the flints- no matches were allowed. This was a very special evening, we cooked around the fire, sung songs, chatted and told stories. There was great excitement when the torches found Walert in the tree and she had a baby. Thank you to everyone who came along and bought firewood. The evening ended with a marshmallow cooking session and a cuddle round the fire. Thanks to Daylene for teaching everyone how to use the flints.

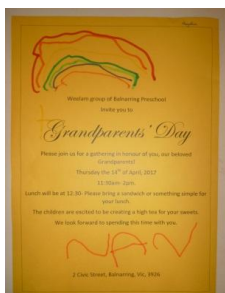


Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Grandparent Lunch: There was much work to prepare for this day



The children sent out invitations, made flowers for the tables and did lots of cooking over the week.



There were lots of smiles when the Grandparents and Great parents arrived, the children showed them around the Preschool and before lunch we all gathered together to sing and the children danced for everyone. Our lunch together was very special, everyone sat at the tables and thought the slices and scones were very good. After lunch the children and their special visitors worked on our new puzzle and played card games together. We ended the day with a group massage and story. Thank you to everyone who joined in, this was a great day for all of us. Thanks to those that became special grandparents for all the children and Daylene for her beautiful plates and tea cups.

Students: This term many Preservice Teachers have joined us to learn from the program, the children, our families and the team. Before **Megan** completed her time with us she supported the children to extend their storytelling skills and to create a 'play' which we all watched together. Megan farewelled us reading her favourite story book. It was very funny. **Daylene** joined us three weeks ago. Daylene is now completing her Teacher training and has been excited to participate in our bush and beach programs. During this last week Daylene will be the 'teacher in charge' for specific sessions. Daylene will also be planning our end of term celebrations with the children. Thank you to all the parents who have spent time with our students and have helped them learn to be teachers.



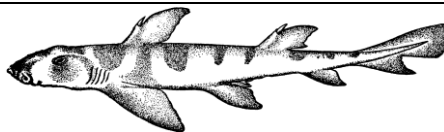
Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Our last week of term: All welcome to join us...



Excursion to Somers school camp Environmental centre:

We are excited to be going to Somers school camp Environmental centre

on **Wednesday 20th September**. We will meet at **Somers School Camp**, explore the environmental centre and then **walk to Coolart** via the beach to meet our families for lunch. On this day Pick up will be from Coolart BBQ's. More details are on the excursion permission form, please return your permission form asap.

PMP: Our last PMP session for Term three:

Thursday 21st September (*Last day of term*). Thank you to everyone who has helped with PMP this term, the children are always excited to participate in the PMP experiences. You have supported them to become more confident, to try new skills and challenge themselves to try many ways to achieve a skill. We look forward to you joining us for this session.

Some thoughts to reflect on...

When we tell our children they are “so smart”, what message are we really telling them? Q. Do these words really support our children to learn that developing new skills and knowledge often takes time, lots of practice, team work and that sometimes we learn the most from mistakes? Maybe instead we could start saying

- *“you tried really hard at that, I can tell you tried your best”*
- *“You never gave up and tried and tried, that was a great way to solve that problem”. “You thought of that all by yourself”. “Well done for trying”*
- *“thanks for be a helpful friend, thanks for teaching your friends”*
- *“Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us”, “Thank you for listening to others ideas too”. “We all have things we are great at and need help with still”*

Please take a look at your child's white folder for further reflections and we look forward to seeing everyone for term four on Monday 9th October. We wish all families a very happy holiday break; don't forget to visit the wetlands to see how the tadpoles are growing and if you can make it to the city Tanderrum is an amazing experience for everyone.

Kind regards, Michele and Ann



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.



Reflections from our Student Teachers

Connection to nature has always been important for my ability to function. I can feel the dark clouds come rolling in when I haven't been out and connected with the earth. As a parent I soon noticed my children have the same need to be outside. Nature has become a large part of my family's life and has saved a lot of money in Speech and Occupational Therapy as we have developed language, overcome sensory challenges and developed fine and gross motor skills when outside rolling down hills, climbing trees, moving rocks and been exposed to the elements. Seeing the children's wonder and all the benefits of exploring and engaging with natural environments led me to finally follow my dream of becoming a teacher.

I believe all children should have the opportunity to be outside and make a connection nature and with the country they are on. In order to help make nature pedagogy a reality within the mainstream education system and expand my knowledge, I have attended many professional development days, conferences and courses. A common theme I was hearing from many educators was how wonderful Balnarring Pre-school is. It wasn't long before I discovered ECO Learning Network and had the opportunity to hear Karen present about beach kinder and later both Karen and Ann's story and the wonderful work they are doing with embedding indigenous perspectives within their everyday practise. It sounded too good to be true so I decided to become Karen's groupy attending more conferences and workshops and I finally applied for placement at the service.

I have heard many wonderful stories given by presenters but when you see them in practise they have fallen short. It didn't take long to see that the team at Balnarring Pre-school can most certainly walk the talk. I have been blown away by the respectful relationships they have created with the children, their families, and the community and with the First Nation People.

Their knowledge of the Boon Wurrung country in which their service and nature program is on is wonderful and their ability to individualise the program for each child is truly inspiring. The educator's enthusiasm and the children's sense of wonder is contagious. I have loved making new discoveries with you all.

I am saddened that my time at Balnarring Pre-school will need to come to an end and I feel honoured that everyone has embraced my presence with open arms. To Ann, Karen, Michelle, Lisa, Monica, Jill, Kathy, the Weelem and Djeembana children and families, and also my fellow pre-service teachers Jacinta and Megan, I have learnt so much from you all. I know that I am going to be a better teacher for my time spent at your kinder. Thank you for being so welcoming and helpful. Thank you for sharing your ideas with me so freely and for allowing me to be a part of your team and kinder community during the past 4 weeks. I hope you have a wonderful holiday and I wish you all great happiness and success in your futures.

Kind Regards

Daylene Bolch



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



It was a privilege being able to introduce the children of Balnarring preschool to one of my interests which is field hockey I had brought my hockey equipment in for a group time for the children to experience the different things I use and wear while playing hockey. The children showed a lot of enthusiasm and wanted to have a go at using my hockey sticks and having a hit with the balls I had brought in. We ventured on outside for the children to learn the different techniques of hitting the ball and they all had a turn of holding the stick and hitting the ball into the goals. The children showed a lot of interest into my field hockey to extend on the group time the children got to make their own hockey sticks and balls out of newspaper and we called it paper hockey and the children could play their own game of hockey.

It has been such an amazing experience for me being a part of the Balnarring preschool team while on placement I have learnt so much from the children, families and staff which I am so grateful for. I want to thank everyone for making my time at Balnarring Preschool so enjoyable and I will defiantly be back to visit you all soon

Thanks for everything

From Jacinta

11th of September, 2017 – Newsletter

In recent weeks, the Djeembana group has been showing a great interest in all things Police. 'Cops and robbers' has been a favourite outside activity that has brought all groups together. We were able to extend on this interest by introducing police uniforms to their play. The children also created walkie-talkies in the construction area with recycled boxes, bottle caps and straws. I wanted to extend further on this interest, in an informative but fun way to ensure the children knew police are vital to the community, and most importantly, are there to help.



I was able to organise a special visitor, Constable Kieran Forrester, to visit the group and talk about all the ways in which policeman help people in need. Kieran showed us photos of policeman in all different fields, riding horses, highway patrol, snow police and water police. Kieran went through all his pockets and revealed what he carries around. The children got to pass around his torch and handcuffs, and he showed the group his notepad, multi-tool, where his radio goes, and his shiny badge. He was wearing a thick, bulletproof vest, which each child got to try on (it was really heavy!!). Most importantly, Kieran reminded us that the police are there to help us and if we ever feel unsafe, we need to call 000.

Kieran left us with a police hat, aviator sunglasses and fake handcuffs for our dress up box, which the children incorporated into their game of cops and robbers during outdoor time. In the following days, we made badges and set up a fingerprinting table.



We would like to thank Kieran for coming in off duty to tell us about the police force, and reassuring the children that policeman aren't something to be scared of, they are there to help.

- Megan Forrester (Chisholm Student)



*...ol acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on
e the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of
ne land and the waterways and value the sharing of their
cts to their Elders: past and present.*

balnarring.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au Reg No A 5257

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Manameet and Gareeal News - September 2017

Over the past month the children have really stepped up with their learning and development, showing a huge shift in their wellbeing, confidence and social interaction at kinder. They are certainly beginning to show their readiness and eagerness to take on 4-year-old kinder next year. We have been increasing our mat times together and using it to discuss things of interests and explore new ideas. The children have taken on the challenge and eagerly participate in the discussions and share their ideas. We have also continued to use clap sticks playing with concepts such as loud and soft and fast and slow.

Over the last month the children have been yarning and stuffing and creating a cuddle toy to take home at the end of the term. We are looking forward to reading a story and giving them a cuddle after our trip to the wetlands next Friday. We have enjoyed sensory play experimenting with green slime and water and shaving foam deciding it was fun to play with the cars in the slime before cleaning them up. We noticed how the slime stuck to our hands and the cars!

Inside we have created simple stories with the dinosaur puppets extending our play with the story baskets. We also used really runny glue to create rainbow pictures and explore colour with crepe paper and following the children's request have been using the small Lego to build creatively. Small Lego is tricky and tests our fine motor skills and persistence! Outside the children have worked together to build cubbies and dens, play in the go carts on the hill, cook in the mud kitchen and created pipe tunnel runs for the coloured balls. Last week we also made some bubble wands with sticks and wool. We had to take our time and work slowly and cooperatively with friends to make the bubbles. We are looking forward to experimenting and practising further next term, making our own large batch of bubble mixture.

We were lucky to have Steph, Orlando's mum from Manameet come along to do a yoga incursion with the group recently. It was a calming and restful experience for the children who enjoyed this wellbeing activity very much. Cath and I took as much in as we could so we can share the experience with Gareeal next term.

We all enjoyed our second walk on Boon Wurrung Country. We made it through the first part of the wetlands but not quite to the boardwalks and ponds. Children spent their time running up and down hills, climbing trees, jumping in puddles and exploring.



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



We noticed that the trees and bushes had changed on our walk. An orange berry had appeared on some trees in the pine forest which the children learnt was dangerous for humans and only for birds. We noticed the blackberries had all disappeared and that wattle had appeared. Some decided it was the work of fairies while others enjoyed the soft feel of the wattle as they investigated it.

We found our witchy finger tree had fallen down and together we wondered why? Was it the wind or a storm or maybe a truck? Although we were sad about one of our favourite trees falling down it allowed us the opportunity to see what was underneath, explore the roots and look at the seeds and flowers in the branches. We found a stream puddle near the houses and that the big puddles opposite the school and were still fun to jump in!



We looked up in the trees for guborra in the wetlands but couldn't see him this time. We found storyboards as we walked and took time to discuss what was on them and create stories from the pictures we saw. We were also excited by the different leaves we found. Some looked they had just fallen while others you could see right through. We had discovered skeleton leaves! At the end of the first track into the wetlands we listened and thought we could hear frogs croaking. One of our children found a frog which had died on our walk, we felt sad for the frog and talked about how the frog might have died and we thought it could have been lost. The children showed curiosity and empathy as they explored the small frog at kinder after our walk. We are looking forward to visiting the wetlands next week for the final session to explore the frog sounds and see if we can see any tadpoles in the ponds before they grow into frogs and the water dries up.



and learn on
peoples of
their

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Coming soon....

Last Day of Term 3 Friday 22nd September. We will be walking straight to the wetlands this time to have a look around and hopefully see the tadpoles in the pond.

Stay and Play

Thank you to the families who have again stayed and played over the past couple of months and / or joined us on the wetlands walk. Your presence and contribution to the program and session is much appreciated by children and staff!

Sewing Request

The staff would like to get 2-4 specially designed weighted capes made up for kinder. If you can sew and are interested in swapping out your maintenance day for cape making (material costs covered by kinder) please come and speak with me.

This month I have attached a free tip sheet from a child psychologist Dr Kaylene Henderson regarding content praise versus process praise and the benefit of process praise on children's learning. She has numerous free resources for parents on her website below which are certainly worth browsing through. <http://drkaylenehenderson.com/free-resources/>

Have a happy and safe holiday Thanks Jill and Cath



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.

USING PRAISE TO PROMOTE A GROWTH MINDSET IN YOUNG CHILDREN

Written by Dr Kaylene Henderson, Child Psychiatrist

Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck has divided praise into two categories - content praise and process praise.

Content praise draws attention to the **end product**, for example,

"What a *beautiful picture*", or, "That's a *fantastic block tower*".

It might also focus on a **fixed quality** of the child, such as,

"You're *really smart*", or, "You're a *great dancer*".

In contrast, **process praise** draws attention to the

- **effort**
- **enthusiasm**
- **ideas**
- **concentration**
- **persistence**, and
- **problem-solving approach** taken by the child.

Dr Dweck's studies focused on the effect of each of these types of praise on children's responses to setbacks. And the findings in Dr Dweck's studies suggest that children who receive more process praise are more likely to rise to challenges, try harder and be less likely to give up.

This is now known as having a **growth mindset** which is linked with better academic outcomes at school and improved overall resilience. In contrast, children who receive predominantly content praise can develop what is known as a **fixed mindset**. These children see their abilities as being predetermined and can be less likely to try if they don't already expect to succeed.

Examples of how you might word process praise to promote a growth mindset in your child include:

"*Tell me about your drawing - I can see you've put a lot of effort into it*".

"*Gee you're really concentrating hard - that's great*". "I'm really impressed with the way you keep trying, even when it gets tricky".

"*Gosh - what a lot of ideas you've had. I can tell you're feeling really proud of yourself*".



Since your child is very young, it's safe to assume that many tasks will be new and at times difficult. And with new challenges come frequent setbacks along with mistakes and frustration. That's learning.

So it follows that receiving a higher proportion of process praise might help your child to develop a more resilient approach to learning.

Perhaps you have a child who needs encouragement to persist with a task when it becomes difficult or tedious. Or a child who you suspect could put more effort into tasks but chooses not to? Maybe you could try using more process praise and see for yourself whether this seems to make a difference over time.

To find out more about Dr Kaylene Henderson and her popular resources, go to: www.drkaylenehenderson.com. Or to download her online Advice Packs on a range of topics such as anxiety, resilience, school readiness and tantrums, head to A Dose of Awesomeness: www.adoseofawesomeness.com.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Fundraising Report - September 2017

Hi families, I hope you have managed to enjoy some of this sporadic sunshine we have been lucky enough to score!! Fingers crossed there is more to come!

CUSTOM PRINTED BAGS

The artwork for our custom printed bags has been sent off. Don't worry if you haven't got your order in yet, there is still time to purchase. Forms are in the foyer on the fundraising wall and you can just drop money plus your form back into the black box on the wall. These make awesome Christmas presents, which is sneaking up on us!

SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

As you may know, we are holding a pre-loved children's clothing stall at the Balnarring Primary School on Saturday 14th October. The donations bag is still set up in the foyer for clothing (babies – 12 year olds), books and sustainable toys. We do ask that all donations for this event please be in very good condition.

We are looking for volunteers to help sort out the items as well as volunteers to run the stall on the day. The shifts for the stall will be as follows:

8am – 10am, 10am – 12pm, 12pm – 2pm and 2pm – 4.30pm.

If you are able to assist with one of these shifts please let either myself, or Ali Ray (0418 322 685) know. Any help would be extremely appreciated!

Thanks again for your time, generosity and positive attitudes,

Rachel Jacobson

Fundraising Coordinator

Balnarring Pre-School

0407 527 609

charlbella@outlook.com



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.



An invitation to the community

Bundjil Nest Project



Watch our Bundjil take flight



October 27th

5.30 pm: build Bundjil nest and browse the children's art gallery

6.30 pm: welcome to country and the unveiling of the Bundjil Nest art project

BYO: Eucalyptus Stick containing message of hope and inspiration

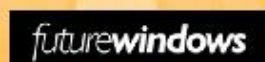
BYO: dinner, chair, picnic rug

Place: Robertson park, Balnarring Beach (opposite Balnarring Beach General Store)

PARKING: at Yacht Club and "C" RESERVE

The Bundjil Nest Project acknowledges the Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of this country. The community thanks them for sharing their stories, heritage and knowledge. We pay our respects to their elders, past and present.

Thank you to our proud sponsors



Created by Kjjargatur - Freepik.com



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.



Book swap boxes

In the foyer there is a book stand provided by Peninsula reads. Children are invited to take a book from this stand and share with their families at home. This book is theirs to keep.

The book swap boxes and stands have been placed all over the Peninsula in various public spaces e.g. Centrelink, Peninsula Community health, Maternal child health centres, Balnarring Laundry Mat. Your child can take a book from any of these boxes/stands.

When you have books that are no longer being used in your home please donate them back to the book boxes/stands

Boon Wurrung Language

Guyeem- Kangaroo

Kuyang Guyeep – Blue Bird

Dulaiwurung - Platypus

Bili – Lizard

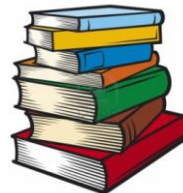
Ngarret - Frog

Permission has been granted to by Elder Fay Stewart-Muir and N' arweet Carolyn Briggs.

PARENT LIBRARY

In the foyer there are assortments of books covering various topics that are available for parents to borrow.

One section is dedicated to the developing knowledge about the culture of the First Peoples. If you are interesting in learning about the history of the Aborigines and sharing stories with your children then please take a look at these books.



SEEKING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In 2018 the Bundjil nest community event is being replaced by a full day festival – **Womindjeka Balnarring Ngargee (festival)**. The festival committee comprises people from the community and are looking for more people. As you can imagine this is a huge event to plan and run. The following sub committees are looking for more help: Children's area; entertainment; food; market area; advertising; wellness area; fundraising; general assistance.

Can you help out? Do you know someone else who might be interested?

Next meeting 17th October 6.30pm at the kindergarten

If you are interested in being involved, please see Karen or Ann.



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.