

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Presidents Report – Feb/March 2017

Already half way through the first term, how exciting!! I just wanted to let you know my availability. As my son is in 3-year old kinder this year, I am not at the kinder everyday and I am feeling concerned that I am not feeling accessible to you. It is important that you feel you can approach me about anything, as sometimes you may not want to approach the teachers or friends. I am at the kinder most Tuesday mornings, so please pop your head in to the office and say hi. I am also there every Friday for pick up. If you do need me in between those times, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone:

Carolinebrunt84@gmail.com

0423303571

We have had an awesome start to the year with our Fundraising Team having a very successful day at Bunnings. Big congratulations to Rachel and her incredible team of volunteers. It was a well-organized day of fun and community. Make sure you read Rachel's report as she has LOTS more exciting information for you!!

Please be aware that Registrations are **NOW OPEN** for 3-year old and 4-year old kinder for 2018. All the details are in this newsletter so please **DON'T MISS IT!!**

My Monthly Tip

My tip for you all this month is a simple one. Read the **WHOLE** newsletter. Yes, I am asking you to read **EVERY** page, even the reports from teachers that are not teaching your child. You see, this amazing teacher team that we have, plan together and a lot of what one class is doing, so is the other. They just don't have time to tell us **EVERYTHING**. So by reading all the reports, you will get a much clearer vision of the kinder as a **WHOLE**.

I hope you have all found a buddy now and are feeling nicely settled in.

Have a great month.

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 – Feb/March 2017

We have had a very smooth start to our year. The children have settled extremely well. We thank you for your patience over the past weeks with the staggered times. This strategy provided opportunity for the staffing team to begin to develop relationships with each child and assist them in becoming familiar with the daily routines. Smaller group reduces children's anxiety requiring them to negotiate with fewer children and have the opportunity to spend longer periods of time with the adults. Establishing relationships and connections is essential for everyone to feel secure and valued. As relationships develop the children's trust in us increases giving them the confidence to take risks and explore the environment at a higher level of participation and involvement.

Each day when the children arrive they are becoming familiar with the visual schedule board- this displays, in pictures, what we have planned for the day. The purpose of the visual schedule is to prepare the children for what is planned, reducing anxiety that can arise when a child is not sure of what is happening. Please feel welcome to check the board with your child as they arrive and ask them to go through the pictures with you.

We welcome Monica into our group. Monica is employed by Yooralla as part of the Kindergarten Inclusion Support funding. Monica will work with us each session. I know Monica is excited to be working at Balnarring, please assist us in helping her feel welcome and gaining a strong sense of belonging.

While the children were settling we intentionally planned experiences that would be familiar to them. We are gathering information about the children's interests and strengths and incorporating these into the program development. Ann and I usually plan together each fortnight to create a basic framework then we each add elements unique to the group we teach. So far I have learnt that the group: enjoys cooking – if you would like to cook your favourite recipe with the children please let me know: they are very interested in stories and hearing about each other: every child is participating in the music program; making discoveries about nature has engaged each child – it is great that families are starting to contribute to the nature table and the children were fascinated about the special job Jonah is going to be trained to do.



Jonah left us on the 27th and began formal training on the 28th. He will work with a trainer for up to 4 hours every day over the next 6 to 9 months. He will learn how to guide people in all sorts of situations. We will receive updates as to his progress, If his skin irritation flares up he will be released as a pet. I will now have a break from puppy caring until possibly mid-year.

As we create environments for the children to gain a sense of Belonging we also hope the parents and families begin to feel they Belong. Thank you to the families who were able to attend the Welcome to Country: This evening was the beginning of your journey with us to learn about the First Peoples and connect with each other. Thank you also to those who joined us for lunch and assisted with the working bee. The level of involvement you have within the program is your choice. We hope throughout the year that you are

able to make the most of some or all of the opportunities that arise for you to participate.



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung people as the traditional custodians of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the water. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association



Learning and Living with nature

The piano was tuned on Wednesday enabling the children to view the inside and see how it all works – they were most intrigued. The piano tuner then played us a few tunes, using all the keys not just the few that I can manage! Each child then sat on the piano stool where they played and watched the felt hammers striking the strings.

In a few weeks the children will be introduced to the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP).

This is a program that is designed to develop a child's gross motor skills, coordination, concentration, listening skills, problem solving skills and be enjoyable. Each time we run PMP, eight activities are set up. At each activity an adult is positioned. The children are divided into teams of three or four and rotate through the activities. Usually the program takes 60 minutes to complete. The first date is the 8th of March with the program starting once all the children have arrived. For this program to run successfully we require at least 6 parents to be involved. A notice will be placed next to the attendance book asking for volunteers. The parents get as much out of this program as the children and it is a great way for you to get to know the other children, we hope you can join us.

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR CHILD'S BOOK???? We are beginning to add observations and photos to the books. When you have time please check your child's book for any additions. If we have placed an observation into the folder, we invite you to add your thoughts. The books will be taken home over the holidays for further information to be added. Upon returning in term two each child will share their book with the group- describing what they did over the holiday break. This experience is aimed at increasing the children's ability to speak in front of a group and develop their oral language skills. (Outcome Five – Children are effective communicators) As information is shared we gain further knowledge about each child, including their interests, which we may be able to incorporate into the program.

Coming events:

- **PMP dates** - 8th March, 15th March, 22nd March, 29th March
- **Harmony Day** is the 21st March. On this day we will highlight the diversity of our community including family's connection with other countries and cultures. It is proposed that we will share a lunch or afternoon tea. More details to follow.
- Please let me know if you have concerns or questions about either your child or the program.



Stick insect discovered by Bailey

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 (camp/home) Group Newsletter – Feb/March 2017

Womindjeka to all children and families at Balnarring Preschool.



For Weelam group our year has begun very positively, we are sharing experiences the children are actively playing, exploring and socializing with each other, Michele and I. There are many stories we can share with you already. This newsletter offers me the opportunity to give everyone a snapshot of our times (*in the language of our Early Years learning and development framework*) Being, Belonging and Becoming together. Our learning environments so far include meeting at Bush camp each Wednesday, walking to the beach and the indoor and outdoor environments at Preschool. There was great excitement as the children bought their lunches to Preschool for the first time last Thursday our five hour session. Thursday is known as *Restaurant day*, each week we cook, try new foods, set our tables with placemats made by the children and sit, eat and chat with our friends at the tables. We have been celebrating friends birthdays by making special cakes out of play dough and our jewels. The children are being encouraged to be thoughtful to another.



*Making Zoodles with zucchini's

*Pancakes for breakfast

*Celebrating birthdays together

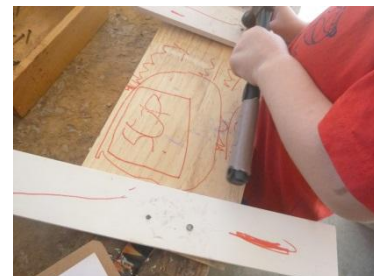
In our sessions we have been playing games to support the children to learn the names of their new friends. This assists us to develop a sense of belonging to Weelam group and support the children to extend their friendship groups, share interests with others and work together at new challenges. Many thanks to the families who have joined us for sessions already. We appreciate your support with the experiences and the program



Being on Boon Wurrung Country



Belonging to Weelam group as a friend



Becoming, exploring new experiences developing literacy skills



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

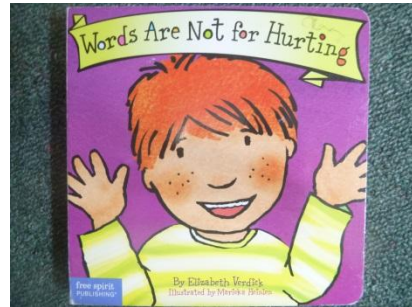


Learning and Living with nature

Being a friend: Within our discussions with the children and in our small group times we have been actively learning about friendships. Being a friend and learning how to communicate with each other respectfully and with kind words is a complex skill to master. Remember we are role models for our children; they watch how we respond to others and manage times of conflict and negotiation. For our young children it takes time and lots of practice to learn these skills. In particular we have been talking about how words make others feel. We talk about that it is 'not OK to say words that hurt'. We identify that there are words we don't say because they hurt our ears and there are words are not OK to say as they make others sad or hurt their feelings.



We say "Kind words are words that do not hurt others ears or hurt others feelings and others hearts".



Learning and living Nature:



**Story telling with natural materials, making a hut (a Weelam)*

**Finding patterns in nature*



Our story about Helping Ranger Paul care for the ocean. Today we found something in the waves. We thought it was a big piece of seaweed, but when we looked at it we discovered it was a long rope. We talked about how this could be dangerous for our sea creatures- they could get tangled. When Ranger Paul came by we gave it to him to put somewhere safe.



Our Learning diary: If you would like to know more about our adventures and discoveries please look at our daily diary, we add photos and stories about our learning each day. The diary will be on display each session, feel free to write your thoughts too.



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

Dates for your Calendars:

Our Come and Play roster: Our Family Roster has now been given out to all families. A big thank you to all the Weelam group families who have already joined us for sessions at the Preschool, at Bush camp and the Beach. We can only offer the quality program we aim to provide because of your help and assistance. Please tell us about your special skills and what interests you could share with the children, you are welcome to show the children during a session. If you are not sure when it's your turn to come, a copy of the roster is on our Weelam group board in the entrance above the lockers or just ask for another copy.

Story Star: We are about to begin our 'Story Star' stories during our sessions. Each child will have a turn to be the 'Story Star' as part of learning about our friends, to take a turn, ask questions and develop the confidence to speak in front of the group. Please check your child has a story about their family in their folder so they can take a turn. Over the next month we will be reading all the family stories in each child's folder- feel free to add photos for us to talk about. Weelam group friends are then encouraged to ask further questions of the 'Story Star'. Look on the daily schedule board to see who are story stars each day.

PMP: Our PMP program to help develop coordination skills will be

offered in term one on Thursday 16th March: 9am to 10am

Thursday 23rd March: 9am to 10am

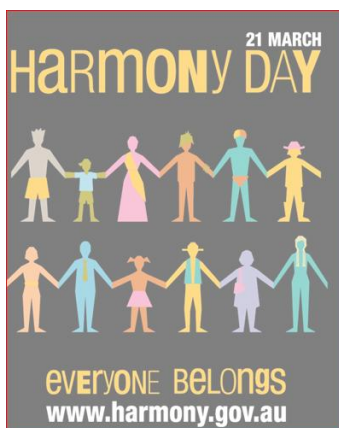
Thursday 30th March: 9am to 10am

(* see Djeembana's story in this newsletter for an explanation of PMP)

***Please add your name
to our PMP roster and
come and support us.**

Dates to Remember:

Monday 13th March: Labour Day holiday, No Preschool for this session.



Starting on Tuesday 21st March:

We will celebrate Harmony Day (and week)

Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone

We will end this week with a special event and

Lunch together on Thursday 23rd March

(your invitation will be out soon - all welcome)

Congratulations to the Fundraising committee for the terrific Bunnings BBQ results. We are now looking to buy a special cart to carry all our gear to Bush camp and the beach with some of the funds.

We look forward to sharing many fun times with you and your family. Please ask if you have any questions about what we are doing,
Kind regards, Ann

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association



Learning and Living with nature

Manameet & Gareeal 3year old Group Newsletter – Feb/March 2017

What a wonderful start to the year we have had in the 3 year old groups. Following on from the orientation weeks, we have now commenced full group sessions and the children are settling in very well. Cath and I have been focusing on spending time with the children in small groups and individually to get to know them all and build strong relationships together. This is essential for children's learning and development. Slowly, we are also beginning to get to know all the families as well... please bear with us as we have over eighty adults to remember and get to know not to mention siblings!

Another focus as children become familiar with the kinder, is for them to learn and help to establish the groups routines and transitions with Cath and my assistance. We have been using boardmaker to provide a daily schedule for the children so they know what to expect while at kinder. This visual cue has been beneficial, children visit it throughout the session and we talk through it as a group during our mat times. We also use boardmaker to help children with essential self-help skills such as hand washing and toileting and have been modelling and reminding the children throughout the sessions. The groups have decided to take a different approach to snack time, the morning session Manameet have been coming together as a large group to eat and chat and listen to stories, while a more flexible snack at a specific table suits the afternoon group Gareeal. The children have enjoyed the smaller meetings and socialising with new and old friends.

The 3's have been very busy exploring the kinder both inside and out. They have been particularly engrossed with our chicken residents. Each session I have taken multiple small groups of children into the chicken house so they can get to know them and learn how to care for and nurture them. We collect our snack food scraps to feed the chickens, check for eggs and are learning how to pat and hold them and walk and talk gently so as not to scare them. I'm not the best chicken catcher but luckily, we have some experts in the group who have helped so peers get to hold them or have a pat if they prefer. Pearls baby chicks have certainly been a hit with the children.



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

Thank you to all the families who have stayed and played with us so far. Please sign yourself up or another family member if you can, the roster is on the sign in book. We always love new faces and remember siblings are always welcome. Your support allows us to offer a richer program and has many other benefits for your child's development.

Thanks Cath and Jill

Some other shots from the Manameet and Gareeal sessions. To find out more be sure to check out the planning book displayed in the room each session and please feel free to make comments!!!!



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



Fundraising report – Feb/March 2017

Hello to our wonderful families!

What an AMAZING start to 2017 with our Bunnings sausage sizzle! It was a very successful day with almost **45kgs** of sausages sold. A big thank you to all families who assisted us in this, it was a great day with lots of laughs.

We have a great year planned, with a number of fundraising activities that we hope will not only raise money for our wonderful kinder, but will provide lots of opportunities for families to socialise, form friendships and potentially treat themselves at the same time 😊

Our main fundraising events for the year are:

- **'Back To School' Trivia Night** – Saturday 27th May at the Balnarring Hall
- **'Catwalk with a Twist** – planned for July/August, this will be a night out for the mums with a focus on up-cycled fashion, fun and laughs

If you feel you are able to assist in anyway with our Trivia Night please feel free to get in contact with me.

Please also keep in mind another great way to help us raise funds by:

- **Ritchies Card** (if yourself or partner does not have one, please see the wonderful staff at Ritchies and they will be able to organise one for you)
- **Easter Raffle** – to take place in March with a Easter hamper as first prize
- **Mothers Day raffle** – an awesome pamper package is up for grabs for the lucky winner
- **Art on the Plate** (will take place later in the year)
- **Bags** (will take place later in the year)

It's going to be an awesome year and I look forward to meeting and spending time with the wonderful families in this beautiful community!

Thanks in advance,

Rachel Jacobson

Fundraising Coordinator

Balnarring Pre-School

0407 527 609

charbella@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.

Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Our Maintenance Day will be held on:

Sunday March 26th @ 9.30am – 11.30am

PARENT LIBRARY

In the foyer there are an assortment 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.

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

Kindergarten Central Registrations

Register your child for kindergarten for 2018!

Kinder registrations are now OPEN!

Accepted from 1st March 2017 – 2nd July 2017.

This year there will be a 5 month registration period which will give you plenty of time to register your child for kindergarten in 2018. Please visit the Mornington Peninsula shire website and follow the directions to apply online.

If you have any questions about enrolments for next year please contact the enrolments officer or one of the teachers at the kinder on 5983 5803.



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.