

Bundjil Nest Project Bulletin November 2016

Introducing the Bundjil Nest Project team:

- Mel Brooks- teacher at Balnarring Primary School
- Heidi Joval- teacher at Balnarring Early Learning Centre
- Ann Slater- teacher at Balnarring Pre-school
- Karen Anderson- teacher at Balnarring Pre-school

Aim of the project:

- Team to develop their knowledge of First Peoples culture so they can include their learning in the curriculum
- Connect the children with the culture of the First Peoples specifically Boon Wurrung Culture. (a requirement of the National curriculum)
- Create a sculpture to be placed in a significant community space
- Involve the wider community in celebrating and acknowledging First Peoples Culture

Progress so far:

- In 2015 and 2016 children from the three services were involved in a joint day of learning conducted by the Boon Wurrung Foundation
- Team participated in professional development days
- A metal sculpture was created to represent Bundjil's Nest
- Community information days held in 2015 and 2016



- Event held in 2015 on Balnarring foreshore where the community were invited to place a message stick into the nest.
- Film made about the project which was launched in 2016. The community were invited to run their message stick and view the film.
- Smaller replica nests, sponsored by Balnarring and District Bank, have been placed in each service.



Achievements:

- In 2016 this project received a HESTA Education and Care award: Advancing Pedagogy and Practice. This is a National award that is recognised by the teaching profession. It recognises the uniqueness of three services working together and embracing and sharing learning with wider community. The award included prize money which will be used to support further learning opportunities for the children, team and contribute towards community events.

Future plans:

- Bundjil Community event- 18th November 2016.
- 2017 Working with an artist to create additions to the sculpture
- Professional development for team
- Learning days for children with First Peoples

If you are in a position to contribute to this project and/or would like to know more, please contact one of the team members or email teachers.balnarring.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

We acknowledge that we are working and learning on Boon Wurrung Country. We pay respect to Elders: past and present