



# Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association



Learning and Living with nature

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## Presidents Report – March 2018

How good was Womin djeka Balnarring Ngargee! What a sensational event and huge congratulations to all involved! It was a very proud moment to see what our community pulled together. Can't wait to see what the coming years have in stall for us!

Thank you to all the families from the Pre-School who gave their time. It was greatly appreciated.

### Fundraising Coordinator

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to Brad Watson who has started the year with lots of enthusiasm. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, he has had to step aside from this position for the rest of the year. Brad is dedicated to continuing his support of the Pre-School by staying on the Sub Committee for their exciting year ahead.

I would now like to welcome aboard our new Fundraising Coordinator, Melanie Jessop! Thank you so much for taking this role on and hitting the ground running! We have no doubt you will do an amazing job!! I want to also thank the Fundraising Sub Committee for their dedication and support of Melanie. We have a very exciting event in the making so make sure you keep your eyes peeled for all the details next term.

### FEES

Just a quick note that fees are due before the end of term. Thank you to all the families that have already paid. If you are having any trouble paying your fees, please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Peachy, our Fees Officer. She is very approachable and the Pre-School is more than happy to accept Payment Plans that you may wish to setup. Please don't worry at home about this; we are here to help, as we love having you at the Pre-School. Remember, your teacher will also be more than happy to discuss this with you.

### 2019 ENROLMENTS

Please remember, enrolments for 2019 have OPENED as of the 1<sup>st</sup> March. To place your enrolment for your child, you will need to go on the Mornington Peninsula Council website and follow the links. Please ensure you don't miss this process and if you have any questions feel free to chat to Nicole Fletcher or your class teacher.

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter and a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Please remember you are all welcome to our Committee Meetings as a General Member if you would like to hear more about the comings and goings of the Pre-School.

### Next Committee Meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> April 7pm

Please feel free to approach me or call if you have any questions or ideas regarding the Pre-School.

Caroline Brunt

0423303571



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## Djeembana (Gathering Place) News- March 2018

This term has gone well for Djeembana. The children have become familiar with the routines and importance of checking the visual schedule each day, some days the children are explaining to their parents what we have planned indicating they are gaining understanding of how to 'read' the schedule.

This last month there has been a strong focus on the children listening to instructions and the person who is speaking. I am sure all parents understand the importance of developing listening skills and have moments when their children are not listening. We have taken a strong approach to demonstrating to the children the importance of listening especially when we are outside the gate. Often children are asked to listen, in order for them or members of the group to be safe. Children are more at ease and display less anxiety when they understand what is expected of them and there is consistency in following through.



The children are learning that there are consequences for their behaviours and choices. For example .. if a child was asked to listen to the teaching team and they continue to talk or not respond, that child would not be selected for the next experiences until they were listening. The strategies used by the teaching team are familiar to all children and consistently applied. The children are beginning to understand that an instruction will be given once, if there is no response the team are not going to continually repeat themselves. When the children do display good listening and timely responses they will be praised and reinforced how well the child has done.

We have introduced the children to the perceptual motor program (PMP) with the support of many parents. During PMP the children are divided into 8 teams/trains. The children rotate through eight activities all designed to develop a specific skill. So far the children have been asked to: balance along a beam, jump with feet together along the ground and over a bar, jump off a box with controlled landings, bounce a ball, perform various mat stunts, stay in their team, and always have a go. The children are also required to follow instructions given by multiple adults and process those instructions. This program will run again in term two for a block of five weeks. Thanks to the parents who have assisted us this term.



The longer beach days have required the children to manage their physical stamina and emotions over a five hour period. The program for the day is planned according to how everyone is going. Most weeks we have completed a short walk so we could introduce the children to all the areas they can play in. We have walked through 'A' reserve and 'B' reserve and spent some time in "C" reserve. We have frequently explored the rock platforms and rock wall providing children with repeated opportunity to master walking on wobbly rocks, and safely scramble over the large rocks that make up the wall. Each week we have observed new imaginative play developing and new combinations of children involved in this play. Story telling has become a regular part of each beach day as has lying, relaxing and listening to nature.



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Harmony day was celebrated through foods from various countries – thanks to all for making the effort to bring food that connected to your families. I think we all learnt something about each other on this day and the teaching team learnt that many parents have amazing (yummy) recipes to share with us – we look forward to you cooking with us in term two.



Tigger has now turned one which means the time is getting closer for him to leave me. Last week he had his eyes tested and hips x rayed. IN a few weeks he will start his formal training at dog school. I have explained this to the children however you may like to help me in preparing them for saying good bye.

The last few weeks we have building up to the festival. The children were part of those preparations. They decorated two letters for our entry sign and traced their hands on the back drop. Being a part of the preparations created a sense of excitement for the event. It was fantastic to see so many of the families attend the event. We hope you enjoyed the day and understand the significance of what the community created. Please return your evaluations and reflections of the day.



## Coming events

End of term Wed 27<sup>th</sup> March

Start of term two 16<sup>th</sup> April

Library visiting Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Anzac day Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

Bundjil Nest Project, day of learning Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May possible 8:30-2:30- more details next term

I have really enjoyed getting to know the children and families over the past month. I thank you for your support and look forward to the next term of learning together.

Karen



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## Weelam (camp/home) Group Newsletter – March 2018



How quickly this term has flown by!! It seems not that long ago that the children were attending in smaller groups, requiring active support to farewell their families, explore and to join their friends. Each child has gone on their own journey towards becoming more independent from their family. Weelam group 2018 has come together as a very social and thoughtful group of friends. They are great builders, they love creating and are exploring their ideas with craft materials, through drawing, painting and storytelling. We have made many discoveries both at preschool and at bush camp and the beach.

Turning four and being five is a time when the children begin to see friendship as very important and when you spend time with us you will see the children working in small groups, seeking out friends to be with and identifying as a friend. However, there is much to learn about being a friend. Children learn how to be kind, respectful, understand what friends do and say and why? These skills come from what they observe others doing, saying, the actions of those around them and from how we respond to their actions and words. We have been intentional teaching and talking about friendship. Discussing what it means to each child, how they feel and learning about how what we do and say may affect others. Supporting each of the children to understand and develop these skills assists them to begin to understand the complexities of relationships, to see there can be many friends in your world and that it is important understand that your words and actions can hurt another’s feelings or make them feel very happy. We are learning about empathy, a new skill for young children at this stage of development, this takes time and practice with lots of opportunities to learn within many social situations.

As we play and work together with care and respect these skills are being extended to the Land we walk on and the creatures we discoveries. Recently the children were upset when they discovered rubbish had been left at bush camp, rubbish that could harm the animals and get into the water. The stories told to us by N’arweet Carolyn Briggs, Boon Wurrung Clan head and Elder support this learning. She teaches us about the importance to care not just for each other, the Land and creatures too.



*\*we have begun travelling along new paths*

*\* Looking for patterns and creatures*



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## Learning and living with nature:

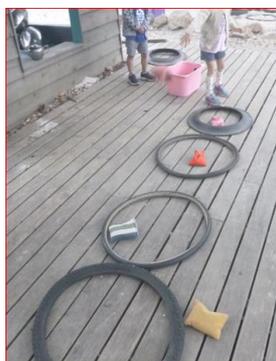


*Being on the beach, walking along the tracks and at Bush camp this term has offered us many challenges and opportunities to create, work together and make discoveries within these environments. The children are becoming aware of the creatures, the landmarks and habitats they are spending time within.*

*\*Creating stories with natural materials \*Being on the beach is supporting the children to wonder and explore.*

**PMP has begun...**the children have now participated on two PMP sessions with the support of the parents and the teaching team. All the children embraced these new challenges, they have been working in small groups taking turns to balance, crawl, throw and experience opportunities to challenge themselves, repeat attempts and experiences with encouragement and support. PMP time assists the children to become more aware of the ways they can move and develop their body awareness and balance skills.

*During PMP the children are supported to...*



*\*balance and move with care. \*go under and over \*to develop accuracy \* to have fun as they work together.*

We will continue to offer PMP fortnightly on a Thursday in term two between 9am to 10:30am. PMP cannot happen without the help of our families, please join us by putting your name on the roster, it is a great way to meet all Weelam group friends.

***PMP will begin again in Term two on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April and then fortnightly on Thursdays during the term.***



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**Harmony Day: Celebrating everyone belongs and exploring diversity.** Our plans to celebrate Harmony Day at Bush camp changed when the high winds meant the trees were too dangerous to be under. Our meeting place for the session became the yacht club, the children were excited to be able to take a closer look at the many different boats and tractors.



***Sailing to Pirate Island...*** At the yacht club we are permitted to explore the training boat. The children quickly created stories and shared their knowledge of sailing on the water. We talked about the parts of the boat, what they are called and how to change direction in a boat with no motor. We pretended the boat was getting close to the rocks and it needed to tack. The children discovered that means that the boom moves around to the other side of the boat (thanks to Catherine) and you must duck or you might get hit on the head. The children took turns in the boat and making the boat rock in the waves.



At the end of this session we invited all our families back for lunch and a special story together. We talked about our families and the many countries they may have travelled from to be in Australia. Maybe it was the children's parents, their Grandparents and great Grandparents. We used many different coloured balls of wool to weave a story that linked us together, families who were connected to Italy, Poland, Greece, NZ, England, France, Denmark, Russia, Philippines and more. Our special visitors today were grandparents from Scotland who we also wove into our story. As our story became a rainbow of colours that linked us to individuals within the group we used the blue wool (representing the blue water and sky of Balnarring beach) to link us all together on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledged we all live and learn on Boon Wurrung Country- a connection we all share with each other.

## Our Vegetable garden:



***Each week we cook with the vegi's we find and harvest from our garden, along with the eggs from the chicken's Zucchini fritters have been very popular. One of the children bought in a big pumpkin from their vegi garden. Michele helped the children make pumpkin scones...Yum***



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## Snapshots of our learning times:



\*Helping a friend climb



\*making masks, sharing skills



\*the story about the rock pools

## Festival thanks:



*A big thank you to everyone who helped, participated in and was involved with the Womin djeka Balnarring Ngargee, what a wonderful celebration of being together and acknowledging that we are on Boon Wurrung Country. It was fabulous to walk around, catch up with many friends and to listen to and watch all the wonderful artists and performers. So many people worked to make this all possible. Congratulations to Balnarring.*

## What do you know about antechinus?

At Bush camp we found an Antechinus and were able to look at it closely and study its features. The children wondered what they ate? We had noticed many holes that had been dug around bush camp, now we know who has been making them!! Back at preschool we look at our books and, on the computer, to discover that antechinus eats insects and bugs.



**Dates to remember:** Coolart, we are off to Coolart on Wed. 28<sup>th</sup> for a walk and egg hunt.

**Easter hat and Easter fun:** To celebrate the end of term we will have a hat parade and a surprise for our families. All families please join us at 1:30pm to celebrate.

**Happy holidays everyone:** Holidays begin 30<sup>th</sup> March and we return Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April

**Term Two dates:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April story time visit from the library

**ANZAC DAY:** 25<sup>th</sup> April, No Kinder day. .... Many more dates to follow in term two...

*We wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing holiday time, enjoy and we look forward to seeing everyone again in term two, Have fun, Weelam group teaching team.*



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## ATTENTION ALL FAMILIES

Working with children check (WWC) –Creating a Child safe environment.

Parents will not be required to have a WWC as they are not regularly with the children. However.... When in our group please be aware that a parent is always to be in sight of the staff when with the children. Any change of clothing or toileting challenges will be managed by the staff EVEN IF YOU KNOW THAT CHILD. Please let a team member know if a child requires support

## Kindergarten Central Registrations

**Register your child for kindergarten for 2019!**

**Kinder registrations are now OPEN!**

**Accepted from 1st March 2018 – 1st July 2018.**

***This year there will be a 5 month registration period which will give you plenty of time to register your child for kindergarten in 2019. 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.***

## 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



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