



Djeembana news May

A typical day of learning with Boon Wurrung Country, 'The children gathered on the beach exploring the nooks and crannies the tea trees created. A song we wrote acknowledges the First Peoples as we go on an adventure. Our walk took us to the screaming hill, each child runs down a hill screaming out loud or silently. We walk adjacent to the creek discovering several varieties of moss and interesting shaped trees. Closer to the creek we wonder is this freshwater or saltwater and how could we find out? Back onto the beach waves are crashing against the large piles of seaweed. Will we see a barbarka (dolphin) today? Children scan the sea for movement? Small footprints begin to appear on the sand. Who made these? Was it the endangered red capped plovers? Back into the bush for tree climbing and exploring. Up high guborra (koala) is watching, while scratching its ear. The oak tree has given us a gift of many leaves we can throw, roll and lie in and cover ourselves.



Small story groups are created where a child has created a story scene using items from nature and then tells their story to their peers.

An amazing day of learning and connecting with land, we are all so fortunate. The day concludes with hugging the tree thanking it for the gifts. Look at the maps the children made hanging in the room where they recalled our journey.



Bundjil Day started of wet then the sun shone upon us. The learning of the day built on what we have been doing in the program. Priscilla joined us again this time sharing a story about a seagull and waterways – fresh water, sea water and the space where they meet. Mitch taught the children a seagull dance which he sang in language. He painted the children's faces with ochre. The children made poster about how to care for the environment and created with clay to make waangs.

Bundjil Nest Project:

Waang sculptures We have begun to collect the plastic – thank you. I am hearing how surprised everyone is about the amount of plastic they are collecting. Have you tried to do a shop without taking anything home in plastic? We are making a poster to share ways we are reducing the plastic waste. Please add your ideas.

Clean Up Balnarring day 22nd June. 9:30am. Meet at Civic reserve. More details to come



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Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association



Learning and Living with nature



In 2018 the children were involved in illustrating the Bundjil Creation Story as told to us by N'Arweet Carolyn Briggs. The book was launched at the festival in March. It was a great responsibility and honour to publish this book. If you would like to purchase a copy please see one of the teachers, the proceeds from the sales are going towards publishing the next book! The children of 2019 will be the illustrators of the Barreemal (Emu) story.

Flag activity began this week. We shared information on the meaning of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and now we can learn about what other flags mean. The aim is for the children to be involved in discovering facts about flags and the country they represent then sharing what they have learnt with their peers. This will give the children a stronger understanding of the size of the world. We are also requesting that the children find out the word for hello from that country so we can use it in a song we have learnt. The flags will be sent home with three children on a Monday to be returned with information on a Wednesday.



Special thanks to everyone who joined us for the luncheon. It felt like a special experience for everyone. The children took on the task of creating the restaurant very seriously. The chatter around the room was relaxed and exciting. Many buckets were overflowing!!!



Weelam team helped clean up which defiantly filled Djeembana teams' buckets.

Inverloch Childcare have asked us to be pen pals with them. They also are involved in learning on the beach. The children of that centre will send a letter and we will return a letter.

We have introduced the children to flints for lighting the fire – it takes a lot of persistence to get a spark. Over the coming weeks we will cook different items on the fire, if you have any ideas please share them with us.

This week we were looking at the Aboriginal Language map and I was explaining how this country wasn't always called Australia, that there were many Countries for example Priscilla and Mitch are connected to Gamilaroy. I told the children people came from England and took over the land. One child added, 'They destroyed the land!'. I shared a short story about the people being unkind and poisoning the waterways. This discussion was not planned however it is important to tell the truth about the history of Australia for the future of Australia. One child asked are we caring for the land and people now? I replied, 'We are learning to.' There will be other times over the course of the year when we share the story of Aboriginal people. If you are interested in learning more about the history there are several books in the parent library in the foyer.



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Coming events

27th May Claire (student) will spend the week with us, please help her to feel welcome. Claire is in her first year at university

2nd June Mabo walk Meeting at Hastings Foreshore. 11am. The walk concludes at Willum Warrain Pound Rd Hastings. Hope you can join us.

PMP dates: 29th May, 5th June, 12th June and 19th June

12th June Fathers night 6 – 7:30. Dads or special family member are invited to spend time with their child at kinder playing with them and exploring the environment. We will probably have a campfire and search the trees for wildlife – bring torches. Dads can stay the entire time or whatever amount of time they have.

22nd June Clean up Balnarring day – we will meet at Civic Reserve. Sea Shepherd will present information and then we will break into teams to collect rubbish from selected areas. Then we gather back for a picnic. A separate flyer will be sent home in a few weeks.

26th June Mud day Wednesday. Families to join us at 11:00

Progress reports – I will be selecting dates and times to meet with each family to discuss their child's progress. Please place your name next to a time. If none of the times suit you, I will make another time.

If you are going to the trivia night have a great night

Until next month Karen and the team.



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