



Weelam group newsletter for March 2019. Being a kinder friend, working together, sharing spaces and experiences have become important learning times for all the children in Weelam group this term. The children are learning with our support how to negotiate using words, to join friends as they play, to wait for a turn and understand how their words and actions can impact others. We have been actively exploring what it is to be a 'problem solver' and the responsibilities we all have to be kind and thoughtful with and to each other. For our young children these skills are often still emerging. As well as supporting the children with the words to say and the actions they could do we explore we have been intentionally including the words to say and exploring how others feel (empathy) as we talk within our large and small group discussion times. As we talk we often draw these stories, this allows the children to share with us their own understandings further, hear what their friends are saying and offer their own thoughts. When you spend time with us during the sessions feel free to listen as we discuss relationships within the children, support relationships when being challenged and how you can be problem solvers and great friends.



Cubby Building provides many opportunities to put these skills into action as spaces are being negotiated, ideas shared, other children join in and plans don't always work out.

Our new animal friends:



During the last month we welcomed our new chickens to the chicken pen. Initially we watched them as they were introduced to our old chickens. We talked about how they would all become friends as they started to know each other and all of us. At first the chickens were nervous around their new friends and all the kinder friends too. Gradually the children have learnt to sit quietly, move slowly, watch the chickens and wait for them to come to them to be picked up. As part of caring for each other, we also teach it is just as important to care for the animals and treat them with respect. The children also take responsibility to let the chickens out and to feed them. Collecting the eggs is always exciting and as the children discover that takes care 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.



Learning about Bees and Honey: We asked the children how do bees make honey? (see our diary to read what they said). Our thanks to Raphael and his Mum for showing us how honey is made, it tasted great on our toast.



Rainbows: One morning we arrived at Bush Camp to see a big rainbow above us. We explored rainbows back at preschool through our books and drawing experiences. Betina taught everyone the rainbow song and then we told a story using the spin a yarn tiles. Our story included a rainbow, Bundjil and Waang.



These story tiles were created by Priscilla Indigenous consultant and educator who visited us on Monday 18th, they are used continually throughout our program creating stories and within our drawing experiences. published author of Spin A Yarn a storytelling resource

Challenges and risk taking:



Over the past weeks we have observed the children are becoming more confident and wanting to extend their physical skills. We have begun our PMP program, they are climbing trees and have extended our walks from Bush camp to include hills, the rock pools and the rock wall. As the children move and try new experience, we talk with them about how they feel, encourage them to think about how to keep themselves safe and to move within their current level of skills. The children are gradually learning to self-regulate their movements, to be more aware of when to be slow and to ensure their friends are safe when they move around them. Over coming challenges and achieving skills supports the children to be feel more competent and be proud of themselves.



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.



Learning and Living with nature

Yaama Priscilla: We had a very special visit this week during our Monday session from Priscilla Reid-Loynes, a Gamilaroi/Yularoi yinarr (woman) an early childhood and primary teacher who works as an Indigenous Education Consultant. Priscilla has been an important teacher to everyone at Balnarring preschool and it was terrific to have Priscilla with us again sharing her stories and language. The children danced, made feather flowers and learnt about ochre and how to grind the ochre on a rock.



Priscilla spoke to the children about caring for the Land, how important water is to Country and how we have a responsibility to care for the waterways. We sung our acknowledgement to Country to Priscilla and the children shared their stories too.



Team work means you can achieve great things.



Today at Bush camp we found some large sticks, the children cooperated and worked together to make this cubby. It was a perfect place for morning tea before heading down to the beach for more experiences.



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.

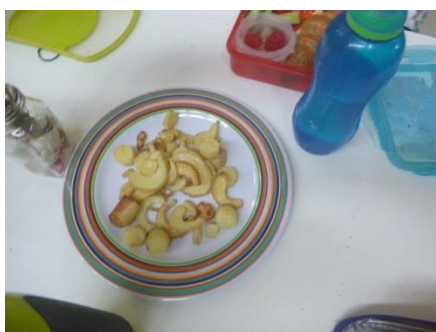


Learning and Living with nature



We visited Bundjil's Nest to learn more how it is there as an acknowledgement to Country. We also told the story about how it was created by children who had been at preschool before this group. We talked about the messages on the sticks and what our messages could be that reflect the Lores of Bundjil as told to us by the Elders. These Lores are to always can for the Land and for the Bubups, the children. This includes the children looking after each other. We left some sticks we had made in the nest. Several children remembered visiting the nest before with their families.

Restaurant Day: *Our cooking experiences* **Curly Potato chips and Bread dough making.**



The children are actively engaging in our cooking experiences following recipes, measuring ingredients, mixing, pouring and kneading. On Restaurant Day we are now sitting at the tables for lunch. The children each have their own placemat that they have made and decorate the tables with flowers and feathers.

For your information: What is next...

Monday 1st April: Excursion to Balnarring primary school to see the 'Giant Whale'

This session will be presented by Dolphin Institute and will support us to learn more about sea creatures and how we can care for the waterways and the sea. More information to follow...

Roster for help: Thank you to all parents who have come to join us for sessions already. We greatly appreciated your assistance and your support is very important to the program. Please join us when you can, let us know about your skills and interests. It is great when you are happy to share these with us.

Interview times: *Would you like to catch up for a chat about preschool, school or something you may be concern about? I am very happy to make a time with you before or after a session. I will also be putting out a list of times when I am in my office. If you prefer please choose one of these times, after hour times can be arranged if needed. I look forward to meeting with you.*

Please remember we welcome your feedback and thoughts on how we can extend the program, Thanks, 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.