



Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association



Learning and Living with nature

Weelam Group Newsletter

May 2019



The children have noticed the changes in the weather, within nature and within our learning environments. We have been talking about how Autumn / Manameet (Boon Wurrung word for this time of the year) has arrived, some days are colder, it gets darker earlier and it has been raining. Our discussions have brought about many great questions including "What does Autumn look like?", Why are some leaves still green? and where does the fungi come from? The change of season has offered many opportunities to make new discoveries, to explore natural environments more closely and to wonder, be curious and have fun when puddles are present to explore and share with another friend or two



The children are noticing the many colours, shapes and features of the leaves they find on the ground. We teach the children they are only able to take the leaves that are on the ground. These are the ones the tree has given to them to pick up and play with.



If you have autumn trees at home and are wondering what to do with all the leaves, feel free to bring them in for us to explore further and have fun within our garden- we need lots and lots please to create a big hill.



At Bush camp we are beginning to discover different types of fungi, sometimes they are on the ground, on logs, at the bottom of trees and even up trees. We are talking about how to look at them safely as we don't always know which ones are safe to touch. We are also noticing the many different colours and sizes.

Each week Ranger Ron has been coming by to tell us about the Red Capped Plovers that are beginning to return to Balnarring Beach to make their nests. Our beach is a very space for these little birds and we are hearing from Ranger Ron how important it is protect the beach habitat and the sand dunes where they nest on the ground. We will begin to go look and count them too just like Ranger Ron.



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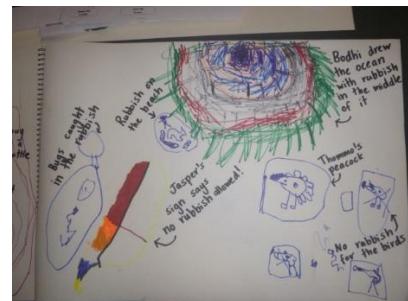
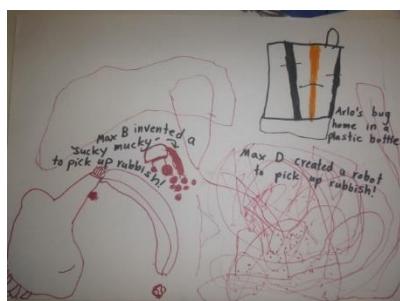


Our New Weelam Group Friend: Meet 'Sunnie': This week we introduced our new friend to Weelam group. Sunnie will now travel home with each Weelam group friend to spend a couple of nights with them. When Sunnie returns we will listen to the stories that have been added to the book and then it will be the next friends turn to take Sunnie home. Telling their story of their adventures with Sunnie supports each child to speak in front of the group and to tell us a little about their family and home. Each child chooses if Sunnie is a girl or boy, Sunnie can change and we say that is OK. We talked about taking turns and how Sunnie will come home with you one day in the future.

A Very Special Welcome: Congratulations to Daisy and her family who have a new baby sister, we look forward to meeting her very soon. We have been talking about our families and the many ways we care for, help and show kindness and love for our families.

Bundjil Nest project: Waang project

Thank you to everyone who is collecting plastics for our project. We have been actively exploring on how we can further care for the waterways and the creatures who live in the water. At Bush camp and the beach we are becoming great rubbish spotters and each week we come back to Bush camp with a bucket of rubbish we have collected. Please keep collecting your plastics so we can recycle them to make Waang.



We have been talking (and drawing) about taking care for the waterways and why it is important that plastics do not get into the waterways along with their impact on the creatures. We worked together on these drawings as we talked, some children made pictures to tell others that putting rubbish in the waterways is not OK, other children began to create machines that could pick up the rubbish and recycle it.

Our Mother's Day gifts: As well as focusing on recycling plastics and not dropping rubbish we have also been exploring ways to not use plastics at all. With this thought and goal in mind our gifts to our Mums for Mother's Day introduced us to 'Bee Wax wraps' and how we could use these instead of plastic wrap for our food. The children drew pictures on the material then worked with the melted bee wax to cover the cloth. The children noticed how the wax smelt of honey when it was melted and how quickly it went hard again. The children took great care to create their gifts and we acknowledge how important it is to give gifts and how you can make someone very happy with your acts of kindness. We followed up this theme when we invited everyone for our special afternoon tea. Our families joined in and added their thoughts too.



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Preparing for spring: Thank you to the families who have helped us with vegetables for our garden beds and with daffodils to plant in our special pots. We will now watch them grow, care for them and wait to see what happens. We have planted some broad bean seeds too- can't see anything yet!!

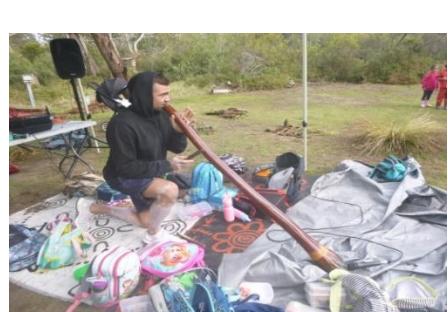


Please take a look at our vegi gardens. We are checking for bugs and making sure our plants are watered and in the sunshine.



Bundjil Nest Project: Day of Learning at Bundjil's Nest: Reflections from our day together

Our day at Bundjil's Nest was so special for many reasons, the children were excited to see Priscilla again and listen to her tell another story. This time about the seagull, then shells and the waterways. We all joined in the smoking ceremony, made message sticks (with messages of care to the Land and Children), worked with clay and created a hand for the Peace project. These hands will now be part of a worldwide initiative, we explored what 'peace' meant and why it was important. We finished the day dancing together with Mitch playing the Yidaki (Didgeridoo). We had learnt the dance earlier and joined in with the schools and ELC to perform it together. We sung a song to say "thankyou for the rain", the trees were so happy and we were proud of how positively the children managed the rain and weather- having puddles to jump in helped!!



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P.M.P. Our PMP sessions will continue fortnightly throughout Term Two. Many thanks to the parents who have assisted so far and helped to make this program possible, please join us this term when you can. Each time we add new experiences and increase the challenges within each experience.



Our next sessions in Term Two will be

- Thurs. 30th May
- Thurs. 13th June
- Thurs. 27th June (Last day of Term)

Time: 9am to 10:30am, Come join us, PMP is a great opportunity to get to know all the children.

Student Teacher: Letter from Elyse: Dear Weelam group, I have reached the midpoint of my professional placement and it has been an absolute pleasure getting to know all the children and their loved ones. Thank you for making me feel so welcome within your learning community. As part of my inquiry project, I have been working with the children to discover their understanding of families and their own identity within their family. I look forward to sharing this wonderful work with you all over the coming weeks. For the week beginning on the 27th of May, I will be leading our group as part of the requirements for my training. The fantastic teaching team of Weelam group will still be present to support both myself and the children during this period. Please do not hesitate to come chat with me if you have any questions.

Thank you again for your warm welcome!

Elyse (Pre-service teacher)



Our Blue Folders: Please keep sending your child's Folder back so we can continue to add more stories and photographs of our adventures.

Come and Help and Play Roster: Big Thank you to everyone who has joined us for a session, it has been great to have many of you share your interests and skills with us. Please let us know if you have talents you would like us to include in the program- that includes Grandparents too.

Dates for your diaries:

Reconciliation Walk, Hastings: Sunday 2nd June

Please save the date and bring your family along to this community event in Hastings organized by Willum Warrain, Hastings. More information to follow closer to this event...

As further events are organized, we will send out the save the dates for your diary.

A thought from the children to finish this newsletter: As part of the day of learning at Bundjil's Nest we asked the children for their thoughts on 'Peace'. One child offered "that is when your Mum is going to the toilet and you are not allowed to follow."

**please share your thoughts with us towards the program. Kind regards, Ann and the teaching team.



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