



Being, Belonging, Becoming together as Weelam group

We all returned enthusiastically to Kinder for Term Two after our first holiday break. The children quickly noticed the changes that come with the Boon Wurrung season of Manameet. With the colder, wetter weather we have been finding different types of fungi, mosses and many yellow banksia flowers on the ground that can become props for story making and natural artworks. There have been many puddles to explore both actively with loud delight as feet jump higher making bigger splashes, and quietly with moments of wonder being curious about will something float or sink? The children's connections to the learning environments and relationships with Country continue to strengthen, they are taking more responsibility for caring for the environments they live and learn within. We see the children now connecting with what they observe offering their own understandings from a child's perspective. Recently the branch on the ground created an opportunity hear their perspectives of why it had fallen, one thought was it "wanted to hug the ground"



Annie Preservice Teacher. For 4 weeks the children and teaching team supported Annie in her journey to become an early childhood Teacher. As a farewell gift the children gave Annie a book with their thoughts (and drawings) about 'what you need to do be a 'Good teacher.' Their advice was greatly appreciated by Annie. In return Annie gave us a fabulous book about 'Kelp' which we are now exploring further.



Exploring Imaginary and pretend play: Retelling experiences, being grown up, exploring ideas.



**Recreating 'Going camping'*

**Puppet Show stories*

**Shop play with 'money'*

**Making boats that float.*

Each session both inside and outside we intentionally plan for and extend play and learning experiences that allow the children to develop their ideas, tell stories, share their thoughts, and build on their interest and knowledge. Engaging in pretend and imaginary play experiences allows the children to take many different roles, develop their social skills to be both a leader and listen to others, to experiment, to image and build on their literacy and numeracy skills as part of their interactions and play.

Thinking of Others: We wished our Mums a **Happy Mother's Day**, making cards for them and a gift of a decorated pot of daffodils. We look forward to hearing when they begin to flower. We also took this opportunity to explore as a group what we are thankful for and acknowledge the important relationships in our world.



Being thankful: Here are some of the children's thoughts that they shared with each other.

"We are thankful for our family, the sunshine, our animals. The grass so the animals can eat, I am thankful I could go to the Lego exhibition, I am thankful for the beach that keeps the whales and dolphins happy. We are thankful for our homes because they keep us altogether and warm in winter. I am thankful for the trees as they help us to breathe".

Learning about Fire: *Becoming campfire chefs and learning campfire safety.*



**sending messages to the sky *cooking campfire toast * Creating sparks with the flints *making Johnny cakes.*

The changes in weather have enabled us to begin teaching the children about the campfire. This includes taking time to prepare the area for the fire, collecting sticks, breaking up the sticks into smaller pieces and filling buckets with water. The teaching times have included how to move around the fire, learning where is sit, to watch and how to be safe as you cook, enjoying moments to just watch the flames and notice the colours and the movement of the flames as we sing or share a story. We are learning how to use the flints to light the fire, this takes time and patience often role modelled by us as teachers!! *Please come join in and help us around us the fire whenever you can.*



Making Veggie Soup: As part of our cooking experiences we have been exploring vegetables making soup and veggie muffins. Thankyou to everyone who bought in a veggie for our pot.



We have been exploring our discoveries and interests in nature within our art experiences.



Thank you to Hunter and his Dad who taught us about how they collect 'Honey'. We learnt about the special suit you can wear, how to use the smoker and harvest the honey. We now have a pot of 'Hunters Honey' for 'Toast Tuesday', we tried it and it tasted great. Did you know we can help our bee friends by having flowers in our gardens? If you have skills/ jobs/ interests you would like to share with us please let us know so you can join us too.



PMP Learning: *the children are growing in confidence and are displaying increased awareness of their bodies in space. Each session we have been building on each challenge, adding new experiences and offering more ways to move under, over, through and along. The learning from the PMP sessions is supporting the children to develop their balance skills, body awareness and to see new ways to move as exciting and that new challenges are exciting ways to develop skills further. Having a go, practicing and supporting others are qualities being taught within the program as each child moves with their little team around the series of planned experiences. This program relies on parent support to make it possible. Having a parent at each experience ensures the children have the support and encouragement they require to build skills and actively participate. Please join us when you can on a Thursday to assist within the program, siblings are welcome too.*



In PMP the children rotate around planned movement experiences within their small teams of friends so they can have many opportunities to engage in experience several times.



Down at the Beach *we have been discovering many ways to further develop our confidence and to move in new ways. The seaweed hills have been amazing under the beautiful Boon Wurrung sky .*

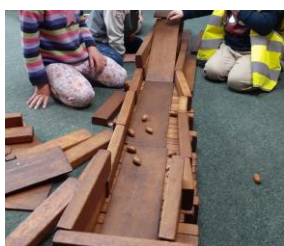


Learning to balance on many surfaces, uneven, moving, changing in height, wobbling, balancing your body.



These times moving can be active and create opportunities to experience many different feelings as you walk, jump, leap, balance and even fall over. We encourage everyone to participate how they feel comfortable while at the same time supporting them to extend their skills and confidence to try something new. We also teach movement times can to quiet and that there are times for your body to be still, to relax and enjoy watching and listening to Country, the waves, the wind and the leaves. Enjoy these photos of our wonderful learning environments, each week being at Bush camp and the Beach offers us so many amazing times we can share together. Country becomes our teacher and we reciprocate by showing care for each other, the creatures and these environments each day.

Being Builders: The group have been actively working with the many different types of building materials we have been offering them within the program. Together they have been experimenting, wondering, trying out ideas, changing designs, being challenged, working on and achieving a goal, problem solving, working as a team, listening to ideas, managing disappointment, being willing to try again, cooperating, watching, waiting, balancing, exploring movement as well as being excited and sharing pride in their achievements. These photos share some of these moments with me.



Ocean our mascot: Ocean our group mascot has now begun visiting Weelam group homes. Each child will take their turn to care for Ocean and share their story about what they did together with the group. If you haven't met Ocean yet your turn will come, the children are being very patient waiting for their turn. P.S. If you are still wondering what the answer to the photo we sent out asking what do you think this is? An elephant snail.



Important Dates for your diaries: we will continue the Indoor /Outdoor program throughout this term.

- Reminder there is **No Kinder Thursday: 27th May**, the teaching team are attending an inservice. Also there is no session on **14th June Queens birthday**
- **Reconciliation Week:** begins acknowledging **National Sorry Day 26th May, 1967 Referendum results May 27th and Mabo decision 3rd June**. We will be sharing further information with you and the children throughout this time. Reconciliation Week offers all of us further opportunities to learn about the impact historically and ongoing of Government policies for the First Peoples of this Land.
- **Walk for reconciliation:** Sunday 30th May meet 11am at Pelican Park to walk together to Willum Warrain, Hastings. See flyer for more information. Please ask if you have any questions.
- **PMP continues fortnightly see our come and play roster to put your name down to assist.**
- **VIP (Very Important Person) nights:** Please save these dates **Thursday 3rd June** and **Tuesday 22nd June, 6pm to 7:30pm**. Each child will be inviting one VIP adult to each of these nights to join them at kinder. Invitations will be sent out soon. Sorry we won't be able to have siblings at these times.
- **Last day of term: Thursday 24th June, will be celebrated with 'MUDDAY', not sure what this means?? please plan to join us for the last hour of this session (in old clothes) and find out.**
- **QIP (Quality Improvement Plan) meeting Monday 28th June:** see Committee invitation. We encourage you to join us and support us to reflect on ways to improve our service.
- **School Holiday break:** Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April, Term Two begins Monday 19th April

Reminders: Please ensure your child has their **wet weather gear** and full set of spare clothes with them each session. Gumboots are a great idea now too. Your assistance during sessions is greatly appreciated, you can join us for the whole session or just for an hour. **Please add your name to the roster**. I am now making **times to meet with each family individually** and look forward to catching up with everyone, if we haven't met yet please let me know what time works for your family.

Thankyou for your ongoing support and we look forward to sharing more stories with you soon, Weelam team.

Learning with All relationships: with each other, the Land and the creatures



The learning opportunities within this day deepened our understandings of our responsibilities to care for each other, the Land and all the creatures as taught to us through First Peoples knowledges, perspectives and Cultures. We all gathered with Djeembana, children from the local schools and early learning centre at Bundjil's Nest for a Day with First Peoples as our Teachers. Throughout the day we participated in six workshops which enabled us to listen and learn together. We thank Michaela for capturing our day within these photos.

Welcome to Country:



Our day begun with everyone gathering in a very large circle to be Welcomed to Country by David (Boon Wurrung Community member). We took turns to walk through the smoke before moving off to our individual workshops.



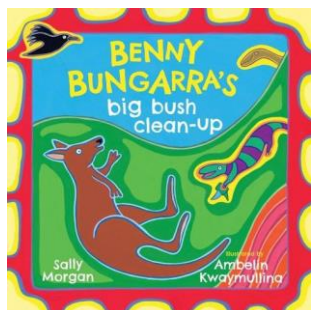
Learning with the Yidaki:



Together we listened to Steve as he made many different sounds with his Yidaki, we danced and moved as animals and listened to his stories told with the Yidaki- it even included truck sounds!

Caring for Country: After morning tea on the beach we learnt about the story of

Benny Bungarra and the Big Bush Clean up.



In this book a story that was created and told through First Peoples teachings we learnt further about the consequences of leaving our rubbish in the environment and the importance of recycling and/or disposing of rubbish appropriately. We discussed and made posters of how we can care and take responsibility for the Land and for all the creatures who live around us. We did a rubbish pick up (with tongs) this is just some of the rubbish we found!!



**We have been following up this learning within our kinder times both at kinder and at Bush camp and the Beach. We have been talking about the different bins we have at Kinder and what goes in which one?? The story of Waang as talked to us by First Peoples is supporting us to learn how we can care for the waterways. We have been learning about the Waang sculptures that were created by the kinder in 2019 and how they were made from the soft plastics we saved and recycled. We also visited the Waang sculpture that lives on the creek. Do you know where it is? This learning continues every day. Sadly, we always come back with our bucket for rubbish full.*

Bush Plant Workshop with Vicki:



We learnt about Bush plants with Vicki. Vicki told about each plant and which ones can be used for food, medicine and for tools. We learnt about Coolums used as carriers for water and food and how they were made and how grasses were woven to make a basket. Vicki encouraged everyone to feel and smell each plant.



The children showed their growing knowledge of animals who live within the environments we explore as they worked with the clay and natural materials. This was a quiet time during our day with many detailed animals created.

Making Message Sticks for Bundjil's Nest:



Our messages and promises to care for the Land and each other were woven in our stories we created on the sticks we made for Bundjil's Nest.



Dancing with Nartasha:



Nartasha shared language with us, stories and taught us how to move with Country both energetically and quietly. We also learnt a great new song called the Wombat Wobble. This has now become a group favourite.



*Our day ended with meeting many special animal friends with a session with Chris from **Funky Farm**. We learnt about each animal where they live and what they might eat. This was an opportunity to learn how to be around animals and that sometimes we just watch them, see how they move and don't need to touch them.*

