



*Djeembana story boards January 2021*



## Djeembana News May 2021

This term started with Sarah, Ann and Jill teaching for me while I recovered from the knee scope. There was a focus on pirates and boat building and reconnecting after the term break.

We have learnt about what the children and their families did over the break, through each child sharing their kinder book. The children sure were involved in some exciting experiences.

The day of learning at Bundjil's nest was very successful.

It involved: David (BoonWurrung) conducted a smoking ceremony, and then children rotating through six experiences:

- clay and building Bundjil's nest;
- Benny Bangarras big bush clean up which involved picking up rubbish (with tongs)



- Dancing with Nartarsha (Yorta Yorta, Wiradjuri, Kurnai, Warlpiri)



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## Learning and Living with nature

- Yidaki and dance with Sean (Kuku-Yalanji)



- Funky farm
- Plant knowledge with Vicki ( Yuin )



The children heard languages spoken by Nartarsha and Sean. Each First Person was placed onto the language map demonstrating to the children the diversity of Aboriginal lands and cultures.

After reading Benny Bangarra's big bush clean up the children have been very conscious of collecting any rubbish they encounter and protecting the environment. They have also created posters about the importance of not leaving rubbish on the ground. We will place these posters around the town – especially the skate park!!!!



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## Learning and Living with nature

Another focus of the program is supporting children to develop their social skills – empathy, awareness of other's feelings, skills to enter play, respect for difference and sharing ideas, equipment, friends and space. One way we are doing this is to split the group where one half is inside and one outside. We are selecting which children go in each group, changing this around each week. This is providing the team with more opportunities to work within a smaller group and show the children different social options.

On Fridays we never know what learning is going to be presented to us. Mammals became a focus at the beach last week when we patiently waited for an antechinus to show its face. Then we spotted a guborra (koala) hiding in a tree behind gum leaves. The children were provided with some mammal and marsupial facts which we continue to revisit. For example, mammals have hair, warm blood and feed their babies milk. Which animals do you think are mammals?



There were huge mounds of seaweed on the beach last week. The children were fascinated by the movement of the crashing waves as the tide came in observing the water splashing over the seaweed mounds and breaking through the seaweed walls. There were so many squeals of delight as many children courageously stood on the edge of the seaweed walls hoping they were safe or ran away from the unexpected fast waves rolling up the sand.



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## Learning and Living with nature

While we did experience some rain last week, we were able to use the rotunda as a base and still explore in nature therefore keeping dry (almost). It is always our aim to ensure the children remain warm on the cold rainy windy days. On these days what we do can be a little different as we set up experiences under the rotunda but we will always still go exploring.



The children were being courageous as they watched the waves and their movement. When would the waves become so big that the children had to move back?

The children were introduced to story telling with Spin a Yarn tiles that contain Aboriginal symbols. Thanks Dev for demonstrating how to do this.



Story telling is becoming a focus as the children learn that stories can be told in many ways. Stories have been (or will be) presented using natural items, picture cards, drawings, First Peoples symbols, felt pieces, music, and through First Peoples artwork.



We have begun to spend time in 'C' reserve which offers the children different opportunities and relationships with nature. Fungi has begun to pop up and we watched a piece of she oak as it appeared to be floating in the air. We ask the children to wonder and consider what stories nature is sharing with us.



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## Learning and Living with nature

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*Signs antechinus have been in the area*



The fire has been introduced to the program. The children were shown: how to move safely around the fire; where they could sit; how to use a flint to light a fire; and the importance of having buckets of water nearby. Our first cooking experience involved making toast. The aim was for the children to develop their independence by supporting them to cook the bread and spread the butter and condiments. We will repeat this for a few weeks so they practice these skills and then we will introduce other foods to cook on the fire. The fire is planned for Wednesdays you are always welcome to come back earlier to join us. If you have an idea of something we can cook on the fire, please let us know.



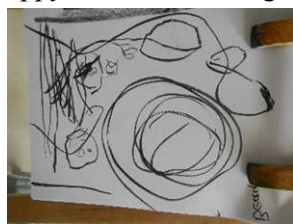
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## Learning and Living with nature



Katherine bathed Frank last week. She invited each child to squeeze water over his belly and wash his arms or legs. Many of the children were extremely fascinated by how small Frank was and the way he was communicating with them. Some children also helped feed Frank his bottle. Seeing baby provided us with the opportunity to think about how each child has grown and how competent and independent they have become. While we took some beautiful photos we don't feel Frank would have been happy with us including them in the newsletter!



Charcoal has been introduced as a drawing material explaining how it has come from a tree. When we have a fire we can use the charcoal that is created.

We have been exploring different ways to use clay. The children start with a lump and then shape the clay into a sculpture by pulling, squeezing, pressing, pinching, rolling... These techniques also develop children's muscles in their hands.



*Savannah's sculpture*

*Burke's sculpture*



As we move into winter please ensure your child brings their water proofs with them each kinder day. We will play outside on wet days and don't have spares at kinder. Remember the clothing **can not** go in the washing machine. Thankyou



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## Learning and Living with nature

**On mornings when it is wet we are asking you to enter and exit through the front door.** We will continue to practice social distancing, temperature checking and washing of hands. If we find it gets too congested, we will go back to using the side gate.

We thank families for keeping their children home when they are unwell. We appreciate this can be a difficult decision but please understand that by keeping unwell children home you are keeping the team well and the other children. If your child arrives and we feel they are unwell we will ask that they are taken home. While, at the moment we don't have covid cases in our area, we aim to be diligent in keeping everyone safe and well. The covid safe plan of the centres states the following

A child arrives at kinder with cold/flu symptoms or develops symptoms whilst at kinder	Children, staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children will have their temperature checked upon arrival.</li> <li>In addition to staffs' usual obligation to follow the practices of the DHHS exclusion table, all children with flu-like symptoms must be sent home. <b>This will include a runny nose</b></li> <li>Parents will be called if child becomes unwell. A staff member to stay with children away from the rest of the group until collected</li> </ul>
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Attached to this months newsletter is a chart reminding families symptoms to be aware of.

We will be speaking with the children about the significance of Reconciliation week through First Peoples artwork and story books. If you have any questions please ask us.

Reconciliation Australia's theme for 2021, *More than a word. Reconciliation takes action*, urges the reconciliation movement towards braver and more impactful action.

Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians – as individuals, families, communities, organisations and importantly as a nation. At the heart of this journey are relationships between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

To our new supporters, please remember the importance of privileging and amplifying First Nations' voices as you add your voice to calls for reconciliation and justice.



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## Learning and Living with nature

We all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures.

2021 marks twenty years of Reconciliation Australia and almost three decades of Australia's formal reconciliation process.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful [1967 referendum](#), and the [High Court Mabo decision](#) respectively.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*Reconciliation Australia website*

## Coming events

- Please come and join us for PMP: 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> June
- National Sorry Day – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1967nReferendum May 27<sup>th</sup>, Mabo decision 3<sup>rd</sup> June
- Walk for reconciliation. Willum Warrain event planned for Sunday 11am meet at Pelican Park
- 14<sup>th</sup> June – no session due to Queens birthday
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> June 6pm – 7:30pm V.I.P nights – Each year we invite parents to come along to a special event at night time with their kindergarten child. Due to covid restrictions we are running these differently this year. We have set two dates and invite one adult to accompany their child for each of these dates. The adult can be mum, dad, grandparents, uncle, aunty, family friend.... Unfortunately we can not have any siblings due to space restrictions. These nights provide an opportunity for adults to be part of the learning that their children are experiencing and make connections with other adults who are involved in the centre.



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- SAVE the date: Mud day Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> June families will be invited to return to the kinder at 11am for a morning of fun - more details to follow
- Sarah will be teaching for me 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June
- If you haven't made a date for a catch up, please see me so we can make arrangements.
- 25<sup>th</sup> June – end of term three!!!

That is it for this month

If you have any questions, please ask

Karen on behalf of Djeembana teaching team



Sometimes we just need to rest with nature!!!



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