



Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



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by ACECQA



Manameet Reflections May 2021

We started term 2 with a new friend in Manameet Group. It has been lovely getting to know Alando and his family over the last couple of months and reconnecting with all Manameet Group after the long Easter break. We revisited our boardmaker schedule and kinder routines in the first few weeks of term to help children settle back in. This has also allowed us to change and adapt the program layout and children have been comfortable and managed playing outside first, spending longer periods inside and having family and VIPs visit us at kinder as well. The children have adapted amazingly well are growing in confidence each week.

This term we have been focusing on building children's interactions and connections with peers and seeing beyond the self. This is important not only for their belonging and confidence but also in building children's friendship and social skills and emotional skills as well. We have been using our 'All About Me' pages to listen and hear about children in a large group at snack time. Lisa, Kim and I will



support 1 -2 children to share their sheet by asking questions and encouraging peers to think about who the child is (name) and what they like or do that is the same as them. This helps children to feel more connected and get to know others; helping them to connect and recognise others and develop empathy for others. It also helps to build the identity, wellbeing and confidence of the speaker who is celebrated and recognised for who they are and what they enjoy by the group. We also continue to support interactions between children in small groups and have stepped up children thinking about peers they could ask for help.



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Building friendship skills during our kinder year is very important. We help to support these skills by teaching them explicitly and supporting children in various ways such as modelling language or actions in activities they are engaged and interested in. Music has been a big interest for Manameet children and they have really been connecting with each other through song and dance. The piano in particular, has been a wonderful way in which children are showing and learning how to join in play with others, work cooperatively, share and turn take and listen to each other.



Story telling - Indigenous cultures are amazing storytellers who share and transfer cultural meaning, knowledge and much more through generations via many means including oral stories. Storytelling is important for children's literacy skills and helps to build vocabulary, sentence and story order and understanding, creativity and imagination. This term I have been engaging children in various different forms of storytelling rather than just picture stories. We do this at group times, in small groups and at various activities like playdough or construction. We have done oral stories with nature and puppets as well to share ideas, things we have done (reflections) and to recount more traditional stories like red riding hood and the 3 Billy Goats Gruff. We will continue to engage children in oral storytelling throughout the whole year to help children become storytellers too.

This term we were fortunate to be able to celebrate the wonderful women in our lives through our VIP celebration day at kinder and with some special surprises we made which we hope you loved. It was wonderful to share our kinder and some of our favourite activities with our VIPs. It really supported children's confidence, wellbeing and belonging having you come and



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play and we loved having you join in our favourite songs and dances at kinder. We spent time during our kinder sessions making you a colour candle and special card. It helped to build children's social and emotional skills as we spoke in small groups about love and happiness, fun and kindness. We talked about what makes our mum special, what we love doing with her and why we love her. We were learning to be thankful and grateful and show care and love for others.



Smudge sticks - we learnt that although not an Australian Indigenous activity they are made by other indigenous cultures in the world like Nepal. We used our senses to look, touch and smell different native plants, herbs and leaves from Australia. We talked about the smells and yarned as we made our smudge sticks together. We are looking forward to drying them and then burning them to bring relaxation, wellbeing and calm.



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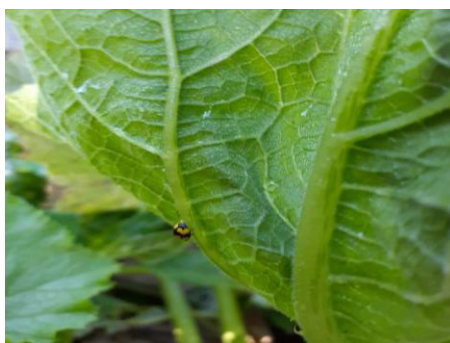
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Manameet have a keen interest in nature and love to explore and spend time outside with the chickens and in the vege garden. We encourage children to be active and care for all living things. During our time in nature we help the children to begin to take second looks and closer looks at what they are seeing, doing or exploring. We are encouraging them to be explorers and observers just like scientists. They are talking about and making observations and comments about what the chickens are doing or eating and beginning to take notice of the smaller details like the ladybug on the leaf, the caterpillar in the vege patch and the spider webs in the trees. We are also beginning to discuss the trees that are alive and how we take only what we need from them because we need them to produce air to breathe, food and medicines. The first people of Australia acknowledge the importance and equality of trees with humans in their culture, recognising both rely on the other to exist. We have also been enjoying discussing the weather and how cold or warm it is, if the sun is shining or it's raining. We loved playing in the early morning fog the other week outside. It was fun to explore and talk about what we could and couldn't see.



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Many of you have enjoyed receiving the reflection after the session via text message so I will continue to send this weekly. Please feel free to look at the reflection book when you are at kinder during the session or to have a look at your child's art book which we keep at kinder for some of their special work. We have lots of exciting adventures planned for the rest of the term and we are looking forward to seeing you at kinder soon.

Please also note that we have our working Bee for Manameet Group on Sunday 6th June 10am-12pm at the kinder. This will help to do some essential maintenance jobs at the kinder as well as bring the group together. The whole family is welcome although children will be your responsibility on the day. We will have a sausage sizzle at 12pm so please confirm attendance on the group list near the sign in book.

THANKS, JILL

Dates for the Diary!

- Friday 28th May - Coolart Homestead and Wetlands Walk - please note permission for this walk will be required prior to leaving your child. Details will go out this week
- Sunday 6th June - Manameet Group Working Bee at kinder 10am-12pm (incl sausage sizzle at the end)
- Friday 11th June - Reserve Walk - (rescheduled)
- Friday 18th June - Reserve Walk
- Friday 25th June - Mud Day at kinder - families join us at 10am in their mud gear!



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