



Djeembana story boards January 2021



“Here’s a little song I wrote. You might want to sing it note for note. Don’t worry, be happy” - I am sure like me, many of you have been working hard to bring positives into each of your days and find things to smile about. What has been filling my bucket is seeing how hard each child is trying during both the sessions at the centre and the session on the computer – everything has been different for all of them.

When planning the program we have attempted to provide similar learning experiences for all children. Most importantly I have worked hard to keep the children connected with myself and the centre – which I feel we have achieved.



Sean works for Living Culture and was scheduled to visit us in the first week of term. So we could continue with learning from First Peoples we invited Sean to present virtually. The children onsite and offsite had the opportunity to hear Sean share his knowledge. Sean showed the children many of the plants that they see at the beach and explained what could be done with them. Sean has taught himself how to make tools which he showed to the children connecting them with the plants he was talking about. Fingers crossed Sean will visit us at the beach on the 12th of November when he will locate the plants he showed us and teach the children how to make fire and throw a spear.



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The flags on the fence has been one of the ways we demonstrated that we are connected and working on a project together and last week we started the carecrows. The children at home have made carecrows which have been displayed next to the ones we have made at the centre. We made a poster so the community know why we are making carecrows. If you haven't seen them please drive past (Weelam group are adding theirs too). Many children first drew their designs and then they worked as a team to create the carecrow.



Beau's carecrow





Carecrows

Once upon a time there lived some carecrows.
(They lived in a barn in barn in Iceland and then came to Balnarring)

The carecrows have some messages to share:

Be kind to each other
Help fill each others buckets
Please look after nature and the environment
Birds are welcome

When you look at the carecrows they hope you smile and feel happy



The end!



















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The vegie garden has been planted out which triggered conversations about the insects that eat the seedlings and live amongst the plants. Erin and Arthur provided great information about ant farms which we were able to deliver to the onsite and offsite children at the same time. Thanks Erin we all learnt so much. Ask your children what they learnt – they have been recalling many bits of information that they heard



We are continuing with the Time of Chaos book. The book designer is working on a format while we work with the children to create the images. The plan is to have all illustrations completed by the end of November. The children's names will appear in this book which will be published in 2022.



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At the centre there has been lots of interest in creating a PVC pipe course for balls to roll down. The children have learnt about gradients, the importance of strong joins, problem solving and working together.



Messy play has been provided at the centre and home. First we made goop and then colored foam. These experiences develop children's hand strength while exploring and making scientific discoveries.



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Fine motor skills, design and problem solving skills were also drawn upon when the children made three dimensional paper creations.



Gus continues to make appearances reminding the children what to do when they feel worried or anxious. Gus also fills the children's buckets calling them fruit loops and giving them Hi-5 s.

What's in the bag has been running both with the children onsite and offsite. This experience develops children's descriptive language and their ability to create a picture with the information they hear. We will continue this experience for the coming weeks.

On Fridays we have been spending most of our time in the bush area so we were less exposed to the public. The children have been exploring, climbing, creating, and developing games. Several children from the three year old group joined us this term and it was lovely seeing your children support the younger ones. Last week we walked to the rock pools and it was so nice to be back in the area that the children feel most connected with and have a great sense of place.



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School transition process will begin in the coming weeks. The schools may have already contacted you with details about the planned orientation schedule. The teachers will be making time to meet with us to discuss each child – you will be given a consent form giving me permission to discuss your child with the school teachers. Please return this ASAP

When I met with you all last term, I spoke about your child's transition statement. I have started to write these and will be sending you a link via email to complete your section and your child's section. The links expire within ten days so please complete as soon as you are able. If the link expires please let me know.

Coming events:

- Student – Emily 5th Oct - 12th Nov. Emily will be responsible for planning some of the program and taking the group time building up to taking full responsibility on the 9th and 10th of Nov.
- Bird count week of 18th Oct
- 22nd October – majority of children will be returning. Session times are Tuesday 10:30-3:30, Wednesday 8:30-1:30, Friday 9:00-2:00 (met at the yacht club). There will be slight changes in November – see below
- 10th Nov session 8:30-2pm
- 12th November Living Culture. Session 9-12 Narragunnawali workshop
- 17th November 8:30- 12 due to Narragunnawali awards and workshop
- 17th November 2pm Narragunnawali awards – a link will be sent for the announcement for you to participate in the awards ceremony
- 10th December – family camp night (hopefully)



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Quinn starts the next step in her training. Over the next few weeks Quinn will undergo extensive assessment upon which time a decision will be made as to whether she continues in the program. Fingers crossed. Thanks for supporting the first stage of her training and for all the pats and cuddles.

That is it for this month. Please call me if you have any questions. I look forward to having the group back together – thanks for all the support you have given us over these past difficult months.

Karen on behalf of the team



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