



# Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Rated  
EXCELLENT  
by ACECQA



## Gareeal Reflections November 2021

How wonderful it has been to reconnect with children and families again over the last few weeks in person and to welcome everyone back into kinder. Thank you all for your support and encouragement over the lockdown period. Your efforts were amazing and have made all the difference with your children's growth and development. Keeping that connection with kinder and us really has helped the children be able to return and settle and adapt to the changes. I am also grateful for your patience and understanding with the drop offs and pick ups and for supporting your children in the new processes. The committee have approved some changes for the remainder of the term, whereby families can once again drop and collect children by walking up to the gate rather than in cars. I will continue to sign children in and where possible we will continue to run the sessions outside. I will send a separate email with important dates and key information for the remainder of the term to families this week. As you are aware the lovely Michele Evans (past educator from Balnarring) has been working for Kim in the 3 year old groups in order for teams to run in bubbles allowing groups to continue if there is a COVID case. Many of you have been waving and excited to see her and we are very grateful she has stepped in and will see out the year with us. Kim misses you all and will hopefully be able to join us for the last session.



The children have been so happy to be back at kinder and we have had lots of laughs and chats together in small and big groups. They have been eagerly exploring the outside space and reconnecting with peers. We have deliberately allowed and supported children to explore at their own pace and provided long periods of uninterrupted time for them to play by minimising transitions. Using familiar activities

and group times to reconnect and refamiliarise children with the space and group has been successful. We have also revisited some of the home learning experiences with the group. The experiments in particular have been a great hit! Children have explored bicarb and coloured vinegar and had fun experimenting with different ways to make our giant dinosaur volcano explode. Apart from working together cooperatively as a team, sharing ideas on the

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project and all the physical movement involved, we also learnt that sometimes things don't always work out. We tried, tried, tried and tried again to get the eruption to explode up out of the volcano and not just ooze out. Children were learning through our role modelling and actions that patience, mistakes and risk taking helps us learn and is okay.



Another popular activity has been making ball runs with the pipes. This offered children the opportunity to problem solve and work out why balls weren't running through and adjust the track. They also had to work with others and share and take turns which are important friendship skills in their social development. We have been busy following and extending



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our interests at kinder as well as continuing our learning of First Peoples culture and Country through books, stories, discussions, songs and hand on experiences. Messy play and painting have also been some of our favourite go to activities that have allowed children to connect with others, work together and explore.



Term 4 is a very special time and even in just the few weeks since they have returned, we have noticed changes in the children and how they have grown over the year and become more social, confident and adaptable to change. We have a busy few weeks ahead with an excursion to Willum Warrain, photographer coming to take photos and a Group Christmas party. We have already started working on some surprises for our families and I have been begun speaking with the children about giving, empathy and kindness as we begin to talk, create and celebrate the festive period. **THANKS for your continued support JILL 😊**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November** - Willum Warrain Excursion (more details to follow)

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** - Photographer at kinder

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November** - Christmas Party Celebration during session

(Please note this is the last session for 3 year old groups for the year as the following week is a clean-up day).



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