



# Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



Rated  
EXCELLENT  
by ACECQA



## Gareeal Reflection June 2022

Firstly, I would like to welcome Michele from Yooralla and Ethan and his family into Gareeal group. We have enjoyed spending time getting to know them and have used the opportunity to discuss and reflect on social skills like how to make people feel welcome, how to say hello and to ask them to play as well as how that makes people feel. We have and will continue to extend and help teach children friendship skills and be a kind friend with another new friend we met Gail Snail. The children worked hard on decorating her plant pot home to make her feel welcome.



We have had a busy month with lots of fun and exciting activities and celebrations. Early on we had our first VIP session for our female family and friends to celebrate Mother's Day. The children decided that having a fire would be a great idea and something they were really keen to do. We had a wonderful session learning about fire safety, what flints are and of course cooking some delicious toast and marshmallows for our VIP. The children were also eager and keen to add some interesting topping choices to the toast - I hope you all loved their efforts no matter how thickly, thinly or 'mixed choice' it was. For us it was great to see them having a go, making decisions and doing something for you all.



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At bush camp this past month we have continued to discuss and explore the changes on the biik. Having focused on Manameet (Autumn) early in the month, we are noticing lots of new changes now that Beerreen (the BoonWurrung word for no sun or what we call winter) has arrived and will continue to explore this season in the coming months. Towards the end of Autumn we noticed a lot of fungi at bush camp and we were really fascinated by the fungus we found growing on the trees. Erin's husband Ido told us that some fungi can glow in the dark and we investigated bush camp closely to find where the Ghost Fungi was growing. The children loved being scientists and investigators. We found some older ghost fungi that didn't glow anymore and then a huge patch on the big tree at the creek end of bush camp. Armed with boxes and materials we covered the fungi and tried to recreate night time and make it glow. Some of us could see it and others not. We had to be patient and wait our turn and we had to be careful not to break it. We also learnt that it is poisonous and will give us a poorly tummy so we can't touch it and that it glows to attract moths who then carry the spores or mushrooms seeds to new places so it can grow. I would recommend if you have time heading down one night once it is dark to have a look at it on the tree. I took my family the other week and it was pretty special.



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The children have continued to explore the mud flats at bush camp and revisit newer and older spaces. We have been surprised by the treasures from the sea we find on the mud, left when high tides come. We have been speaking with the children about the importance of leaving treasures on the biik for creatures who may eat it, use it as a home and even for the soil, dirt and trees as nutrients. Please encourage your child to leave things at bush camp and in nature whenever you are out. The cold weather over the past few weeks has certainly tested everyone's resilience. It didn't take everyone long to realise that we really do need to layer up on those cold days and beanies, scarfs and gloves can also help. The yacht club has been great as a base where we can meet and keep dry while allowing us to make trips out in the drier patches. Thank you for supporting your children and being enthusiastic about the program despite these challenges. We all really have had a lot of fun, not only in the puddles and watching the hail, rain and predicting the weather but



out on the beach where we played, took risks, challenged ourselves jumping and explored and found new and exciting treasures that made us curious and captured our imaginations. We even had a wonderful visit from Ant Erin who told us all about the ants and lots of interesting things like ants have been around since dinosaurs! At kinder we reflected on our learning and knowledge about ants as we looked at our new kinder ant friends in their ant farm. We are looking forward to caring for them and watching the colony grow over the year.



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We celebrated reconciliation week with a visit from Aunty Karen. She taught us Wayapa and we learnt about mother earth and nature and put movements to elements. She inspired us to look at creation stories deeper. The children loved hearing her creation story from Bidjara Country in QLD about the rainbow serpent and star people. It led us to revisit the BoonWurrung peoples creation story and we read the Creation Story. We reminded ourselves how important everything on mother earth is and how we need to look after it. We even learnt about oxygen and carbon dioxide and how we need the trees and the trees need us to breathe. For reconciliation week we have also spoken to the children about Carolyn's story



The Time of Chaos emphasising the importance of when we make mistakes, we can work together to fix things and that we need to live in harmony, be kind to each other and the biik and only take what we need from mother earth. Here are two videos you may like to watch and then could show to your children if you wish. The first one is narrated by Carolyn Briggs herself and the second is the full version of the Time of Chaos story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDc1yggfVAY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fSRJ03oDwc>



Although we cannot believe it, next week is our last week of term 2. We will be celebrating International Mud Day and ask families to join us in jumping, throwing, sliding, squelching and stirring mud. A letter will be sent with all the details and times this week. On the final session on Tuesday at bush camp we will be having another visit from Aunty Karen who will do Wayapa with us again.

THANKS, JILL 😊



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