



Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association



Learning and Living with nature honouring First Peoples perspectives

October News from the teaching team

A big focus for the teaching team is to continually reflect on their knowledges and practices to be able to deliver continued excellence to the children and families.

As part of the professional growth each team member is asked to recognised their achievements, strengths, challenges and set goals for the next 12 months. The goals guide the professional development and opportunities the team are offered.

This year the team have been involved in the following further learning

- Developing knowledge about First Peoples cultures through working on Boon Wurrung language development with Fay Stewart-Muir and story telling with Taungurung woman, Annette Sax.
- Learning about Key word signs so we can present this to all children as another form of communication
- Hey Little Warrior gave the team information about brain development and emotional regulation including managing anxiety
- We are also working our way through the BE YOU platform which involves e-learning modules around mental health and wellbeing.
- At each team meeting we revisit our learning and discuss how the learning will shape our practice.
- The team will be participating in a Gender Glorious workshop in a few weeks' time which will provide us with new understandings. The team will then discuss how our learning will influence future practice.
- In November we are participating in a session on Social thinking

Jill and Ann are involved in organising Teachers Club where teachers from other services are invited to discuss a topic. Jill and Ann bring their expertise and experiences to the discussion while also gaining other perspectives from what they hear.

Over the holidays I attended the World Indigenous Peoples Conference in Education – this was an amazing experience that I felt privileged to participate in as a non-indigenous person. This conference provided me with further learning and understanding about First Peoples across the world. I watched five strong, colourful Welcome to Countries and delighted in a parade of Nations that involved many Communities sharing their cultures through language, song and dance. I heard Federal Minister Linda Burney give a key note address on self-determination, treaty, Voice



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to Parliament and the new Early childhood Strategy. Many of the sessions reinforced the importance of connecting children with nature and learning about the First Peoples of Australia. Associate Professor Simone Tur stated "If we don't look after Mother Earth there is no where else to go"

The conference reinforced the work we are doing is very important and reminded me to continue to watch documentaries, read books, attend performances, and listen to First Nation stories. One website you may be interested in looking at is called VAMPtv- developed by a company in Northern Territory through the education department for school children. It has great content which your children will be interested in [VAMPtv Seasons – VAMPtv \(ntschoools.net\)](http://VAMPtv Seasons – VAMPtv (ntschoools.net))

Last week I attended the Early Childhood Australia conference in Canberra. Once again I heard from many speaker on a variety of subjects that led me to deep reflection and wonderings about practice.

The first key note speaker was Dylan Alcott!!! He spoke about his "purpose being to change the perception of people with disabilities so they can live the lives they deserve to live" and the importance of all children learning about disabilities normalising the cohort of people children will encounter over their lives. If you want to know more about what Dylan is achieving, with his team, go to the Dylan Alcott Foundation website.



practices, brain frameworks.

I listened to Dean Parkin and his call to everyone to up to you want to know more

I attended several sessions that focused on Gender Diversity – knowledge , language, pronouns, practice, literacy and the importance of children/adults being whatever they want to be. Also, sessions on sustainable development, and learning



speaking on the voice to Parliament vote yes at the referendum. Sign <https://fromtheheart.com.au/> if about this process.



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I met the federal Minister for Early childhood and heard Julia Gillard speak about leadership and the tenth anniversary of the Misogyny speech [The “Misogyny Speech” - Julia Gillard](#)

Every speaker I heard added another element to who I am as a teacher and stimulated me asking myself questions about my beliefs, understandings, knowledge about education and how what I heard could/would influence me as a person and teacher to further develop what I bring to the early childhood profession.

I am sure you will all agree this year has gone soooo fast. Enjoy the coming weeks as we move towards the end of the year. We have some special times planned for you. If you have any time please come and spend some time with us and the children.

Please check the newsletter for important dates.

We appreciate all the support the committee, fundraising team and parents have given us and look forward to your involvement in the coming weeks.

Kind Regards

Karen Anderson



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