



## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

#### DECEMBER 2021

Last day for Children -  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

#### JANUARY 2022

Children return - Tuesday  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### YARRUNGA'S CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The last day for children will be on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. The first day back will be Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Please ensure that your fees are paid up to the end of the year and there will be no fees charged for the period we are closed 24/12/2021-10/1/2022

Somehow we have reached the end of 2021, and what a year it has been! While it certainly has had its challenges, Yarrunga has once again continued to thrive and provide the high level of education and care we are known for within the local community.

As I move on to the next chapter in my life, it is with sadness that I say goodbye to "my'Runga". Thank you to the committee, staff, families and children for trusting me to be Director at Yarrunga, it has been an absolute pleasure and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to lead such a beautiful centre. I wish Debbie all the best for the next step in her career and know that Yarrunga is in very safe hands.

Have a safe and happy Christmas break with your families and loved ones and a fabulous 2022.



Congratulations to our Yarrunga family that has welcomed a new baby girl and sister to their family - Rachel, Jordan, Catherine & Hamish - Georgia



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**NO FOOD FROM HOME!** A reminder that we have children attending Yarrunga with severe allergies to egg, dairy, nut, and sesame. Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. We want to do our best to keep those at risk safe.

Please refrain from bringing food from home.

If you are bringing treats to share for your child's birthday, please check with room educators for allergies prior.

## CHILDREN'S T-SHIRTS & JUMPERS

If you would like to order a t-shirt or shirts or jumpers for your child/ren, order forms will be available in the office - Shirts \$12.00, Jumpers \$25 each

Please see Lisa or Karen



## WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK!

How can we make our newsletter better?

What information would you like us to include?

Call us on: (02) 60217597

Or EMAIL [admin@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:admin@yarrunga.com.au)



Yarrunga can now be followed on Facebook and Instagram



Yarrunga Policies and Procedures currently being reviewed are:

- SunSmart Policy and procedure
- Spot check: Nappy change procedure
- Emergency & critical incidents procedure

- Monthly indoor checks
- Yarrunga RAP

Please let us know if you would like a copy of any of these to review.



## Educator's rooms for 2022:

Nursery: Nicole, Emma & Chrissy  
Junior Preschool: Nat, Liv, Lesley & Kali  
Preschool: Krystine, Tash & Alana  
Float staff: Jay, Robyn, Jodie and Serena

## SCHOOL LEAVERS:

Most of the children have already had their "Big School" visits and we wish them well for their next adventure - Primary School.

Lucy Chandler	Albert Clarke	Reuben Elliott
Sophie Ellis	Bronte Fellows	Eleanor Frankhauser
Lyla Fenaughty	Lenny Fisher	Margot Giblin
Jesse Larsen	Ellery McKenzie	Cleo Merrett
Judd Murray	Jude Parker	Morrison Sheather
Lachlan Sigtia	Elvie Tobin	Arlo Van Grinsven
Cecilia Wighton	Halle Wilson	

There are also a few Yarrunga families that are not returning next year, we wish them well and thank them for their continued support.

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2022

	<u>Executive</u>	<u>General Committee</u>
PRESIDENT	Genna Richter	Therese Lum
SECRETARY	Melissa Sellwood	Ben Nott
TREASURER	Rinelda van den Berg	Jane Vance
VICE PRESIDENT	Heike Wilson	Nathan Honeyman
VICE SECRETARY	Ivy Ellis	Eleanor Keir
VICE TREASURER	Luke Heyme	

## FEE INCREASE

Yarrunga's daily fees will increase to \$99 per day from the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

A letter explaining the increase will be emailed to all families.

## Vegan Rock Cakes

These vegan rock cakes are crisp on the outside - but inside they're soft, light, spicy and fruity. Recipe from [veganrecipebowl.com](http://veganrecipebowl.com)



Prep Time  
10 mins

Cook Time  
20 mins

Total Time  
30 mins

Course: Picnic, Snack    Cuisine: British    Keyword: baking, vegan  
Servings: 10 rock cakes    Calories: 230kcal    Author: BENJAMIN

★★★★★  
5 from 3 votes

### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon ground flax seed
- 2 tablespoons water
- 225 g plain white flour (aka all purpose flour) *Gluten Free.*
- 100 g dairy free margarine (cut in to cubes)
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 125 g mixed dried fruit *Cranberries + Salted Raisins.*
- 100 g granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ~~mixed spice~~ *Cinnamon*
- ~~1/2~~ *1* teaspoon lemon zest
- 60 g soy milk

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven (200 °C, Fan 180 °C, 400 °F, Gas 6), and grease two baking trays.
2. To make the flax egg replacement, mix the ground flax seed with the 2 tablespoons water and set it aside to thicken for at least 10 minutes.
3. In a large bowl, rub in the flour, margarine, baking powder and salt until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Tip in the dried fruit, sugar, spices and zest and combine thoroughly. Finally, mix in the flax egg replacement and soy milk, bringing it all together into a slightly wet, but firm dough.
4. Divide dough in to 10 scoops, and place on the baking trays leaving room for them to at least double in size. Bake in the centre of the preheated oven until well risen and golden – approximately 15-20 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

### Notes

**Storage:** Once cooled they keep well for up to two days in an airtight container in a cool place.



## NURSERY ROOM NEWS

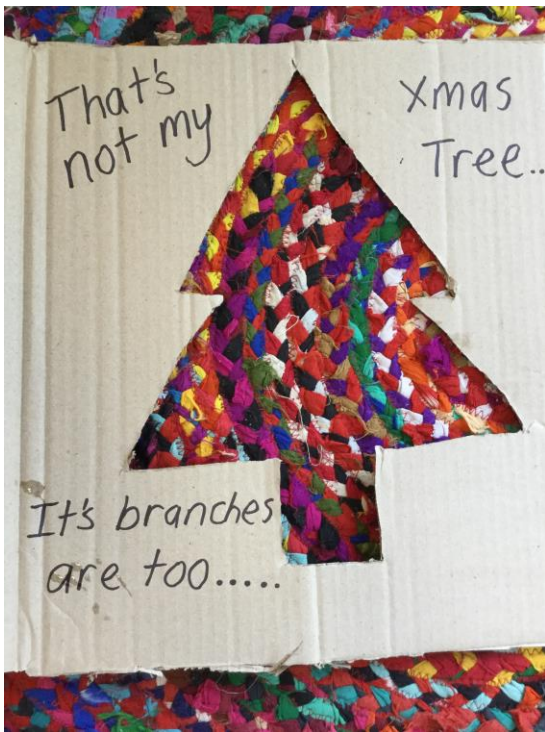
We are wrapping up another wonderful year in our Nursery/Toddler room, it is wonderful to reflect on how much the children have all grown physically, emotionally and all their personal learning achievements throughout the year, we are so very proud of them all.

We Hope everyone enjoyed looking at their children's learning journals and Christmas craft.

We made an activity in the nursery "That's not my xmas tree It's branches are too....." Can you guys make one? And share on our face book page

We will be doing lots of water play and Christmas craft over the next couple of weeks as the weather starts to warm up and we try to stay nice and cool. Please send spare changes of clothes for your children.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and safe travels and will see you all next year.



Nicole, Emma, Lesley, Serena and Jay xxxxx  
nurserytoddler@yarrunga.com.au

### Yarrunga Policies:

Just a reminder to families and for all our new family's information - our policies can be accessed on our website [www.yarrunga.com.au](http://www.yarrunga.com.au) and the password is 2640

## PRESCHOOL ROOM NEWS

So this is (very nearly!) Christmas, another year over, a new one to begin, or something along those lines! The Pre-schoolers have been very excited lately discussing what Christmas is to them and their families. We have had many tales of mischievous elves; visits to Santa; talks of Christmas trees and decorations; thoughts on Christmas gifts; and how families observe this season. And the Christmas carols... so many Christmas carols! The children also thoroughly enjoyed helping us set up the room to be festive, with lots of tinsel, baubles, and a singing Santa Claus! We hope that you have enjoyed their Christmas crafts that they have lovingly made and continue to create. Thanks to the families who have shared their thoughts on these and the Individual Learning Journals.



Thank you to the families who have attended our series of Christmas parties and graduation ceremonies over the past fortnight. By the time of publication, we will have had these wrapped up. Class members have loved sharing our songs and celebrations with you. ConGRADulations to the Yarrunga 2021 Alumni: Albert, Arlo, Bronte, Clea, Cecilia, Eleanor, Ellery, Elvie, Halle, Jesse, Judd, Jude, Lachlan, Lenny, Lucy, Lyla, Margot, Morrison, Reuben, and Sophie! It hasn't been the easiest year for these guys (or anybody really!), but they are graduating from Yarrunga with Honours. They have demonstrated a passion for learning and a thirst to discover more. At the heart of it, that's the purpose of Early Childhood Education. We wish the "Schoolies" all the very best with their exciting entrance into formal education and for the years to follow. May their inquisitiveness never be dampened.





We have been getting into the garden with Meg to pick produce for lunches, and also learning how to use shears to cut back some of the overgrowth, which was super exciting as this was a "risky play" activity to benefit our Yarrunga community.



Wishing everybody a happy and safe festive season, however you celebrate. May it be bright and cheerful for you all!

Alana, Natt, Robyn, Jay, Liv.  
[preschool@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:preschool@yarrunga.com.au)

## JUNIOR PRESCHOOL NEWS

Well, that's a wrap. What a year full of fun, excitement, and different times. The Jnr preschool children have been resilient in their learning and mastered many new skills.

We have enjoyed being able to do our Christmas concert, although it wasn't our normal spectacular event, we had several intimate show times. The children worked hard at learning all the words to our songs and signing the rainbow song. We were excited to see the big school leavers Graduate.

We hope you all enjoyed your child's special gifts and Learning Journals. The Journals capture each individual's learning experiences at Yarrunga for the year. Please share your feedback with room educators as we love to hear how you feel about our Journals and use this as a reflection of our individual learning programs.

Thank you to all the families for all your support and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Merry Christmas and stay safe from the Jnr Preschool team



Krystine, Chrissy, Tash, Debbie, Jodie, Liv  
[juniorschool@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:juniorschool@yarrunga.com.au)

### *Educational Leader:*

Wow, we've almost reached the end of another memorable Yarrunga year! With Christmas celebrations being the major focus of December, we welcomed families back for our annual Christmas Concert (albeit under strict protocols to ensure everyone's safety). Graduation Ceremonies for our 2022 schoolies were celebrated with great excitement and mixed with a little sadness as we farewelled our friends. We wish them all the best as they take that next important step in their lives. Educators and children will also enjoy a special festive Christmas luncheon together during the last week.





***“Rock-a-Bye Bear – Shh, Shh, Shh.”***

***Graduation !!***

Educators use the end of the year as a time of reflection. We celebrate achievements and begin to build plans for the following year as a service community. Even under the additional challenges COVID-19 has placed on our local community, families, children and educators due to extended lockdowns, school closures and ongoing restrictions we have accomplished:

- A Peer Mentoring System
- Improvements on the environments we provide for children
  - Creating a culturally safe environment for our Indigenous community by displaying a physical Acknowledgment of Country
  - Participation in an Authentic Welcome to Country at our NAIDOC Week celebrations
  - Researching resources for purchase and community engagement
- Celebrating the professionalism of Yarrunga’s educators and staff by awarding a monthly certificate for outstanding contributions to curriculum planning
- Completing a working Kitchen Garden and maintenance plan
- Creating learning resource packs for use at home
  - Maintaining our Community Connections Program
- Mixed-age grouping (Embedded in practice)



\*Children’s VOICES are being heard and responded to which is a fundamental principle in our Philosophy – ***Relationships!***

Thanks to the support of our wonderful families and Management Committee this has been possible.

On behalf of myself and the Yarrunga Team we wish you all a very Merry Xmas and Happy New Year with safe travels for those who are venturing away.

Krystine



## Grievance Policy

If parents have any concerns or complaints, please follow the attached Grievance Policy

### 1 Informal Resolution of Grievances

Initially any grievance raised will be approached in an informal manner.  
(Informal Procedure for Resolution of Grievance). If required, an appointment time with the Centre Director and/or  
President of the Management Committee  
Genna Richter (phone 0428109382) to discuss the grievance can be arranged.

### 2 Formal Resolution of Grievances

2.1 In the event informal processes are unable to be used or informal processes fail to achieve a satisfactory outcome for any of the parties involved in the grievance, the formal process will then be used. Determining whether the grievance will be handled formally is at the discretion of the Director/President of Management Committee based on feedback from the concerned parties at the conclusion of the informal stage (Formal Procedure for Resolution of Grievance).

2.2 **When a formal resolution of grievance is pursued, all interactions must be documented by the Director (Complaint form), signed (by Director and or parties involved), and a copy given to each party concerned.**

2.3 Any allegation that the safety, health or wellbeing of a child has been compromised, or relating to a staff member, the details of action taken in response to a complaint will be recorded and kept in a confidential place.

### 3 Regulatory Authority – ACECQA

3.1 The Nominated Supervisor or Certified Supervisor will notify (within 24 hours of the complaint being made) ACECQA of a complaint that alleges

- a serious incident has occurred or is occurring while a child is being educated and cared for by Yarrunga.
- the National Law and/or National Regulations have been contravened.

The required Forms to be completed are;

**Notification of Complaints and Incidents (Other than serious Incidents)** as required by the Education & Care Services National Regulations - through the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQA IT System). Log in to access the portal.

A scanned copy of the written complaint will be uploaded prior to submitting the form electronically.



# DIRECTOR'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021



Welcome and thank you for making the time to attend our AGM. Yarrunga Early Learning Centre has been serving the Albury community since 1982, and we are proud of the impact we have had on local families. The support of the community over the years continues to enable us to provide high quality education and care, create a nurturing environment and foster a lifelong love of learning for your children.

2021 has proved to be another challenging year for our local community, as we have juggled working from home, home schooling, school closures, border closures, lockdowns and restrictions. While a difficult year to navigate, we have made it through, with much thanks to our wonderful staff, understanding families and supportive Management Committee.



Throughout these uncertain times we were able to continue our Community Connections program. We enjoyed a Bunnings BBQ, bike weeks and visits to the Community Garden. We were also successful in a Community Connections grant from the Department of Education, which allowed us to organise 2 terms with Taylor from Birrang cultural connections, a visit to Wonga wetlands and an Acknowledgement of Country in the form of an amazing artwork created by local Indigenous artist Tamara Murray.



We have been able to continue our planned works on our Yarrunga environment through the receipt of a Quality Learning Environments grant, also from the Department of Education. This was used to update our swing area in the top yard, with new soft fall, synthetic grass, garden beds and a new cubby, which has been the most popular shop in Albury!



In 2021 we farewelled Carly, Julie and Sue from our Yarrunga team. We were fortunate to be able to fill these positions with familiar faces, ensuring consistency for children and families. We welcomed Meg as our catering officer and welcomed Debbie back from maternity leave. A few months back at work and Deb was encouraged to apply for the Director's position in 2022, which we are thrilled that she is taking on.

We have been able to continue the professional development of Educators throughout the year. While there were no face to face training sessions this year, educators were able to utilise a large number of online courses, webinars and virtual conferences. Nicole and Robyn continue their studies at Charles Sturt University and are sharing their knowledge with the team. Well done to Jungun who completed her diploma in Children's Services this year and Alana who completed her Grad Certificate in Indigenous Studies at Charles Sturt University. Throughout the year we have continued to support students from Charles Sturt University, Wodonga TAFE and local High schools for their professional practicums as part of their Early Childhood Courses.



Our casual educators are integral to Yarrunga, and we are fortunate to have dedicated, experienced casual educators. This year we have welcomed 3 new casual educators; Shadow, Olivia and Kali. Olivia and Kali have been successful in obtaining permanent roles at Yarrunga next year.



I would like to thank our amazing staff at Yarrunga. 2021 didn't prove to be any easier than 2020, however our staff remained positive, professional and as always put the children as top priority. Our educators are the backbone of Yarrunga, and without them Yarrunga wouldn't have the reputation that it does within our local community.

Thank you to our wonderful President Genna, what a year to have as your first year as President. I appreciate all your support, guidance and assistance.







Finally, thank you to our committee, we are so lucky to have so many families willing to give up their time to be involved in the operations of Yarrunga. This year we sadly farewell 3 members of our executive committee.

-Kate Chandler who has been part of our Yarrunga committee for the past 8 years and has held roles both as President and Vice President. Kate has been integral to our Yarrunga Renovations as well as being a huge support for myself. Thank you Kate.



-Carly Sheather who has been Treasurer at Yarrunga for the past 5 years and has done an amazing job working with Karen to keep our books in order and ensure Yarrunga remains financially stable. It has been a particularly "different" period to navigate thanks to renovations, relocations, 'job keeper' payments and more! Thank you Carly.

-Alana Wilson who has been a parent at Yarrunga for 9 years and a committee member for 4 years, holding roles as both vice president and secretary. Alana has been an active member of the staffing sub committee and a support for both myself and the Yarrunga team. Thanks Alana.



On a personal note.... I knew when I did my first placement here 12 years ago that Yarrunga was a special place and the only place I wanted to send my children! Eight years at Yarrunga as a parent, teacher and eventually director has only strengthened this view. It is a beautiful place filled with beautiful people big and little. Everyone who is a part of the Yarrunga community; staff, committee and families can be proud of what Yarrunga is so much more than childcare.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas with your families and loved ones.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021



Good evening everyone and welcome to our AGM for 2021. It is fabulous to see some new faces here with us tonight.

2021...whilst we had all hoped this year may have been more settled than the last, it has certainly continued to challenge our local community and of course Australia as a whole. Border restrictions imposed in Albury-Wodonga continued to place challenges on both families and staff in accessing Yarrunga. Not to mention the numerous changes required to ensure the safety of our children whilst they were attending care. Despite this, Lisa, Karen and all our educators continue to display great strength, resilience and commitment to maintain high quality programs and care. Thank you also goes to Karen McKinnon and Carly Sheather for continuing to monitor our finances in response to Government support during each lockdown and ensuring that we were able to offer any necessary fee-relief to families when needed.



Over the last 12 months we have been able to secure additional grants through The Department of Education to allow us to finish off small projects that were not completed as part of our larger renovation in 2019/2020. This included the rebuild of the top yard, including a brand-new cubby house, and also the back yard and vegetable garden redevelopment. These two projects have seen a revitalisation of our outdoor areas and have allowed us to provide play and learning environments for our children that foster their relationship with nature and the outdoor world. A huge thank you to Sam Giblin and Aaron's Outdoors for bringing both projects to life.





Over the latter part of 2021 we have again been engaging with local contractors and Albury City Council to finalise plans for some outdoor shade sails across the southern side of our building including the staff outdoor area, Nursery deck and grass area and the Junior Preschool deck. This again is part of Yarrunga's Strategic Plan and will provide children and staff with greater flexibility when using these outdoor environments throughout the year. We look forward to seeing construction commence in 2022.

We have also recently purchased a portable Smartboard to be used within the centre, most likely across the Junior Preschool and Preschool rooms. The Smartboard was purchased with monies raised through our Bunnings BBQ and also the Fundraising Levy applied to fees at the start of the year. The Smartboard will be a great asset and I am sure the Educators are looking forward to using it as a way of extending children's learning.

Looking into 2022, Yarrunga has plans to revamp our website, as well as exploring options to soften and enhance the Preschool outdoor space.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful team of educators and staff at Yarrunga for another fabulous year. Throughout the year they have continued to provide engaging and high-quality programs that help support our children's love of learning and prepare them for all the adventures that they have ahead of them.



It is with great sadness that we farewell Lisa from her role as Director at the end of this year. Lisa began her time at Yarrunga when she completed her university placement. This then led to her joining the team at Yarrunga in January 2014. Lisa's strengths and skills then saw her move into the role of Assistant Director, and she worked alongside Claire for many years, before taking on the position as Director in late 2018. Throughout her time as Director Lisa has navigated Yarrunga through a relocation, rebuild, assessment and rating, bush fire and of course the Covid-19 pandemic; and she has done so with a tremendous amount of strength. Yarrunga has benefited immensely from Lisa's incredible leadership, not only in terms of establishing the bricks and mortar around us, but also through her tireless work developing and supporting the team of Educators we have at our Centre.

Lisa, you have always shown such commitment to Yarrunga and have managed many challenges, especially over the last two years. On behalf of the Yarrunga Committee, I would like to thank you for your amazing leadership and support. We wish you all the best, whatever your future holds and hope you get to enjoy a well-earned break with your family at the start of the New Year.

We are so fortunate to welcome Debbie Stanley as our new Director for 2022. Debbie has been a valued educator within Yarrunga over many years and has shown great leadership and commitment to the centre, staff and families. We are incredibly excited to welcome you into your new role and know that Yarrunga is in safe hands.



# TREASURER'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Yarrunga Early Learning Center is a not-for-profit organization, fees are based on expected utilisation in order to achieve a break even result. When setting the budget each year we are continually challenged with the increase in running cost. The financial year of 2021 also saw the finalisation of our building project funding. The COVID 19 pandemic continued, and we navigated a second year under restrictions and with impacts to our service. Having to utilise job keeper and other government subsidies whilst families stayed in the safety of their home during some of the most challenging times we have ever seen.

Tireless work from Karen and Lisa in the office ensured that we were able to apply and receive government grants that we were eligible for. We had decided early in the pandemic that if our families could not attend our center and were facing financial hardship that we wanted to support them through the challenging times and offer a reduction in fees. The government did then offer to cover the gap payment and we were able to waive the fees for all families not attending. We are proud of our response to support our families and were grateful for the government payments that ensured we could continue to operate.

We also continued to navigate a new systems of Early Learning Funding grants- in 2020 we lost our legacy funding we now had to apply for more specific grants in order to complete projects within the center this included a grant to design and create our very own beautiful Yarrunga artwork now proudly displayed in the center. We were also able to finish off the last few pieces of the renovation including the top yard swing area and replaced some fencing. Our retained profits from the previous financial year and this financial year have already been allocated with plans well underway to add several permeant shade structures to the South and West of the building to allow for greater use of these areas during the warmer months. There are also preliminary plans for capital works to the bottom yard to add improvements





# EDUCATIONAL LEADERS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

2021 has seen another challenging year for our local community as COVID-19 placed additional pressures on families, children and educators due to extended lockdowns, school closures and ongoing restrictions. Thanks to professionalism of our Yarrunga team and the support of our families and Management Committee we have been able to continue providing consistent quality education and care for all children through these difficult times.

In recognition of the dedication to children's Holistic development that all of Yarrunga's educators and staff demonstrate every day, we collectively decided to award a monthly certificate for outstanding contributions to curriculum planning to celebrate individual achievements. This acknowledgement has inspired educators to draw on their resourcefulness even further by:

- Initiating innovative ways to connect with children and families through social media
- Reflecting on, and consistently improving the environments we provide for children
- Creating learning resource packs for use at home; and
- Maintaining our Community Connections Program



2021 has also seen the realization of Yarrunga's Long Term Goal to create a culturally safe environment for our Indigenous community by displaying a physical Acknowledgement of Country. Beautiful artworks developed by Tamara Murray have been exhibited outdoors and in our foyer. Notably Tamara has ensured that the artwork's authenticity and connectedness to Yarrunga has been captured through extensive consultation, with the 'story' behind the artwork also being located in the foyer.

Reaching this goal prompted further reflection on how we, as a service team, can further embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into everyday curriculum experiences. With this in mind our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) has been updated to include feedback from families and children about what they feel is important in ensuring equity and racial justice. Our new RAP has now been republished on the 'Narragunawall' platform. Alana and Meg are congratulated for all their hard work in the development of our reconciliation goals which are also linked to Yarrunga's Quality Improvement Plan (QIP).



A Community Connections Grant enabled us to continue Wiradjuri culture and language lessons by securing Taylor Hampton from Birrang cultural connections for two terms and we were very fortunate to have local Wiradjuri man, Darre Wighton, perform Welcome to Country along with a Smoking Ceremony as part of our NAIDOC week celebrations. We hope to continue formal Welcome to Country ceremony at major events and celebrations in the future.





Mixed-age grouping through the opening of the top and bottom yards has continued this year and I find that the more we practice this initiative the more it becomes an everyday occurrence which can now be seen as embedded in practice. Siblings often ask to spend time together and children from all groups are experiencing supporting relationships with each other and educators as their learning is scaffolded through play and relationships. Children's VOICES are being heard and responded to which is a fundamental principle in our Philosophy— **Relationships!**

The refurbishment of the swing area and our vegetables gardens has enabled educators to plan and implement numerous learning opportunities with children to support social play and environmental learning. Our new cubby is affectionally know as the "Yarrunga Shop" and used by children from all groups. And our additional soft fall area allows more room for creating challenging obstacle courses which promote physical risktaking and wellbeing. We have commenced planting, and recently harvested some of our garden crops for use in Meg's menus. Meg is an inspirational addition to our Yarrunga team who is keen to develop a kitchen garden program with children and educators. We see this as a major milestone that has substantial benefits for children's learning and wellbeing. Meg and I have developed a kitchen garden roster (with help from Karen's extensive gardening knowledge) and are currently in the process of creating goals to support menu planning and cooking classes involving all children. These goals are also to be added to our Quality Improvement Plan in 2022.



As mentioned educators and children have continued to participate in Yarrunga's Community Connections Program by ensuring COVID Safe practices are adhered to. This has largely been made possible by our close vicinity to the bike/walking path. Major highlights have been our bike riding trips with Nursery/Toddler and Junior Preschool children riding close to Yarrunga and our older Preschoolers venturing as far as the North Street bridge! Thank you to our wonderful families for making this possible. Our Easter Hat Parade was also a huge success with many families able to share in the celebrations before further restrictions were brought into place. Hopefully next year we can venture out a little further. The loud toots we receive from users of the freeway as we stand on the footbridge in our brightly coloured high vis vests is surely an indication that our presence in the community is valued!

Ongoing learning and reflective practice is fundamental in Early Childhood Education and Care, and with Lisa's ongoing support all educators have had opportunity to upskill through participation in webinars and rostered reading time. Our learning has been shared during monthly staff meetings and mentoring time, with our mentoring program proving to be highly rewarding for both permanent and casual staff. Mentoring pairs have also had opportunities to explore the exceeding themes in the National Quality Standard with positive feedback.







As we near our goals for Quality Improvement in 2021 the future sees us:

- Planning goals to support a 'bigger picture' of where we want to be long-term (2 – 5 years from now)
- Linking professional development opportunities to whole of service training which will support these goals

Finally I want to thank our wonderful director, Lisa, for all the hard work and dedication she has given to Yarrunga. Her commitment to the wellbeing of educators, children and families has always been foremost and is characterized by the cohesiveness of our team under her leadership. We wish Lisa all the best in her new endeavours and welcome Deb as our new Director in 2022.

On behalf of myself, educators and staff I thank the Management Committee for their ongoing support and commitment to the provision of quality early childhood education and care.

Thank you

Krystine Masterson



Thank you to our current Management Committee:

- Kate Chandler
- Carly Sheather
- Genna Richter
- Melissa Sellwood
- Ben Nott
- Justine McCormack
- Megan Dallinger
- Alana Wilson
- Rinelda van den Berg
- Therese Lum
- Annie Meredith
- Heike Wilson
- Lauren Hanna
- Jane Hendy



Pause for quick photo of current committee.







# READY, SET, GO TO PCYC



## SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

WIN A WHOLE WEEK  
OF SCHOOL HOLIDAY  
ACTIVITIES FREE



Merry Christmas!



Happy Holidays