



## MARCH NEWSLETTER 2021

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**  
**March 2021:**  
 Management Committee Meeting Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm  
 ½ day Gold Cup Public Holiday  
 - **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March**  
 Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> - Drawing of Easter Raffle  
**April 2021**  
 Easter closure - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April.



ALBURY GOLD CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY  
**FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021**  
 YARRUNGA WILL CLOSE AT 12 MIDDAY  
 ALL CHILDREN MUST BE COLLECTED PRIOR TO 12 MIDDAY



**RETIREMENT**  
 At the end of March we will be sadly farewelling Sue. Sue will be greatly missed by staff, children and families at Yarrunga, but we wish her all the best for her retirement.  
 Thank you for all the yummy, nutritious meals Sue!!



Congratulations to our Yarrunga families that have welcomed new additions to their families: -  
 Ivy, Brad and Alby who welcomed a baby boy and brother - Leo  
 Freya, Pieter and Finn who welcomed a baby girl and sister- India



Yarrunga can now be followed on Facebook and Instagram

## Drop off at Yarrunga.

Reminder that children and families are not able to enter the premises until 8am due to licensing requirements. Please wait outside of the gates until then.

Thank you, we appreciate your co-operation.

## WET BAGS



We have several wet bags left if anyone would like one or two please see Karen or Lisa in the office, they are \$4 each.

## 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)



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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.

## Carrot Cake Bliss Balls



Ingredients: 1 large carrot - peeled & coarsely grated, 6 fresh dates - pitted & chopped,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup (40g) finely chopped dried pineapple, 1 cup (90g) rolled oats, 1 tbs almond spread (optional),  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp ground cinnamon,  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp ground nutmeg &  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup (40g) desiccated coconut.

Method: Process carrot, date, pineapple, oats, almond spread - if using, cinnamon and nutmeg in a food processor until almost smooth and well combined. Roll the mixture into balls. Roll in coconut to coat. Place on a lined tray in fridge for 1 hour or until set. Store in an airtight container in fridge for up to 1 week.



## PRESCHOOL ROOM NEWS

### Preschool Ponderings - March

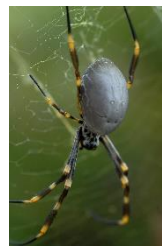
It has been an action-packed few week here in the Preschool Room, with class members most eager to participate in our Bike and Scooter Week here at Yarrunga. This interest was inspired by the Junior Pre-schooler's bringing in their cool wheels for the fortnight prior... and just a little bit of excitement to get "out the back" and have the space to move freely,

promoting cardio and gross motor fitness.



Prior to departures on each day, we spoke about safety expectations, with learners demonstrating clear understandings of how to keep not only themselves safe, but also other cyclists and pedestrians. We also used this as a perfect opportunity to revise Stranger Danger and dog safety.

The discovery of several minibeasts on various occasions has sparked the recurring interest in bugs, beetles, and not-so creepy crawlies. This has ignited a nature-themed Provocation learning space in our sunroom, with natural materials and insect figurines. We have also utilised a bug box to temporarily contain minibeasts that we find in our yard before they are released back into nature.



Natt and I have been enthusiastically reflecting on our room and yard setup and have been exploring different options and how we utilise resources. This has seen learners eager to explore and interact with these revitalised play spaces. It has certainly re-sparked Preschooler's interest in visual arts, with the easel painting,





craft table, and the outside drawing table ever populated by class members creating beautiful and unique projects.

Our weekly incursion with Taylor from *Birrang Cultural Connections* continues to be a smash hit with the class, as they explore hands-on learning opportunities, by creating their very own resources, singing, dancing, and listening to stories of The Dreaming.



Risky play has also been another popular area of exploration, with Pre-schooler's showing daredevil tenacity when it comes to climbing and balancing!



Have a great month everyone. Until the next entry,

Alana, Natt and Robyn

[preschool@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:preschool@yarrunga.com.au)



Calling all Families! Please donate an egg or something "Eastery" for our annual Easter raffle. We hope to put together lots of great prizes.

Raffle will be drawn Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021

Tickets due back by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

\$1 per ticket, 10 per book.

Easter closure: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April "Good Friday" and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April "Easter Monday"

## JUNIOR PRESCHOOL NEWS

Wow, February has flown by and we are now well into March. It has been a busy and very productive time for children and educators in our group as we have continued to consolidate friendships, planned an excursion, shared favourite story books and learned new songs, experimented with 'real' tools, and very importantly shared lots of toileting successes (*with a few accidents which is to be expected at our tender ages!*).

As the weeks have progressed, we have noticed many new friendships beginning to blossom, particularly in our dramatic play areas where the children have shared interests from home and Yarrunga and cubby) building.

*\*We are in need of some bits and pieces for our home corner and would very much appreciate any donations, as more and more children are entering pretend play scenarios with friends and educators including any old tins, serving utensils, baskets, dress ups bags/shoes etc. We are also interested in using our real tools to take apart old mechanical items such as clocks/phones. If you have any ideas, we would love to hear from you!*

At the beginning of February, we noticed an interest in discussions about 'riding bikes & scooters' which began as children shared their holiday and weekend experiences. This resulted in a fantastic fortnight filled with lots of outings along the bike path at the back of Yarrunga which culminated with a visit to the overhead bridge to look at the cars, trucks, and community icons. Please see our room display for all the valuable learning that occurred.

On this note we have moved our family photo display near the 'bike wall' - as the children call it. Please feel free to email favourite photos if this is easier than obtaining a hard copy as we can print them off.

You may have noticed our felt board by the entry, and/or heard your child recite the repetitive phrases of "Going On A Bear Hunt" "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" and most recently "Where Is The Green Sheep?" We have all enjoyed using felt board props, stick puppets and picture books to learn about colours and mathematical concepts relating to movement. Our colour learning has been extended through the introduction of a light table and colour paddles / optical illusion blocks. And in noticing the enjoyment that the children have experienced in picture reading and imitating the story lines we have also introduced some new movement songs and finger plays:

- One Little Finger
- Walking in the Jungle

Both can be found at Google: Super Simple Songs

Thank you for your very kind donations of collage resources for our craft area and we love sharing books from home.



Krystine, Deb, Tash, Chrissy, Julie & Jodie

[juniopreschool@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:juniopreschool@yarrunga.com.au)



## NURSERY NEWS

We are so excited to welcome Jay back from her trip to Korea. It has been a long time coming and it will be great to have her bubbly personality and welcoming smile back.

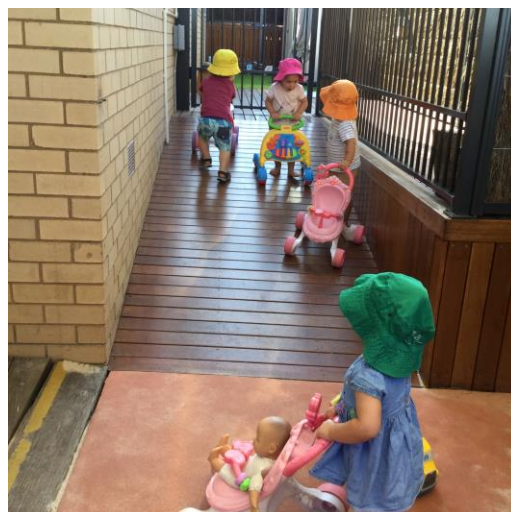
Please remember to pack clothes for all types of weather as it is becoming cooler in the mornings and warming up in the afternoon. We would appreciate if you could label all your child's items so we can place their belongings back in their bags.

If you have any talents, you would like to share with us please let us know. It could be as simple as reading us a story, showing off some cooking skills or even playing music, the options are endless!

The children have been loving watching and listening to Taylor when he comes in for some indigenous lessons with the Junior Preschool and Preschool children. This has been a continued interest as we listen to 'Taba Naba', 'Red, Black and Yellow', and the popular 'Inanay Gupuwana'.

We are enjoying the cooler weather and getting outside lots. The sandpit has been a hit and the children have been showing their nurturing side through play with the dolls and prams.

The box on our veranda has been very popular but has seen better days. Please let us know if you have a big one so we can replace our well loved one.



Emma, Nicole, Lesley, and Serena

[nursery@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:nursery@yarrunga.com.au)

## Educational Leader:



This month we began examining how we present indoor and outdoor play spaces for children with a focus on including their voices and ensuring we view each area through the eyes of the children that will use it in the planning process (*children's spaces* as opposed to *spaces for children*). We evaluated a number of play spaces at our March staff meeting as a service team and provided feedback to each other on aesthetic appeal, additions that could improve the experience for children and inspirational areas that already demonstrate that children have ownership and autonomy in their play and learning. Above are just a few examples of areas we reviewed; there are many more and we are keen for your feedback as this is an ongoing project that we have added to our Quality Improvement Plan.

## Quality Improvement Update:



Our physical Acknowledgement of Country is well underway, and we are proud to share this rough concept by Maramayart with you:

### Artwork Story

In this artwork created for Yarrunga Early Learning Centre a Morten Bay Fig tree is central to the piece, representing both the large tree that stood proudly in the rear of the outdoor play area, as well as showing the growth that children experience during their time at Yarrunga Early Learning Centre.

The 6 circles at the end of the branches reflect the core values of Yarrunga Early Learning Centre, and the blue steppingstones at the base of the tree show how Yarrunga provides the social, mental, and academic foundation for the children to move forward in their future years.

The green footprint showing tracks along the riverbed shows the many journeys' children experience during their time at Yarrunga.

The white dot work at the bottom of the image continues the theme of building foundational roots that the children of Yarrunga Early Learning Centre will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

We will change the 6 circles to 5 in line with the core values of our Philosophy. Please Let us know what you think. Educators are very happy with the concept. Krystine



## Did you get Child Care Subsidy for 2018-19?

If you got Child Care Subsidy (CCS) for the 2018-19 financial year, you must confirm your income.

Most parents have already done this. If you haven't, do it now.

If you don't confirm your income by 31 March 2021, your CCS will reduce to 0%. This means you'll need to pay full fees when you access child care.

The deadline for confirming your income was extended from 30 June 2020 to 31 March 2021 because of COVID-19.

If you confirm your income after 31 March 2021 we can start your CCS again.

But if there's a gap between your CCS stopping and starting again, you'll miss out on CCS for that time.

We sent letters to families in February 2021 asking them to confirm their income.

### How to confirm your income

You don't need to call or visit us to confirm your income.

You need to either:

- lodge your tax return with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
- tell us you don't need to lodge one and confirm your income online.

If you have a partner, they'll need to do this too. If you separated during the year, we'll also need your ex-partner's income.

**To check if you need to lodge a return, use the [Do I need to lodge a tax return?](#) tool on [ato.gov.au](#)**

If you've lodged your tax return, the ATO will send us your income information. We usually get this within 28 days from when you get your Notice of Assessment.

If you or your partner don't need to lodge a tax return, you need to let us know.

You must do this, even if you've told the ATO that you don't need to lodge. You can do this and confirm your income for the year using either your:

- Centrelink online account through myGov
- Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

### Where to find more information

For more information about Child Care Subsidy go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/ccstimelimits](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/ccstimelimits)



## Parent & Relationship Education Programs –Term 1, 2021

(bookings essential for all programs)

Program	Venue	Date	Time	Phone:
Positive Parenting Telephone Service (PPTS)	Free call telephone service	Ongoing	day & evening appointments	1800 880 660
<b>WODONGA</b>				
Tuning in to Kids emotionally intelligent parenting (2-10 years)	Gateway Health Training room (G10) 155 High St, Wodonga	Saturdays 27th February to 27th March 2021	10am - 12pm	Intake Team (02) 6022 8888
Tuning in to Teens Emotionally intelligent parenting (10+ years)	Gateway Health Training Room (G10) 155 High St, Wodonga	Tuesdays 23rd February to 30th March 2021	6pm - 8pm	
Bringing Up Great Kids	Gateway Health Training Room (G10) 155 High St, Wodonga	Thursdays 25th February to 1st April 2021	10am - 12pm	
Mother Goose (0-2 years)	Gateway Health Conference Room (B1) 155 High St, Wodonga	Wednesdays 3rd February to 31st March 2021	10:30am -11:30am	
<b>ONLINE via ZOOM</b>				
Emotion Coaching Connecting With Our Teens (10+) (2 hour workshop)	Online via Zoom (invite via email)	Tuesday 19th January 2021	10am - 12pm	Intake Team (02) 6022 8888

Please note that registrations for group programs is essential as spots are limited due to Covid-19 safety protocols. Please contact our intake team on (02) 6022 8888 for any questions or to register your interest.



## 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

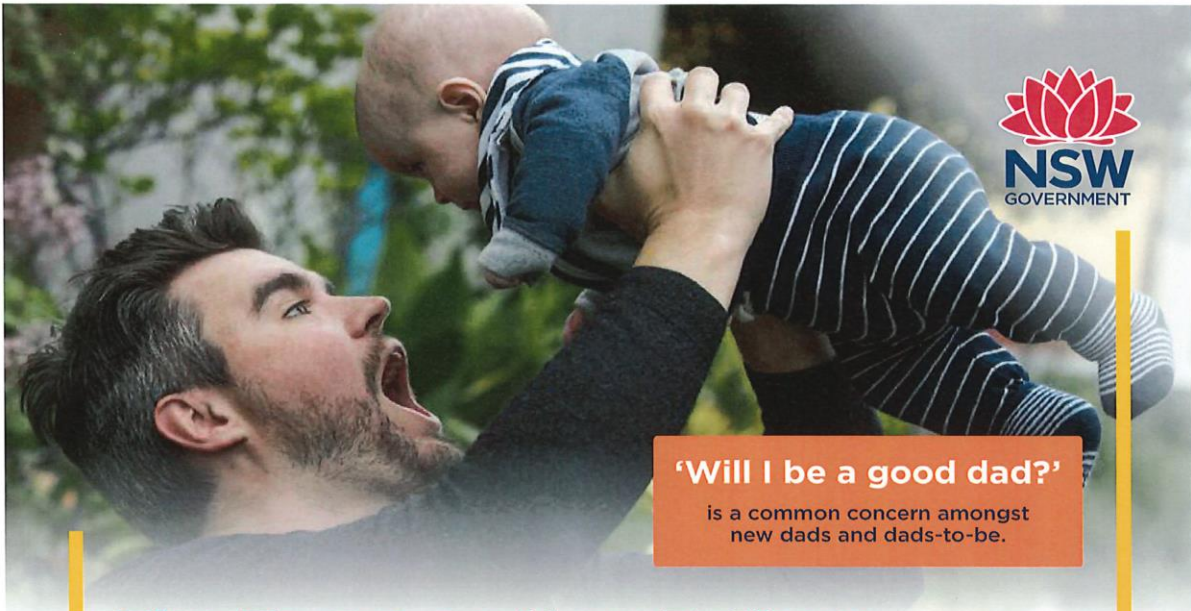
- a serious incident has occurred or is occurring while a child is being educated and cared for by Yarrunga.
- the National Law and/or National Regulations have been contravened.

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.





**‘Will I be a good dad?’**

is a common concern amongst new dads and dads-to-be.

## The Focus on New Fathers program provides a free text message based service called SMS4dads.

### Free tips, tools and links - directly to dad’s phone

To help new dads and dads-to-be navigate the changes, before and after the birth of their baby, NSW Health and the University of Newcastle have partnered to deliver SMS4dads.

Once new dads and dads-to-be are registered, they’ll receive practical tips, tools and helpful links directly to their phone.

### You’re eligible:

- if you are 18 years or older
- if your partner is at least 16 weeks (four months) pregnant; or
- from your baby’s birth until they are 6 months old.

### For more information

visit [www.health.nsw.gov.au/focus-on-new-fathers](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/focus-on-new-fathers)

“Just wanted to say thanks for this project. The text messages have been invaluable and I couldn’t have known just how much I needed to receive these short and helpful messages.”

**Registration is free and easy.**

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/focus-on-new-fathers](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/focus-on-new-fathers)

