



## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2022

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

February 2021:

Management Committee

Meeting Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> @

7.30pm

In recognition of the dedication to Early Childhood Education and Care that all Yarrunga educators and staff exhibit every day we have collectively decided to award a certificate for outstanding contribution each month to celebrate professional achievement.



We proudly announce the December 2021 award went to our Yarrunga team member Alana for the attention she showed in the writing of children's "End of Year" letters!

They were beautifully written and easy to read. The honesty with which she wrote about their time in the preschool room and unique little personalities shows just how much she knows each and every child in her care. WELL DONE ALANA !

January 2022 Educator award went to 2 of our staff members - Oliva Masterson and Kali Palmer - CONGRATS TO YOU BOTH !!



Olivia Masterson - for sharing great enthusiasm of teamwork and demonstrating Yarrunga's values. Thank you for being part of our Yarrunga Team.



Kali Palmer - for the way you have practiced Yarrunga's values and shown great teamwork with in the Jnr Preschool room. We welcome you to our Learning Community.

### 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)



**YOUR FEEDBACK  
MATTERS**



Yarrunga can now be followed on Facebook and Instagram



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

Policies being reviewed this month: Health Policy, Infectious diseases policy, Dealing with infectious diseases COVID-19 (coronavirus)

**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.

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 Deb in the office, they are \$3 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 Deb or Karen

## PRESCHOOL ROOM NEWS

Wow! What a fun start we have had to 2022 in the Preschool Room! It has been fantastic to welcome back 'old' Pre-schoolers and welcome 'new' friends transitioning into the room. The older class members have had the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and mentoring skills, as they have assisted the younger children in the group to settle into the room. Together we are all learning, trialling, and establishing workable and child-focused routines, which will continue to evolve as the year progresses. Our open-gate play philosophy remains popular, with learners able to play and interact with siblings, friends, and other familiar educators.



One of our biggest goals for children is supporting their autonomy, believing that this embeds a sense of pride and belonging in them, fostering a healthy self-esteem. We are already implementing a variety of ways for class members to achieve this, including setting up at mealtimes; assisting in maintaining our kitchen garden and harvesting the fresh produce; contributing their voices to 'the Floor Book'; and sharing their ideas with room set-up and class projects.



A recurring interest with various Pre-schoolers is mini-beasts and the discovery of multiple *dainty swallowtail* caterpillars on our lemon tree has fascinated us. Unfortunately, they were attacked by wasps before we could watch them build a chrysalis and observe this in a natural environment.



After the passing of one of our two yabbies, Pre-schoolers were asked their ideas for a new class pet and elected to have another yabby. This has led to us researching yabbies and their needs, as well as sharing their knowledge on these little critters.



We continue to learn about Wiradjuri culture, unpacking our daily *Acknowledgement of Country* and sharing local Wiradjuri stories. We have some great new resources to continue to embed First Nations perspectives, including language, which we cannot wait to utilise.



Until next month,  
Alana, Krystine, Tash, and Robyn.  
[Preschool@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:Preschool@yarrunga.com.au)

## JUNIOR PRESCHOOL NEWS



Welcome to our new families, and welcome back to our returning families to the Junior Preschool Room. It is lovely to see all the smiley faces and hear laughter, learning and play back at Yarrunga. What a wonderful start to the year we have had. The children are settling in beautifully, feeling a sense of belonging to the room in a few short weeks. Thank you to all our families for providing much appreciated feedback, we utilise this feedback to work on our ever-growing curriculum and appreciate the importance of having family input.

This month there has been a big focus on bugs and insects. The children have been exploring science concepts as they investigate bugs and living things, with the educators asking open ended questions to extend their learning. "What do you think this bug is?" "What do you think this bug eats, drinks, lives?". We have found many wonderful bugs in our yard, including caterpillars, grasshoppers, and a praying mantis. We have added bugs and insects to our light table inside, and along with magnifying glasses and books, have given opportunities for the children to further explore.



Thank you Natt for your amazing donation of cars to the Yarrunga community! This has been one of the more favourable activities in the centre! It is also assisting some of our younger children settling in, which is so lovely to see.



Colours, sequencing, and patterns have also been a big interest of the children. We have been practicing colour recognition and patterning through the "matching bears" activity, colour sequencing through block building, art, and craft, and through conversations with educators. The children are developing more confidence with their concepts every day!



The children are exploring their identity, building friendships, and developing an understanding of their world around them through imaginative play. We have had lots of doctors, dentists, mums, dads, babies, princesses, and firefighters. We've even had the odd dragon and dinosaur! As an extension of this we have created a dentist surgery, and the children are loving teeth brushing!

As the beautiful weather stays on, we will continue to do water play with the children,



which they love to do! Can we please remind parents to pack extra clothes (2 or 3 sets) that are clearly labelled. We are also hoping to get out in the community in coming weeks so please keep an eye out in the future emails for this, as well as more amazing learning, fun and adventures in our weekly highlights!

Natt, Liv, Kali, and Lesley  
[juniorpreschool@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:juniorpreschool@yarrunga.com.au)



## NURSERY NEWS

Hi everyone

We have had a great start to the year with lots of familiar faces and families returning with siblings, we love our Nursery families.

We have sent home information regarding "All about me" please return these sheets to the room.

We are also displaying family photos again this year so if you could email these through that would be great.

We have enjoyed many activities throughout the last couple of weeks the sandpit and cooking has been a favourite as we discover pouring and filling and making castles with the wet and dry sand.

Chrissy has been doing table activities and craft with our older children and they have loved creating artwork and drawing together.

Liv has been doing sustainability and four of our children went to pick some produce yummy cherry tomatoes from our garden.

We have been busy getting to know routines and adapting our day to suit routines and loving it!



Nicole, Emma and Chrissy

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

## Educational Leader:

Welcome to a new year of play, learning and relationship building. 😊

### How we plan for children's learning and development

Adopting the practice of mixed age group play and learning by sharing the top and bottom yards and orientation visits have both helped to create inclusive spaces and develop a sense of belonging and security for children. We believe that this most important sense of *belonging* emerges from allowing children the freedom to be themselves; to play with whom, and where they want. Viewing children as active participants and decision makers in their own learning requires Yarrunga's teachers and educators to respect and work with each child's unique qualities and abilities. We plan for and extend learning based on what children know and can do using the Early Years Assessment and Planning Cycle:



National Quality Standard and Assessment and Rating | National Quality Standard, p.131

The Framework supports a model of decision-making as an ongoing cycle. This involves teachers and educators drawing on their professional knowledge, including their in-depth knowledge of each child. Working in partnership with families, educators use the Early Year Learning Framework (DEEWR, 2009) to guide their planning for children's learning:

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

To assist in developing individual learning plans for all children room teams are offering Parent/Educator meetings during February. We value your input into our planning cycles as you are your child's first and foremost teacher!

***\*Please know that any input you have into our planning processes is ALWAYS welcome and will be used to identify areas of strength and address where improvements can be made!***

### QIP Update:

In December 2021 we were successful in obtaining a Community Grant which will be used to supplement Yarrunga's Indigenous culture and language programs through the purchase of authentic resources, engaging Aboriginal community members (Incursions/Excursions), and hopefully some upgrades to our physical environment.

During January I have been focusing on developing a sense of belonging for all children by observing daily curriculum practices and educator/child interactions using our Philosophy, Programming Statement and the ECA Code of Ethics as lenses to formulate guidance.

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.