



## MARCH NEWSLETTER 2017

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

#### March 2017

Management Committee  
Meeting - Wednesday  
15<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm

#### March 2017

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> - Half Day  
Holiday - Albury Gold  
Cup. The Centre will be  
closing at 12 midday.

#### EASTER BREAK

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April to  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April

### AUTHORISATION FORMS

There are still some families that have not returned their 2017 Authorisation Forms, please return them as ASAP as this is a regulation set down by the Education and Care Services.

### STAGE 2 OF SENSORY GARDEN

As you will have noticed the sensory garden is progressing, all but slowly. This will see part of the top yard barricaded off for a number of weeks still. We are confident the inconvenience will be forgotten once we are able to use this new area.

### POLICIES BEING REVIEWED

A number of policies and procedures are on display and due to be ratified at the Committee Meeting in April 2017.



Thanks to Vitasoy for  
donating Rice and Soy Milk  
to Yarrunga

**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)



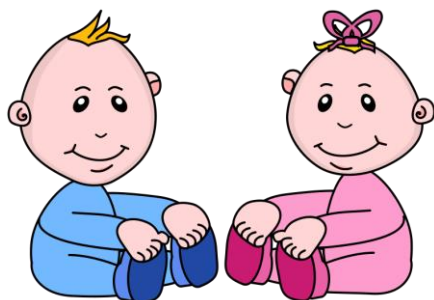
## Please Tell Us!

**HAVE YOU MOVED HOUSE, CHANGED JOBS, YOUR PHONE NUMBERS OR YOUR EMAIL?**



- A reminder to families to please update your child's enrolment details if you have moved house or changed jobs in the last 12 months. **It is important for educators to have up to date contact phone numbers for all children in case of emergencies.**
- Please see Claire to check your details or send us an email.

### WELCOME TO OUR YARRUNGA FAMILY



Congratulations to our families that have **welcomed new additions to their families:-**

Meg, Jarrad, Olivia & Emilia - welcome a baby boy and brother Mitch

Lauren, Jacob & Olivia - welcome their baby boy and brother - Nicholas

Rachel, Craig & Olivia - welcome their twin girls and sister - Paige & Zara

### SUSTAINABILITY



We have gained our local piece of garden patch at the East Albury Teacup Garden in Broad St.

The council have kindly planted watermelon for us at the moment, we will wait until they have all been harvested and re-plant our new produce from children and educator's voices throughout the year.

We currently hold "Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Classes" on a Wednesday morning and Friday afternoons, our classes alternate from kitchen and garden on these days. If you are able to volunteer your time between these hours, please let us know as it helps the children to work in smaller groups for key learning skills in the kitchen and garden.

Thank you Lynette  
Sustainability Officer.

## ALBURY GOLD CUP – FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017



Yarrunga will close at 12 midday  
**ALL CHILDREN MUST BE COLLECTED PRIOR TO 12.**

### NURSERY NEWS

Hello Families

Please can you send in changes of clothing in your Children's bags a full set we need bottoms and tops and Labelled with your child's name.

We also require that all **bottles and formula containers are labelled** with your child's name to prevent confusion.

We have had Lynette come into our room to do some sensory tasting of our garden vegetables and herbs we tasted parsley, tomato, corn, Thyme and Garlic chives the Nursery children loved this experience. We are also getting our little garden ready to plant some more herbs and flowers the children helped and watched Lesley pull out weeds.

We have been encouraging our room limits Be Kind, Be Safe and Be Gentle. Also self-help skills such as feeding themselves washing hands before eating and wiping their faces after meals, we are getting very good at it.



Thanks Nicole, Deb, Lesley and Kelly  
[nurserytoddler@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:nurserytoddler@yarrunga.com.au)

## JUNIOR PRESCHOOL NEWS

In the junior pre-school room, we have participated this month in various learning and incursions

A few of our favourites were "The Drum Beat" and Wiradjuri Language Activities with Ruth,

Please see our floor books date 27.02.17 and 03.03.17.

We have also branched out into the local community on a walk see floor book 08.03.17.

Housekeeping- Please ensure all items are labelled and you have some spare clothes packed in case of toileting/play accidents.

If any medication including typical cream are required, please ensure they are removed from your child's back pack and

Given to the educators on duty.

Please ensure you have assisted your child to apply sunscreen on arrival.



Thank you Lynette, Emma and Holly  
[juniorschool@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:juniorschool@yarrunga.com.au)

## **EDUCATIONAL LEADER & NQS REPORT**

Thank you to all of the families able to participate in our Parent/Educator meetings over recent weeks which have been invaluable in creating that link between Yarrunga and home as families and educators share their goals in partnership for children's learning and development. Verbal feedback has been positive indicating these meetings have provided opportunities for educators to support parents in their parenting roles and gain insight into children's individual learning styles. We will offer these meetings again in July this year.

*\*Please take some time to look through your child's individual learning journal as our floor books cannot possibly capture all the learning that is taking place.*

During February Team Leaders, Claire and Lisa participated in our first Leadership Meeting for 2017. This was an opportunity for us to practice leadership skills and communication strategies, as well as clarify our programming goals for the year. Through discussion the Educational Leader Goals for this year were also developed:

- **Critical Reflection**
- **Holistic Approach to NQF and QIP Review**
- **Teamwork and Collaboration**

### **QIP Update:**

*QA7 – Leadership and service management:*

I am pleased to announce that we have had positive feedback from two early learning centres within our local community about attending a networking evening at Yarrunga. At this stage the evening is planned for April, with the possibility of further termly meetings as the year progresses. Nominated Supervisors have expressed their agreement that networking with each other will be of benefit to all our services as we share experiences, issues and ideas within our industry to support best outcomes for children and families.

*QA4 – Staffing Arrangements:*

In February we have been reviewing our practices against the standards and elements in Quality Area 4 by addressing a number of reflective questions. We reviewed the strengths in our Quality Improvement Plan in line with these questions at our March staff meeting and found many links between our strengths and reflections, confirming that our documented strengths are represented in everyday practice.

### **Philosophy Review:**

Our philosophy review was discussed at the Leadership meeting this month and input from educators, children and families has been documented with the addition of the word *wellness* being added to the 'Relationships' section as a result of the collective development of our Yarrunga values last month. It will now go to committee for further input.

Regards,  
Krystine & Lisa

## **CHILD CARE WORKERS WENT ON STRIKE ON WEDNESDAY OVER LOW PAY**

More than a 1000 child care workers walked off the job on Wednesday to draw attention to the large pay gap between the male and female dominated professions. This was the largest walk off of Early Childhood Educators with dozens of Child Care Centres closing mid-afternoon to support the national campaign.

For more information copy the link below into your web search page.

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/childcare-workers-to-strike-on-wednesday-over-low-pay-20170301-gunu2j.html>

## PRESCHOOL ROOM NEWS

Ruth Davys has returned to Yarrunga this year to continue her Wiradjuri cultural sessions with the children each Friday. Through music, movement, traditional language, storytelling, and artefacts, Ruth shares her life experiences as a Wiradjuri woman with us. We then embed these activities into our curriculum in the 3 –5 Preschool room for all children to experience.



Next week we will be starting to send home 'Collecting Bags' to a small number of families each week on a rotating basis. We would appreciate you collecting natural or found items with your child that can then be brought to preschool to be used as 'Loose Parts'. Loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials.

Please be advised of the following upcoming Incursions / Excursions:

- Living Safely with Dogs Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>
- Borella House Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

We aim to include Excursions / Incursions across all days of the week to ensure that all children have an opportunity to participate in these experiences, however at times only specific days are offered to us by the presenters or organisation involved.

For those families with children heading off to school next year please keep an eye out for information on our Transition to School noticeboard in the 3 –5 Preschool room. We are also offering the StEPS program again this year for any children that do not attend a preschool program at another service. The Statewide Eyesight Preschooler Screening program is an initiative of the NSW Department of Health and offers all 4 year old children a free vision screening assessment. Many vision problems remain undetected unless a child's vision is screened by a trained vision screener.

This week Krystine has gone fishing! We welcome Jackie Rooke to our Yarrunga team and 3–5 Preschool room for the week.....

Hello Yarrunga! It has been a pleasure meeting new faces in the Preschool room this week. It has been nice to visit the place where my Preschool education began as a three year old. The yard has changed considerably over that time, but the quality education and care shown by all staff still remains. Since graduating from Charles Sturt University in 2008, I have taught in local primary schools, teaching children from Kinder to Year Six. I am looking forward to gaining more experience in the Early Childhood Sector. I hope to meet parents and Yarrunga community members soon!

Terri, Krystine, Chrissy & Jackie  
[Preschool@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:Preschool@yarrunga.com.au)



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### APRICOT BEEF

#### Ingredients:

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup brown rice or red lentils, 500g round steak, trimmed and cut into bite sizes, plain flour for dusting, 1 chopped onion, 1 tsp curry powder, 2 tsp brown sugar, 200 ml apricot nectar, 100 ml water, 2 T tomato sauce, 2 tsp vinegar, 100g fried chopped apricots, 2 diced carrots

#### Method:

- Dust meat with flour,
- Combine all ingredients in a boiler,
- Simmer, lid on for 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours, stir occasionally



### Volunteers Wanted for Kitchen Garden Classes

The success of food education relies  
on the support of volunteers.

There is nothing more satisfying than sharing a delicious  
meal created with fresh produce that you have grown  
from seed to harvest. Every week over school  
children share in this experience at

**Wednesdays 10-11am and Fridays 2-3pm.**

You don't have to be a green thumb or a naked chef, you just have  
to love growing food, eating food and being with children.

If you would like to volunteer in the kitchen or garden, whether  
you have one hour to spare or a whole afternoon, we would  
love to hear from you.

Contact: Lynette Lascelles  
On: [juniors@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:juniors@yarrunga.com.au)



## A Quick Bite ...

### Shopping to Reduce Waste

#### Be Prepared:

- Create a meal plan
- Make a shopping list
- Check what you already have before you write your list

#### When shopping:

- Take your own shopping bags
- Buy in bulk i.e. large yoghurt and dispense into reusable, washable containers
- Avoid buying products with excess packaging.
- Buy products with packaging that can be recycled
- Buy fresh foods that are not packaged i.e. fruit and veg



For more info go to <http://www.cleanup.org.au/au/LivingGreener/organic-waste.html>

[www.mlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services/health-promotion-1](http://www.mlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services/health-promotion-1)

Live Life Well  
@ School



Health  
Murrumbidgee  
Local Health District



## A Quick Bite ...

### Packing a Waste Free Lunch

Waste free means only packing items that can be composted or recycled and that won't end up in the garbage bin. That means, no plastic wrap, no foil, no zip lock bags and no packaged foods.

#### It's Easy:

- Pack fresh whole foods instead of packaged, processed foods
- Use reusable containers rather than plastic cling film
- Use lunchboxes that have compartments so food can be kept separate
- Instead of a lunch box buy an insulated bag to hold food in different sized reusable food containers



Autism Spectrum Health Kids Association

For more info got to <http://healthy-kids.com.au/waste-free-lunch/>

[www.mlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services/health-promotion-1](http://www.mlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services/health-promotion-1)

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## A Quick Bite ...

### Chickens—Food Scrap Queens

Food scraps such as vegetable peelings are unavoidable, but they can be managed by establishing your own compost bin or heap or creating a worm farm.

But if you've got room for chickens, they do much more than just provide fresh eggs!

1. They'll eat any food scraps including meat and vegetables
2. They also love to eat all garden pests including slugs and aphids
3. Their natural instinct to scratch and dig can prepare a garden bed for planting
4. They provide a nitrogen rich organic fertilizer
5. They love weeds
6. They're great company and make great pets



[www.mlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services/health-promotion-1](http://www.mlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services/health-promotion-1)

Live Life Well  
@ School



Health  
Murrumbidgee  
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# *Our Philosophy*

## **Relationships**

Relationships are central to everything we do. We value equitable, respectful and reciprocal relationships between educators, children, families and community. Relationships create a sense of connectedness that is inclusive for all

## **Educators**

We value and support each other as equal team members, committed to continual learning and development, both as a collective and as individuals. Learning is strengthened as we share ideas, share decisions and reflect on our practices together

## **Children**

Children's voices guide our curriculum. As each child learns through play, they follow their own interest which is scaffolded through intentional teaching. We encourage self-expression, creativity, exploration and risk-taking to develop a strong sense of self and respect for others

## **Community**

Each family is unique and brings richness in culture, values, beliefs and practices to our community, growing us all. We foster these family connections and promote partnerships with our wider community to grow a sense of belonging for all

## **Environment**

We are committed to providing a safe, healthy, nurturing, and consistent environment in a welcoming natural atmosphere. Sustainable practices support children to participate fully and actively in society and become global citizens of the future

