



Managers' Report

What a great start to the year with Kinder now underway. February has flown by and we have all finally settled in and it is amazing to see the daily achievements of the children in each room.

Learning is visible in every room and the children appear to be enjoying discovering new elements and understandings of their world.

Parents are reminded to make sure that they collect their photo forms from their child's room as photos are coming up towards the end of March and start of April.

An update to the Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness policy was passed at the last Committee Meeting. The updated version can be found on the Yarram Early Learning website under the 'Policies and Procedures' tab.

The OSHC Vacation Care program will be released shortly, places fill very quickly, so please be proactive in making your bookings.

- Sarah Gregory

Committee Report

The Committee of Management met last week for the February Meeting. Finances were discussed and thanks to Bek Muir who puts considerable time into preparing these. The Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness policy was updated and passed. This will be uploaded to the website shortly.

Sarah will be organising a working bee soon. We need to replace the playground mulch and top up the sand pits again. The yard experiences strong wind at times, which sees this all deposited at the end.

The Committee of Management have employed a consultant to assist staff in implementing excellent programs for all children. Dr Jan Deans is in the centre for two days a fortnight. Jan was with us last year and I have received very positive feedback from the staff, reporting that their knowledge has been increased.

Anne Morris - Chairperson

Important Dates

School Holidays
7th April to 18th April

Good Friday
Friday 18th April
Service is closed

Tarra Festival
18 April - 21 April

Easter Monday
Friday 21st April
Service is closed



Bananna Cake

PREP 20mins | COOK 30 mins | SERVES 16



INGREDIENTS

3 overripe bananas, mashed. 2 eggs
3/4 cup olive oil 1 cup Greek yoghurt
1/2 cup brown sugar 1/3 cup pure maple syrup
1 tbs vanilla bean paste 1 cup buckwheat flour
1 cup plain flour 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp cinnamon, ground 1/2 tsp nutmeg, ground
1/4 tsp ginger, ground pinch of salt

Whipped Ricotta Maple & Chocolate Frosting

2 cups fresh ricotta 1/2 cup pure maple syrup
2 tsp vanilla bean paste 1/2 cup cocoa powder

METHOD

To make the banana cake:

- 1. Preheat oven to 180 C (350 F) and line a 20 cm x 20 cm brownie pan with baking paper. Set aside.**
- 2. Place the mashed bananas, eggs, olive oil, yoghurt, sugar, syrup and vanilla and whisk to combine.**
- 3. Sift the buckwheat flour, plain flour, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and salt into the bowl and stir using a wooden spoon until just combined.**
- 4. Pour the batter into the prepared tin.**
- 5. Bake for 30-40 minutes or until a skewer inserted removes cleanly.**
- 6. Allow the cake to cool completely. To speed up the cooling process, feel free to pop the cake into the freezer.**

To make the whipped ricotta maple and chocolate frosting:

- 1. Place the ricotta into the bowl of a food processor and blitz for 1-2 minutes or until smooth.**
- 2. Add the maple syrup, vanilla and cocoa powder and blitz for 2-3 minutes (scraping down the sides of the bowl) or until the frosting is smooth and luscious.**
- 3. Smother the cooled cake with a thick layer of frosting.**
- 4. Cut into 9 or 16 squares. Enjoy x**

Source: Image & recipe 'mylovelylittlelunchbox.com'



Sensory stimulation has been a big part of the children’s learning this past month. Exploration of the sandpit, water play, and painting. Observing the children, we see them use their fine motor skills as they swirl in a circle motion imprinting paint on to the paper or finger strokes in the sand. The educators and children have began participating in the ‘Walking Out’ Program. This will include walks within the community, library, memorial park and wetlands. As we walk along with the children we can take in the natural and built environments and those around us.

This month the Wook Gook children have embraced their new environment with growing confidence and skill as they explore the room program. The beginning of the year has seen the children continue to build connections with their peers, as well as their educators, as they engage in activities such as water play and practicing utilising the Wook Gook room’s prams in preparation for excursions and emergency evacuation drills.



Wook Gook



The children have settled into the Tarla room very well. They are building strong relationships with both their educators as well as their peers. This month, the children had lots of fun with the volcano experience learning about colours and the reaction between the bi carb soda and vinegar. Educators support their investigations and share their enjoyment with the resources provided. As well as science and colours, the children have been creating snakes by pasting scraps bits of paper to form a snake in celebration of the lunar new year.



Tarla



Gidi



Our February program focused on familiarising children with the mascot of our room, Gidi (Black Swan), and other native birds such as the Kookaburra, Emu, Galah, and Cockatoo. Gidi is welcomed every morning and children place a feather on Gidi as they wish her good morning.

Making rain shakers from recycled cardboard tubes and scratch art paper had the children engaged over multiple days as we assisted them to complete each step of creating their very own rain makers. The physical wellbeing of the children is important, so in addition to outdoor play time on the balance beam and climbing frame, we introduced indoor physical activity challenges which promote gross motor skills such as co-ordination and balance. The activities worked both sides of the body and have children using eyes, ears, feet and hands.

Bataluk



The children have been working on and are becoming familiar with our daily rituals. There has been new friendships formed with peers and educators which is beautiful to see.

We have been busy learning about flowers and colours. We have been engaging in different activities with sunflower drawings using different mediums. The children have been using magnifying glasses to view sunflowers up close and then had the chance to draw what they see.

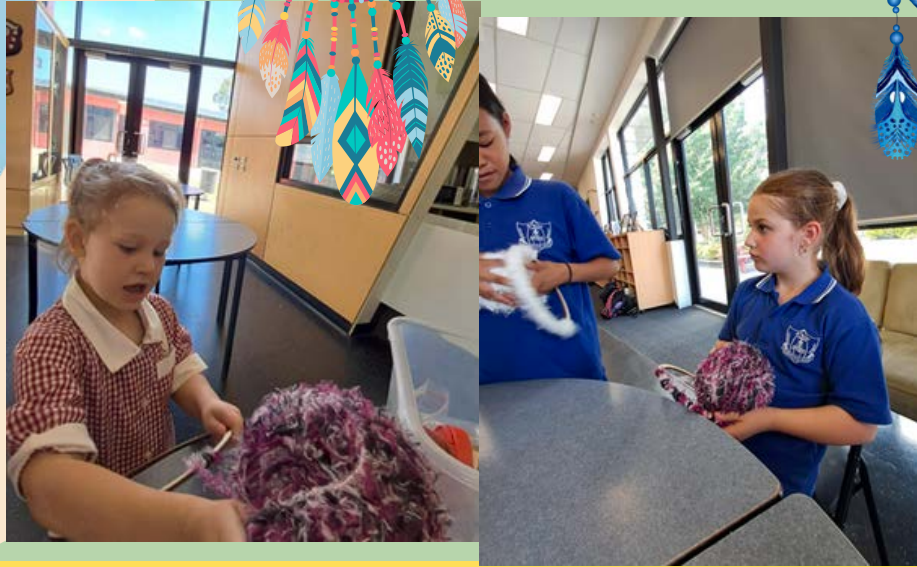
We have been experimenting with the children using food dye to see if the colour of white flowers (dahlias and daisies) changed colour. We used red, blue and green. We asked the children if they knew why the flowers were changing colours. We explained it was because they were thirsty and the stems were sucking up the water into the petals. The children would often go over and check the flowers to see if they had changed more or were still the same colour. The children have been very excited to watch this experiment over the past few weeks.

We went to the Kids Day Out where the children explored all the activities Wellington shire had on offer. We sat and watched welcome to country and the smoking ceremony where the aboriginal people did some dances. It was a beautiful morning out for our children to engage in a local experience.

In the Tiddalek room the children have been learning about our Centre values Respect, Kindness, Honesty and Resilience. There has been a particular focus on Respect and Kindness where we have captured the children's words to put up a display in our kindergarten foyer. We have continued learning about our Creation Story 'Tiddalek the Frog' through group time discussions, the use of ICT to view a Museums Victoria video and the intentional setting of a dramatic play area for the children to use their imagination and reenact the Creation Story as they please. Displayed in our 4-year-old kindergarten room are artworks the children have been working very hard on, as well as our reflection book that sits outside of the room for families to view their children's photos and words.



Tiddalek



Welcome back to all our wonderful families.

During the month of February we are re-acquainting ourselves with old friends and welcoming some new ones to our service. We have started making some beautiful dream catchers. This is a way for each child to develop their fine motor skills and creativity, undertaking an activity that promotes mindfulness and calm. The children are enjoying the opportunity to design their own unique piece of creative artwork.

We began our year and term with new members of our Ngurran group, so we discussed our 'rules' for our room.

These rules all agreed to after discussion, as the children thought they were fair and for everyone's benefit. Discussing them means the children 'own' their own rules for our room and get to contribute to them, and they're encouraged to ask about or discuss changes to them whenever they feel they need to. Parents will be pleased to know that older children who are familiar with these rules have been voluntarily helping the younger newer members of our room to go by these rules, accompanying them to the toilet where necessary, or helping them with tasks such as packing up etc. This shows all children's feeling of belonging to the group they enjoy when in Ngurran, forming strong bonds and relationships with each other. We've been using some boxes, polystyrene packing etc from an appliance installed in our room to build a house. Some preferred it to be a puppy house, others a cubby....regardless, they all explored how to make rooms in it, to make it as dark as possible and to add their snack plates as their 'meal'. This required cooperation, negotiation, imagination...and results were amazing. There was even a tv!(see the white polystyrene piece)



KEEP YOUR SOIL HAPPY

The benefits of composting are endless. You can improve the structure, water retention and drainage of the soil in your garden, as well as increasing the retention of nutrients, resulting in happy and healthy plants. The best bit? Once you're all set up, your compost system will mostly look after itself.

Learning how to compost isn't difficult, Costsa Georgiadis has a very simple video explaining the steps to take to start composting at home. Find the video here [Your paragraph text](#)

5 Minute MOVES

Sock Wrestling

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

Try sock wrestling for a fun and physical challenge either indoors or outdoors. Trying to remove one another's sock isn't as easy as it sounds – it can be energetic and at times hilarious.

Mark out the wrestling area using soft items. Explain to your child that play is to be kept within the ring to keep everyone safe. You also need to agree how to stop the wrestling match at any time, e.g. by using a clear command word such as 'stop'. Explain the rules to your child – that the object of the game is to remove the other person's socks. Wrestlers must try to stay on their knees and not stand up at any time. The winner is the first person to get the other person's socks off. Sit opposite each other and put on your socks. Once ready, say: 'On your marks, get set, go!'

Your paragraph text

Source: www.grapevine.org.nz/articles/teacher-talk-sock-wrestling



Explore

THE BIG GOOSE



The Big Goose adventure farm has animals and play areas for children inside and out. Home to Australian native animals such as Kangaroos, Wombats, Emus and Camels. There is also an adventure playground, a pirate ship, mini golf, mazes and a splash park.

The Big Goose can also host your birthday party.

Term 1 and 4 opening hours are:
Wednesday to Sunday - 10am to 4:00pm
Terms 2 and 3 opening hours are:
Thursday to Sunday - 10am to 4:00pm

233 Mornington - Tyabb Road, Moorooduc, VIC, 3933. Enter via Stumpy Gully Road

<https://thebiggoose.com.au>



Tarva
FESTIVAL

Easter Long Weekend

18th April - 21st of April 2025

LOTS OF EVENTS INCLUDING THE RETURN OF OUR
STREET PARADE
& A FANTASTIC NEW EVENT
Cultivating Communities





Port Albert Progress Association

EASTER

Family Fun Day &
Lantern Festival



Sunday April

20TH

Rutter Park, Port Albert
3-6pm

Lanterns on the water at dusk

Free kids activities - Food Vans
Live music

Bay Street, Port Albert - eventsbypapa@gmail.com

Yarram's New Great Southern Rail Trail

Family Fun Bike Ride & Picnic

Sunday April 27

- **Platform 1: 20km Ride**
Yarram - Gelliondale - Yarram
Departing Yarram 10:00am
Return Tickets: \$5 per person, \$10 per family
- **Platform 2: 50km Ride**
Yarram - Welshpool - Yarram
Departing Yarram 10:00am
Return Tickets: \$5 per person, \$10 per family

BYO DRINKS AND PICNIC

Departing from Yarram Pump Track / Skate Park
Yarram Tarra Trail Reserve

REGISTER NOW: <https://www.yarramrotary.org.au/post/yarramride>



A Fantastic event for all the family

SUPPORTING
Yarram Says NO to Family Violence



Rotary 
Club of Yarram


GREAT SOUTHERN
RAIL TRAIL