

Managers' Report

It is already the end of Term 1 for our kindergarten children and a quarter of the way through the year for those in long day care. Easter is coming upon us quickly and I can't wait to see the Easter parade this year. Thank you to those families who have let us know that they will be participating with us to "Explore life in outer space" and bring their "little aliens" to walk in the parade. Children are to be dressed in bright colours and will be provided with an alien mask to wear on the day.

Thank you to Haymes Contracting for their donation for the purchase of a banner, this will help us to be easily identified at any future events we attend.

We are still planning a working bee for both the Kinder and Centre yards, we are trying to sort through the logistics of materials and tools, and will be in touch soon with a date.

March was a very busy month with the children getting out and about in the Community, whether that be at the Kid's Day Out, the Park, the Wetlands, the main street or the library.

We have an opening on the Committee of Management so if you are interested please contact our administration team who will be able to provide you with a nomination form. Self nominations are accepted.

Committee Report

I hope this newsletter finds families well. The Committee of Management met last week. The finance report was reviewed and passed. This will see us manage our funds effectively for the year. Finance subcommittee has worked to ensure everything is in order, and we are now set with our approved budget.

We are excited to inform you that we will be participating in the upcoming Tarra Festival Parade! This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our community spirit, and we have purchased a banner to represent us during the parade. We would like to thank Haymes Contracting for their donation so that this purchase was possible. Donation or sponsorship is a great way to support the event and show pride in our local community.

Reports from our HR, Finance, and Business Manager were presented and discussed in the meeting. It's always good to hear about the continued input from our subcommittees and I appreciate the hard work being done behind the scenes.

Our budget for the year has been finalised and accepted.

As always, I appreciate your continued support and involvement.

Chair - Anne Morris

Important Dates



**School
Holidays/Vacation
Care**
7th April to 17th April

Good Friday
Friday 18th April
Service is closed

Easter Monday
Friday 21st April
Service is closed

Anzac Day
Friday 25th April
Service is closed

Pesto Chicken Tray Bake

PREP 10mins | COOK 1 hour 10 mins

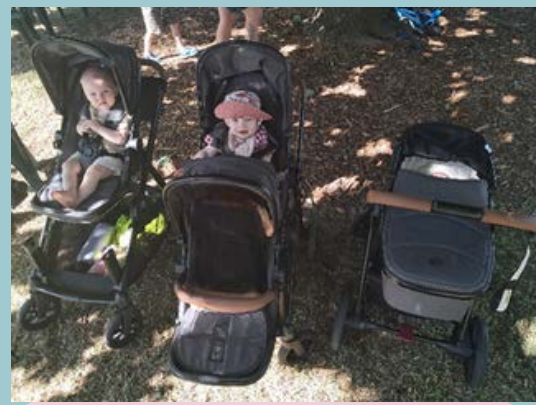


INGREDIENTS

- 1 carrot, 1 red capsicum cut into batons
- 1 zucchini, cut into rounds
- 1 eggplant, halved and cut into half moons
- 1 red onion, cut into thin wedges
- 1 small bunch asparagus, ends trimmed and cut into three
- 200 grams cherry tomatoes, halved
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- sea salt and pepper
- 500 grams chicken breast
- 1 tablespoon basil pesto
- sea salt and pepper
- 1 cup (250 ml) Greek yoghurt
- 1 tablespoon basil pesto
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- to serve: a small handful of fresh basil leaves

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 190 degrees C and line an oven tray with baking paper. Place the carrot, zucchini, red capsicum, eggplant, red onion, asparagus, cherry tomatoes and olive oil onto the prepared tray. Season with sea salt and pepper and toss to combine. Pop into the oven for 30 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, place the chicken and pesto into a large bowl. Season with sea salt and pepper and toss to combine. Nestle the chicken breasts into the vegetables and bake for another 20 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through. To make the yoghurt sauce, place the yoghurt, pesto and olive oil into a small bowl. Season with sea salt and pepper and gently stir to combine. To serve, pop the yoghurt sauce into the corner of the tray, sprinkle fresh basil leaves over the gorgeously golden chicken and vegetables and enjoy.



This month the Ngarawert children have been spending some time in the outdoor yard, we have recently gotten some new equipment including a trampoline and a caterpillar tunnel which the children have enjoyed. We also went on an excursion to the Memorial Park for the 'Kids Day Out' where the children got to interact with some animals and watch the smoking ceremony. Lots of friendships are beginning to flourish as the children are engaging in play and conversations with each other.

Wook Gook children have enjoyed a range of activities across the month including some outings using the baby buses. Wellington Shire hosted a Kids Day out and Toddlers Day out across towns within the shire as part of National Parks Week. Wook Gook children were able to participate in this outing into the community as well.

Our outdoor yard has seen some new permanent play resources that have been joyfully utilised by the children, we welcomed a new netted trampoline to further engage children in gross motor play as well as a giant caterpillar tunnel which has been loved by all!



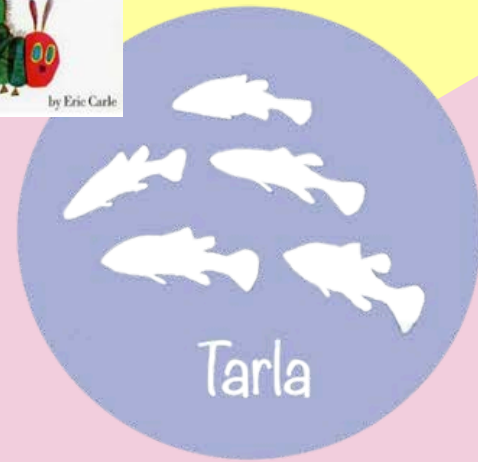
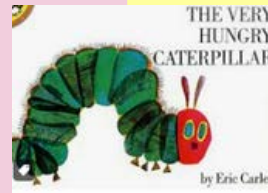
Wook Gook

Kids Day Out

The Tarla children have been exploring their community and environment. They attended The Kids Day Out in Yarram Memorial Park, getting the opportunity to watch the Welcoming Ceremony performed by the representatives of Wulgunnggo Ngalu which was even more special for one of our children.

Our children also explored the wetlands, collecting natural resources to be used in a craft experience back at the centre .

We have celebrated Harmony day ,The Very Hungry Caterpillar and coming up will be some Easter craft .



Tarla



Gidi



In our March program, we are learning about China! We have lots of panda play and some Chinese cooking experiences. This is broadening the children's cultural awareness and allowing us to enter the global community.

The children have all been issued their very own library cards and we will begin visiting the library once a fortnight where children engage in story time with the librarian and borrow a book of their choice to read with their family.

On Monday mornings children will participate in the PMP (Perceptual Motor Program) where we have fun practicing our balancing, jumping, crawling, dancing and hand-eye coordination.

Outdoor play-time has seen children making and sitting in nests created with dry tree matter, which we also used as mulch to assist in watering our vegetable garden which is growing nicely thanks to their care.

Bataluk



As the sun's rays fade into Autumn, one term has passed - for 13 weeks the children have participated and settled into the rituals of the Bataluk learning space.

Sunflowers have captivated the children's delights, curiosities, and wonderings. Several children have grown sunflowers in their home gardens and shared these with the children and families.

Observations and looking at the shape and formation of the flowers have given the children an opportunity to begin the journey of learning in "Art" - of awareness when you look closely - in Early Childhood learning this is called drawing from observation.

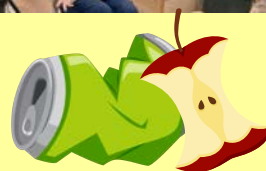
The children have looked at the sunflowers through several mediums. Drawing with black lead pencils (facilitated by Kim), drawing with pastels (facilitated by Carrie), and paintings (facilitated by Jo).

The different mediums have showcased increasing details with the children's illustrations. These illustrations are going to be displayed in a studio gallery format within the Bataluk space for family viewing.

Through our conversations of how the sunflowers change, the educators asked the children what happens to the sunflowers when they die. A comment by a child indicated that the sunflowers will go to heaven. The children are now drawing their images of sunflowers in heaven. As the children further looked at the flowers the question has been posed, what would the sunflowers say to each other? i.e. In a recent drawing the child displayed sunflowers singing with the sound melody coming from the earth to the flower at the top. Beautiful creative thinking.

During the month of March, the Tiddalek children have engaged in a variety of learning experiences and activities. On Wednesday the 5th of March the children participated in an excursion to the Yarram Memorial Park for Kids Day Out. The children engaged in making their own wooden stamps, visiting the petting zoo and engaging in song and dance with Wulgunggo Ngalu. The children enjoyed the local excursion with plenty of smiles and positive discussions afterwards.

The Tiddalek children also partook in Clean up Australia Day where we walked over to the Wetlands to collect rubbish with our new gloves, tongs and rubbish bags. This created many new conversations about littering and landfill. Sharon from Wellington Shire delivered an incursion over two days with the children further discussing landfill and the importance of recycling. The kindergarten children started a project where they began to collect all their single use packets to show families how much landfill we were creating every day. This landfill has recently been displayed in our kindergarten foyer for families to view. As part of our sustainability action and future development on this project we will be re-introducing 'nude food lunch boxes' in the kindergarten building and encouraging families to use lunch boxes that have multiple spaces for different foods or promoting the use of containers instead of multiple single use bags. We will also only be providing a compost bin for the children's food scraps in future. We thank you for your cooperation with our new sustainability plan.



Tiddalek

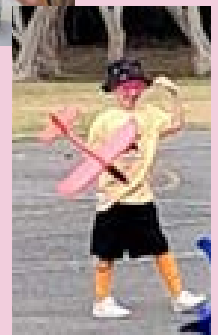
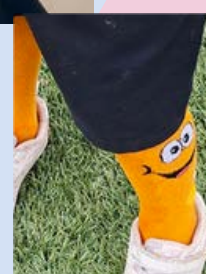


During the month of March we have been concentrating on preparing for Mother's Day/Special persons day. We have also been focusing on sensory play using playdough and other items. This type of play can help with brain development and motor skills and the children always enjoy and engage when given this type of opportunity. We have also been enjoying outside playground time as well as gym time. This type of activity increases the children's gross motor skills, flexibility, balance and cardiovascular fitness.

The children have enjoyed making use of the glitter on the adhesive pictures supplied generously to us from a former parent of the service. These have been popular, some children using the glitter, others using glitter markers to express their artistic choices. This is a way to show sustainability: to use items already purchased, rather than spending our room budget.

The school celebrated Harmony Day on Friday 21st March, so all children were encouraged to wear orange in support of the theme, 'Everyone Belongs', one child was an orange puppy, one child wore his orange 'happy' socks and another child wore a cheery orange t-shirt.

Playing 'Hangman' is a good way for younger children to learn letter recognition, spelling and literacy skills. The older children have been helping the younger children learn these skills as they play the game. This will be an ongoing feature of our sessions.



PLAYDOUGH

Squishing, rolling, sculpting, modelling . . . young children love to play with playdough. Add some props from around the home and playdough play becomes a powerful way to support your child's learning.

This simple preschool staple lets children use their imaginations and strengthen the small muscles in their fingers—the same muscles they will one day use to hold a pencil and write. Using playdough with you, a friend, or siblings supports your child's social skills such as sharing, taking turns, and enjoying being with other people. Playdough also encourages children's language and literacy, science, and math skills—all at the same time!

Around-the-house Playdough props could include the following:

- Blocks
- Bottle Caps
- Combs
- Small toy people and animals
- Feathers
- Leaves, twigs, pebbles
- Rolling pin or bottle
- Straws
- Cookie Cutters
- Stamps

When children use playdough, they explore ideas and try different approaches until they find one that works. They compare and contrast objects, actions and experiences. In their experimenting, children come up with their own ideas, satisfy their curiosity, and analyse and solve problems.

Source: Naeyc. (2023). Playdough Power. Retrieved from <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/playdough-power>
You will find the best no-cook playdough recipe at Imagination Tree.



KICK AND CATCH

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

Head out into your backyard or down to your local oval with a ball or two. Take turns kicking the balls as far as you can and then running to 'catch' them. Try to catch them before they stop rolling. Next try to kick to one another and catch the balls.



Feedback 
is always welcome

Tips to Encourage Language Development

Source: Speech Pathology - Royal Children's
Hospital Melbourne

Copying and repeating

Children understand words before they use them meaningfully.

They need to hear a word hundreds of times before they will say it. So, repeat, repeat, repeat! Emphasising the word helps them to focus on the main word and to recognise its sounds.

Examples

- "Hello **teddy**. Oh! Nice **teddy**. **Teddy** has a hat."
- "**Drink**. Mmm ... yummy **drink**. More **drink**."
- "**Splash, splash, splash**. **Splash** the water.
Mummy's **splashing**."

Reading books again and again is a natural way of repeating language. Reading the same book will encourage your child to learn, remember and use new words.

Talk about the pictures and characters as part of reading a book.

Singing simple nursery rhymes and songs in your preferred language are great activities for repeating words.



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

