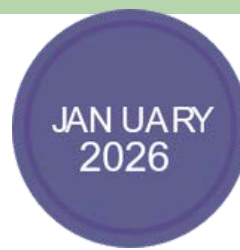




Managers' Report



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Feedback 
is always welcome

Welcome to the start of a wonderful new year at Yarram Early Learning, especially to any families new to us in 2026. We hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing and refreshing break over the holidays. It has been fantastic to see the children settling back in, reconnecting with friends, and embracing new routines with enthusiasm.

The beginning of the year is always an exciting time as we establish classroom expectations, build relationships, and create a positive learning environment. Our educators have been focusing on supporting children as they transition back into the program, ensuring they feel safe, confident, and ready to learn.

Thank you to Rebecca McKelvie, Rebekah Janssen, Austin Janssen, Harry Janssen, Rebecca Cutts, Janette Mansell, Casey Dowell and Jeannie Etherington who attended the Working Bee on Sunday, 15th February and a very special thank you to Russell Porter who did an amazing amount of work. Their time and effort helped prepare and enhance our learning spaces, ensuring the environment is welcoming, organised, and engaging for all children. We truly appreciate their commitment and teamwork.

We look forward to a year filled with growth, discovery, and meaningful learning experiences. As always, we value open communication and encourage families to speak with educators if you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's progress.

Thank you for being part of our community. We are excited for the year ahead!

Important Dates

Labour Day public holiday
Monday 9th March
Centre closed

Good Friday public holiday
Friday 3rd April
Centre closed



Educators have been focused on creating a calm environment to welcome children who are experiencing care for their first time and children returning to the Ngarawert room in 2026. Educators are supporting the children as they confidently explore the environment, making their own choice to engage in something of their interest.

All children have been intrigued by musical instruments or any objects they can use to tap, shake or manoeuvre to create noise. Sensory reflective balls, clapping sticks, maracas and djembe have been found in their discovery.

These past few weeks, we have seen children showcase their learning and beginning a sensory pathway during their time in care, using paint for mark making, exploring colour recognition through sorting-coloured rounds into their correct position and the discovery of Shadow.

In the first month of 2026, our focus was settling in, building connections, and familiarising ourselves with our new routine. The children have seemingly all found their space in the Wook Gook room and have shown their new educators their quickly growing sense of confidence and belonging.

This month we have explored texture through playdough, mud, and sand, set the foundation for being water conscious and how to look after our water ways as well as created a collaborative art piece using natural fallen materials from our own yard.

The children have participated in the clean up of our yard after the big winds, aided with daily cleaning like washing tables, sweeping, and learning where to keep our personal belongings when not in use. The children take pride in their environment and show great satisfaction when completing their care tasks. We are laying the foundation for understanding it is up to all of us to care for our space and land.



Wook Gook



Gidi



Welcome to our families in the Gidi room 2026. The perfect weather conditions for January has allowed our children to experience lots of water play and ice and has helped them settle into the room.

Our focus for 2026 is to enjoy the "IYRP (International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists) with plenty of focus on farm animals. Our first term inquiry is focused on Chickens.

Bataluk



We welcome all children and families to the Bataluk room (3yr old Kinder). To encourage a smooth transition the 3-year-old kinder children have had a couple of weeks of settling into their new room and routines and becoming familiar with some new faces (both peers and educators).

The children are now familiar with applying sunscreen on arrival, putting their lunch boxes, drink bottles and bags away, finding hats and joining their friends for outside play in the morning.

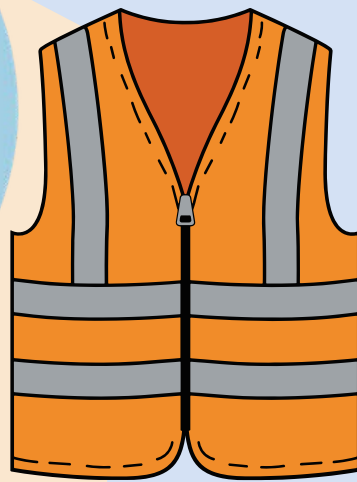
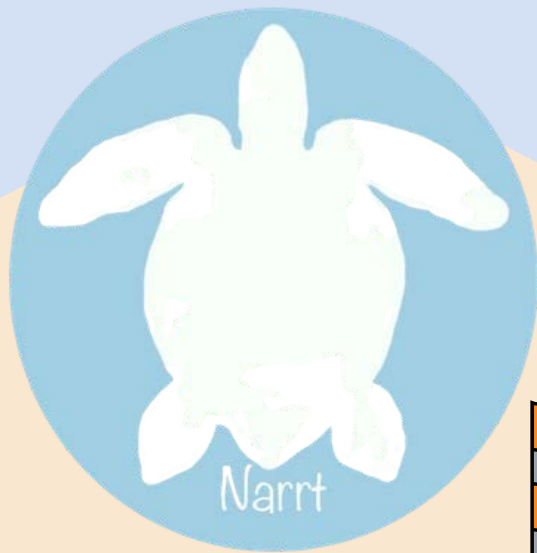
This year is the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. Children in the Bataluk room have been learning about soil, grass, flowers and what is needed to grow seeds.

The children have shown curiosity when inspecting the various flowers they have been exploring during group times.

Welcome to Kinder for 2026! We hope everyone had a lovely break and your children are ready for their final year of kindergarten. With some new faces joining the Tiddalek group, we spent time getting to know our peers and new educators. The children showed independence with creative craft allowing free expression to create anything they dreamed of. We visited the park and had a picnic morning tea. The children loved the flying fox and being able to move freely in the space and feeling confident to try new things. We are focusing on building respectful relationships amongst the children and educators.



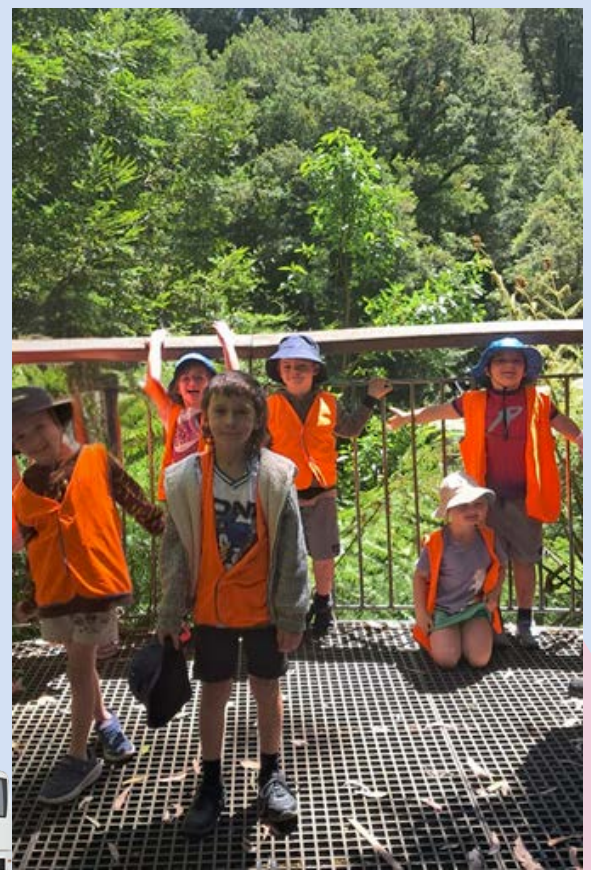
Tiddalek



Narrt



This month has welcomed back our OSHC children to 2026, starting with the vacation care program. This has been a fun way for our new preps to become familiar with their play space, while giving the older children the opportunity to form new and stronger connections with their peers and educators. Through exciting excursions such as visiting the Tarra Bulga swing bridge and visiting local establishments, the Narrt Room is ready to tackle the new year!



Ngurran

The Ngurran room was closed over the Holiday period, but Ros was helping down at Yarram OSHC (Narrt) with Vacation Care

Toilet training: signs that children are ready

You might see signs that your child is ready for toilet training from about 2 years on. Some children show signs of being ready as early as 18 months, and some might be older than 2 years.

It might be time for toilet training if your child:

- is walking and can sit for short periods of time
- is generally more independent, including saying 'no' more often
- is interested in watching others go to the toilet
- has dry nappies for 2 or more hours
- tells you with words or gestures when they do a poo or wee in their nappy
- begins to dislike wearing a nappy, perhaps trying to pull it off when it's wet or soiled
- has regular, soft, formed bowel movements
- can pull their pants up and down
- can follow simple instructions like 'Give the ball to Daddy'.



Not all these signs need to be present when your child is ready. A general trend will let you know when it's time to start.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/preschoolers/health-daily-care/toileting/toilet-training-guide>



Staff Spotlight



Mikayla

What advice would you give to someone thinking about a career in Early Childhood?

My advice to someone thinking about a career in early childhood is to think about what provider you want to study through before committing, some places are easier to understand and work with than others. Working with small children has its challenges, and it can be very emotionally taxing, but it is also very rewarding. Every time I see a child reach a milestone or form a bond with me or their peers I feel like the hard days are worth it easily.

What other industries have you previously worked in?

I worked in hospitality for a year or so, and then I moved on to be a swimming instructor until covid hit. I then managed a Kmart store for about a year at 18. After that I worked as a disability support worker for a child with ASD and ADHD for two years before I moved to Yarram and started at Yarram Early learning



What unique skill or expertise do you bring to the table that benefits the team?

I interact with the children I work with well, and I like to think I am adaptive to individual children's needs. I'm also funny.

What is your go-to karaoke song or your favourite musical artist?

Any ABBA song, I enjoy dramatically screaming the winner takes it all

What are your top 3 emojis?



Tips to Encourage Language Development

Songs and rhymes

Singing simple songs and rhymes in your preferred language helps to develop a child's awareness of how words work. It is a fun, interactive way to help a child learn different sounds and words:

- Add actions and gestures to songs and rhymes.
- Clap along to the rhythm.
- Dance and move around as you sing.
- Have fun!