



Term 1 2019 April Newsletter

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Wallawani

We welcome you to our Preschool. Djiringanj, Thaua and Dhurga are the languages of the indigenous people of the South Coast. Wallawani is a local Aboriginal word used as a greeting and farewell.

Our staff

Jane Courtney

Director and Teacher Admin: Mon/Tue.

Teacher: 3-day group Wed/Thur/Fri

Kym Hawthorne

Teacher Mon/Tue: 2-day group.

Educator: 3-day group

Annette Turner

Educator: 2-day group

Mayumi Murphy

Educator: 2-day group.

Corrie Shepherd

Educator: 2-day group

Trish Whitford

Educator: 3-day group

Emily Monck

Educator: Support worker

3-day group

Chris Fantham

Administration Officer: Wed/Thur



Term 2 Staffing changes: We welcome Stacey Phelan who will be teaching the 3-day group while Jane is on long service leave for term 2. Stacey is a musician and wonderful teacher who has worked with us before. Kym Hawthorne will step into the role of Director, teaching Monday/Tuesday. Educator Wednesday/Thursday and then admin on Friday.

Handy hints to remember

- ✓ Name everything
- ✓ **BROAD BRIMMED hat to play is a must please**
- ✓ 2 LUNCH BOXES please
- ✓ Healthy food.
- ✓ Minimise throw away packaging and aim for plastic free
- ✓ 1 drink bottle with water only.
- ✓ A few changes of spare clothing with a wet bag for wet and or dirty clothing

Family Picnic and BBQ

What a wonderful night. Good company, great food, magical magic from the Great Zamboni and now we have a new Committee. Thanks to those who nominated

Highlights from our Educational Program

Belonging has been the focus for term 1. For some children they are learning what it means to

belong to a group for the first time. For others they are adapting to changes in their group dynamics and forging new relationships." *A sense of belonging is essential if children are to be successful learners. By fostering belonging we also foster wellbeing and learning*". (DEEWR p7). This is the first building block of our educational program. We use visual images and intentional teaching to help children become familiar with the rhythm of our day. Learning experiences are provided to support children to develop new relationships and learn to interact positively with others while feeling supported in our nurturing preschool environment. Teaching staff use positive language to achieve this outcome. See attachment for tips to use at home.

This term we celebrated "Kindness Day "in partnership with Tathra School. Check out the children's diary (15th March) to hear children's comments about "what it means to be kind". We have much to learn from the voices of children.

Children's interests and questions drive our educational program. A big thankyou to Callie's family for the gorgeous flowers from Buckajo Flower Farm. These flowers bring joy and inspired our journey to learn more about flowers and how plants work. Over the last few weeks we set up an experiment using coloured water and white flowers to discover how flowers absorb water. Like all good scientists we set up the experiment, predicted what would happen next, observed the changes, documented our findings and did some research to find the answers to our questions.



Check out our learning story "The Buckajo Flower Farm Flower Experiment" to see what we have been doing. You will also find a copy in your child's digital portfolio so children can share their learning with you.

Our art program has also been inspired by these wonderful flowers. Children have had the opportunity to immerse themselves in creative experiences as they paint with vibrant water colours, experiment with colour mixing and investigate shape and line.

2019 Management Committee

President: Sarah Little

Vice President: Vanessa Milton.

Secretary: Steve Totterdell.

Treasurer: Thomas Johnson

General Members: Matt Alterator,
Mel Galvin , Tanya Whiteway

The concepts of **Reduce**, **Reuse** **Recycle** are an important part of our day. At meal times children take responsibility for feeding worms and guinea pigs, taking scraps to the compost and sorting rubbish for the bin or recycling. We have just created a soft plastics recycling station and would love you to join us in our aim to reduce the amount of soft plastics at Preschool.



Children have been learning to use tape, scissors and cutting tools to create 3D objects. They are practising important fine motor skills, **reusing packaging** and learning how to put their ideas into practise. Ask children to sing you the **Reduce**, **Reuse** **Recycle** using sign language.

The garden is the perfect outdoor classroom and children enjoy 'real work' as they care for their preschool garden. Children have been watering our new plants during these hot summer months; helping to create a garden compost heap, measuring and documenting the rain fall in our rain gauge, observing caterpillars, lizards, spiders and interesting insects. Science, maths and literacy in action as children care for our environment.

Getting to know you child

You will find the Children's Diary next to the sign in and out book. We encourage you to read through the diary, ask questions and make suggestions. It is always great to hear about the things that interest your child and family, which can be incorporated into our day. In the afternoon look for the photos we have taken (downloaded onto a digital photo screen) so we can share our day with you. We have a Teaching Journal in the staff room where we document children's learning, interests and needs and educational goals.



Parent Teacher Meetings It was wonderful to catch up with parents during our term 1 Parent/Teacher Meetings. These meetings are a great opportunity for us to share your child's interests, preschool relationships and learning. We value the opportunity to gain a more in-depth knowledge about each child and find out what is important for your family. "Learning outcomes are most likely to be achieved when early childhood educators work in partnership with families". (DEEWR, 2009: p12). A big thanks goes to Chris for the improved on-line booking system.

Parenting resources

We have a Parent Library just to the right as you walk into the "hook room". We are happy to help you borrow a book that suits your needs. Our term 2 Parent Workshop is now planned for term 3 as Jane will be on long service leave during term 2. The workshop will cover one of our favourite Behaviour Management strategies; How to say "No" in a different way. "No" is a strong word. When we hear "No" our brain tells us to "fight" or "take flight". The following examples show a positive mindset approach and have the potential to minimise conflict.

- ≈ *Your child demands a biscuit at brekkie time. Rather than saying "No", we can say: "Yes, you can have a bickie at morning tea, let's put it in container ready for later". This is cultivating the Yes brain*
- ≈ *A child says "I want to watch TV" at an unsuitable time. We say "Yes after xxx we will put the TV on.*
- ≈ *At the shop a child says, "I want that toy". We can say "Great idea let's put it on our Christmas/birthday list"*

Our favourite Podcast right now is "Raising Boys with Love" on Conversations with Richard Fiddler ABC Radio.

EAT A RAINBOW EVERYDAY

Two lunch boxes for our meal times please. A separate container for morning tea and lunch makes it easier for the children and us. **Please avoid thermal bags** to store children's food. **The Department of Health has advised us that we are unable to store food in the fridge in thermal bags as they keep the cold out.**

Water only please in children's drink Bottles. The Department of health recommends water daily. Fruit juice and cordial is referred to as a sometimes food and not appropriate for daily consumption.

We like to **avoid packaged foods**. Fresh fruit, sandwiches, last night's dinner are all good to encourage healthy eating at preschool and help us reduce our rubbish. Chocolate treats, lollies, sweet cakes and biscuits, flavoured yoghurt (which is high in sugar) and chips are classified as sometimes foods and not recommended as part of children's daily food intake and not appropriate for preschool.

Sun Safe

Remember to pack a broad brimmed hat. It is best if children wear their own hat to minimise the sharing of nits. You will find sunscreen next to the sign in and out book. We help children apply sun cream 20 minutes prior to outdoor play and invite you to apply sunscreen when you arrive in the morning.



Wharf to Waves

This year the Preschool received \$12,000 in funding from the 2019 event. Funds from Wharf to Waves are always set aside for capital improvements to our preschool. This year the funds will go towards replacing the vinyl and carpet throughout the Preschool. We are also hoping to modify the shade house to improve supervision. Positions vacant on the Wharf to Waves Committee have been filled by Corrie Shepherd (data entry and management) and Vanessa Milton (Publicity). We still have the secretary position to fill for the event to proceed in 2020. Jane Funston is happy to provide lots of support to help you learn all that is needed for this role. Chat to Jane Courtney if you are interested.



Bush Fire recovery Project

Tathra Preschool has been working closely with RFS to update our Bush Fire Plan. We have developed a template in collaboration with Pambula Preschool and Bega RFS that can be used to support early childhood services in planning for Bush Fire and risk minimisation. In June the Preschool will host the Tathra South Community Protection Planning workshop and take part in the Bush Fire Recovery Gala Day in September. The Preschool has been proactive in the bush fire recovery process and we have welcomed our partnership with the RFS and support agencies. So many acts of kindness reflect the circle of security that surrounds our community.

Fees

Please make sure your term 1 fees are fully paid by the end of term. It is preschool policy that term 1 fees are to be paid prior to commencing in term 2. Chris will contact you if you have outstanding fees. If you are having financial difficulties, please call Jane or Chris.

Updating Paperwork

When and if your child receives a new immunisation please provide a copy of the Immunisation History Statement for our records. Low Income Health Care Cards will also need to be updated before the expiry date so that we can continue providing fee relief.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- ✓ We like to deconstruct old technology to investigate their inner workings. Please collect old desktop computers, old stereos, computer keyboards and old technology. If it can be taken apart with a Phillips head screw driver then we can reuse it
- ✓ We are also keen to get hold of a good supply of old telephone handsets, old mobile phones, and computer keyboards. Please collect lids from milk bottles, yogurt containers and plastic bottles. Great for 3D construction/sculpture
- ✓ Scrap booking supplies are a good resource for children's art.
- ✓ Greeting cards are good resources for office /post office imaginative play.

Website

You can check term dates and find information such as; Tathra Preschool philosophy and policies; up and coming events; 'What to bring Checklist'; healthy eating ideas, newsletters and more. Click on the link below to access the website <http://tathrapreschool.com.au>



Tathra Preschool 2019 Term dates

Term 1: Tuesday 29 January to Friday 12 April

29th Jan: Set Up day for staff

30th Jan: PD Day for staff

31st Jan: 3-day group start

4th Feb: 2-day children start

8th March Family BBQ and AGM

18th March Parent Teacher Meetings: 2-day group with Kym

19th March Parent Teacher Meetings; 3-day group with Jane.

Term 2 – Monday 29 April to Friday 5 July

Jane long service leave

3rd June and 5th June: Grahame Moore. Preschool visits: Aboriginal Cross-Cultural Program

30th June: Preschool to host "RFS Tathra South Community Protection Planning Workshop".

Term 3 – Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September

7th August: Positive Strategies for Managing Children's Behaviour: 6.30- 7.30pm

1st September: Gala Day. Rural Fire Service Recovery Project



Tips for using positive life enhancing language to manage children's behaviour

Sentences that Encourage

It is good to avoid using why questions

- How might we resolve this?
- How can we make this better?
- What do you think needs to happen now?
- What can I do to help you complete this task?
- Sounds like you/we have a problem.
- How can we work together to get the best outcome here?
- There is a conflict here – how can I help you sort it out?
- There are two choices.....Please CHOOSE, DECIDE, PICK.
- What's your goal? What's your intention?
- I'm willing to help you complete this task.
- I know you can handle it!
- It won't be long before you will be able to do this?
- Every problem has a solution
- Use "next time" rather than "don't do this..."
- Now that's interesting.....



≈ **Avoid** using it's easy! Or it's going to be hard/tough/tricky as a predictor

≈ **Avoid evaluative praise:** "You're a terrific runner."

≈ **Choose descriptive:** "We have completed our play time and the floor is really clean." ...let them tell themselves they did a great job!!!

≈ **Choose appreciative:** "I appreciate you helping to make the lounge room clean and tidy. That saves me doing it after dinner."

BEING HEARD

- Let me put this down so I can give you my full attention.....
- Wait a second while I turn off the TV, radio, computer so I can really hear you
- So what you mean is
- Tell me more about this.....
- That must have been...(difficult)....for you.....

Tips have been adapted using Maggie Dent: 10 Resilience Building Blocks for children 0-12. Electronic copies available on request and a copy is in our parent library.