



Term 2 2019 June Newsletter

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Our staff 2019

Jane Courtney (LSL Term 2)

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

Stacey Phelan

Teacher: 3-day group Wed/Thurs/Fri

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/Thurs

2019 Management Committee

President: Sarah Little

Vice President: Vanessa Milton.

Secretary: Steve Totterdell.

Treasurer: Thomas Johnson

General Members: Matt Alterator,

Mel Galvin, Tanya Whiteway.



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 or beanie**
- ✓ 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

Assessment and Rating Visit

On the 7th and 8th of May we had our assessment and rating visit. This was timed well as Jane was yet to leave on her holiday, so was able to be in attendance to help ensure that all required paperwork and information was accessed and provided where needed.

Overall the experience was a positive one, and a fantastic opportunity to show case the quality of our preschool. All the staff present on the two days did a wonderful job answering questions and promoting what and why we do what we do every day. We all felt very proud of our beautiful preschool that has been created and maintained for the last 30 years by the wonderful local community.

Special thank you to Mel Galvin and Lara Poupard for introducing themselves to the assessor to speak on behalf of the committee and families. Conversations like this support and strengthen the value we place on strong connections with families and community.

Rated as an EXCEEDING service in all elements of the National Quality Framework!!!!
Congratulations to staff, children, families and committee members for your contribution and commitment to making Tathra Preschool an exceedingly fantastic place to be, learn and grow.

Highlights from our Educational Program

Imaginative play

This term we have had a 'hospital' set up in our inside imaginative play space following on from several children's experiences with hospitals recently through broken bones and siblings being born. Additionally, the children across the week have had a strong interest in all things pirate. Both



interests have allowed lots of scope for rich imaginative play. When children engage in pretend (or dramatic) play, they are actively experimenting with the social and emotional roles of life. They learn about turn-taking, sharing responsibility, and creative problem-solving. When children pretend to be different characters, they have the experience of "walking in someone else's shoes," which helps teach the important moral development skill of empathy. It is normal for young children to see the world from their own egocentric point of view, but through maturation and cooperative play children begin to understand the feelings



of others. They also build self-esteem when they discover they can be anything just by pretending!

The hospital has morphed many times from a drop-in clinic, maternity hospital, veterinary hospital, even a marine animal vet! The children resource objects available to them to re-purpose the space to suit their needs in their imaginative play, alternatively they will make things that they feel

they need or request it of educators. For example, Harper suggested that the hospital needed icepacks, Annette then helped Harper to make these additional resources. This empowers children to resource their own learning, which in turn supports them to develop their creativity and problem-solving skills.

Likewise, the 'pirate play' has seen children working collaboratively to follow treasure maps, dig for treasure, make items such as treasure maps, spyglasses and pirate ships to enhance and support their play. As educators we have supported these interests through stories, books, songs, music, rhymes and research.

Reconciliation Week and Upcoming NAIDOC celebrations

Reconciliation week is an opportunity to start conversations and learning about the traditional custodians of this land; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We use phrases such as "The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were the first people to live in Australia". We introduce local language using familiar songs such as 'Heads & Shoulders' and animal names. We use stories, books, songs and dance to introduce aspects of culture and ways of being and knowing.



Graham Moore visited both groups as part of his Cross-Cultural Awareness Program. Graham shared traditional stories with the children and showed us a variety of different rocks that could be used for cutting, chopping and grinding. Some children choose to have their faces painted with ochre representing owls and crows. We learnt how to move and dance like a *djudjuwa* (kangaroo), *guniwa* (emu), and *maliarn* (eagle), and Graham showed us how kangaroo and possum furs could be used as coats, blankets, pillows, or as a canvas for artwork.

Graham has worked in partnership with Tathra preschool for many years (since his own children attended), helping us to enrich our educational program, promoting and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Australia's first peoples.

Our commitment to reconciliation means that we are continuously learning and intend to continue working collaboratively to promote knowledge and understanding with the goal of improved equality and equity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children.

2-Day Group News



The Monday/Tuesday children have settled in at preschool and are developing their sense of belonging. This acts as the foundation for learning and allows the children to develop their confidence to experiment, explore their environment and build relationships. It has been wonderful to witness this transition, and over the last few weeks we have increasingly noticed the children developing their ability for independent and self-directed play.

Every Tuesday the children are super excited for 'Onigiri Day'. Mayumi makes the onigiri (Japanese rice balls) with the children, sharing Japanese songs and phrases while they eat. This experience provides a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about another culture through food and language. It is such a joyous moment when Mayumi sings the 'Onigiri Song' and the children come flocking from all corners of the playground.

The changing seasons have been a source of investigation and inquiry as we observe the Claret Ash turning and losing more leaves every day. The children wondered how long it might take for all the leaves to drop and compared it with our other deciduous tree which lost its leaves much earlier. The fallen leaves created opportunities for raking, throwing up in the air, jumping in, burying and transporting to all corners of the playground. It is wonderful how our



natural environment leads to so many opportunities for learning through observation, inquiry and play.

3-Day Group News

Reflecting on the first half of this term for the children and myself it all started with a focus on relationships. With Jane on long service leave the children were comforted by the consistent educators whom they have come to know and trust; Kym, Corrie, Trish and Emily and we began the term getting to know each other. I can say with all honesty it has been an absolute pleasure. The children with their unique personalities and intriguing views on the world have been kind, welcoming and highly entertaining. Our learning journeys seem to be naturally spring boarding from one thing to the next as we extend the children's play experiences to support their learning and development.

The experiments with colour last term moved to the painting table with experiments in colour mixing and exploring the concepts of light and dark. The hospital has provided opportunities for pretend and imaginative play. The children have taken on roles as doctors, nurses, patients and more recently as vets and wounded animals. The hospital sparked work around our bodies; skeletal systems, digestion, veins and muscles while practising care, empathy and respect. Early literacy and numeracy resources were added to stimulate children's natural engagement with it in their play.



Pirates have been a popular play theme. We have learnt some fun songs and shared stories about pirates and one day discovered a treasure map that led us to the sandpit and days of digging to uncover the golden treasure. We combined this interest with the work we had been doing around shapes to create a shape hunt. It was a joy watching the children run around with their clipboards finding shapes, marking them off on their sheet to keep track of what they had found and were yet to find. We will continue to extend on this in the coming weeks.

Thank you very much to have Sarah, Oscar's mum who came in to teach the children sign language. Through songs and story Sarah taught us many signs and explored what sign language is and what it means to be deaf. The children were captivated as they learnt of a

gorilla named Koko who grew up in captivity and was taught sign language to communicate with humans. Her story was both moving and inspirational. I encourage you to look Koko up online with your children at home if you are interested.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the incredible team of Teachers and Educators at Tathra Preschool. It is an

inspirational team to be a part of and I'm grateful for being made so welcome and for all the support that I have received.

Stacey

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 a 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"*

Also, I highly recommend listening to Maggie Dent's new radio program: ***"Parental as Anything"***: *Maggie talks to parenting experts from around the world to find practical solutions to the challenges every parent is facing today.* Maggie's advice is accessible and realistic. The first episode talks about navigating the world of digital devices and screen time. I found it insightful and picked up some practical tips without feeling overwhelmed. You can find this program on ABC:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/parental-as-anything-with-maggie-dent/>



EAT A RAINBOW EVERYDAY

Two lunch boxes for our mealtimes 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.

In keeping with our Sustainability Policy, we would love to become a **waste-free** preschool. Please avoid using glad-wrap and other plastic packaging. There are many alternatives available such as: bees wax wraps, cloth wraps, compartmentalised containers. Check out these websites for more ideas:

<https://www.biome.com.au/>

https://www.beewrappy.com.au/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIqLSVrtPE4gIVzxwrCh3SsQ9dEAYAiAAEgId_vD_BwE

<https://kalarumakeristco.com/collections/all>

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

Now that winter is here, we are no longer applying sunscreen as the UV index has dropped below 3, therefore sun protection is not recommended. We continue to encourage children to wear a hat or beanie to maintain healthy habits and to maintain consistency with the school who have a "No hat, no play" policy.

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.

Bike Enduro

The annual Tathra Bike Enduro was held on the long weekend, and we were grateful to receive a \$500 contribution to our preschool. Last year these funds were used to purchase maths games and resources for the children. A big thank you goes out to Kellie Umbach and Kym Hawthorne for volunteering as marshals on the forest track to keep bike riders safe and heading in the right direction.

Staying healthy at Preschool

The wintery weather brings with it an increase in cold and flu like symptoms. At Preschool we follow National Health and Medical Research Council Guidelines to minimise the spread of infection and stop the spread of diseases at preschool. Strategies include;

- Effective hand hygiene;
- Exclusion of ill children, educators and other staff;
- Immunisation;
- Cough and sneeze etiquette;
- Appropriate use of gloves;
- Effective environmental cleaning.

If your child needs Panadol, is coughing and or unable to manage a very runny nose we recommend you keep them home to reduce the potential for spreading illness to other children and adults



Fees

Please make sure your term 2 fees are fully paid by the end of term. It is preschool policy that term 2 fees are to be paid prior to commencing in term 3. 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.

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>

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- ✓ We like to deconstruct old technology to investigate their inner workings. Please collect old desktop computers, stereos, and any other old technology. If it can be taken apart with a Philips head screwdriver, then we can use it.
- ✓ Please collect lids from milk bottles, yogurt containers and plastic bottles. Great for 3D construction.
- ✓ Unused scrapbooking supplies are a good resource for children's art.
- ✓ Old greeting cards can be used for office/post office imaginative play.



Tathra Preschool 2019 Term dates

Term 2 – Monday 29 April to Friday 5 July

- ≈ Jane long service leave
- ≈ 1st July: NAIDOC week

Term 3 – Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September

- ≈ 1st August: Wuruniri Cultural Programme – Matthew Doyle
- ≈ 7th August: Positive Strategies for Managing Children's Behaviour: 6.30 – 7.30pm
- ≈ 16th August: Adventures in Music with Carol & Gary Crees
- ≈ 1st September: Gala Day: Rural Fire Service recovery Project
- ≈ 11th September: "Through the School Gate": transition to school Q&A session: 6-7pm with a light supper provided.

Term 4 – Monday 14 October to Friday 20 December

- ≈ 19th October: Annual family Working B: 9 – 12pm
- ≈ 19th December: End of Year Celebration
- ≈ 20th December: Clean-up day: staff