

Term 2 2021 June Newsletter

Contact details: Phone: 6494 1847.

Email: info@tathrapreschool.com.au

Yaribee. Djiringanj is the Aboriginal language of Tathra and Bega. Yaribee can be used to say 'hello, goodbye and see ya later'. We have adopted this greeting supported by the newly formed Djiringanj Elders Federation.

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.

Trish Whitford

Inclusion Support Educator: 3-day group

Emily Monck

Inclusion Support Educator :2-day group

Educator: 3-day group

Chris Fantham: Administration Officer Wed/Thur

We welcome Michelle Bye to our Friday team and our casual relief team.

Handy hints to remember

- ✓ Name everything
- ✓ BROAD BRIMMED hat to play. A beanie is good in winter.
- ✓ Healthy food
- ✓ Tathra Preschool is plastic free. We are keen to eliminate yogurts in soft pouches as they fill up our soft plastics recycling station and most children find them hard to open.
- ✓ Minimise throw away packaging.
- ✓ A few changes of spare clothing. Extra socks and jumpers for wintertime.

Tathra Preschool 2021 Term dates

Term 2: 19th April—25th June

- 19th April Children back
- 25th May: Parenting Workshop

Term 3: 12th July-17th September

- 2- Day group: Preschool photos: Tuesday 6th Sept (To be confirmed)
- 3-Day Group: Preschool Photos: Thursday 8th September (To be confirmed)
- 2-day Group: Tiny Zoo Visit: 2nd August
- 3 Day Group: Tiny Zoo Visit 4th August

Term 4: 5th October- 17th December

- 9th October: Annual Working B
- 14th December: Tuesday: last day for 2-day group
- 15th December: Wednesday; last day 3-day group
- 16th December: End of year Picnic: 12-2

Wharf to Waves 22nd and 23rd Jan 2022



Educational Program

Reconciliation Week. We aim to embed an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective in all aspects of our educational program. As a team we are in the process of developing a Reconciliation Action Plan for our Preschool. But what does this mean for children and our educational program? For us it means:

- Acknowledging the traditional owners. Children learn that Aboriginal people were the first people to live in Australia and that Tathra (land of the quoll) was Djiringanj land.
- Working in partnership with Djiringanj Elders
- Sharing our Acknowledgment of Country using sign language.
- Learning language and words from Djiringanj, Thawa and Dhurga.
- Sharing and participating in indigenous art, music and stories.
- Learning to listen to each other, use kind words and be kind to each other.
- Developing empathy and respect for diversity,
- Caring for our environment.

All these things become part of the everydayness of our educational program rather than a one of activity or single week.

Imaginative Play: The themes of hospital, veterinary clinic and road works have provided inspiration for 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!

Emotions: This term we have been learning about emotions and exploring the idea of “self”. Children have been:

- exploring feelings and emotions.
- making connections between facial expressions and emotions.
- identifying and thinking about various emotions.
- learning strategies for coping with feelings and emotions.
- Engaged in art, literature, music experiences to think more deeply and explore emotions.

Early Years Learning Framework Outcome: Children develop a strong sense of social and emotional wellbeing and develop a confident self-identity.



Compost Project Experiment: This experiment involves children in the science of composting. The teachers are learning heaps too. We add waste to the first chamber until it is full. Then wait 6 weeks then we observe, predict, hypothesise and document. Then hopefully we have the perfect compost for our garden. Not too wet, not too dry but just right. Our new compost hub and resources provide the perfect learning centre and hub for compost. Check out the new signage. A big thankyou to Annette who developed the content for the sign.



Growing Project: Children set up the garden bed by improving the soil with mushroom compost and worm compost ready to plant seeds. Like every good scientist we now observe, measure and document our findings. Children use rulers to measure and a graph to chart the growth. These tools of measurement provide children with hands on maths learning.



Autumn The changing seasons have been a source of investigation and inquiry as we observe the Claret Ash turning and losing leaves every day. The children wondered how long it might take for all the leaves to drop. The fallen leaves create opportunities for raking, throwing up in the air, jumping in and transporting piles to leaves to all corners of the playground. Our outdoor classroom provides many opportunities for learning through observation, inquiry and play.

Twinkie and death of a pet

As many of you know Twinkie died at the ripe old age of 9 years old. Ancient in guinea pig years. The children have been involved in the palliative care phase of her life. Maggie Dent (author, educator, and parenting and resilience specialist) advises that we “speak plainly about what happens when an animal dies, particularly towards the end of a pet’s life”. Maggie suggests that our first instinct is to protect children from death and avoid dealing with it, but in doing so we are protecting them from a vital learning. Pets provide the opportunity for children learn to cope with loss and death as they grow up.



Maggie Dent: Suggestions for talking about death with children.

1. State the (age-appropriate) facts, children can’t deal with loss until they know what it is

2. Use words like death, and died, not words like passed away or went to sleep.
3. Explain when we lose something we love and our hearts hurt, it's normal. Validate it.
4. Let them know we all need soothing (hugs and cuddles or a teddy bear) to get through it.
5. Help them create a special memory, which might be a letter or a drawing.
6. Get your kids pets like fish and guinea pigs so they can experience death as they grow up.
7. Don't worry if your kids are sad, it's normal. Don't worry if they cry or you cry. It's normal.
8. Children hold grief in shorter pockets than adults.
9. If your kids don't bring it up, if the child isn't talking about it, don't bring it up. Wait until they come to you or they are showing signs of distress.



Enrolment Intentions Survey

Make sure you have filled in your preschool enrolment survey. When making choices about 2 days or 3 days we recommend that you choose what works for you. Both the 2- day and 3-day programs offer high quality educational programs run for school eligible children. Research indicates that 2 days is the recommended amount of Preschool prior to going to school. Children will successfully transition to school from either 2 days or 3 days at Preschool.

[2022 Intentions](#)

EAT A RAINBOW EVERYDAY

We like to **avoid packaged foods** and would love to eliminate the yogurts in soft pouches as they fill up our soft plastics recycling station and most children cannot open them independently. Small containers filled from a large supply of yogurt at home are perfect for pre-schoolers and using a spoon helps them to refine their fine-motor skills. Fresh fruit, sandwiches, last night's dinner are all good ways to encourage healthy eating at preschool and help us reduce our contribution to landfill. 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.

Positive Parenting Workshop and Resources

We had a lovely night sharing positive parenting strategies. The powerpoint presentation has links , resources and some helpful videos so let us know if you would like us to email you a copy. You are welcome to borrow books from our parent library. Check out the bookshelf in the 'hook room'. We are happy to help you borrow a book that suits your needs

2021 Management Committee

President: Sally Inkster
Vice President: Simone Harvey
Secretary: Sophie Revington
Treasurer: Nicole Collins
General Members: Kate Fergusson
 Kate Burkhardt, Sophie Rose

Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) Update

- Programming and Planning: Improved goal setting documentation in partnership with families now in place
- Reconciliation Action Plan:
 - Acknowledgment updated in consultation with Djiringanj Elders federation. Geebung planted.
 - “Learning through play on Djiringanj Country” added to website to the preschool website, stationary and postal address. We are in the process of adding this statement to the entry sign.
 - Entry display in Progress (Statement of the heart framed. Aboriginal map framed. Languages Matter poster framed. AECG certificate framed and displayed).
 - We are working on establishing a relationship with Aboriginal students from Bega High with the idea of creating a visiting program to share games, culture and develop relationships.
 - Tathra Preschool Sign: Geebung planted, and rocks added. Djiringanj Elder’s Federation have informed us that the Geebung plant was offered as a peace offering to those coming onto Djiringanj country.
- Compost HUB: Landscaping and signage completed. Action research in Progress.
- Carpet and Lino Replacement: Completed
- Landscape Improvements: In progress
- Carpark Improvement: In progress
- Roofing works: Leak rectification in progress
- History Project: Our Preschool 2014- current in progress. 1987 -2014 has been completed.



Thankyou

Thanks goes out to:

- John and Melinda Renwick for their gardening works around the Preschool. Our gardens are looking great.
- Michael Morris, for rubbish removal and maintenance jobs.
- Gail Suthern for taking guinea pigs to the vet
- Thanks to all those parents helped with our end of term cleaning jobs. Much appreciated!!

Website

You can check term dates and find information such as Tathra Preschool philosophy and polices; 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>

