

June 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Dates*

22
JUNE
Thursday
Due Date for
Picture Plates

6
AUG
Sunday
8am - 10am
Bush Care

2
SEP
Saturday
SAVE THE DATE: Movie Night
Pendicup Hall, Warner

Director's Report Committee Meeting 13 June

Recently our major stakeholders have been involved in the following activities:

Children

Within our Kindergarten philosophy we state and embed daily;

"We empower children to become powerful learners and active citizens. We value their input and respect their individuality."



This philosophical statement linked well to this year's under 8's theme "Play- you, me and our community". Every day at Kindergarten the children have the opportunity to learn through play and share their ideas with each other and their Educators.

Through their fortnightly Bush Kindy experiences they become active citizens and connect to nature and the Community around them.

Leading into Reconciliation week the end of week groups were lucky enough to have an incursion with Wantungaa dreaming where they were able to participate in story telling, digeridoo musical experiences and bush tucker planning.

The beginning of the week groups hope to have this experience next term.

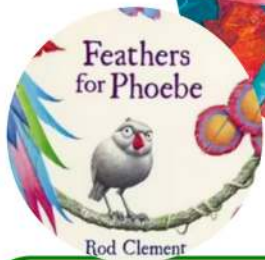
On Wednesday 24th May we also participated in National Simultaneous Storytime by reading this years' book "Speedy Sloth".

Our program continues to view children as thinkers and theorists. It is with this belief that many of the children's interests form and this then facilitates their learning.

Thank you to those who have been able to make contributions to our Building Fund. We welcome donations at any time of the year as it goes a long way in continuing to make improvements to our Kindergarten such as the upgrade to the children's bathrooms last year. As this is a registered Building Fund, if you are able to make a voluntary contribution, you may wish to donate before the 30th June and we will issue you with a tax-deductible receipt. Please deposit into the Kindy's bank account as follows:

Albany Creek Kindergarten
BSB: 124068
Account: 10255144
Re: Building Fund Contribution

*Please refer to your 2023 Calendar for individual group start dates



Mrs Carli Wilson's **RED GROUP** interests have been mostly provoked by the natural world. The birds that visit at morning tea inspired the children to learn about birds in our community. This led to binoculars being made and going on a bird watching walk where children tallied a variety of local birds they spotted. We read the book "Feathers for Pheobe" and made our own clay birds and nests. Following a bush kindy visit where a few children discovered 'giant grubs' in the dirt we began learning about different insects and their life cycles. Items from our museum loan also supported this learning. We read many Eric Carle books about insects and we explored patterns, colour, shape and texture with Eric Carle style collages. At present there is a strong interest in community helpers, and we currently have a police station in the block area and a giant box police car being created. We are looking forward to Sully's Dad who is a Police Officer coming in a speaking with us. We had a fabulous bush kindy session where the children showed us how resilient, resourceful, and creative they are as we spent half our day with few resources out playing in the bush. It was magical!

Mrs Tracey Wilson's **GREEN GROUP** have continued to explore Australian animals with an extension of their creativity using pictures to inspire painting. The group furthered their experiences at Bush Kindy with plant discoveries, rope courses and magnifying glasses. This continued within the Kindergarten environment with clay and natural items, painting on paperbark and collage with nature items that we found in our playground. We were able to further these interests and make connections to Aboriginal culture with art, songs, dances and two particular books (Sorry day and Say yes) which evoked many thoughtful questions. Finally, built our knowledge of road safety through books, songs, picture talks and role plays and then supported our Community with posters and craft to reinforce the theme "Hold my hand".



Mrs Robyn Taylor's **YOUNG KINDERGARTEN** children have been taking turns bringing interesting items from home in the Show and Share Box. We have been able to follow up on what we have seen. A medical kit gave us the idea to play hospitals; a rock collection led us to exploring our own rocks, plants and seed pods and sent us hunting for plants; and painted rocks gave us the idea to paint our own. We also share stories from home every day from our 'Family Happenings' page. We have also had lots of camping role play experiences. The children continue to develop positive relationships and managing the kindergarten routines. We are planning to end the term with a pyjama day.

Mrs Janelle Bull's **BLUE** group have been exploring dramatic play. After many suggestions and using our 'first past the post' voting system, we have role played in an office and the Hospital. This play has allowed the children to develop their imagination, their co-ordination, language and communication skills, to focus and most importantly it teaches children to respect each other, be adaptable and work together. Dramatic play allows children to make sense of their world.

From a child's enquiring mind and a comment, we have also been experimenting with colour. This was followed up further during bush kindy looking at the colours of nature.

An outcome from our morning yarnning circle is always plans for the obstacle course. The children's physical skills have developed since the beginning of the year as we are now seeing many in the group able to reach their goal of completing the monkey bars.

The **YELLOW** group have also explored dramatic play with a grocery shop and hospital. This play has allowed the children to see a purpose in writing as they made grocery lists and filled in patient forms. We were very fortunate to have 2 parents who are paramedics come and talk to the class about their work and demonstrate how their equipment works and for what purpose it is used. The group have also explored weight using scales and are now experimenting with colour mixing. This was a follow up plan after a child watched the paint run on her easel painting.

During Bush kindy the class has sat very quietly on the log near the creek hoping to see a platypus but as yet no luck. Last Bush Kindy day the children were wondering where the "builder's noise" was coming from. After a little more exploring we found a clearing in the grass and saw a new house being built.



Educators

Our team of Educators dedicated their time after our Open day on May 20 to continue to grow professionally. Through the Kindy Uplift funding we engaged the services of Bec from Cottonwood Learning. We were able to build our skills, make links to Indigenous perspectives, use "real tools" and get lots of new ideas for our Bush Kindy program. We look forward to starting to implement what we have learnt to continue to support our children build confidence, resilience, wellbeing and cultural connection. Our team has also seen 4 educators participating in weekly training to learn AUSLAN and other professional development opportunities related to music ideas, loose parts play, and nature play.





SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 2 September

Movie Night
at Penticup Hall, Warner

Further details TBA in Term 3

Purchases

Thanks to our Mother's Day fund raiser and support through our Scholastics book club we have been able to purchase and make plans to purchase new books, Bush Kindy resources (linking to our professional development training), a new marketing banner and new flexible seating to support children's learning.

Families

Mother's or special guests came to visit Kindergarten to celebrate Mother's Day. The special visitors were involved in a range of experiences such as singing, dancing, craft, involvement in the program or sharing a snack. All in all the children loved sharing their Kindergarten with their special people.

On May 20 we welcomed 43 families to our Kindergarten Open Day. This was a highly successful event with 74 adults and 65 children attending, and 20 new waiting list applications gained (9 for 2024, 4 for 2025, 3 for 2026 and 4 for 2027). We continue to ask for your support in spreading the word about our wonderful Community Kindergarten to help build awareness within the Community that a) we exist, b) it is never too late to add your name to the waiting list and c) you won't find a better learning environment in Albany Creek for your child to be prepared for their future education.

Bush Care with Moreton Bay Regional Council continues to be something that we are passionate about. The format will be changing slightly with the aim to improve attendance from the kindergarten and wider community, but still have the ongoing support of the council in maintaining bush space behind our Kindergarten.

Bush Care will now happen once a term as an event, so please stay tuned for more information. Next date is Sunday 6th August from 8-10am.

Tracey Wilson (Nominated supervisor)



Thank you to those who have been supporting the safety of our children and families by holding hands around and in the carpark and avoiding parking on the yellow line.

C&K COVID-19 Response Level
This centre is currently at the following COVID-19 Response Level

GREEN

Low Response

Please refer to the Commitments in the latest C&K COVID-19 Commitment Statement at candk.com.au/resources or ask your centre Director for a copy.



Keep up to date and share our wonderful Kindy with our local community. Find us on Facebook at

Albany Creek Kindergarten



Admin Office Hours

Contact Deonne or Jennie
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Thursday
P 07 3264 1838

E admin@albanycreekkindy.com.au

EMERGENCY CONTACT

0456 747 547



PLAY AT HOME

Remember that to be able to problem solve, take risks, negotiate, talk and converse with others, to try out new things and bounce back when some things don't work or go the way you expect are all important life skills.

Never underestimate the importance of children learning to entertain themselves, and for your children to learn that life is not simply moving from one event or scheduled activity after another. Often the most simple aspects of playing at home are the richest and one of the things we most remember as adults when we look back on childhood.

Some children may need you to help them engage in their play to get them started. Persevere with encouraging your children to learn how to initiate ideas and play at home creatively. It is tempting to give up but being consistent with your expectations pays great dividends.

Providing time for children to learn to play, imagine, create, think, explore and to self-initiate is providing the building blocks of a happy and successful learner who does not need an adult or structured program to keep them occupied 100% of every day.

Here are some ideas to encourage play at home:

Playing at home, encouraging your children to initiate ideas, create and use their imaginations, to be physically active outdoors and to move away from TV and electronics is one of the greatest gifts and opportunities we can provide for children.

Avoid booking in extra scheduled activities frequently during the week. Try to have at least 3 home nights after school where children have time to play that is unrushed before dinner/bed routines.

Provide resources that leave room for your child's imagination and encourage creativity like cardboard boxes, dress ups, paper to draw and make things with, play dough or lego to construct with.

Try buying toys that encourage imagination where children can construct, design, manipulate and change from one day to the next. Things like train sets, blocks, or lego.

Limit Screen time. Children under 2 years do not require any screen time. For 3 years and over only about an hour in total a day.

Have a stock of board games that can be played with regularly.

Get outdoors. Make a veggie garden, climb trees, make a cubby. For children to kick, throw, and use their general coordination skills have balls, cricket bats or tennis racquets.