

Magpie Mail

Sorrento Preschool Newsletter



Illustration credit: @shaneystone

Director Update

Thank you families for a wonderful year with your incredible children.

This year saw the fruition of staff and community efforts to publish our new Service Statement of Philosophy, reflecting our values on relationships, the natural environment, First Nations teachings, and how early childhood is a unique period in our lifelong learning journey. We also proudly launched our new logo, calling upon the talents of our very own artist, Shaney, to create a visual reflection of our philosophy. Shaney created a beautiful image of children in nature, surrounded by water, a magpie, dolphin and rainbow. Our logo is captioned "Connected we Learn and Grow"

We were finally able to officially acknowledge our redeveloped outdoor space with a Smoking Ceremony performed by Jaeden Williams. Our bubups and their families cleansed themselves in the smoke and enjoyed Jaeden's interactive storytelling. Steph continues to strive to achieve action points for our Reconciliation Plan and supports the service to authentically embed indigenous perspectives in our daily practice and to celebrate the many cultures and customs valued by our community. We were thrilled to have our own values and beliefs in our service reflected in our Assessment and Rating visit this year where we received Exceeding in all 7 Quality areas, giving us an Exceeding Rating on the National Register.

I would like to acknowledge our 2022 Committee of Management, their energy and willingness to support our visions for the children's programs has been amazing. The staff have felt valued and supported every step of the way.

Thank you to our team of educators, your continued passion for early childhood and our community, to continually improving your practice is what makes our centre so loved. This year we are saying goodbye to our beloved Alison. Ali has had a longstanding connection with our preschool, which began when she attended as a student herself. Alison's two children also attended Sorrento Preschool, and in 2010 she was employed as an educator here. After 12 years Alison is off to enjoy retirement, she will be sorely missed, her kind and gentle nature has been treasured by the preschool and I for one, have felt blessed to work with her since 2013.



Nicki Caddy

Director &
Teacher 4yo Red
Kangaroos



Alison

A very sad
farewell but with
very special thanks
to Alison for her
incredible
contributions to
our Kinder.



Sorrento Preschool 'Connected, we learn and grow'

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Sorrento Preschool respectfully acknowledges the Bunurong and Boon Wurrung people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and learn. We value their knowledge and culture which is reflected and celebrated in our practice.



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On behalf of Suzie, Steph, Kate, Alison, Nat, Jane, Linda, Ally, Miki, Emma and Shaney, I say welcome to our new and returning families. We look forward to working with you to create wonderful memories of such a precious time in your children's lives. And for those leaving us, it's not goodbye, but see you soon. Thankyou for allowing us to be a part of your children's learning journey.

Wishing all of our amazing children and their families peace and joy these holidays.
Nicki x



Dates For Your Calendar

December

Thur 15 - Last Day Red Kangaroos / Blue Wombats
Fri 16 - Last Day Purple Platypuses
Mon 19 - Last Day Yellow Koalas / Green Possums

January 2023

Kinder Working Bee- Sunday 22
January, all welcome!
Mon 30 - Term 1 begins

February 2023

Welcome Family BBQs - TBA

Kinder Reminders!

4yo parents please check your emails regarding your child's transition statements for their respective schools next year. You are required to complete sections of this form with your child and submit ASAP as these are now overdue.

Reminder: Uniforms can be purchased at any time from our supplier

<https://eduthreads.com.au/collections/sorrento-pre-school>

Term 1 begins on Monday 30 January. Please make sure you are familiar with your child's timetable for next year and have noted your individual interview time. All parents should have received a Parent Handbook which contains a lot of important information regarding these induction processes.

Fundraising News /Announcements

Check out our new Sorrento Preschool Welcome Video on our homepage

<https://www.sorrentopreschoolkindergarten.vic.gov.au/> Special thanks to Cynthia at BakedInn Portsea/Sorrento for her work on this project.

We are very happy to announce that we were successful in establishing a full committee for 2023, including the appointment to three newly created positions. Thank you to all those families who attended our Annual General Meeting. It was so wonderful to have your support. 2023 Committee details can be found on page 12.

A Kinder Working Bee is scheduled for Sunday 22 January to tidy up the kinder grounds before the term begins. All helpers welcome! Text Emma on 0423 944 982 if you are able to help out.

Early in Term 1 our new Fundraising and Social Coordinators for 2023 will run our annual Family Welcome BBQs which provides a warm welcome to our new and returning families and is an opportunity to build our important 'parent partnership' community.

If there are any parents interested in supporting our Fundraising activities as Sub Committee members please email sorrentopreschoolcommittee@gmail.com and we can get you involved!

Finally, we always welcome any fundraising or sponsorship suggestions - please feel free to get in contact with the committee. We would love to hear from you!

Three-Year Old Program

Kate Gaul, Teacher 3yo Groups



Yellow Koalas



Purple
Platypuses



Orange Emus

What a wonderful year we have had in the 3-Year-Old Kinder. The children quickly settled in, keen to explore the indoor and outdoor environment. Most of the first term was spent getting to know each other. There are lots of new faces and names for the children to learn at the beginning of the year and we enjoyed playing name games and songs to help this process. The beginning of the year was also busy with learning the kindergarten routines, finding where everything is at kindergarten and promoting independence. Staff supported children with putting their own smocks on, taking off and putting on their own shoes and socks, going to the toilet independently and managing their own snack boxes and drinks.

One of the main aims in the 3-Year-Old Kindergarten program is to build on the children's social and emotional skills. There is lots of emphasis on turn taking and using language to ask for what you need. We will also focus on problem solving and empowering the children to help solve their own difficulties. The educators role model and give the children words to encourage them to solve their conflicts. This can be tricky when you are only 3 or 4! For some children this might be their first experience of separation from their family, and this can be a little upsetting at times. Please be assured that the staff always have plans in place so that this is a successful experience for everyone!

We as a group appreciated that we are all good at some things and that we come to Kinder to learn and practise new things. When faced with a challenge, the children have been encouraged to give it a go and praised for their efforts. Manipulating scissors, finishing a tricky puzzle, using words to solve social conflicts, using craft materials to make something that means something to them, are all quite challenging when you are 3 years old.

There have been so many highlights over the year, but standouts included Footy Day, Pyjama Day, Kinder in the Park, music session, our excursion to Antipode's Bookshop for Storytime with Shaney, Cooking, VIP Days, welcoming parents back for Stay and Play sessions, and caring for our Kinder pets. It has been a busy year full of laughter and learning!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee of Management for all their support and hard work this year. I would like to thank all the current families of Sorrento Preschool but especially the Yellow Koala, Purple Platypus and Orange Emu families for their support and help over the year. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching your children and wish you and your children well next year when you embark on your next learning adventure in 4 year old kinder. I would like to thank my superstar team - educators Jane, Linda, Ally and Emma for their energy, enthusiasm and support. I

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would like to thank all the staff for making me feel so welcome this year, my first at Sorrento Preschool. I am looking forward to meeting our new and returning 3 year old families for 2023. I know it will be a fabulous year for all of us!! See you next year!



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Four-Year Old Program

Nicki Caddy, Teacher 4yo & Director



Red Kangaroos

Our 2022 Red Kangaroos have been a unique cohort in many ways! This year we had our first mixed age group of 3- and 4-year-olds. This was a wonderful opportunity to extend our three's, provide our fours with mentoring opportunities, and build a true feeling of community in the centre.

Our group are truly lovers of music, song and dance - opportunities to sing and dance are taken in groups, during free play, inside and outside, and at bush kinder. Song and dance allow the children to express themselves freely through movement and voice exploration. The children love being outdoors in all weather. The majority of children get wet and muddy most days, a highlight of the year being playing in a small hailstorm and collecting the little ice pieces before they melted. The children engage in natural materials such as sand, dirt, water and foliage as they dig, mix, pour and stir to create everything from tea parties to potions, from tunnels to plumbing and pools.

Indoor and outdoor programs are reflected in one another, we focus on the world around us, our interactions with it, and how we can strive to care for our world - every small action adds up - so caring for our plants and animals and bay are perfect places to start! As we get to know the children, we offer experiences we believe will enhance and support the children's learning at the time, we give the children the freedom to choose their activity from the developmentally appropriate activities on offer. We try to find each child's "currency" - what interests them and how do they learn, and design activity around that.

Underpinning values that come from my philosophy on child development include trusting the children as capable, curious, resilient, knowledgeable, and skilled individuals. I see caring relationships at the core of every interaction and believe that whilst I can offer experience based on my training, developmental knowledge and experience, it is the children who guide the direction the program takes. As such, every year is different at kinder.

Our time at Bush'n beach kinder incorporates free exploration at home base, nature observation and recording, tree climbing, exploratory walks, beach combing and paddling, arts and crafts, stories, songs, games, indigenous cultural, flora and fauna learnings, and plenty of time to simply be. We are very pleased to hear our local schools Sorrento and St Joey's are including similar Bush'n beach STEAM programs in the new year which will be a wonderful learning extension for our children. Some highlights of our year have included, a visit to the Fire Station, the Police visiting us, dressing up to raise funds for Wear it Yellow day, and for Heroes for Heart Kids and lots of messy play!

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As the kinder year draws to a close and we see our little charges heading off to school orientation days, we know whilst they are feeling pretty confident at kinder; it is so important to keep on building their skills in their independence, being responsible for belongings, building up resilience, and working collaboratively with peers. We are also rewarded with close reciprocal relationships and can share jokes and have fun with them too.

Thank you to my co-educators Alison Nat and Ally, with whom I plan and prepare and work side by side, it is so important to operate as a team and your support is always invaluable.



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Four-Year Old Program

Suzie Carnie, Teacher 4yo & Educational Leader



Blue Wombats

In our 4YO kinder program we encourage the children to extend on their self-help skills and independence by managing their belongings and increasing their roles and shared responsibilities within their day. The introduction of 'Star Helper' encouraged the children to take ownership of our morning rituals and to enhance decision making.

The children enjoyed many activities such as cooking, painting, drawing, playdough, puzzles, construction, cutting, pasting, dramatic and messy play. All these activities promoted the children to explore and investigate literacy and numeracy concepts whilst developing their fine motor skills. We program to spend half of our day outdoors, this provides an opportunity for the children to develop their physical skills with activities such as climbing, digging, bike riding and balancing. Our beautiful outdoor space has been a big hit with the children. This year popular outdoor activities have been the balance bikes, emergency services role play, the dirt-pit and water play in the river creek bed.

In Term 2 we commenced our wonderful Bush and Beach kinder program situated at Point Nepean. The outdoor learning environment allows the children to develop a connection and appreciation of nature. Our outdoor program focuses on child-led play and this year the children were interested in tree climbing, beach combing, collecting and identifying nature finds and exploring the old buildings. Another big interest with the children this year was emergency services, and this was woven into our program with our Term 3 focus of 'Community connections'. We visited the Sorrento fire station, and we had visits from S.E.S. and Sorrento police station. We also went for a walk to Antipodes for Storytime with Shaney. In Term 4 we have started our transitioning to school focus.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miki and Linda for working alongside me and for all their support and input into our program. You both make coming to work very enjoyable and the children are very fortunate to have such caring, nurturing and enthusiastic educators. In Term 4 we were very fortunate to have Shaney join our team and share her extensive teaching knowledge and experience with us. Shaney has also been working alongside the children to enhance their artistic skills and help practice our end of year celebrations. A big thank you to the dedication of the committee and parents that help us to run our wonderful preschool that we can all be very proud of.

We wish 2022 Blue group children all the best for a happy and successful transition to primary school. We feel very grateful to be a part of the children's learning journey and watch them grow and develop in preparation for their next step. We welcome and look forward to meeting our new and returning families to Sorrento Preschool for 2023.



School role play



Christmas fun



Outdoor play

PIC•COLLAGE

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Four-Year Old Program

Steph Davey, Teacher 4yo & Reconciliation Action Plan Coordinator



Green Possums

What an incredible year it has been filled with an abundance of inquiry and discovery through our play and nature-based program. Our mascot possum 'Hush' has been a much-loved member of our group and there has been much excitement shared as Hush had a turn visiting each child at home. Oh what adventures she had, building connections between home and kinder. Hush has been there for a cuddle when we have big emotions, she is also used to help role play social skills, to be kind to others and support friendships in the green possum group.

Our goals for this year that underpin the Early Years Learning Framework have been for children to have a strong sense of identity, be connected and contribute to their world, have a strong sense of wellbeing, be confident and involved learners, and be effective communicators. We started the year by settling the group in slowly, taking the time to individually get to know each child by building trusting and caring relationships to ensure they felt supported and nurtured in this environment. From here a sense of belonging was developed, where children felt heard and respected to become confident and active learners in their play. Through observing the children as they engaged in our play-based program, we learnt about their strengths, interests and challenges to guide our planning and support children in achieving their best learning outcomes.

From here, we went on incredible learning journeys through inquiry-based projects. 'Our families', 'The Deep Blue Ocean', 'Dinosaurs', 'Bees', 'Winter Wonderland', 'Community Connections' and 'Space Focus' have been standout themes for our group. Imaginative role play, songs, sensory experiences, story time, excursions/incursions, and exploration tables have supported the children's learning and development across each topic of focus. 'I wonder....' questions have supported children to dive deeper into their knowledge and understanding of each topic, to become more immersed, to build connections and to challenge their thinking. Our floor book was used to document our learning, a child-centred collaborative approach to explore shared thinking where we record each other's ideas, thoughts, reflections, observations, desires and plans through photographs, drawings and writing.

Intentionally teaching the children and fostering an appreciation of our First Nations Peoples is embedded and visible in our daily program in an authentic way. We begin our mornings by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and play and welcome everyone through our Womin djeka chant using traditional clapping sticks. Celebrating and acknowledging significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dates, fundraising events, resources designed and made by First Peoples, songs, language, artwork, stories, games, symbols, and mats are all interwoven to develop a deeper understanding of the history, culture, traditions, and ways of knowing and doing of our First Peoples. Resilience and happiness have been a core focus of our program, implementing

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gratitude, empathy, mindfulness and emotional literacy into our sessions to increase children's capacity to deal with challenges, changes and stresses. Our biggest highlight has been identifying mood changes, one being music and dance which has brought so much joy (and a little bit of silliness) to our days to support children's emotional regulation.

Our Bush n beach Kinder program has been so valuable for our green possum group every Friday out at Point Nepean National Park on Bunurong Country. Connection with place and nature has provided opportunities for self-guided discovery, open-ended interactions, risk taking, resilience, and independence. The groups understanding and appreciation of the natural environment has blossomed into environmentally aware individuals. Exploring the beach, climbing trees, creating stick cubbies/nests, observing animals, walking and discovering new areas of the park, and rolling down hills have been some of the much-loved experiences that our program provides. As the end of the year approaches, our green possums begin to navigate their way on a new exciting journey transitioning to school. We wish them all the best as we say good luck and goodbye at the end of term 4.

Thank you to my co-educators Nat and Emma who have brought a wealth of knowledge, warmth and positivity to our group. It has been an absolute delight to work alongside you both this year and I look forward to doing so again next year,



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Fundraising year to date total \$8,000 (and counting!)

Committee Comments

We had a really successful year of events & fundraising. We had family welcome BBQs, our picture plate fundraiser, self-portrait tea towels, IGA Blairgowrie bake sale, Bunnings BBQs & finally our Kinder Movie Night which was heaps of fun.

All of these fundraising efforts have resulted in the purchasing of new resources for the kinder, such as a range of indoor and outdoor musical instruments, swings, shovels, puzzles, dolls, games, furniture, literacy and numeracy learning tools and manipulatives, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander resources, our special Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony celebration, as well as important contributions to staff professional development.

We are still counting the final figures, but year to date we have raised over \$8000 which is incredible.

Thank you families. Your contributions are greatly appreciated x

Kinder Committee 2022

Kinder President Comments

2022 has been our first full year back after a couple of disruptive years with lots of interruptions. It has been so nice to welcome families back into the kinder, without restrictions at drop off and pick-ups. No more density limits, and the opportunity to get together both at kinder events and as a committee.

On behalf of the committee and all the families here at Sorrento Preschool, we extend our biggest and most sincere thanks and gratitude to Nicki, our wonderful Kinder Director for all of your hard work and tireless dedication to the Kinder. Thank you to the wonderful teachers, we are so lucky to have you.. Your love and care for our children, as well as the thoughtful & meaningful learning environment you provide daily means the world to us. We couldn't ask for better educators for our children, who you treat as your own and they love as much as we do.

Lastly, thank you to our brilliant committee. This year has been fantastic, and I am so proud of what we have achieved. Thank you to those continuing on, I am sure you will continue to support the Kinder and our families, but special thanks to all of the outgoing committee members. Assunta our amazing Vice President, Ebonie our amazing Secretary -

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the ultimate organiser & Alicia the newsletter rockstar and our biggest community promoter. Thank you for your outstanding contributions. You have been so wonderful and supportive to work with.



Thanks, and farewell to all of the outgoing families, good luck with the school journey and we hope you have loved your time at the kindergarten.

I wish the new Committee all the success in 2023 and hope all our families enjoy some well earned rest and safe and happy holidays, Nikki x

Kinder Committee 2023

Feel free to contact any of the committee sorrentopreschoolcommittee@gmail.com

President	Simon Curtis
Vice President	Claire Kerr
Secretary	Elice McPhie
Treasurer, Sponsorship & Grants	Emma Burton-Royce
Fundraising & Social Events 3yo	Liz Meyer
Fundraising & Social Events 4yo	Andrew Brough
Website & Communications	Tess McMahon
Quality Assurance & Policy Officer	Louise Heinnen
Risk, OH&S (and purchasing)	Danielle Bickedike
Maintenance	Stuart McPhie

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Kinder Teaching Staff 2022

Parents are encouraged to chat to Teaching staff at the end of Kinder sessions or make contact via email sorrento.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au or via (03) 5984 1048. We welcome your feedback and contributions to our Kinder.

Director & Teacher 4yo/3yo Red Kangaroos	Nicki Caddy
Teacher 3yo Yellow Koalas, Orange Emus & Purple Platypuses	Kate Gaul
Teacher 4yo Blue Wombats	Suzie Carnie
Teacher 4yo Green Possums & Reconciliation Action Plan [RAP] Coordinator	Stephanie Davey



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Useful Parent Resources

Victorian Early Years Learning Framework [EYLF]

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/edcare/veyldframework.pdf>

Raising Children Network 'Preschool: How it works'

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/preschoolers/play-learning/preschool/preschool-how-it-works>

Raising Children Network 'Reading and storytelling with babies and children'

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/babies/play-learning/literacy-reading-stories/reading-storytelling>

Victorian Government Play based learning

<https://www.vic.gov.au/play-based-learning-preschoolers>

Mornington Shire - Kindergarten Information

<https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Community-Services/Children-Family/Kindergarten>

The Resilience Project

<https://theresilienceproject.com.au/early-years/>

Thank you again, families.

We are so grateful to be part of such a special time in your children's lives.

We hope you enjoy the holidays!

Sorrento Preschool 😊



Stay Safe! Be good! x