



# THE NSEYC BUZZ

*The Official Newsletter of the Northern Schools Early Years Cluster*



*Pictured: Children from our Will Will Rook Preschool loving learning in nature as part of the bush kindergarten program*

## Hello from our CEO

Here we are in Term 3 already! The year is flying by quickly with so many exciting things happening across the NSEYC. Many of our kindergarten upgrades are now complete (with more starting soon), our Glenroy Hub Children's Centre is up and running, and our new kindergarten facility at Holy Child Primary School is opening as of Term 3! We have certainly been busy. We were also privileged to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Northern Schools Early Years Cluster as part of our AGM in May. It was wonderful to gather with our partners and recognise the history and growth of our organisation over the last decade, and the contribution it has made to the lives of children in our communities. Read more about the celebrations below!



**Sigi Hyett,**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Officer**

## This Term's issue brings you:

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# ENROL NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN IN 2023



## Enrolments are still open for 2023!

Kindergarten places are filling fast for 2023, so it's important you register as soon as possible!

Remember, if your child is attending 3-year-old kindergarten this year, you must submit an enrolment registration to secure a place in a 4-year-old program in 2023. And if they are attending 4-year old kindergarten and will go to school next year, you must enrol at the school. **This does not happen automatically.**

- To enrol in a 3 or 4-year old program in the City of Hume: [click here to go to the Council's website](#) and complete the registration form.
- To enrol in a 3 or 4-year-old program in the City of Moreland: [click here to go to the Council's website](#) and complete the registration form.
- To enrol at Rothschild Road Kindergarten (Gisborne) contact the NSEYC Office on 9306 1662 or email us at [office@nseyc.org.au](mailto:office@nseyc.org.au).
- To enrol for long day care at Glenroy Hub Children's Centre, [go to the Moreland Council website](#) or call 9240 1111.

You can also pick up enrolment forms from our office, our kindergartens or school offices. If you need any assistance to register, please contact our office on 9306 1662. We are always happy to help!

# Eid Ul Adha MUBARAK

From our teams across the NSEYC, we wish our Muslim families a happy Eid Ul Adha.

We hope you enjoy celebrating with your family, and encourage you to share your traditions with your kindergarten community!



## School term dates for 2022 and 2023

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Term 3, 2022 | 11 July -<br>16 September  |
| Term 4, 2022 | 3 October -<br>20 December |
| Term 1, 2023 | 30 January -<br>6 April    |
| Term 2, 2023 | 24 April -<br>23 June      |
| Term 3, 2023 | 10 July -<br>15 September  |
| Term 4, 2023 | 2 October -<br>20 December |



For more information about our services, for help with enrolling, or any other queries please contact us on 9306 1662 or email [office@nseyc.org.au](mailto:office@nseyc.org.au) and we'll be happy to help!





# Bush Kindergarten at Will Will Rook Preschool

Teacher Emily from Will Will Rook Preschool tells us about their bush kindergarten program:

After lots of planning and preparation, our bush kinder program finally commenced again in Term 2. As part of the weekly program our children immerse themselves in the Ballerri Mooroop (which means 'strong spirit' in Woiwurrung, the language of the Wurundjeri people) site on the Wurundjeri land behind us, learning on, with, and from bush.

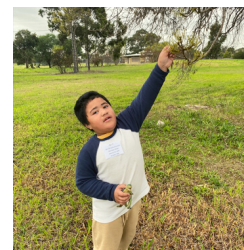
Our children utilise the natural environment to extend on their literacy and numeracy development, language and storytelling skills while also exercising, challenging and experimenting with their problem solving, negotiation and creative expression strategies.

## What is bush kindergarten?

Bush Kindergarten responds to a child's right and need to access natural spaces for optimum learning and development. Regular sessions provide dedicated time for children to be outside in a quality natural environment away from screens and other distractions. Attending bush kindergarten offers your child the opportunity to grow at their own pace, connect to others with kindness and creativity, learn holistically and increase their communication, self-regulation and confidence.

Research shows that the benefits of bush kinder for children include:

- Reduced stress through being in nature
- Improved concentration and cognitive development
- Improved physical skills and health
- Enhanced social and language skills
- Behaviour is better because children are allowed to do what children are born to do: run, jump, play in puddles, climb trees, jump off rocks and explore!







# Celebrating 10 years of the NSEYC at our AGM

We recently had the privilege of celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the Northern Schools Early Years Cluster, as part of our Annual General Meeting. It was great to have so many of our team members, school principals and partner organisations in one room (in person!), in the true spirit of our integrated K-6 model.

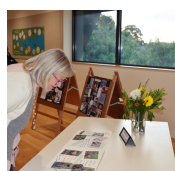
We enjoyed an inspiring keynote speech from renowned early childhood expert Heather Barnes OAM on how the early childhood sector (and the NSEYC!) has evolved in the last decade to strive for best outcomes for children. We also recognised the long service of three of our educators, Rosanna, Deepa and Nisha, heard from founding board members Val and Lynne, and farewelled board retiree Sylvia.

Our kindergarten teams also shared examples of the wonderful learning that happens every day with children - a good reminder of why we do what we do! We made a special video to show at the AGM that features some of our education and kindergarten children. You can watch it [here](#).

Thank you to everyone who attended and made the day so special!



The 2021 NSEYC Annual Report is available on the [NSEYC website](#)



## NSEYC Board members for 2022



*Sigi Hyett and Kathy Townsend thank retiring Board member Sylvia Dickson*

An important part of the AGM each year is to elect the members of the Board, and to acknowledge any retiring members. This year we farewelled Sylvia Dickson, who has made a wonderful contribution over the last 2 years by lending her financial and business expertise to the development and oversight of our strategic plan.

Continuing Board members are:

- Valerie Karaitiana, Chair
- Suzie Mansell, Secretary
- Leanne Giardina, Treasurer
- Lynne Gunning, Member
- Pam Streete, Member
- Kathy Townley, Member
- Felix Ohle, Member

Thank you to our Board members for your ongoing dedication!





# Kindergarten facility upgrades

## Many of our Building Blocks upgrades are complete, and some new ones are starting soon!

At NSEYC we believe that every child deserves to learn in a welcoming, inclusive environment that inspires and challenges them to engage in learning. Until recently, many of our kindergarten facilities were tired and outdated, and badly in need of renovation.

Thanks to the Victorian Government's Building Blocks initiative, our kindergartens have received over \$10 million for upgrades and expansion over the last two years. Slowly, our learning spaces are being transformed - and we are so thrilled with the results!

The current round of works are now complete (or very close to complete) at:

- Moreland Kindergarten (indoor and outdoor upgrade)
- Will Will Rook Preschool (indoor and outdoor upgrade)
- Lorne Street Kindergarten (outdoor upgrade)
- Dallas Kindergarten (outdoor upgrade)
- York Street Kindergarten (new modular building and outdoor upgrade)
- Upfield Kindergarten (new modular building and outdoor upgrade)
- Broadmeadows Preschool (outdoor upgrade)
- Belle Vue Park Kindergarten (outdoor upgrade)
- Holy Child Kindergarten new modular and outdoor upgrade

Building works are continuing at:

- Meadows Kindergarten (new room, indoor and outdoor upgrade)
- Bethal Kindergarten (new room, indoor and outdoor upgrade).

## New projects starting soon:

We were fortunate to receive yet another round of grants in the current year. New projects are starting at:

- Belle Vue Park Kindergarten (indoor upgrade, in addition to outdoor upgrade already completed)
- Broadmeadows Preschool (indoor upgrade, in addition to outdoor upgrade already completed)
- Glenroy Central Kindergarten (new modular building and outdoor upgrade).

## Inclusive equipment grants

We would like to thank the Victorian Government for awarding the NSEYC Inclusive Equipment Grants of \$140,000 across our services in 2021-22!

We have put the grants to great use, purchasing high-quality equipment and resources to improve the learning environments for all children across our services. Below are some photos from our recently upgraded Will Will Rook Preschool - which was also furnished with the help of the inclusive equipment grants.

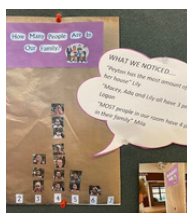




## What's happening across our services?

### Community project at Rothschild Road Kindergarten

The children at our Rothschild Road Kindergarten in Gisborne have been talking about how they all belong to a community. They discussed who is in their house, graphing the number of people. They made houses with family members in them. They created dramatic play spaces and small world play to scaffold discussions between children. The children worked collaboratively on a map of Gisborne and discussed and mapped out where key shops and buildings are located. This continues to evolve and is added to as the children discuss and learning more about the early concepts of mathematic, science, technology and engineering. Teacher Felicity has also organised incursions from the library, police, CFA, dentist, local water conservation and many more. This has been a wonderful program that we hope will continue to grow and evolve for a long time to come!



### Science experiments at Moreland Kindergarten

Teacher Lucy shares how the children have been exploring freezing and melting: From our volcano experiment the children have been very interested in science experiments. Muhammad S explained how to freeze items in a balloon and then melt them, so we tried our own freezing experience. We froze a few containers with pebbles inside and watched the ice melt, asking the children questions while watching and touching the ice.



The children notice it is hard; I tell them it's a solid.

Muhammad S – “We need a hammer to break it”

How does the ice feel on your hands?

Benjamin – “Cold, that’s so cold.” Muhammad A – “Feels slippery.”

Charbel – Holding his hands up and saying, “It is cold, freezing.”

How do we make ice?

Bukhari – “freeze it”. Saleh – “We put it in the fridge.”

Rafael – “Its melting,” Why? “Because the heater is on.”

How does it become water? Rafael – “Melting”.

Through this experiment the children and educators discussed the difference between melting and freezing, describing what it looks like and what is occurring. They learned what solids and liquids are.

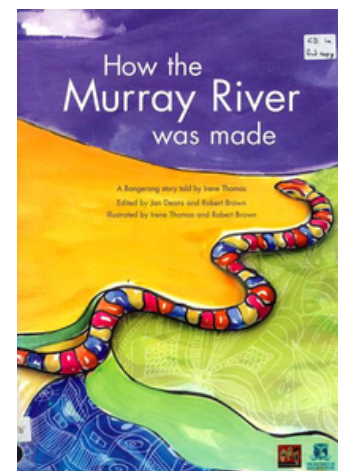




## Reconciliation Week at Belle Vue Park Kindergarten

Belle Vue Park Kindergarten teacher Florence has shared how the children marked National Reconciliation Week with the story of “How the Murray River was made” (Irene Thomas). National Reconciliation Week (27 May - 3 June) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation.

The choice of this Indigenous story was initiated from the children always walking over the “rainbow snake” out the front of our kinder! The story of the Rainbow Serpent is an ancient part of the Dreaming in many mainland Aboriginal nations and represents creation, regeneration, fertility and abundance. According to the author this Australian Aboriginal story offers an explanation of the origins of one of Australia's great rivers, the Murray River. The next steps for the kindergarten will be to consider where the local rivers and creeks flow and link this to the story within our local context. Through this experience we aim to broaden children’s understanding about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.



## The NSEYC's Reconciliation Action Plan

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a formal statement of commitment to reconciliation. The NSEYC acknowledges the Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of the land in which we meet, learn and play. We recognise that we play a vital role in reconciliation. We strive to create meaningful partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within our community, and respect their identities, histories, cultures and perspectives. We are committed to ongoing learning to deepen our understanding. As we continue to learn, we commit to creating equitable and culturally inclusive practices within our services to support our journey towards reconciliation.

Some deliverables from our Reconciliation Action Plan include:

- Developing our staff's cultural competency regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and perspectives and embedding this in our early years curriculum
- Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to embed their perspectives into the curriculum
- Supporting our educators to explore current affairs and issues relating to local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Consistently acknowledging the traditional owners at gatherings, through signage and display of flags at our services
- Exploring Possumskin pedagogy professional learning tools and resources to embed into curriculum and practices across all services.



VEYLDF artwork by Annette Sax



# Important dates and events for Term 3



- 8th to 12th July - Eid ul Adha
- 22nd July - National Pyjama Day
- 3rd to 9th August - Dental Health Week
- 4th August - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day
- 14th to 22nd August - National Science Week
- 21st to 27th August - Book Week
- 1st September - Early Childhood Educators' Day
- 1st September - Indigenous Literacy Day
- 4th to 10th September - National Child Protection Week
- 8th September - International Literacy Day
- 9th September - RUOK Day
- 23rd September - International Day of Sign Languages



Photos of the bushland project and learning experiences at our Glenroy Central Kindergarten