

NEWSLETTER

Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Glenelg Shire Council Children's Services

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

Welcome to new staff and farewells to existing staff

Contact Details Update

Early Years and Kindergarten Updates



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHILDREN'S SERVICES MANAGER

I am pleased to advise families that I have been appointed to the permanent position of Children's Services Manager. I look forward to leading the Children's Services Unit and getting to know many more families and children from across our services.

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Early Childhood Educators' Day recognises and celebrates the work of Australia's educators in early learning services for their wonderful contribution to the wellbeing and healthy development of the young children in their care.

Early Childhood Educators' Day is the perfect opportunity to say 'thank you' to your educators in your own special way!

You may like to do this on Wednesday 1st September 2021, or if you're not seeing your educator that day, on another day during the same week.

Together, you and your child/children might like to:

- make a 'thank you' card or a home-made gift
- create some art - a drawing, painting or decoration
- write a short story or poem about your child's early childhood educator
- pick some flowers from your garden

Kind regards,
Miryam Franjic



OUR SERVICES



Glenelg Shire Council Children's Services

✉ PO Box 152, Portland VIC 3305

☎ 1300 GLENELG (1300 453 635)

✉ childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au

🌐 www.glenelg.vic.gov.au



NEW FACES IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Children's Services Team has welcomed the following Educators to our teams:



**Dimity Smith -
Casual Educator**



**Gemma Hollis-Thomas -
Early Childhood Educator
Cert III Trainee**



**Stephanie Berry -
Casual Educator**



**Rachael Rankin -
Casual Educator**



**Taylan Kennedy -
Casual Educator**



**Robyn Baddeley -
Finance Officer
Debtors/Creditors Children's
Services**

OFFICE NEWS

THE BEST WAY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Children's Services Customer Service Team

Tel: 1300 453 635

Email: childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au

Fee or Account Enquiries

For any enquiries regarding fees or accounts please contact:

Children's Services Accounts Team

Tel: (03) 5522 2515

Email: csaccounts@glenelg.vic.gov.au



CLOTHING REMINDER

We would like to remind families to pack a raincoat and warmer clothes for your child to wear during outdoor play, you may also consider packing gumboots as well! Please also ensure that they have a spare change of clothes in their bag at all times and that all clothing is clearly labelled so it can be returned to the correct child.

IMMUNISATION HISTORY STATEMENT

A friendly reminder to please provide your child's service with an updated copy of their immunisation history statement once they have received their next round of immunisations. These can be handed in hard copy to your service or email to childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au

Example AIR Immunisation History Statement – up to date

Schedule	Date given	Immunisation	Brand name given
2 months	16 Mar 2016	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Hib Hepatitis B Polio Pneumococcal Rotavirus	Infectax Hexa Pneovax 13 Rotarix
4 months	16 May 2016	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Hib Hepatitis B Polio Pneumococcal Rotavirus	Infectax Hexa Pneovax 13 Rotarix
6 months	16 Jul 2016	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Hib Hepatitis B Polio Pneumococcal	Infectax Hexa Pneovax 13
12 months	16 Jan 2017	Mumps Measles Rubella Hib Meningococcal C	MMRI II Menomune
18 months	16 Jul 2017	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Mumps Measles Rubella Varicella	Infectax Pneovax-Tetra
Other	03 Sep 2016 01 Apr 2018	Influenza Influenza	Influvax Tetra



CONTACT DETAILS

A reminder to families to please ensure that your contact details are kept up to date at all times. If you need to update any details please email childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au

FAMILY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all those families who contributed to the Family Satisfaction survey.

Staff are currently reviewing the results and looking for opportunities to enhance our service by taking into consideration the feedback that was received. We value and appreciate you time and will provide a summary of the results shortly.



Thank you for your patience.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

We all have a vital role to play in eliminating the spread of COVID-19. At Glenelg Shire Council, we take seriously the health and wellbeing of our staff and families, and we are continually reviewing the way we provide education and care to ensure that health risks are minimised as much as possible.

Any child who presents with COVID-19 like symptoms including the following will not be able to attend our services:

- Mild cold symptoms (e.g. cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose or loss of sense of smell)
- Fever or chills
- Shortness of breath

We encourage testing to be undertaken, which is in-line with Department of Health and Human Services advice. If for any reason your child cannot be tested, they must be symptom free prior to returning to education and care.

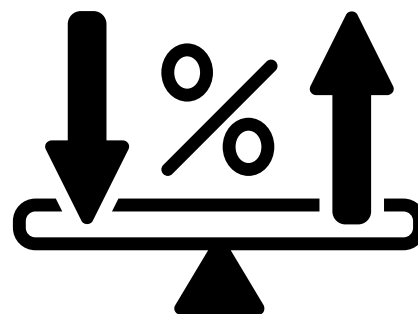


FINANCE NEWS

CCS Rates from 12 July

CCS rates changed on Monday 12 July. CCS rates are adjusted each year based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). That means, the CCS family income thresholds, annual cap and hourly rate caps will change.

The new rates took effect from 12 July 2021, as this was the first CCS fortnight of the new financial year. For more information refer to: www.dese.gov.au/early-childhood



Allowable Absences

Allowable absences reset on 1 July 2021 for the new financial year. This means that from this date, all children had 42 absence days available to them.

Support for families

Families affected by COVID-19 may be eligible to receive additional support with the cost of child care through the [Additional Child Care Subsidy \(temporary financial hardship\)](#). Families must apply directly to Centrelink.



Xap Guardian Portal - Pay Now Function

The Xap web portal has a new feature “Pay Now” that enable guardians to pay their accounts with just a click of a button! For a detailed guide on how to access the Pay Now function refer to: [Xap Pay Now Function - Video](#)

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN UPDATE FROM KATHLEEN MILLIKAN CENTRE

Glenelg Shire Council's Children's Services are committed to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. Part of this process is to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) at each of the 5 services. Heywood Kindergarten lead the way in 2020 and had their RAP developed with Kathleen Millikan Centre not too far behind. Other services are progressing well and their RAP's will also be complete in the near future.

What is a RAP?

A RAP is a commitment to reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It assists in building an understanding, commitment and respect for culture, as well as improving opportunities and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The plan consists of practical and attainable actions and activities that each service will implement to build strong relationships, create opportunities and build ongoing respect between cultures. Each plan will have a Vision for Reconciliation, Heywood Kindergarten and Kathleen Millikan Centre's visions are displayed below.

All services recently implemented activities for NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week.

HEYWOOD KINDERGARTEN - VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

At Heywood Kindergarten our vision for reconciliation starts with accepting the historical injustices towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples since colonisation and recognising the continued strengths and resilience of First Peoples. We seek to move forward in partnership towards an Australia that truly honours social equality and equity, in all people's hearts and with their actions, through empowering all Australians to have a voice. With great pride and respect, we value the rich cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and appreciate how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique values and perspectives have shaped our understanding of Australia's past and continue to give us inspiration for a better future. We believe reconciliation is driven by a continual cycle of learning where all children, regardless of their background, will experience pride in their family, their language and their cultural heritage and can learn to respect the same in others. We strive to deliver education and care seamlessly linked to the values of the Gunditjmarra people, the Traditional Custodians of the Land from which we deliver our service.

KATHLEEN MILLIKAN CENTRE - VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

At the Kathleen Millikan Centre, we commit to

- Actively acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of Lands across Australia.
- Respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's deep connection with lands, waters, animals and communities.
- Respectfully exposing children to, and providing opportunities to learn about, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.
- Providing a safe, welcoming environment where staff, children and families can feel a sense of belonging, and know that their cultural identities are respected.
- Delivering an educational program that provides equal and equitable education and care opportunities and learning outcomes for all children.
- Enriching the lives of our staff, families and children through a deeper understanding of, and connection to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

LONG DAY CARE NEWS

ACTING TEAM LEADER EARLY YEARS REPORT

Kate Lyons

STAFFING CHANGES ACROSS OUR INTEGRATED SERVICES

Farewell:



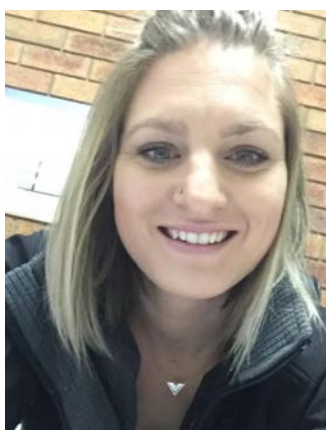
Charleen Van Zyl

Charleen has worked in many roles across Children's Services including Casual Educator and Lead Educator. She has also backfilled roles including Senior Educator and Cook! Charleen has been a quick witted and fun addition to the team and we wish her and her family all the very best with their next move.



Carrie Medley

Moving to a casual position across Children's Services – Carrie has been a 4-Year-old Kindergarten Teacher with Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex, and this year was instrumental in the 3-Year-Old Kindergarten roll out with KPM PCFC. We thank Carrie and will see her soon!



Christie Walkeden

Christie has concluded her role at Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Complex and we look forward to welcoming her back in a casual capacity.

LONG DAY CARE NEWS CONT.

Welcome:



Paula Avery

Paula has been appointed to a 4 day per week role at Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex. Paula had already been working in the Wallaby Room but will now continue this through to the end of the year. Well done Paula!



Ebony Pumpa

After finishing her Traineeship at Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex, Ebony was successful in gaining a full-time role with the centre – well done Ebony!



Rebecca Cornish

Bec has completed her traineeship with Kathleen Millikan Centre and was successful in gaining a full-time role at the centre. Bec has continued in the Co-Room Leader role alongside Becky – Well done Bec!



Kiarna Boyer

Kiarna has been a very familiar face across all of our services, and most recently has been successful in gaining a part time role with Kathleen Millikan Centre in the Kindergarten Program. Well done Kiarna!



Manning Leslie

Manning has joined the team as a Trainee Early Childhood Educator at Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex. Manning has been working across the service and getting to know all of our programs – well done and welcome Manning!



Catherine Gondar

Catherine has started in a lunch cover position at Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex after recently completing her studies – we are excited to have Catherine on board – well done Catherine!

LONG DAY CARE NEWS CONT.

Gastroenteritis Outbreaks

A Gastroenteritis Outbreak can be defined as as two or more cases of vomiting and/or diarrhoea occurring among children and/or staff within 48 hours of each other. If this occurs and the symptoms cannot be explained by medication or other medical conditions.

In recent months there have been cases across services. If this occurs we will do our best to notify families in a timely manner through email, phone calls (particularly if the service needs to close to comply with DHHS requirements and bleach clean) and signs that are placed at the service to alert families to an outbreak. Children are encouraged to wash their hands with warm soapy water throughout the day and professional cleaning takes place to avoid outbreaks, however from time to time these can occur. Please alert your service to any illness that your child may have and we encourage children and families not to return to care until 48 hours after the last symptom.

Ages of Children

Children's age groups can differ across services with several programs running. This can include children aged 8 weeks through to preschool/year before school age, and children over preschool age are able to attend also. Kathleen Millikan Centre runs before and after school programs as part of their routine.

If families wish to know more about age groups at the services feel free to speak to Senior Educators or Team Leader.



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

TEAM LEADER EDUCATION AND CARE REPORT

Karen Meyrick

Kindergarten programs have resumed for Term 3, children and teaching staff were excited to return after the holiday break.

With the latest lockdown Kindergarten programs continued to provide children and their families with a familiar routine and a high quality educational program.

Thank you to all families for continuing to QR code in on arrival and wearing your masks.

Our Kindergarten enrolment period for 2022 has occurred using an online enrolment process through Xap for the first time. Staff are now working through allocating the first round positions. If you are yet to enrol your child you can still do this via the following link https://www.glenelg.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=5032 and these will be allocated as part of round two.

Kalbarri's Rating and Assessment visit from the Department of Education and Training is scheduled to occur in October.

During Term 2 most services were reviewing their Philosophy, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every family who contributed to the review, your feedback was valued.

I look forward to seeing another term of learning and fun unfold continue to unfold over the coming weeks.



CHILDREN'S HEALTH & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

Maternal and Child Health's office hours:

Portland - Julia St

- Monday - Friday

Heywood

- Tuesday

Casterton

- Thursday

Dartmoor

- By appointment only

Office Administration hours

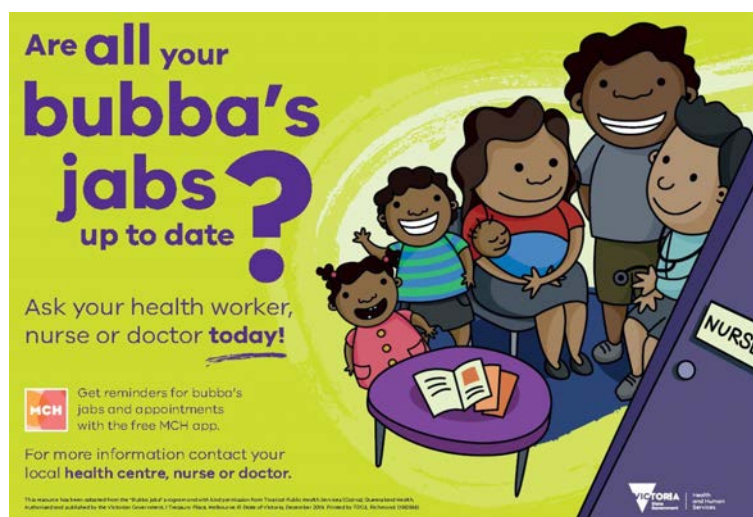
- Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

MCH can be contacted on the following;

Phone - 5521 0504

Email - mch.pdh@swarh.vic.gov.au

Text msg - 0427 818 624



INTEGRATED SERVICES UPDATES

Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex Updates

Kookaburra Room

Hello from the Kookaburra Room!

We've been promoting self-help and independence by encouraging the children to participate in room activities and learning opportunities some of these experiences are cleaning up play spaces, getting the food trolley and preparing for meals, putting on our own coats/jackets and shoes ready for outside.

Within the program, we have been trying to listen to our bodies throughout the day and respond appropriately to its cues whether it be hungry, thirsty, tired or need to Toilet.

We have been encouraging the children to try lots of our new foods and have big drinks of water throughout the day particularly at meal times we have been using the word hydrate and fuel up to encourage them to drink and eat.

During mat times, the children have loved engaging in show and tell often the children are bringing in items they own, have made or a book they love to read proudly show of and share with us.

Please be mindful if you are bringing in items that are very special please hand it to an educator so that we can try our hardest to ensure it remains safe.

During NAIDOC Week, the children in the Kookaburra Room explored and learned about the dreamtime story the creation of Budj Bim (also known as Mount Eccles).

We read the story and looked at the location on a map; we then re-created the volcanic eruption the creator being revealing himself as a part of the land.

We were also incredibly lucky to meet one of the Gunditjmara dancers through the fence who introduced himself to the children explained that soon they were going to do a dance and showed us a dance move or two.



Platypus Room Update

The Platypus Room recently celebrated NAIDOC Week. This provided an opportunity for our little learners to explore this year's theme of Heal Country. We took this as a wonderful opportunity to extend on our Acknowledgment of Country and caring for the land. After discussions with the children we decided to plant our very own bush tucker garden and yarning circle.

Our little leaders showed great teamwork, care and respect for diversity by these hands on learning activities.

We have also been learning about germs and the importance of helping to keep our bodies healthy by washing our hands. After reading "A Yarn About Germs" written by Tanya Perrin, we conducted a science experiment showing what happens when our hands are dirty and then when our hands have been washed with soap. We used glitter as a visual representation (dirty hands attracted the glitter and clean hands repelled the glitter) the experiment was a success and we repeated it several times. We will continue to support their curiosity and wonder with more experiments in the near future.



Kindergarten Program - Woolworths Landcare Grant

Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex Kindergarten program were lucky enough to receive a Woolworths Landcare Grant.

We will be using the funds to build an Aboriginal talking circle, fire pit and bush tucker garden. Thank you Woolworths, we are very grateful.

GREAT NEWS

**We've just been awarded
a Woolworths Junior
Landcare Grant!**



Wallaby Room Update

We have had a busy few months in the Wallaby Room since the last newsletter. The children have joined in with quite a few memorable learning moments and significant calendar days. Our first event was the children celebrating their mums for 'Mother's Day' on the 9th May. We hope you all were spoilt and enjoyed the children's small gift that they made for you.

Wallaby Room celebrated three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in May, June and July. The first was National Sorry Day on the 26th May. The children acknowledged this day by joining in with the other room and painting 'Native Hibiscus Flowers'. The five petal flower was chosen to represent the scattering of the Stolen Generation and their resilience to survive government policy.

From the 28th May until the 3rd of June we celebrated National Reconciliation Week. This year's theme was 'More than a words, Reconciliation takes action'. This urges us to take braver and more impactful action. As part of Wallaby Rooms commitment to reconciliation the children had an introduction to the culture of Aboriginal peoples through art, craft and music. We used items gathered from the bush to use as collage, with their playdough and as a sensory activity. The children painted Aboriginal symbols and we discussed with them about understanding those symbols.

Wallaby Room joined in with NAIDOC Week 2021. The dates that NAIDOC Week is recognised for this year are from the 4th – 11th July. 'Heal Country' is the theme for this year and looks at all of us to continue to seek greater protections for our land, our water, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction. To our indigenous peoples Country is more than a place and is inherent to their identity. Country is like a person, sustaining our live in everyday aspect – spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially and culturally.

As part of Wallaby Room's participation in NAIDOC Week we looked at building respect for and connection to the land. The children used pieces of charcoal to create representations of Aboriginal life. We took large gum leaves and encouraged the children to create 'dot' paintings on them. As a 'real connection' to the land the children were able to trace Aboriginal symbols representing mountains, animals and fire in sand.

The children participated in ALIA National Simultaneous Storytime 2021. The book "Give me some!" written and illustrated by Philip Bunting and published by Scholastic Australia was read by an astronaut from the International Space Station on the 19th May, 2021 at 11.00 am. The importance of reading STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) cannot be understated as part of the education of young learners.

As part of Science and as a link to a study of Winter we have commenced doing experiments so that the children can hypothesize and see if this was correct. Our first was making rain by using food dye, shaving foam and water and our second making was making snow using cornflour, baking soda and water. The children have also been making their own rain clouds and rain in arts and crafts. You can see their 'Rainy Days in Winter' exhibition on display in the hallway!

Lastly you all would have received your child's Summative for the 1st Semester. We hope you all enjoyed reading about your child's progress as much as we did preparing them. If you have any questions or feed back we would love to hear from you.

From all of us in the Wallaby Room!

Dartmoor Children's Centre Update

We have been so busy that we now have some new faces around the centre! Welcome to Jenna and Kiarna, Jenna is now working Wednesday and Thursday and Kiarna is working Thursday. This means that we also have some new children attending too and it is fantastic to get to know them and their families.

The weather has not been kind, so we have been experiencing lots of sensory activities indoors. Children have been enjoying mixing their own colours and painting on different mediums. This is also being done in group play spaces, which allows children to practise important social and language skills.

An office play space is creating plenty of role play opportunities, especially when some of the children see parents working from home. The children have been busy stamping, drawing, typing, scanning and writing.

We have just had a pyjama and pizza day, where the children made their own pizza and watched a movie. This was to support Bowel Cancer Australia. Thank you to all of the families who donated.



KINDERGARTEN SERVICES UPDATES

Heywood Kindergarten Update

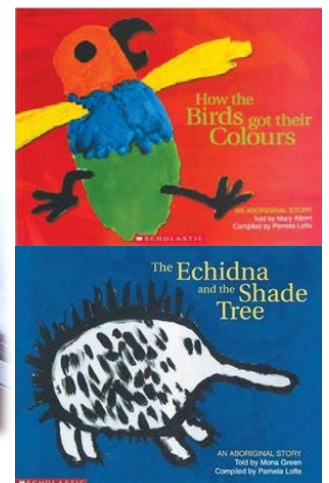
Continuing our focus on sustainability and 'care for country' the children at Heywood Kindergarten worked like busy little bees planting broad beans in our vegetable garden. We learnt about plant requirements; soil, sun and water and were practicing sharing responsibilities. Just spending time with our hands in the earth is so grounding and has many emotional benefits. We look forward to monitoring their growth over the next few weeks and will be building up anticipation to harvest!



Jaycee Kindergarten Update

At Jaycee kinder we have been exploring indigenous culture, each year we are proud to participate in reconciliation week and NAIDOC week. Some of the ways we have been incorporating this into our educational programs are:

- Each day, each group sing an acknowledgement to country rhyme.
- Decorating native animal shapes with different art mediums.
- Listening to dream time stories and then children recreated the images from the book using paint.
- Outside we explored our native plants and used our sense of smell to explore the wonderful scents of lemon myrtle, midyim berries, sea parsley and aniseed myrtle.
- Children engaged in a reconstructed Budj Bim space, set up with local fauna, a river, a fishing activity, a camp fire and multicultural dolls for role play.
- Making echidna's out of playdough and adding matchstick spikes.
- Using clay to sculpt birds and adding colorful feathers.



SUN SMART REMINDER

We've got a few more weeks of low UV levels and then we'll see them start to rise again around mid-August. Whatever the weather, it's important for people of all skin types to use sun protection whenever UV levels are three or higher.



The poster features a blue background with yellow and white text. At the top left, it says 'Being SunSmart in Victoria'. To the right is the SunSmart logo. Below this, it says 'When UV is 3+'. A list of five items follows, each with an icon in a yellow circle: a shirt for 'Slip on covering clothing', a sunscreen bottle for 'Slap on SPF30 or higher, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen', a hat for 'Slap on a broad-brimmed hat', a tree for 'Seek shade', and sunglasses for 'Slide on sunglasses (AS:1067)'. To the right of this list is a green circle containing the text 'Think UV, not heat! UV rays can't be seen or felt and can damage your skin on cool or cloudy days.' Below the list is a smartphone showing the SunSmart app interface. To the right of the phone is a large orange circle containing the text 'Download the SunSmart app to find sun protection times for your location in Australia.' At the bottom right, it says 'When UV is below 3 Sun protection isn't required unless you are outdoors for extended periods or near reflective surfaces, such as snow.'

Being SunSmart in Victoria

When UV is 3+

- Slip** on covering clothing
- Slap** on SPF30 or higher, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
- Slap** on a broad-brimmed hat
- Seek** shade
- Slide** on sunglasses (AS:1067)

Think UV, not heat! UV rays can't be seen or felt and can damage your skin on cool or cloudy days.

When UV is below 3
Sun protection isn't required unless you are outdoors for extended periods or near reflective surfaces, such as snow.

Download the SunSmart app to find sun protection times for your location in Australia.

sunsmart.com.au/app



CURRIED COCONUT AND SWEET POTATO PASTA

Ingredients:

- 1tbs olive oil
- 1 onion, finely diced
- ½ tbs crushed garlic
- ½ tbs curry powder
- 1 litres coconut milk
- 400g sweet potato mash
- 1tbs vegetable stock powder
- 350g cooked and diced chicken
- 1 cups peas
- 500g penne pasta

Method:

1. Cook the pasta according to pack directions, until al dente. Drain and set aside. Steam and mash the sweet potato if not already prepared. Set aside
2. Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large pot and add the onion and garlic. Cook over a low to medium heat until the onion is translucent. Add the curry powder and cook, stirring, for a further 2 minutes.
3. Add the coconut milk, sweet potato, stock powder, chicken and peas, and stir well to combine. Bring to a very gentle simmer and cook until the peas are heated through.
4. Add the cooked pasta and stir through the sauce. Bring the pot back up to a gentle simmer and turn off the heat. cover the pan and allow to stand for 5 minutes before serving.



SWEET POTATO AND CHOCOLATE CAKE

Ingredients:

- ½ cup chopped dates
- ½ cup boiling water
- ½ cup oil
- 4 eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup wholemeal self-raising flour
- ½ cup coco powder
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 250g sweet potato puree

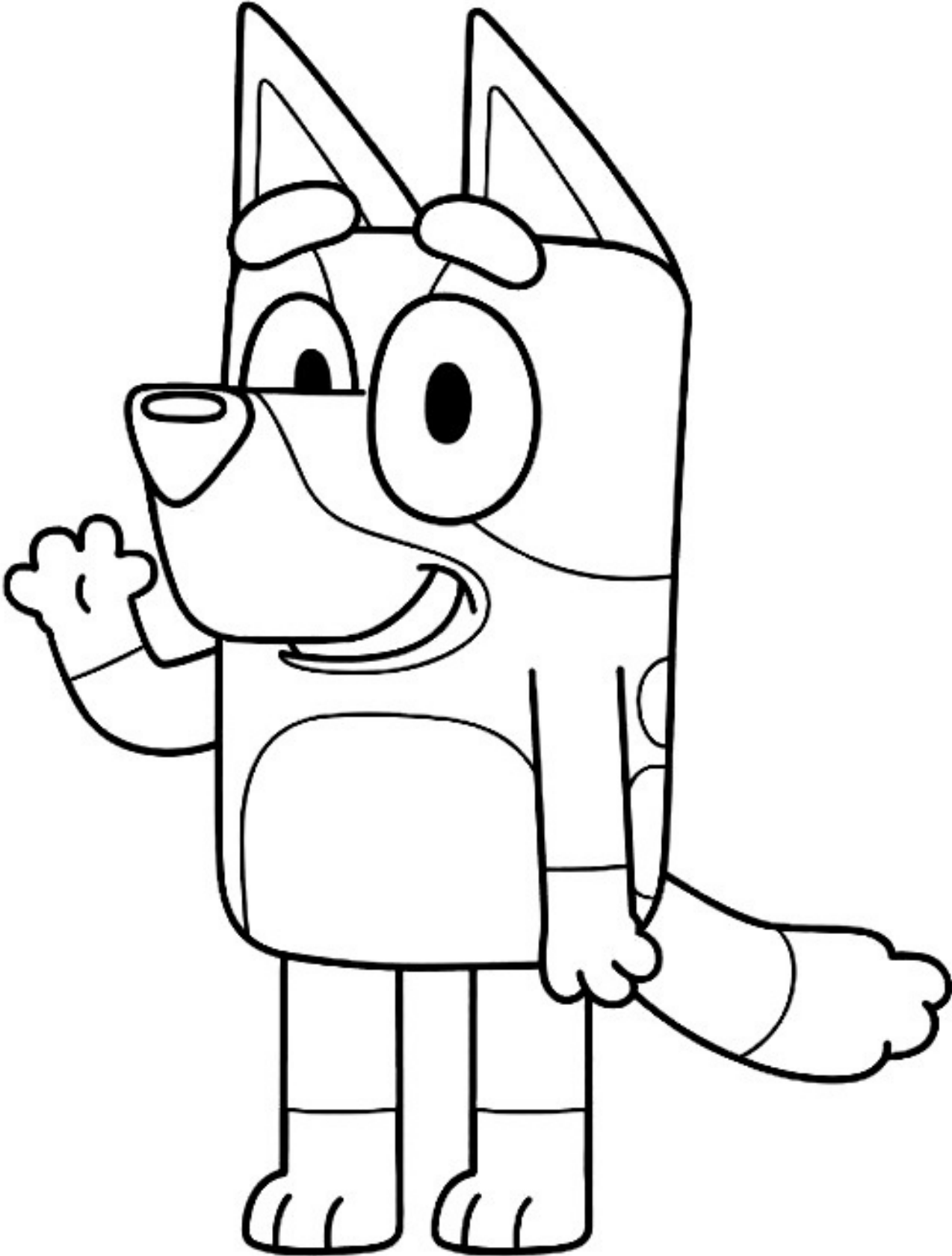


Method:

1. Steam 250g of peeled and diced sweet Potato over a lot of boiling water until tender. Mash well and set aside.
2. Put the date and boiling water in a jug, cover and allow to stand for 10 minutes.
3. After 10 minutes, add the oil, vanilla and eggs to the jug and using a stick blender, blitz the mix until smooth.
4. Put the flour, coco and baking powder in a large bowl, and stir together to combine. Pour in the wet mixture, and mix to make a smooth batter.
5. Grease and line a cake tin, and pour the batter in the. Cook in a pre-heated 180°C oven for 25 to 30 minutes, or until a skewer comes out clean when inserted into the centre.

NB: this recipe can easily be made into muffins, the cooking time may need to be reduced to account for the smaller size.

COLOUR ME IN!





**THANK YOU
FOR READING.
WE HOPE YOU
HAVE ENJOYED
THIS EDITION.**

**GLENELG SHIRE
COUNCIL
CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**

