

NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM OUR TEAM LEADER EDUCATION AND CARE

At the start of Term 2 we saw several of our early learning services involved in wreath making, the wreaths were then displayed on Anzac Day, placed on the soldiers crosses that the services have adopted. Educators continue to incorporate Anzac Day into the educational program annually.

Council continues to review and update their suite of Policies and Procedures, families are invited to provide feedback on any Policy under review, a sign will be located in the service foyer with the current Policy under review.

During Term 2, each service will review its Philosophy. A philosophy is a statement to share the values and beliefs that frame their program. A philosophy influences every aspect of the child's day, from the way the environment is set up, to the role that teachers have in guiding children's play. Children, families and staff will be involved in the review to ensure the Philosophy is relevant to the current cohort of service users. We look forward to your contribution to the Philosophy review, as your feedback matters.

Our six kindergarten's have been successful in participating in the first roll out of the Early Years Assessment and Learning Tool (the Tool). The tool has been designed to support early childhood teachers and educators with their observations and assessment of children's learning and development. Teachers and educators then use this information to tailor the kindergarten program to best help your child learn. Teachers and educators are currently undergoing professional development to enable them to use this Tool effectively at their service.

Thanks Karen



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

Glenelg Shire Council would like to respectfully acknowledge that our Kindergarten's and Long Day Care services operate on the traditional land and waters of the Gunditjmara people, Boandik people, Jardwadjali people and their respective cultural heritages.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people provide an important contribution to Australia's cultural heritage and identity. We respectfully acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait community living throughout the Glenelg Shire and the contribution they make to the Shire's prosperity and wellbeing.

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS COMMITMENT

Glenelg Shire Council is committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children.

Reducing and removing the risk of child abuse will be at the centre of our decision-making concerning children in our organisation.

Council has zero tolerance for child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and acted upon. Council will actively listen to children, ensuring their voices are heard and considered in decisions that affect their lives.

This approach is reflected in Council's Community Engagement Framework and Youth Charter

OFFICE NEWS

ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS

We ask that families please notify the Children's Services Team as soon as possible if your child will be absent from their program. This can be done via the Xap Smile App or through the following methods:

Phone – 1300 453 635

Email – childservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au

THE BEST WAY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Children's Services Customer Service Team

Tel: 1300 453 635

Email: childservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au

Fee or Account Enquiries, Children's Services Accounts Team

Tel: (03) 5522 2515

Email: csaccounts@glenelg.vic.gov.au



Maternal and Child Health Opening Hours

- Portland – Monday to Friday
- Heywood – Tuesday
- Casterton – Thursday
- Dartmoor – By appointment only
- Office Administration Hours – Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm

MCH can be contacted on the following:

- Phone: 5521 0504
- Email: mch.pdh@swarh.vic.gov.au
- Text Message: 0427 818 624
- Website: https://pdh.net.au/services_list/maternal-and-child-health-services/

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Did you know we have a Little FREE Pantry at our Centres/Kindergartens

A Little Free Pantry (LFP) is a community-based initiative that aims to provide basic necessities to those in need.

The concept behind it is simple: ***give what you can, take what you need.***

The pantries are located at Kalbarri Kindergarten & Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child & Family Complex and are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and designed to be accessible and non-judgmental, without any paperwork or registration required for users.

Families and community members are encouraged to donate non-perishable foods or hygiene items to the pantries.

If you wish to donate, simply purchase non-perishable, unopened items within the best-before/use-by-date and place them directly in the pantry.

- Long-life milk & fruit-juice (200mL & 1L)
- Rice, pasta, pasta sauce
- Non-perishable meat (Eg Jerky, Tinned Chicken/ Tuna/ Sardines/ Spam/ Ham)
- Tinned Fruit and Vegetables
- Breakfast items (Eg Instant Oats Sachets, Kellogs variety packs, breakfast biscuits etc)
- Peanut butter and vegemite (small plastic jars preferred)
- Sachets of Sugar, Tea & Coffee
- Snacks (Eg non-perishable dip and biscuits, salsa, muesli bars, multi-packs of chips/savoury biscuits)
- Biscuits (Eg Saladas, VitaWeet, breakfast biscuits)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toiletries (Eg toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, sunscreen, combs, soap, cotton buds, body wipes, 2-in-1 shampoo/conditioner)
- First-Aid supplies (eg travel first-aid-kits, bandaids, insect repellent, sanitiser)
- Baby supplies (eg formula, nappies, wipes)



Relay 4 Life 2023 – Ankle Bitters



The Ankle Bitters Relay 4 Life team raised \$3,616 with the registrations of team members, purchases at the cake stall, crazy hair days and the very generous donations of staff, families from across our children services locations.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this cause in one way or another we really appreciate it.

The Ankle Bitters once again won an award for participation, we love a good dress up!

The Ankle Bitters will be participating again in 2024, so stay tuned as everyone is more than welcome to join and participate.



CHANGE OF CLOTHES REMINDER

A reminder to families to please ensure you pack a spare change of clothes in your child's bag when they are attending Long Day Care and Kindergarten. The weather is also starting to cool off and we are beginning to see a change in the weather conditions therefore please send a coat with your child to ensure they stay dry and warm when playing outside.



ILLNESS WITHIN THE CENTRE

When a child develops symptoms of illness while at the service, educators will notify the Nominated Supervisor, or person in day-to-day care of the service, that a child is unwell. The educator will contact the parents/guardians or authorised emergency contact for the child to outline the signs and symptoms observed and request that the child is collected from the service.

Glenelg Shire Council Children's Services is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment while maintaining a duty of care to the children, and users of Glenelg Shire Children's Services.

CHILD SAFETY ADVISE

The advise on children in car restraints from Vic roads is.

Booster seats

Children aged 4 years to less than 7 years must use either:

- a forward-facing child restraint with an inbuilt harness, or
- a booster seat.



Children grow at different rates and there can be big differences in their heights and weights. Therefore, you can choose the type of restraint that is best for your child's size.

Even if your child is 4 years old, they may not be ready to travel in a booster seat. We recommend you keep your child in their forward-facing restraint with an inbuilt harness until they are too big for it and then move to a booster seat.

Front or back seat?

Children aged 4 years old to under 7 years old can only sit in the front seat if all the back seats are taken by other passengers under 7 years old.

If your vehicle does not have a back seat (e.g. a ute) they can travel in the front seat if they are in a child restraint.

NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN IN THE CAR

A friendly reminder to all families to ensure that you never leave a child in a car.

In Victoria, it is against the law to leave a child unattended in a car.

The Never Leave Kids in Cars campaign prompts parents to take their kids with them whenever they get out of the car, just as they do their everyday valuables, to avoid potentially tragic consequences.

More information and resources can be found in the following links:

- <https://www.vic.gov.au/never-leave-kids-in-cars>
- <http://www.kidsafevic.com.au/road-safety/hot-cars/>
- <https://raisingchildren.net.au/toddlers/safety/car-pedestrian-safety/never-leave-children>



Balancing CCS payments at end of financial year

At the end of the financial year, which is 30 June, Services Australia compares your income estimate with your actual income to check you got the right amount of Child Care Subsidy (CCS). This is called balancing. You need to confirm your family's income before Services Australia can balance your payments. There are deadlines.

One year after the financial year ends

You have one year to confirm your income.

If you don't confirm your income within 12 months after the end of a financial year your CCS will stop and you'll have to pay full fees for child care.

If you got CCS for 2021–22 you have until 30 June 2023 to confirm your income.

Two years after the financial year ends

If you still haven't confirmed your income two years after a financial year ends you may have to repay any CCS you received for that financial year.

If you haven't confirmed your income for 2020–21 you must do so by 30 June 2023.

How to confirm income

Confirm your income by:

- lodging your tax return, or
- telling Services Australia that you don't need to lodge, even if you've already told the Australian Taxation Office.



NEW STAFF & FAREWELLS



Heidi Jones
Fulltime Educator –
Karreeta Peeneeyt
Mara Portland Child
and Family Complex

Alexzia Petch
Casual Educator

Courtney Pontuo
Casual Educator

Amber Davies
Part time
Educator - Jaycee

Rebecca Cornish
Fulltime Educator
– Kathleen
Millikan Centre

RECRUITMENT

Glenelg Shire Council currently has a number of positions vacant in the Children's Services Unit.

For more information, please visit

https://hcm618.peoplestreme.net/glenelgshirecouncil/erec_external.asp



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

On enrolment families complete the Enrolment declaration form agreeing to the following:

I acknowledge that parents/guardians are required to follow the minimum exclusion period for an outbreak of an infectious disease or infestation. I will notify the service if my child has or is suspected of having an infectious disease or infestation. (refer to <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/exclusion-periods-for-primary-schools-and-childrens-services>)

Please ensure the service is notified of your child's illnesses.

POLICIES RECENTLY REVIEWED

- Diabetes Policy
- Emergency & Evacuation Policy
- Determining a responsible person Policy
- Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy
- Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy

KINDER ENROLMENTS

The 2024 Kindergarten Enrolment Period for new families opened on 8 May and will be open until 2 June.

To access information regarding programs and enrolling, please visit

<https://www.glenelg.vic.gov.au/OurServices/Children-and-Families/Kindergarten-Enrolments>

For more information, please email enrolment@glenelg.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 453 635.

Easy Scone dough pizzas

Base:

- 2 cups self-raising flour
- 1 cup milk (dairy, soy, coconut, etc.)

Toppings:

- Sauce of choice
- Add a little cheese
- Toppings of choice, eg. Ham, chicken, pineapple, herbs, mushrooms, red onion, capsicum, spinach. Sundried tomato etc.
- Add extra cheese on top



Method:

1. Pre-heat oven to 200°C
2. Mix together flour and milk to form a soft dough. Roll out to approximately 5mm thick and place onto a lined baking tray.
3. Firmly press on the toppings, flattening them down into the dough a little
4. Cook in oven at 200°C for 15 minutes
5. Allow to cool for 5 minutes before cutting into portions, or pop into the fridge to cool and enjoy cold.

FROM OUR SERVICES

Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex

We have been busily reviewing our service Philosophy at KPM PCFC.

An important part of our review process is hearing the children's voice on what they value and want to see in their care and education setting. Our educators have been asking the children questions to get their views on what should be in our Philosophy.

We have also taken part in the community Anzac Day celebrations. The children worked together to create wreaths to put on the crosses of for four soldiers who are represented in the community flower display on the lawns. We have incorporated stories into the educational program to help children understand what it is we are participating in as we celebrate Anzac day.



Kathleen Millikan Centre

The children in the Tharkook room have been showing their talents of first aid in the Doctors Surgery.

Using bandages and imaginative play resources they expand the fine motor skills rolling and wrapping bandages and using "medical" instruments.

They run the reception and take patients through to the "procedure area" to help them.



FROM OUR SERVICES

Dartmoor Children's Centre

At Dartmoor Children's Centre we have been learning about Deciduous and Evergreen trees.

The children did some researching on the TV. Deciduous Trees lose their leaves and Evergreens keep them.

We went out and collected the different types and colours of leaves and then pasted them onto our trees for our families to see.

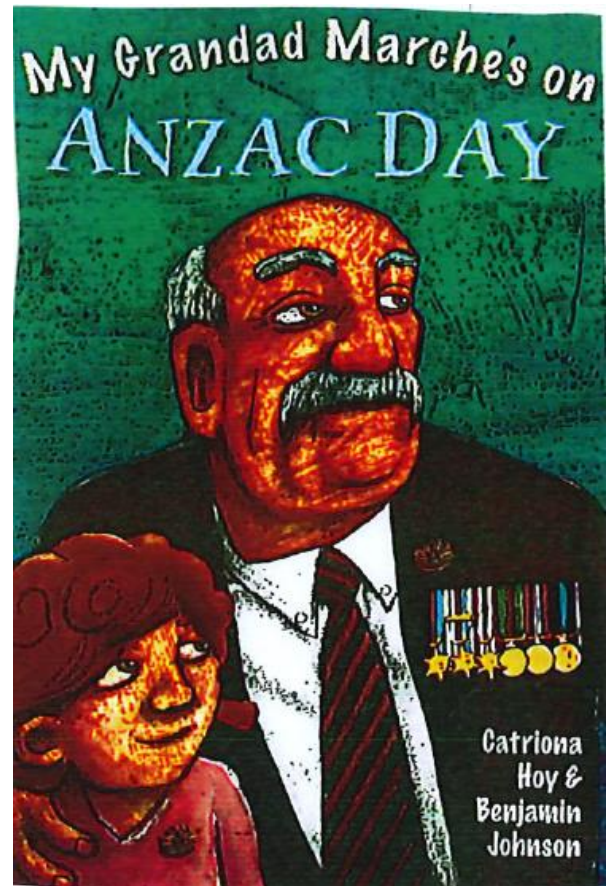


Heywood Kindergarten

We spoke about the significance of the 25 of April. We learnt that both men and women went to war and fought so that we could have a free and safe country to live in.

We read a book about ANZAC Day and watched a special episode of Playschool where they spoke about ANZAC Day.

We then shared some ANZAC biscuits at morning tea, they were delicious.



FROM OUR SERVICES

Jaycee Kindergarten

Seal group had a visit recently from the Responsible Pet Education program.

Barb and her beautiful dog Tucker came to visit us at kindergarten.

The Pet Education program teaching young children the safe and respectful way to approach a dog. The program uses age-appropriate songs and pictures. Tucker and Barb demonstrate with the children these very important life skills.

The children enjoyed getting to give Tucker a nice safe pat.



Kalbarri Kindergarten

At Kalbarri Kinder the children in both groups, were busy being creative for Mother's Day.

The children were making and decorating amazing pieces for our mums/ special people in our lives.

Children have been exploring with clay, this is a great way to develop their fine motor skills.

Great work everyone!





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

**GLENELG SHIRE
COUNCIL
CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**

