

JUNE

# NEWSLETTER



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR Acting Children's Services Manager

Dear Families,

Thank you to all our families for their understanding and ongoing support as some of our services have been disrupted, due to an increase in illness, which has directly impacted on programs. We understand the effect on families when services are reduced and only cancel programmes after all other possible options have been exhausted.

We welcome the recent March budget announcement that each kindergarten service will receive a one-off \$5,000 grant to help purchase new equipment for play-based learning. This funding means each kinder will see new, inclusive, and age-appropriate materials which may including construction blocks, musical instruments, puzzles, gardening tools and sensory toys – encouraging children of all abilities to use their imagination and creativity, helping them to getting the best start in life.

I hope that our kindergarten families and children enjoy the school holiday break, and we look forward to seeing you in term 3. As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us, we are here to help to ensure that you and your child's time at our services is a positive one.

Virginia Bobbitt will be Acting in the role of Children Services Manager from July as I take up another role at Council. Sincere thanks to all staff, families and children that have made me feel welcome in the Children Services unit over the last 5 months.

Kind regards,

Shelley Bourke



SOMETIMES THE BEST LEARNING HAPPENS IN THE MIDST OF WHAT LOOKS LIKE CHAOS. DON'T BE AFRAID TO GET MESSY – LEAH ROSS HENRY

## 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 – [childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au](mailto:childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au)

## THE BEST WAY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Children's Services Customer Service Team

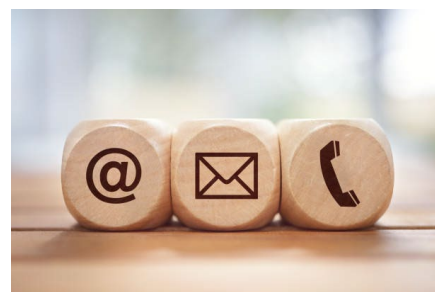
Tel: 1300 453 635

Email: [childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au](mailto:childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au)

Fee or Account Enquiries, Children's Services Accounts Team

Tel: (03) 5522 2515

Email: [csaccounts@glenelg.vic.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:mch.pdh@swarh.vic.gov.au)
- Text Message: 0427 818 624
- Website: [https://pdh.net.au/services\\_list/maternal-and-child-health-services/](https://pdh.net.au/services_list/maternal-and-child-health-services/)

## CHANGE OF CLOTHES REMINDER

A reminder to families to please ensure you pack a spare change of clothes in your child's bag each time they attend one of our services. Winter has arrived 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 an illness while at the service, educators will notify the Nominated Supervisor, or person in day-to-day charge of the service, that a child is unwell. The educator will then contact the parents/guardians or authorised emergency contact for the child to outline the signs and symptoms observed and may request that the child is collected from the service if the child is not well enough to participate in the program or is suspected of having an infectious disease.

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 all users of Glenelg Shire Council Children's Services.

## 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.



## SIGNING CHILDREN IN/OUT OF DIFFERENT PROGRAMS

A reminder to ensure you are only signing your child in/out of the program they are attending at the time of drop off/pick up. If you are signing them in/out of all programs for the day (e.g. before kindergarten, kindergarten and after kindergarten the record is inaccurate). If you have any concerns or need assistance, please speak to staff member.

## CHANGES TO ABSENT DAYS 1 JULY 2023

The waiving of Gap Fees for children and/or their families having a diagnosis of COVID will cease at the end of this month – 30 June 2023.

The allowable annual absences for children will return to 42 per financial year as well (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024).

## CHANGES TO GAP FEE PAYMENTS FROM JULY 2023

From 1 July 2023, you must pay the gap fee using electronic means.

The gap fee is the difference between your full fee and your Child Care Subsidy (CCS) amount.

Electronic funds transfer, or EFT, is when a customer pays a bill using electronic means. Most families already use EFT to pay the gap fee.

We will only accept EFT payments from 1 July. If you already use EFT to pay gap fees, you don't need to do anything.

Exceptions are available in limited circumstances. If you think you may need an exception, please let us know.

This change will help the government protect CCS against fraud and non-compliance.

## CURRENT POLICY OUT FOR REVIEW

- Enrolment & Orientation Policy – Kindergarten



## NEW STAFF & FAREWELLS



Cathy Arthur  
Fulltime Kinder  
educator – Karreeta  
Peeneeyt Mara  
Portland Child and  
Family Complex



Makayla Elmer  
Fulltime Educator  
– Kathleen  
Millikan Centre



Farewell to  
Catherine Shultz  
Fulltime Educator  
- Karreeta  
Peeneeyt Mara  
Portland Child and  
Family Complex

## 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](https://hcm618.peoplestreme.net/glenelgshirecouncil/erec_external.asp)



## VEGE PACKED MEATBALL SKEWERS

500g beef mince  
165g vegetables (cooked and pureed)  
1 sachet French onion soup mix  
½ cup breadcrumbs  
1 small onion, diced  
1 tsp crushed garlic



- Put all the ingredients into a bowl and mix really well.
- Roll into bite sized meatballs and thread onto skewers.
- Heat a little oil in a pan and cook the skewers over a medium heat, turning until all sides of the skewers are seared.
- Pop the skewers onto a lined baking dish and cook in a pre-heated 180°C oven for 15 minutes, or until cooked through.



# FROM OUR SERVICES

## Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex

One of the key celebrations we engage in as a service at Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child & Family Complex is 'Reconciliation Week'. It is a time where we learn about shared histories, cultures, and achievements and how we can contribute and work together to achieve reconciliation.

This year's theme was 'Be a Voice for Generations' and here are some photos of some of the wonderful ways we learnt about and took a step forward toward reconciliation.



## Kathleen Millikan Centre

On Tuesday June 6, children in the 4-year kinder program at Kathleen Millikan Centre went on an excursion to the Casterton Library to participate in the 'Kelpie Magic of Storytime'.

Rebecca Bailey, the author of the captivating book "Kelpie Magic, delighted the children with her story of two mischievous kelpie dogs Jack and Rosie. Rebecca and Will Brooks sang "Country Kelpies" with the children dancing along.

To add to the excitement, we had a special surprise visit from "Warrock the Kelpie."

The children talked about the excursion throughout the day and suggested some new excursion ideas to their educators.



# FROM OUR SERVICES

## Dartmoor Children's Centre

The children of Dartmoor Children's Centre are currently participating in the Premier Reading Challenge. Throughout this challenge, we will be reading 40 books with the children between 8 May and 8 September. We invite families and community members to participate in the challenge and join us by reading a story to the children. We have many books to choose from. Thank you to the families and community members that have contributed so far.

Nurse Annemaree from Dartmoor & District Bush Nursing Centre recently attended our service for a fun and informative learning exercise called 'Glitterbug' and read a story 'The Invisible String'. Annemaree placed a special cream in the palm of each child's hand and encouraged them to rub it all in, the best they can. Once rubbed in, the children were asked to wash their hands with soap and water and reminded that the special glitterbug cream was pretend germs. Once their hands were thoroughly washed with soap and water, each child's hands were checked for germs (glitter) under a UV light. The UV light exposed remaining germs (glitter) around fingers, fingernails and base of fingers that remained after handwashing. The children thoroughly enjoyed this experiment and it's been a wonderful talking point about germs, what germs can do to our bodies, and how to thoroughly wash them away before and after earring, sneezing, coughing, blowing our nose, using the bathroom, or playing outside.

We looking forward to seeing our families and community members contributing to our service throughout term 3. Please speak with staff if you would like to be a community reader throughout the Premier Reading Challenge.



## Heywood Kindergarten

### A visit from an author

We were lucky enough to have a visit from a new author Olivia Coates (who previously worked as a Kindergarten Teacher at Heywood Kindergarten). She read her beautiful story, The Shadow Wall, then the children got involved and acted the story out. Olivia taught the children some new songs related to the book. We then got the chance to make our very own 'Shadow Wall'.

Thank you so much Olivia for visiting our Kinder to read your story. We are all so proud of you!

### Special Visit

On Wednesday 31 May we had a visit from Aunty Jan and Janelle Huggers.

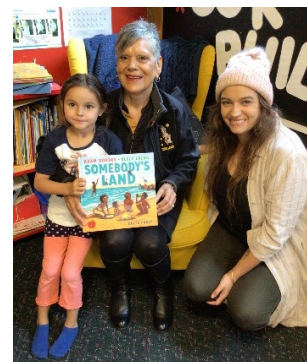
This special visit coincided with Reconciliation Week.

Aunty Jan read the story 'Somebody's Land', written by Adam Goodes & Ellie Laing and Illustrated by David Hardy.

Aunty Jan spoke to the children about the importance of looking after our land, of us all getting along, and acceptance and being kind to everyone.

The Teaching team and children did their Acknowledgement to Country that the children have learnt this year using sign language.

Lyla-June was so happy to have both her Mum and her Grandma visit the Kinder to read this special story.





# FROM OUR SERVICES

## Jaycee Kindergarten

The children at Jaycee have been enjoying threading. This has been wonderful for their fine motor development and finger strength which in turn builds a foundation for a strong pencil grip.

The children also develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching, and investigating as they create and use representation to organise, record and communicate mathematical ideas and concepts.

The children are increasing responsibility for their own health and wellbeing as they engage in complex sensory-motor skills and movement patterns. Concentration levels are also being extended as they focus on completing a special threading creation to take home and show their families.



## Kalbarri Kindergarten

At Kalbarri Kindergarten We have been celebrating Rainbow Day in both the 3's and 4's groups.

We enjoyed some delicious fruit kebabs for morning tea and made some beautiful rainbows. The 4's were even lucky enough to try out the smoothie bike. Was a day full of colourful fun!

We also had a special visit from Olivia Coates (a previous Kinder Teacher at Kalbarri) in both the 3's and 4's groups to read her new book "Shadow Wall".

All the children loved her coming to read her book and join in some role playing and painting our own colourful brick wall.

Thanks so much Olivia, it was amazing having you visit.







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

**GLENELG SHIRE  
COUNCIL  
CHILDREN'S  
SERVICES**

