



Services in 2021

Introducing two years of kindergarten before school has had a big impact on Family and Children's Services. There are now 224 children enrolled in our kinder services: 93 first years (traditionally three-year-old kinder) and 131 second years (in the year before school). Days of operation have increased at the Timboon Kindergarten, Terang Children's Centre and at Western Plains Childcare.

With so many three-year-olds accessing kindergarten the impact on childcare and family day care has meant lower enrolments in some childcare settings and an increase in under-threes attending. Staffing has increased to accommodate the additional services and to meet the child/educator ratios.

After Kindergarten/After School (AKAS) care is operating five days a week in Timboon and Terang.

We now have a team of nearly 50 educators, not including the additional relief team members or Civic Centre team members. Two additional relief staff have completed their induction. This will help ensure that services continue to operate when staff members are unwell.

Emergency evacuation practice

Services have been practising emergency evacuation to familiarise staff and children in how to quickly and safely evacuate in an emergency.

Whether it's a service with 30-plus children or family day care educators who work alone, it is essential to have an evacuation plan to leave a premises safely and to practise under different circumstances in order to be prepared in the event a real emergency occurs.

Farewell to Andrea & Christine



Andrea Sadler has decided to leave Mobile Child Care after being a highly valued member of the Family & Childrens Services team for the past 15 years. In this time Andrea provided nurture, care and learning experiences to many children in our rural communities. Andrea has been a significant educator in the Mobile Child Care team, supporting the program and team to work their magic to transform community halls and recreation reserves to be warm and welcoming learning spaces for children. We wish Andrea the very best for the future.



Christine Dewhurst commenced her retirement on Wednesday 31 March. As a passionate advocate for families, children and family day care her contribution and knowledge will be missed. We thank Christine for a tremendous decade of service to the Shire, its families and the Family & Children's Services team.

COVID services update

Now that there are fewer COVID restrictions, our services have been able to reintroduce experiences such as cooking. There have been birthday muffins and cheese-scone baking at Timboon Kindergarten & the AKAS programs.

Now that we are able to plan COVIDSafe excursions, the children at Terang Family Day Care recently visited a local farm to watch some shearing with Kerrie.



Save the date

Wednesday 28 April

Catharine Hydon Presents

Telling your story: Supporting your child's language and literacy

Being able to use language (speaking, listening, reading and writing) is one of the most important ways children let others know who they are and what they think about their world.

Language skills help children build relationships, get the help they need, explore ideas and make positive contributions to their community.

From birth, children benefit from the support of the adults around them to build the skills they need to be effective communicators.

This practical session will share what we know about how children become literate and how we, as the critical adults in children's lives, support them as they learn language skills so they can tell their own story.

To join this session follow this [link](#)

Meeting ID: 898 3652 1773

Password: 351241

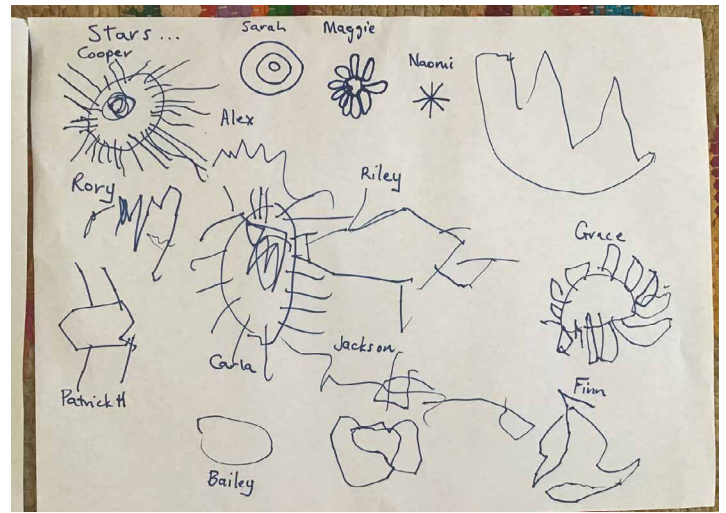
Simpson Kinder recognised



Exciting news! The Simpson Kindergarten has been awarded Victorian government-recognition for Safe Environments in the Achievement Program. This means Simpson Kindergarten are successfully demonstrating best practices for this health area. We are very proud of this recognition and are particularly proud of Jane and Jodie and all the children at Simpson Kindergarten. The Achievement Program is a free health and wellbeing initiative for early childhood services.

Space and Solar Systems at Western Plains Kindergarten

The folk of Western Plains Kindergarten have immersed themselves in all things galaxy including stars, the emu in the sky and spaceships. Children were encouraged to discuss their knowledge about stars and asked to draw one. After watching this [video](#) the children plan to create their own emu in the sky.



Soapy Heroes and Gerry the Germ

Due to the ongoing pandemic the need to understand how germs work is essential. Simpson Kindergarten has been conducting experiments after watching this [video](#) to showcase how we and other people have germs and how we share them with one another.

A container was filled with soapy water and topped with pepper (representing germs). Children were then asked to put their finger in the container to see what would happen. When they pulled their finger out it was covered in pepper which showcased how easily germs can stick to our hands.

Another container was filled with water and topped with pepper. This time the pepper moved away from their finger when they put it in the water. This helps us to encourage children to wash their hands regularly to help keep the germs away.



Childhood FLU SHOT

Provided by Corangamite Shire

Free for children aged six months and five years.

For more information and to register please contact Council on 1800 552 902.



Wednesday 21 April
Killara Centre, Camperdown
Between 9.30 am and noon

Wednesday 21 April
Terang Children's Centre
Between 1.30 pm and 4.30 pm

Wednesday 28 April
Timboon Hall
Between 10 am and 1 pm

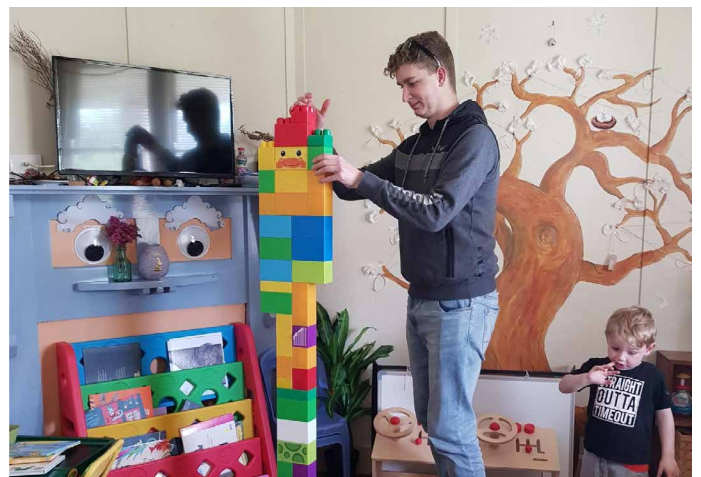
Tuesday 4 May
Lismore Community Health
Between 9.30 am and 11.30 am



Welcome Lachie Bennett

Family & Children's Services are delighted to be hosting a traineeship with West Vic Training and welcome Lachie Bennett who has commenced an Early Education and Care Traineeship studying Certificate III over the next 12 months.

Lachie will gain experience in Childcare, Kindergarten and Family Day Care. Providing trainees experience in a diverse range of Education and Care settings broadens career choices and builds our future workforce capacity which is more vital than ever as the State Government reforms come into effect next year across the state for two years before school Kinder.

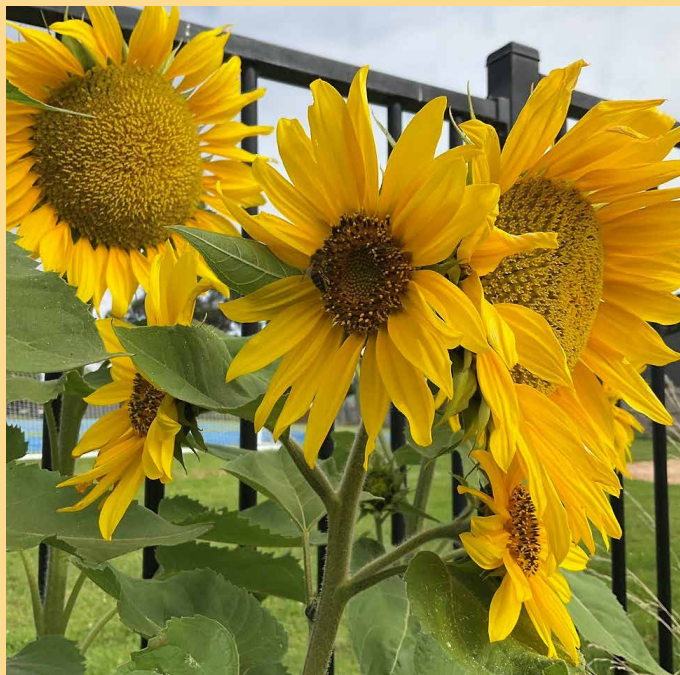


Sunflowers

Sunflowers are brightening up services and streets as part of the community recovery team's Sun Burst Corangamite sunflower project.

The sunflower mural has been created by children in the Koorrayn Group at the Terang Children's Centre and is displayed in the foyer, and we now also have a beautiful line of sunflowers opening along the fence. The bees are busy visiting, which led us to teaching about the importance of bees in our garden and making bees for our story.

Sunflowers were also spotted growing by Kerrie and the family day care children while out and about on a walk.



Recruiting Family Day Care Educators in all towns

Build your business around your family. Become a Family Day Care Educator with Corangamite Shire Council.

Learn more here:

www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Family-Day-Care

“It’s a great career - you get to work from home and your children can stay at home with you”

-Amy, Family Day Care Educator



Vacancies

Mobile Child Care at Glenormiston

Tuesday 10 am - 3 pm

After Kindergarten/After School (AKAS) Terang

Enquiries for bookings please phone the Family & Children’s Services team on 5593 7100

Family Day Care at Timboon

Thursday

Enrol in Family & Children’s Services

Please complete the form below to register your interest in Corangamite Shire Council Family & Children’s Services

www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Community/Family-Children-Services/Enrolment-Forms

Professional Development

All kindergarten teachers and some support staff are completing a two-day online professional development course called the “three-year-old kindergarten teaching toolkit”, which covers six key areas: reflective practice, assessment for learning, wellbeing, communication, environments for learning and collaborative partnerships.

The Three-Year-Old Kindergarten Teaching Toolkit comprises:

- A Box of Educational Resources
- Professional Learning; and
- Website Content.

It focuses on six critical areas for children’s learning and teacher practice.

The Toolkit is underpinned and informed by the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF).



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Corangamite Shire Family & Children’s Services

Connect with us   

www.corangamite.vic.gov.au

www.facebook.com/cschildrenservices/

www.facebook.com/CorangamiteShire/

www.twitter.com/CorangamiteSC

www.instagram.com/corangamiteshire/

Policies

Family and Children’s Services policies are available at www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Policies

Feedback

Your opinion is important to us, click on this link to provide feedback on the service:

www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Contact/Feedback

Info book

Available at: www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Enrol



THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

FACILITATED PLAYGROUP



ME, DAD AND GRANDAD FACILITATED PLAYGROUPS

A facilitated playgroup for dads with pre-school children that provides:

- A supportive, safe environment
- Community connection and belonging
- Play, learning and fun.

EVENT DETAILS

WHERE

Grovedale Child and Family Centre,
45 Heyers Road, Grovedale

WHEN

Fortnightly on Saturdays
10.00–11.30am

CONTACT

For bookings and more information contact Lisa on 0418 538 569 or email Vicki on vjenkins@geelongcity.vic.gov.au