

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

NEWS

JULY 2020



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

family & children's services

WELCOME BACK

Staff are welcoming back children and families and attendance levels at services have almost returned to pre-coronavirus [COVID-19] numbers.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

One of the most important things that can be done to slow the spread of coronavirus in ECEC settings is to ensure that unwell children and staff remain at home.

Please keep your child home if they are displaying any of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills or sweats
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Runny nose
- Loss of sense of smell or taste

In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea may also be considered.

If your child is displaying any of the symptoms of coronavirus, however mild, they should get tested. Seek advice from a healthcare professional who can advise on next steps. You can phone the coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398 for help and advice.

A medical certificate is not required for your child to return to our setting after a period of illness, however children should not return until they no longer have symptoms.

MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING CORONAVIRUS

Family and Children's Service staff and contractors have continued to provide high quality education and care to children and families during COVID-19, while maintaining all the regulatory requirements around the health and safety of children and staff.

Staff have shown great agility with adapting to change and implementing additional hygiene practices and procedures.

Services have been practicing on-site and 'lock-down' emergency procedures. All services undertake Emergency Management every three months.

Kindergarten staff will update CPR qualifications in July. Staff will be assessed in small groups to ensure competency. Additional hygiene practices will be in place to ensure the health and safety of each person [staff and assessors].

Mandatory reporting training will be completed by staff who haven't completed it in the last 12 months.

With recent changes in advice from Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Education and Training, staff have welcomed the opportunity to re-introduce sensory activities and outings to local parks.

STUDENT PLACEMENTS



Family Day Care educator Catherine Pollard hosted Federation Uni student Sarah Marquand, [left] earlier this month for a student placement. Sarah is the second student Catherine has hosted this year. Cobden Kindergarten hosted graduate student Emma Finlayson [right]. Services welcome the opportunity to host students studying Early Childhood Education and Care. Students gain experience in different ECEC, allowing them to begin applying knowledge and skills gained from their university or TAFE courses under the guidance of a Mentor Teacher/Educator.



CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

Child Care Subsidy (CCS) is starting again on Monday 13 July.

If you were receiving CCS before 6 April 2020, it will automatically start again if you've stayed eligible and your enrolment is current and confirmed.

Follow these five steps to make sure you've stayed eligible and receive the right amount of CCS:

1. Give Centrelink your 2020–21 family income estimate to receive the correct CCS percentage and avoid an overpayment.
2. Check your activity hours to receive the correct amount of hours of CCS per fortnight*.
3. Make sure your child meets immunisation requirements.
4. Check your child's enrolment details are current with your child care service and re-enrol if you need to.
5. Confirm your income for 2018–19 if you haven't already by 30 June 2020.

*From 13 July 2020, the Australian Government is easing the activity test for CCS. This means you may be able to apply for extra activity hours if COVID-19 has affected you. There will be more information about how to do this in July.

If you're new to child care, you should claim CCS as soon as possible. From 13 July 2020, you'll pay full fees unless you're getting CCS.

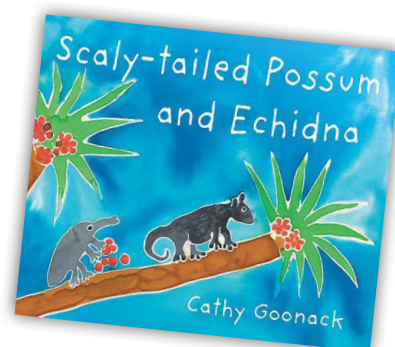
For more information, visit Services Australia.

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment has created an information sheet for families about the transition arrangements for the end of the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package and the return to CCS.



INDIGENOUS STORIES SHARED ONLINE

Bronwyn Ferguson
Koorie Pre School
Field Officer has
shared these stories
that you might enjoy.



'The Hairy One'

www.youtube.com/watch?v=af3jvyktXKk

Dreaming story 'Scaly Tailed Possum and Echidna'
which we filmed out at the Hopkins Falls.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7U2eUX-f4c

VACANCIES

Mobile Child Care in Port Campbell Thursday & Friday
10 am–3 pm

Mobile Child Care at The Sisters Wednesday
10 am–3 pm

Family Day Care- No Vacancies

CONNECT WITH US Corangamite Shire Family & Children's Services

www.corangamite.vic.gov.au

www.facebook.com/cschildrengservices/

www.facebook.com/CorangamiteShire/

twitter.com/CorangamiteSC

www.instagram.com/corangamiteshire/



FEEDBACK

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

[www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/
Contact/Feedback](http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Contact/Feedback)

KINDERGARTEN FEE SUBSIDY

Update your details to receive the Kindergarten fee subsidy for Term 3.

If your financial circumstances have changed and you have recently been issued a Health Care Card, your child's funded Four Year Old Kindergarten could be free.

REMINDER: if your concession card has been reissued please email a copy to familychildrenservices@corangamite.vic.gov.au

For more information on eligibility, please visit the link below or contact a member of the Family and Children's Services Team on 5593 7100.

www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten/Pages/how-much-kindergarten-cost.aspx

MCH NURSES SUPPORT HEALTHY WELL CORANGAMITE

Maternal Child Health Nurses Supporting a Healthy Well Corangamite project has posts Monday, Wednesday and Friday on the Family and Children's Services Facebook page. Some of the topics coming up are:

- Fussy Eating Toddlers
- Toddlers and Touchscreens
- Toilet Training Tips
- Savory Muffins with Jess

Please like and share the posts if you know someone they might help. Contact Chris Towers on Tuesday if you would like more information.



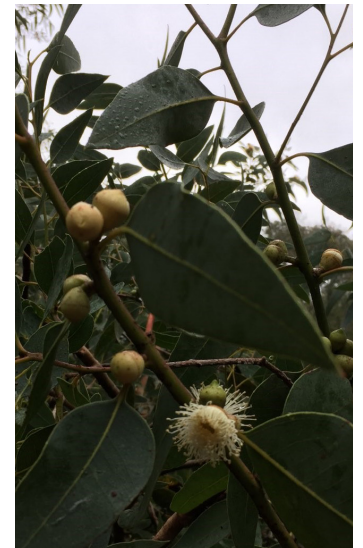
POSSUMS REVISIT THE BUSH KINDER

TERANG CHILDREN'S
CENTRE

Possums group was able to take advantage of the nicer weather and walk around the bush kinder site. While out walking we stopped to look at the different things and listen to the environment.

The children were able to think about some activities they would like to do when we start our regular bush kinder next term. It was a great opportunity to familiarise ourselves with the site before we start spending more time down there.

Next term we are planning to spend a lot more time doing bush kinder, which is a great way for children to learn and explore the natural environment.



FAMILY DAY CARE TERANG

Is it a bus, garbage truck or spaceship?

The choices are endless.

Even picking what colour to paint this vehicle at Kerrie Fortescue's has sparked the children's creativity.



VIRTUAL TOURS OF OUR KINDERGARTENS



BARB FOSTER AT TIMBOON KINDERGARTEN



SARAH HOWARD AT WESTERN PLAINS KINDER



JANE BENNETT AT SIMPSON AND DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN

We have created a virtual tour of the kindergartens that families who are looking to register for 2021 can see our facilities and hear from teachers.

Thought you might like to have a look.

You can enjoy them on our website at corangamite.vic.gov.au/Community/Family-Children-Services/Kindergartens#section-3

The big thank you to film maker Sue Currell and the staff who have showcased the services and the their programs.

Sue visited all the services and worked with the staff then, with the help of family, edited the videos.

In the future we hope to have virtual tours of Childcare and Family Day Care, providing families the opportunity to get to know the educators and the environments.



THERESA FROST AT COBDEN KINDERGARTEN



SALLY WHITTLE AT TERANG CHILDREN'S CENTRE



LOREEN MISSEN AT SKIPTON PRE-SCHOOL

STEPPING STONES TO SCHOOL

Corangamite Shire and OzChild have worked together and have agreed to implement the Stepping Stones to School program in your area. The Stepping Stones to School program assists children and their families to prepare for kindergarten and primary school.

Through home visits, facilitators work directly with families to build an understand of their children's development and expectations when preparing for school. We provide activities that are designed to support the child and their families' learning journey. If you have any concerns regarding your child's development please feel contact Stepping Stones to School Facilitator Hayley Connolly on 5559 1003.



PJ DAY

TERANG CHILDRENS CENTRE Wallaby group had a pyjama day to finish off the term. The children wore their pyjamas to kinder and brought a favorite teddy or soft toy. The children had a relaxing day. It is so important to look after mental health and wellbeing by being kind to your whole body.



KELLY BRINGS HER HORSE

COBDEN KINDERGARTEN had a special visitor last week with Kelly Jeffery bringing her horse Daisy and her friend Mary and her horse Meeke to visit, it is great to make that connection between home and work for the children and educators.

FAIRY GARDEN FOR FRIENDS

SKIPTON PRE-SCHOOL

children constructed a fairy garden for their friends at Skipton Aged Care.

The children have had a lovely letter from Skipton Aged care letting them know how much they loved the fairy house present. Community connections are so important at this time.



POLICIES:

[Family and Children's Services](#)

polices 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

RECRUITMENT FAMILY DAY CARE EDUCATORS

We need more educators in nearly every Shire location. Can you help? Do you know anyone who is looking for a great job working from home?

Great opportunities for home-based employment for suitably qualified early childhood educator wanting a change from the rush of centre based care or someone who is working towards a qualification in early childhood education and care and wants to gain experience while studying and earning an income. Encourage your relatives or friends to contact Christine on 5593 7149.

ENROL IN FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Enrolment for all Council-run Children's Services can be completed online on the Council web page.

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

Once the new combined form is completed enrolling in a different Council Early Years' Service will be as simple as a phone call.

To update details or add an additional child to an existing enrolment just visit the council website and click on this button:

[Family & Children's Services enrolment form](#)

INFO BOOK:

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



COMING UP

JULY

21- 26 National Farm Safety Week

31..... National Schools tree Day

JOIN OUR TEAM

Employment with Corangamite

www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Council/Employment



CORANGAMITE SHIRE COUNCIL FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

RECRUITMENT

FAMILY DAY CARE EDUCATOR

Noorat, Terang or
Camperdown



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

Corangamite Shire Family Day Care are advertising to recruit an educator in Noorat, Terang or Camperdown who would like to look after two children from one family three days a week in your home.

Income is in excess of \$420 per week with the capacity to increase, and initial expenses may be approximately \$400 and are tax deductible.

Expenses would be lower for anyone who currently has an early childhood qualification.

Qualification is not immediately required, however, the successful applicant would have to be prepared to enroll and commence study.

Applicants are invited to contact Christine Dewhurst on 0438 393 649 or forward a resume and letter of application by email to familydaycare@corangamite.vic.gov.au



Stepping Stones to School

Information for Families

The Stepping Stones to School program assists children and their families to prepare for kindergarten and primary school.



**Support provided
for families**

- Work with you to prepare your child's transition to kindergarten and primary school
- Help build your child's skills for kindergarten and school
- Give advice on your child's learning
- Home visits and activities
- Connect you with health services
- Support regular attendance at playgroups and kindergarten
- Assist with enrolments at kindergarten and primary school
- Build relationships with teachers
- Support your family in a culturally safe way
- Someone to talk to – we are here if you need to talk

Learn more

T: 1300 361 680

E: steppingstones@ozchild.org.au

Facebook: Stepping Stones to School

ozchild.org.au



Established in Glenelg in 2015, Stepping Stones to School is a collaborative, early childhood transition project which enhances relationships and connections between families and providers. The project improves outcomes for children and supports provider capacity, so that more children in the region have a positive transition to school experience. Partners include Beyond the Bell and OzChild, in conjunction with early education providers, primary schools, local government and community representatives across the Great South Coast Region. The program is funded by The Ian Potter Foundation and the National Indigenous Australians Agency.



Circle of Security



Circle of Security (parenting) is an eight week program to build resilience and strong connections between babies, children and their caregivers. The program is run by specially trained Maternal & Child Health nurses.

Circle welcomes all parents with children 0-4 years:

- Circle is fun and FREE
- Circle offers the latest research to promote strong connections even when the going gets tough!

Starts: Thursday 30 July until Thursday 17 September

- Time: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
- Venue: TBC in Camperdown
- Cuppa and nibbles provided
- Bookings: Essential, contact your MCH nurse or Carolyn Morey on 1800 552 902
- Childcare: Not available, but babies in arms welcome

Maternal Child Health Nurses

Supporting a healthy
well Corangamite

