Koobara’s Bush Playgroup

On the 2nd of June, as part of our National Reconciliation Week celebrations, Bunyaville hosted Koobara Playgroup. 6 children ranging from 9 months to 4 years old visited the Centre with their Mums and the Playgroup Co-ordinator/Facilitator, Jennie Wallace.

It was a beautiful warm day so the water play was very popular – Alexia-Ann and Mia definitely needed their spare change of clothes. Bush music echoed through the forest and the koala puzzle proved quite a challenge. The Aussie animal books were a hit, along with the basket of natural touches – Lexi loved feeling all the different textures. Rosina and Vivien had a squishy time with the clay play. Etana loved lying tummy down on the grass.

We can’t wait for the next Koobara Playgroup visit on the 30th of July. We are planning a picnic morning tea during our forest walk.

Debbie Ledger, BEEC Teacher

Reconciliation Week Morning Tea

For the second year running, many elders from Brisbane’s northside gathered at Bunyaville Environmental Education Centre to share morning tea and stories during Reconciliation Week. The theme for the Reconciliation week of “Let’s Walk the Talk” was perfect with the event providing a welcome opportunity for building relationships, connecting to country and discussions around providing the same opportunities for future generations.

There were many highlights to the morning tea. We were honoured to have the cake cut by Uncle Nurdon and Dr Aunty Ruth who recently received a doctorate from the Australian Catholic University. Dr Aunty Ruth also presented Bunyaville EEC with personally signed copies of her books. A gum tree to commemorate the occasion was planted by Aunty Irene and Uncle Charlie. Other highlights included sharing conversations over delicious nibbles and the Balaangala Community group’s short film about their learning and the purposeful Balaangala Garden Space.
In May Bunyaville EEC hosted a workshop enabling 36 primary and secondary teachers from diverse areas of Brisbane to extend their understanding and capabilities on embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into teaching and learning. Camille Nielsen, who has worked in this area with Jean Phillips at QUT, facilitated the workshop and was supported by Melinda Serico and Gina Archer.

Participants carefully reflected on how our personal history, identity and influences shape our individual perspective on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. A new tool enabled us to easily examine sample resources for appropriateness and we shared experiences of the many excellent resources currently available. This exchange of ideas and experiences was key to enabling all to deepening our understanding and improve our future practice and the possibilities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

New residents were welcomed to the Centre this month with menagerie of birds, in the form of thought-provoking art, now perched along the entrance walls. Created by talented Senior VET students (2013) at Albany Creek State High School, the art is a delightful welcome for visitors and draws a diversity of warm comments and responses. The collection will also play a key role in our Parliament of the Birds program.
Nature Play

After decades of working to enable children to play in, learn from, value and care for nature we are excited to hear others recognise and advocate for nature play experiences for children. Play in natural places is critical to children’s health, wellbeing and the formation of attitudes and values towards nature, self and others.

With our extensive experience and research in this field, we understand that children come to natural places with pre-existing conceptions and attitudes and that simply being and playing in these places is not enough to change those preconceptions. It is the pedagogy of the place, (which we are skilled in employing) or how children are supported in experiencing a place which allows them to attain positive attitudes, values, health and wellbeing.

Sustainable living incorporates producing and purchasing locally grown and made goods. This reduces travel miles and fuel consumption, allows food to be fresher and more flavoursome and supports local employment. Please support local growers, artisans and business at -

Carseldine Farmers & Artisan Markets
Every Saturday 6am - 12noon - OPENING 21ST JUNE
Cnr Beams & Dorville Rd, (532 Beams Rd)
Carseldine
Ph: 0418 150 073
Web: www.carseldinemarkets.com.au

Children participating in some of Bunyaville’s programs have the opportunity to experience the absence of sight and heightened hearing, smell and touch with the use of blindfolds. They would appreciate the perspective of visually impaired people and the invaluable service of guide dogs. Please support Guide Dogs Queensland at their Open Day Sunday July 6.