

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES NEWS

CORANGAMITE SHIRE
AUGUST 2019



Hi Corangamite families,

As I near the nine month mark working with the Shire Community Services crew, I can't believe how quickly time goes and how many kms I've clicked over. Podcasts have become my new thing!

Thanks to the many families, our team and dedicated bunch of educators across 12 communities for their generosity in welcoming me and sharing insights into such vital work - supporting, educating, caring and helping the children in our communities thrive - in partnership with families.

As many of you will know, there is lots of change occurring in the children's services sector. We have been working with the Department of Education to prepare for the Victorian Government reforms that aims to roll out up to 15 hours of subsidised kindergarten to three-year olds from 2021. That means preparing facilities and staff.

One of the biggest challenges we have in rural communities is recruitment of trained staff that is a requirement for all services. It's a challenge across the region, Victoria and Australia more broadly. The Department of Education has a range of initiatives to encourage people to consider upskilling or embarking on a career in children's services.



If you or someone you know might be interested in this area as a career choice, check out <https://bit.ly/2NiNPQf> for more information.

Just by way of an update, we plan to reach out to families in the later half of this year to gather feedback and suggestions for our services and to make improvements where we can.

Some of the changes underway are:

- A single central enrolment point for all of our education and care services so you don't have to find four different enrolment forms and web site clicks!
- A more integrated service for 0-8 years
- A review of some of our programs so we can best direct effort and meet community needs
- Improvements to our IT services and equipment at our facilities

- More frequent brief communications by text, email and messenger unless you really want a paper copy
- And some piloting of different services such as After Kindergarten/After School Care at Timboon and in Term 3 at Terang.

There is lots happening, and we will use this newsletter to keep everyone updated.

Katie Hearn
Manager Community Services

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES POLICY UPDATE

Family and Children's Services Mandatory Policies are now on our website.

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

FAMILY DAY CARE NEWS

LEARNING HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

The photo adjacent shows Family Day Care and Mobile Child Care Educator Karen Morris's commitment to promoting and engaging the children in healthy lifestyle activities.

Karen's program in Timboon aims to encourage and support awareness of environmental sustainability with the children regularly using lemons picked from her garden to make lemonade.

Family Day Care Coordinator Christine Dewhurst showed Karen and the children that it is easier to juice the lemons if you roll them first. We used a hastily composed song to accompany the task.

Homemade and with a mere two teaspoons of sugar per litre, the children



are learning so much about healthy and sustainable lifestyles.

The Coordination Unit hopes that all families are using the Harmony Parent Portal as an opportunity to follow their educators' program and child observations at a time best suiting themselves.

MOBILE CHILD CARE NEWS

ECKLIN MOBILE CHILD CARE

This year's NADIOC theme 'VOICE, TREATY, TRUTH', 'Let's work together for a shared future' has continued to highlight the importance of children's identity within the program at the Ecklin service.

When we recognise and respond to the child's 'Voice' we listen to their ideas, interests and connection, and reflect this in the learning program. We are embedding children's identity and sense of belonging by talking about our families and lives. This is reflected in the display of children's artwork and photos around this place where we come together every Thursday and Friday.

Throughout the course of the year we incorporate the indigenous culture of Australia within our conversations and through experiences using musical instruments, music, stories, symbols and craft activities.



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING

On Tuesday 16 July, Family and Children's Services teachers and educators participated in Level 2 First Aid Training and Annual CPR.

Corangamite Shire is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, educators, staff and others attending the service.

At least one educator with current approved first aid qualifications [including asthma management training and asthma training] will be at your children's kindergarten whilst they are in attendance.

For more information please read 'Administration of First Aid, Incident, Injury Trauma, Illness and Infectious Disease Policy'.

You can access a copy online at: www.corangamite.vic.gov.au

Photos right from top: Sally Whittle, Educational Leader Terang Children's Centre Performing CPR on training mannequin; Jane Bennett, Educational Leader Simpson & District Preschool practicing applying a temporary splint and bandage on colleague Jodie Watson.



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

In 2019, this day will be celebrating the early years, and promoting the importance of early years education and care for our little ones. We recognise the critical role that family, community, country and culture play in their development. We will continue to fight for better access to culturally appropriate early childhood education for our children through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

A close-up photograph of children's hands working with orange dough on a green table. There are several yellow cookie cutters and a wooden rolling pin. A blue circular graphic is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

**Do you need
Childcare?**

Family Day Care

Educators in
Cobden, Camperdown &
Timboon have Vacancies
To inquire phone
Corangamite Shire
Family & Children's Services
on 55937100

One online enrolment form for all services

This year we are trialling a single enrolment form for all services to make it simpler for families to complete. An online form is available on our website:

[www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/
Community/Family-Children-
Services/Enrolment-Forms](http://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 - 5593 7100.

WHO'S WHO

REBECCA THOMPSON

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH NURSE, CAMPERDOWN

Rebecca Thompson has been working in the Family & Children's Services for five years, the same amount of time that she's been with the Shire.

She loves working with children and families, making lasting connections and helping families and babies with their needs.

As a nurse, she connects families with services and educates families. With her first job being as a check out chick, Rebecca has the people skills to engage and relate to families while on the job.

The one part of her job she doesn't like, though, is giving needles to babies.

Her strongest values are enthusiasm, dedication, loyalty and persistence; all values held by Blues supporters. Currently, her favorite work tool is a small container of bubbles. Sometimes, though, she's kept up by trying to remember passwords and which workplace she needs to go to.



When not working with families and children, Rebecca loves reading; her current favorite read is Atomic Habits by James Clear, but she loves any and every book genre from sci-fi and fantasy to historical.

Rebecca enjoys Gregorian chant music, but her favorite song of all time is Throw Your Arms Around Me by Hunters and Collectors. She's also known to enjoy music by Shane McGowan and The Pogues. Her dream holiday would be to go and pick wild blueberries in the Canadian wilderness and is drawn to Canada because 'you can't go wrong with Justin Trudeau.'

A big thank you to our work experience student Chrissy Kirk for writing this profile.

COMING UP

21-26 July	National Farm Safety Week
31 July	Mobile Child Care Staff Professional Development Day. No care available in Derrinallum or The Sisters
4 August	National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day
5-11 August	Dental Health week
31 August	Framework Out of Poverty Training for Early Years staff



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TAKE YOUR E-WASTE TO A BETTER PLACE



Did you know that battery-powered toys are classed as E-waste and can be dropped off at Corangamite's transfer stations free of charge?

E-waste, or electronic waste, is any item with a plug, cord or battery that you no longer use or want.

Corangamite Shire will work with WDEA in Warrnambool to recycle e-waste components.

Many of these items contain hazardous materials, so disposing of them in our regular rubbish or even storing them inappropriately can pose serious environmental and health problems.

Unwanted electronics can also contain non-renewable materials, such as copper, silver, gold, plastic, and glass which can be recovered and reused, as long as they're not lost to landfill.

For more information on E-Waste, visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Campaigns/eWaste