

Skipton Childcare Fabulous Feast

Children enjoyed a fabulous feast that started with home grown lettuce and beetroot from the centre garden. Families topped up the ingredients. Children helped prepare the salad feast.

Tilly Corn was the best thing, the tomatoes were my favourite colour and the carrot was my favourite food to eat.

Adalee I cut some cucumber and beans, my favourite food to eat was the beans, the olives come from the tree.

Arthur We had goat's cheese, it is made from goat's milk.

Vivienne I brought the world's biggest chicken egg, from the biggest chicken ever, it was a double yolker. I liked to eat the beetroot the most, I love beetroot.

William We had corn, [it had a caterpillar in it!], it had some hair and some skin and had corn on it. The carrot had special thing inside that makes it orange....[Kerotin]



End of Year Celebrations

As the end of the year comes to a close, services will be celebrating the end of the year with family's children and community.

Please be mindful of taking photos of children at social celebrations without permission.

For families that are leaving a service we wish them all the best for the next adventure, as children go off to kindergarten and school.

Notice of service closure

All Council Family & Children's Services including Maternal Child Health, Kindergartens, Childcare, Mobile Child Care in Glenormiston and Family Day Care will be closed on **Tuesday 28 January** to allow our team to attend the Family & Children's Services Conference. We apologise for any inconvenience.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Wow what a busy year the Family & Children's Services team have had!

Introduced:

- Increased hours at some services
- After Kinder/After School Care in Timboon started second term & Terang started third term
- Electronic sign-in at child care services
- One combined Family & Children's Service Newsletter
- Single Family & Children's Services Information Booklet
- Online/combined enrolment form

Celebrated:

- Family Day Care Week with nature activities outdoors
- National Simultaneous Story Time
- Excursions into the community in all services have become routine
- Sustainable practices e.g. vegetable gardens recycling has increased at services
- Smiles for Miles accreditation for Kindergarten and childcare. Family Day Care working towards accreditation
- Working towards Achievement Program with a focus on wellbeing
- Children's Week with a Future Faces photo booth
- Increased engagement on the Family and Children's Services Facebook page
- New outdoor play area at Timboon Kindergarten which commemorates 50 years at the site
- Corangamite Family & Children's Services Australian Early Development Census Data Forum
- Food & Mood Diet & Mental Health Parenting Forum

With our team:

- Changes to the MCH team; Cassie Austin retired and we welcomed Bec Thompson to coordination, Felicity Wills and Chris Towers
- Chrissy (Project Officer) welcomed a son Charlie
- Bridges Out of Poverty training
- Communication & Social Media training... watch this space
- IT upgrade and training
- Completed a Family Day Care review
- School Readiness Funding kindergarten literacy projects completed
- We transferred our document management system over to an entirely new system all together and we survived!

ONGOING

- Outdoor learning spaces at Timboon, Skipton and Derrinallum
- We have started work on creating an Access and Inclusion Plan
- Work has started on a Youth Strategy
- Community Services will welcome a trainee early next year
- Planning for 3 Year Old Kindergarten in 2021 – facilities and recruitment

CONNECT WITH US Corangamite Shire Family & Children's Services



www.corangamite.vic.gov.au

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

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Mobile Child Care, Long Day Care, After Kindergarten / After School Care

2019 END OF YEAR DATES

DECEMBER

The Sisters and Derrinallum	Wednesday 11 December
Port Campbell and Ecklin	Friday 13 December
Skipton and Terang After Kindergarten / After School Care	Monday 16 December
Glenormiston	Tuesday 17 December
Timboon After Kindergarten / After School Care	Wednesday 18 December

2020 RETURN DATES

JANUARY

Port Campbell and Ecklin	Thursday 23 January
Port Campbell and Skipton	Friday 24 January

Service closure - Australia Day public holiday

Monday 27 January

Service closure - Family & Children's Services Conference

Tuesday 28 January

The Sisters and Derrinallum	Wednesday 29 January
Timboon After Kindergarten Care	Thursday 30 January

FEBRUARY

Terang After Kindergarten / After School Care and Timboon After School Care	Monday 3 February
Glenormiston	Tuesday 4 February
Service closure - Australia Day public holiday	Monday 27 January
Timboon After Kindergarten / After School Care	Thursday 30 January

POLICIES:

[Family and Children's Services policies are available here](#)

INFORMATION

BOOKLET:

[Available here](#)



To avoid any additional fees please note:

Last day absence

If your child is finishing with any of the services in 2019, please ensure coordination staff are notified of children's physical last day of attendance. The Child Care Subsidy rule of 'last day absences' is applied if children are absent on their last day of care requiring families to pay a full fee.

Eight week rule

If your child is continuing with a service in 2020 please ensure coordination staff are notified if they will be absent for a period of 8 weeks or more. The CCS rule states that "where a child does not attend a service within a period of eight weeks or more, the enrolment will cease".

First day absence

If your child is a new enrolment with a service, please ensure coordination staff are notified of your child's first physical day of attendance. A CCS rule of 'first day absence' is applied if children are absent on this day and families will be required to pay a full fee.

ENROL

IN ANY FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICE

This year we have introduced a single enrolment form for all services to make it simpler for families to complete.

An online form is available here:

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 www.corangamite.vic.gov.au and hit the 'Update Details / Enrol Additional Child' button.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Western Plains Kindergarten won second prize of \$250 worth of gardening equipment in the Wannan Water in a healthy recipe competition. A Wannan Water representative will visit the service to present the price before the end of Term. Well done!



FAMILY DAY CARE NEWS

Teddy Bear's Picnic

The Family Day Care Teddy Bear's Picnic was held at Apex Park, Camperdown in November. A great turn-up with families, children and educators participating together with play, bubbles, games, and nature activities generously provided by Tania Moloney and the Nature Bus.



INSPIRE CORANGAMITE'S FUTURE

New FREE TAFE Courses 2020 - Children's Services

Are you interested in helping children and adults in their education pathways?
You could achieve both by working in Education and Early Childhood Development.

Certificate III and Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care courses will be included in the Free TAFE courses for 2020.

These courses are currently on offer at South West TAFE (Warrnambool, Portland, Hamilton and Colac campuses) and further information is available on their Children's Services website at:

<https://swtafe.edu.au/courses/childrens-services/>

If you require additional information you may wish to contact:

Erin Holscher at Erin.Holscher@swtafe.edu.au or Hollie Stevens at Hollie.Stevens@swtafe.edu.au

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Call 1800 552 902 to make an appointment.

Maternal and Child Health Service
10 KEY VISITS



fit kids

Timboon Stadium

School Holiday Program

10^{am} - 12^{pm}, \$10 per session

Date	Activity
Monday 13 January	Basketball
Tuesday 14 January	Dancing
Wednesday 15 January	Boxing
Thursday 16 January	Badminton
Friday 17 January	Fitness circuit



After school classes

Term 1, 2020, 3:30^{pm} - 5^{pm}, \$5 per session

Date	Activity
Tuesday	Boxing
Thursday	Squash



Phone 0437 244 275 or email
timboon.stadium@corangamite.vic.gov.au
for more details.

fit kids

Camperdown Stadium

School Holiday Program

10^{am} - 12^{pm}, \$10 per session

Date	Activity
Monday 20 January	Badminton
Tuesday 21 January	Boxing / Fitness



After school classes

Term 1, 2020, 3:30^{pm} - 5^{pm}, \$5 per session

Date	Activity
Thursday	Boxing / Fitness circuit



Phone 0437 244 275 or email
timboon.stadium@corangamite.vic.gov.au
for more details.



Dear Parent Committees / Parents / Carers

Re: Gifts of Appreciation



We are approaching the time of year where often a small gift is provided by parent committees, families and/or carers whose children are enrolled in our early year's services.

At Council we understand you and your child may wish to recognise and appreciate the valuable contribution our educators and teachers have made over the course of the year.

We ask you to be mindful of the gift you choose as Council employees are not able to accept cash or cash equivalent gifts [eg. gift vouchers] or those of a high value as this contravenes Council's Code of Conduct for Staff. Where such gifts are received, they will be respectfully declined or returned. We respectfully ask families to limit gifts to no more than \$20 value per enrolled child.

Council thanks you for using the early years' services and wishes you and your families a Merry Christmas and prosperous 2020. Please also feel free to contact me on 03 5593 7100 should you have any further concerns.

Yours sincerely

David Rae
Director Corporate and Community Services

3-Y-O KINDER SEMINAR STREAMS STATEWIDE

Simpson Kindergarten educator Jane Bennett featured in a seminar streamed statewide on Monday 2 December.

Jane was on a panel that shared knowledge and expertise of teaching three-year-old children.

The panel was part of a three-year-old kindergarten twilight seminar – Strengthening Teaching Practice.

It was streamed live to 13 hubs across the state for early childhood teachers and educators.

The Department of Education and Training event was kicked off by Minister Sonya Kilkenny who emphasised Victoria is leading the nation with these reforms.

She said everyone was watching us with envy as funded three-year-old kinder is now a reality.

The minister also shared her experiences of getting out into the local communities and seeing a real eagerness, passion and willingness from the profession embracing the reform. The seminar was facilitated by DET Deputy Secretary Early Childhood Education Kim Little and Catharine Hydon, who facilitated the conversations.



Catharine Hydon, Jane Bennett and Michelle Muller at the Strengthening Teaching Practice seminar.