

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

NEWS

MAY 2020



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

family & children's services

Kinder 2021

Council is now accepting enrolments and expressions of interest for kindergarten programs in 2021 at Timboon, Skipton, Terang, Cobden, Simpson and Western Plains

Enrol now for children turning four years of age by 30 April 2021.

Expressions of interest are also being taken for children turning three by 30 April 2021 for up to 15 hours of kindergarten.

Please register online at:
www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/register before Friday 26 June.

Contact us on 5593 7100 or email familychildrenservices@corangamite.vic.gov.au for more information.

Research shows that two years are better than one when it comes to early learning.

Taking part in a quality kindergarten program at an earlier age leads to positive effects on child development.



KINDERGARTEN

Register now for 2021

Does your child turn three or four
by 30 April 2021?

Places for four year old available now

Register for your interest for up to
15 hours of three year old

Timboon, Skipton, Terang, Cobden,
Simpson and Western Plains in 2021.

Register online at
www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/register
before Friday 26 June

Contact us on 5593 7100 or email
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FRONTLINE STAFF DELIVER ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Corangamite Shire communities have a committed team of frontline staff who have continued to provide essential services throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic.

“Remaining open to ensure that quality early education and care continues to be available to support essential workers and disadvantaged and vulnerable children and families” (Department of Education, Skills and Education)”

Early childhood educators have taken a flexible approach to providing education and care programs for small groups of children within outlying communities.

FDC educators gave additional support to families over the holiday break, providing care for school age children.

Kindergarten programs returned in mid-April. Teachers and educators are also diversifying programs to engage and support children who are at home. Resource packs are being created and made available to families.

All ECEC services are following the [Department of Health recommendations](#) to minimise risk to children and staff.

The importance of staying connected - Corangamite Family and Children's Services are using a recently established communication platform Kinderloop to stay connected with children and families. The work of our frontline staff is highly valued by Council and the community.



Ecklin Mobile Child Care - Educator Kylie Church, parent Natalie with her daughter Kaytie.



Sally Whittle, Terang Children's Centre

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

HI FROM THE WHEELHOUSE!

I hope everyone is travelling well and beginning to feel more into the swing of things.

It has been a really hectic few weeks for our services as we have modified and changed our delivery to accommodate Commonwealth and State guidelines that had been happening quite quickly.

It's been a challenging time for families as well, with many home schooling, trying hard to manage tricky IT issues, working in essential services, all while trying to balance and adapt as humanly as possible!

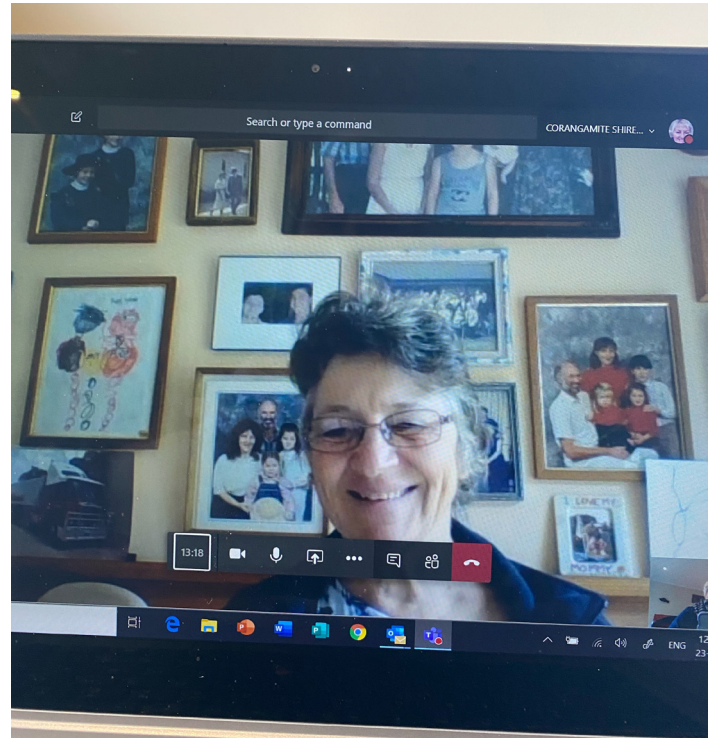
First and foremost a personal grazie to every member of our Team and our families.

Everyone has had to make difficult personal decisions as we adapt to the new Covid19 normal while all of our community services continue.

Our Immunisations Service, Maternal Child Health Service, Child Care, Family Day Care, Aged and Disability Services, Youth Services and the Regional Assessment Service all continue with service redesign.

Some are being delivered virtually, others by phone, Facetime or are centre based with lots of universal/standard precautions in place, donning and doffing of PPE along with social distancing.

The staff in our Coordination Unit rate a special mention. They have hardly come up for a breather over the past month, working from their homes



Family Day Care Coordinator Christine Dewhurst.

and in the office to support our community services that are recognised as critical in Victoria.

I have been thrilled to see some of the fantastic innovations from our #oneteam including Youtube video clips, community sessions for flu vax, great engagement on Kinderloop, specially made activity tubs for families not attending and virtual story times!

Keep connecting!

Katie Hearn

Manager Community Services

IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

Social distancing has meant that our Maternal Child Health Nurses have provided flu vaccination sessions a bit differently.

The team vaccinated nearly 80 children under the age of five in one day, then immunised 74 more over the next two weeks.

If you are visiting Camperdown Maternal Child Health Centre you may notice a few changes. Marie Leske has been doing a bit of a spruce up. Please remember social distancing if you have arranged an appointment.



Not so bad!?! Freshly vaccinated Philippa Dunn with Maternal Child Health Nurse Felicity Willis.

SIMPSON AND DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN



Social distancing at Simpson Kindergarten.

Term Two has resumed and we are in a new world of COVID-19. We had lunch with social distancing while watching the Covid-19 episode of [Play School](#).

Everyone enjoyed their lunch and joined in with the 'Wash Your Hands' song. They saw Alex in his garden via Facetime and watched an experiment about why it is important to wash your hands.

During the school holidays Jodie and Jane prepared activity packs for the children to engage with during the break. Term Two is well under way and several children are not attending. We are continuing to make and create packs for the children to achieve remotely. The activities and ideas are in line with what we are doing currently at Kindergarten.

A project of Pete the Cat will unfold as the term progresses. The first step will be reading the story of Pete the Cat. The children will then direct and guide how they would like to explore this beautiful story.



REAPING THE REWARDS OF GARDENING

Scarlet McNamara



At Family Day Care in Simpson the children have been learning when fruit is ripe and sampling cherry tomatoes and strawberries. Educator Donna Price has been able to share the produce with families.

"This month we have been reaping the rewards of our lovely garden beds that the children have been caring for by watering and weeding. Our tomatoes have gone crazy this year. Usually don't have much luck so planted two plants in each garden bed to give them a better chance. Lol. They all grew. So we have wonderful, juicy, organically grown tomatoes everywhere. We have had sooo many the children have been taking them home to share with their families. Lots of strawberries and tomatoes for healthy snacks while outside playing, with the children learning when to pick the ripened fruit, as green tomatoes are "yucky" according to Archie. But "the little yellow ones are the best" according to Harry. We had a lovely variety of sizes and colours this year, that all the children were keen to try and find their favourites.



Harry Armstead Reimer and Archie McGinty

McNICOL STREET RENOVATIONS

With the help of Barb Coverdale, the educators have been working on the redevelopment of the yard over at the McNicol Street Family Day Care.

Amy Fortescue has invited families to be part of the renovation project to source rocks, logs mulch & plants.



EASTER BUNNY'S LITTLE HELPERS

ECKLIN, DERRINALLUM & SKIPTON CHILD CARE



EARTH DAY

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL



At Skipton Childcare, children and educators spoke about the world and what we know about it in the lead-up to Earth Day.

There have been some changes to the Skipton Service garden area. Working together we've made a Bug House.

Over time we will continue to plant indigenous plants around it to encourage more little creatures to move in, providing them shelter and food.

The team has been busy digging up the new garden beds. We intend to plant an extended vegetable and edible food garden. It will be exciting when our fruit trees arrive and can be planted.



COMING UP

4 May: Play Outside Day

10 May: Mothers Day

15-21 May:

National Families Week

26 May: National Sorry Day

27 May: National Simultaneous Storytime 'Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas' By: Lucinda Gifford

27 May-3 June:

National Reconciliation Week

POLICIES:

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

INFO BOOK:

Available at:

www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Enrol



ENROL:

Enrolment for all Council run Children's Services can be completed online here:

<https://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Community/Family-Children-Services/Enrolment-Forms>

To update details or add an additional child to an existing enrolment just visit the Council website and click on the button.

[Update details / Enrol additional child](#)

Maternal & Child Health



Still immunising



Consultations via phone

Call us on 1800 552 902 for appointments

For general advice call Maternal Child Health line 13 22 29



Thought about being a Family Day Care Educator?

Has Coronavirus changed your ideas about working from home? Do you think you would like to work with children?

We are recruiting Family Day Care Educators across the Shire, with a particular emphasis on Terang and Camperdown.

You will enjoy the flexibility of running your own business with the support and guidance of the Coordination Unit. Demand in your area and your flexibility will determine your hours of work and your remuneration.

You will develop tailored

educational programs for children based on their individual developmental needs, interests and experiences. You do need early childhood qualifications, which you can work towards while earning an income.

If you are an early childhood professional working in a centre based environment you may enjoy the freedom and flexibility offered by Family Day Care to shape your career and your learning environment.

Contact Christine Dewhurst on 5593 7100.