

# May Newsletter

Caring for Children. Not for Profit



**Happy Birthday**  
Happy Birthday to all our children and Educators who have recently had a birthday!

**Use of Wet bags**  
We are encouraging the use of Wet Bags instead of plastic bags to help our environment.

**Exciting Months Ahead**  
With National Simultaneous Storytime, World Outdoor Class Room Day, Bee Week, Reconciliation Week, Oceans Week, World Music Week, International Day of Yoga and Blue Gums Annual Photo Days just to name a few!

## From the Front Desk

### From the Front Desk

Hello Parents, Grandparents and Friends of Blue Gum

I would like to refer you back to our February newsletter which you will all have received, this is also available for viewing on Storypark and our website. It was an extremely comprehensive newsletter which contained a great deal of information for our families.

In that newsletter I discussed obtaining feedback about our service, so a big thank you to the families who have already responded to our survey which is currently open. The survey is due to close 18<sup>th</sup> May, Tuesday next week, if you have not already done so then please provide us with your input. It literally will take you 5 mins to do, we very much want feedback to continue to grow as a service.

I have also discussed policies & procedures, and relevant family policies are readily available on our website. All policies are available in our foyer, these are in line with current law and legislative requirements for our sector, as well as what is considered best practice. However, specific elements within the policies are customised within our own practices here at Blue Gum. These change upon review with the feedback received from our committee, families, and with deep critical reflection from our educators.



Last month you will have received an introductory report from our current Chairperson Rebecca Reeves. I will ensure that this is also kept available on Storypark and our website for all our families and potential families to view.

I advised families that I would keep everyone up to date with any new Educators who will be working at Blue Gum. This has mainly affected the Wombat room, this week we sadly said goodbye to Bronnen who currently needs to concentrate on her University studies.

In Bronnen's role, I have employed Mana Monshi, Mana is an experienced Diploma qualified educator. Previously, I employed Surinder Man Kaur who is a competent Cert 111 support educator and she is currently working towards her Diploma. This week Kathy McGinty also began her journey here with us in Wombat room, Kathy is also a competent Cert 111 educator working towards her Diploma. I am so happy to have these ladies with us here at Blue Gum and I extend a very warm welcome to them.

Please remember to give Francesca two weeks' notice if you are requesting a birthday cake to be made. Cakes can only be requested if your child's birthday is on a day that they attend Blue Gum.

Finally, do not hesitate to contact Rachel Black Frame our Educational Leader if you want any further information about up-and-coming events at our service.

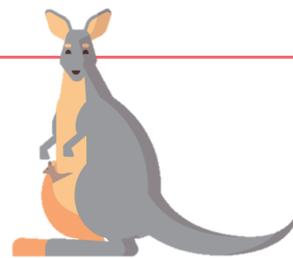
Warm regards

Jane Brenzi  
Director



"Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons."

-JIM BISHOP-



## From The Joeys Room

Hi Joeys families,  
Greetings from the Joeys

We are very happy to welcome Tonielle back to Joeys after being away on maternity leave. She has already started forming relationships with the children, as she gets to know them and the routines of the room. She will be in Joeys on a Tuesday and Friday.

A big thank you to the mums that were able to join us for our Mother's Day High Tea on Monday afternoon. The children enjoyed sharing their Joeys environment and experiences (and yummy cucumber sandwiches) with you. We hope that all the mothers had a wonderful Mother's Day with their families.



As we are heading into the cooler weather, please leave a jacket or jumper in your child's bag. We will still be taking the children outside to play and planning outdoor experiences during the winter months and even the rainy days and puddles are opportunities for the children to explore and enjoy the diversity of nature. If it looks like rainy weather, please send in a rain jacket and gum boots if your child has them, but no problem if they don't. Rainy days can still be enjoyed without them.

We love the saying "There is no such thing as bad weather only inappropriate clothing" (Sir Ranulph Fiennes).

As usual we remind you to please label all your child's belongings so that they don't get mixed up and sent home with the wrong child.

Please also send in a wet bag for soiled clothing. We love messy play so don't forget to pack changes of clothing too.

Please feel free to speak to us, (or make a time to), if you have any concerns about your child or any suggestions for ways we can extend on and enhance their learning experiences at Blue Gum. We always welcome any family input about their interests and what they have been up to whilst not with us.

With thanks

Di, Loretta, Sian, Tonielle and Abbey





## From The Possums Room

Hello Families,

Thank you to the parents who came to our parent evening. It was lovely to be able to talk one on one with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel you are able to come and converse with us.

Over the last month the Possums have been busy growing, and learning many different things. They have been learning about colours, emotions and feelings, healthy foods, confidence in their climbing and table manners such as sitting on their bottoms on chairs, drinking from cups and using spoons and forks, which the Possums are doing really well with.

It has been wonderful to watch some beautiful bonds forming amongst the children in the last few months. Encouraging positive communication and interactions is currently a high priority within our room, as is teaching the children self-help skills and resilience.

The Possums have loved seeing their family pictures being put up and have a wonderful time with each other looking for their families and helping each other find their families. There are many happy discussions taking place about family members. The children find these pictures a great source of comfort. Thank you to the families who have given us family pictures, we are still waiting for a few families so please send them to us through Story Park or email.

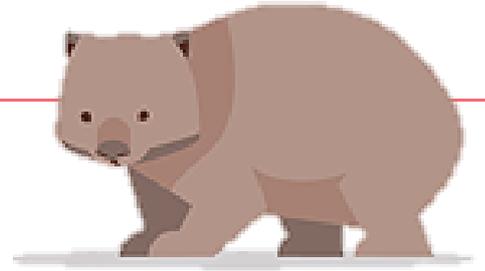
We would love some more family input from our families and welcome you to send us pictures through email or Story Park to let us know what you and your families are getting up to, learning and exploring.

A few housekeeping messages: Just a gentle reminder about hats, please make sure your child has a sun safe hat in their bag for them to wear each day (yes even in this weather) that is clearly labelled. Please remove your child's water and milk bottle from their bags and place in the appropriate containers at the beginning of the day.

Thanking you

Kat, Denise, Meagan and Rachel





## From The Wombats Room

Hello Wombat Families,

Wow, what a busy and fun filled few months we have had in the Wombats room. We have welcomed three new Educators into the room, Surinder and Kathy who will both be working fulltime and Mana who will be with us on a Monday and Tuesday replacing Bronnen. They have been familiarising themselves with the children and the room and are beginning to build wonderful relationships with your children. Last Tuesday we said a sad farewell to Bronnen who we wish all the best with her studies.

Thank you to all of the Mothers that were able to come for our Mother's Day afternoon tea. It was such a wonderful afternoon and thank you for being able to fit it in your schedules. We hope you enjoyed mingling with the other mums and seeing at least a little of what your little ones get up to while they are here in Wombats.

A big thank you to those that made it to our parent night. It was very beneficial for us to find out the things that you are working on at home, the children's current interests and any concerns you have. If you missed a spot and had anything to raise or share with any of us, please feel free to approach us and we can set up a time to do so.

Just a reminder, as we enter into the cooler months, please remember to pack some warmer clothes in your child's bag that are labelled, along with their wet bag for any clothing changes. If your child is toilet training, we ask that they have a few changes of clothes that may be needed throughout the day.

We have seen many wonderful changes in the children's independence in the last few months and we will continue to foster this area of development through the children serving their own apple and cheese at lunch time and pouring their water into their cups at meal times. We will be planning for this and endeavour to have it implemented into our day in the coming months.

Over the last few months, we have followed many areas of interest for the children. We have set up our archway as a camping area following some family camping trips that happened around Easter, it then moved on to our 'Wombats Vet School' where the children were able to look after and help the animals and even look at some x-rays that were so kindly sent in by Bronnen's Dad who is a Veterinarian. Our most recent change is a dinosaur enclosure which has proved very popular with the children already!

The Wombats Team





## From The Koalas Room

Dear Families,

Welcome to our May Newsletter.

We have been so busy with some wonderful excursions and incursions lately. Our first Bush walk of the year was a great success with our enthusiastic Koalas exploring our amazing BG bushland. We enjoyed looking for wildlife and listening to the many birds flying around in the trees. We even spotted a small lizard on a tree, sunning itself and keeping its body warm.

We have had a very exciting time with our Emergency Service visits and especially loved the Fire Service trip, where we actually got to have a trip all around the BG surrounding suburbs. It was such an exciting time for our children and us Educators too!! We got to explore the inside of a police car and an ambulance too. This was wonderful and has definitely given us some wonderful mat time discussions.

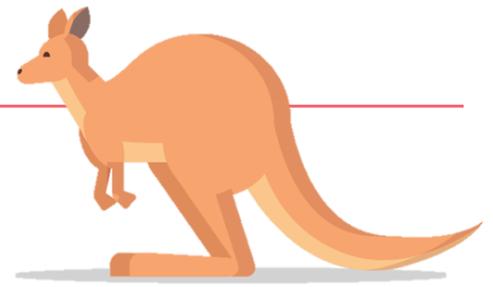
Over the next few months, we will be planning some fine motor experiences to help develop these very important muscles. This will include cutting, threading, tweezers and pencil control. We will also be setting up some number and letter experiences as our children have been very interested in their names during our mat sessions and most are able to recognise the first letters in their names.

As the weather is now getting cooler, please could we ask that you encourage your child to bring a jumper. We will still need hats as we are outside playing as much as possible, drink bottles and spare clothes.

Please don't hesitate to come in or send a message on Storypark if you would like us to extend on your child's development or interest.

Thank you,  
Gill and Rowan





## From The Kangaroos Room

Hello Hello,

Over the last couple of months, we have had a lot of Centre wide events, and learning opportunities for our children. We had the chicks over Easter, which the children loved visiting each day. The children learnt to hold the chickens kindly and learnt about the life cycle of the chicken. For Nature Play Week, we went on some bush excursions to the beautiful Blue Gum reserve. We had a week of Anzac celebrations where we created poppies to display in the front garden. We had our parent and teacher night where we had some really meaningful conversations with our families. We had Emergency Services Appreciation Week which was very eventful for our Kangaroo's. We were lucky to go on an excursion with fireman Kevin on his fire truck, have an ambulance visit and have an incursion with a Police officer. We also recently had our Mother's Day high tea which was a beautiful afternoon. Thank you to all who attended.

Over the last couple of months through our classroom curriculum we have been supporting the children's cognitive development by focusing on their phonics, problem solving skills and creativity through construction and loose parts, mathematics through making bath salts and play dough, and working on number recognition. We have noticed that our children have been working really hard on their social skills. We are still supporting this with the social story tucker turtle, our room limits and with the concept from the story "Have you filled a bucket today".

In the next couple of months, we have World Outdoor Classroom Day, Bee week, Reconciliation week, and Oceans week.

We are excited to see what the second half of the year brings us.

Regards

Chelsea and Rowan



## From Our Educational Leader

Hello Blue Gum Community,

Once again, the weeks have flown by and we are almost half way through the year. We have been super busy with lots of different things going on around the centre since last newsletter.

As a few of you may have noticed, we have had a few changes to our Educators in and around the centre, mainly to our Wombat's Room. We have had Surinder, Kathy and Mana join the team in that room. We have been thrilled to also see the return of Tonielle from Maternity Leave to our Joeys room on a Tuesday and Friday! With some of these changes to the Wombats and the addition to our team, we are sadly saying fair well to Bronnen. Bronnen was a brilliant member of our Blue Gum team and she will definitely be missed and we wish her luck and remind her not to be a stranger.

The Educators continue to do a wonderful job within our daily curriculum which consists of the experiences and education we offer the children. Please see Storypark for daily updates on learning and the fun we have. As always, we encourage all families to let us know things you have been doing at home and things you'd like us to work on with them during their time here at Blue Gum. Thank you to those families who were able to come along to Parent Night, including those who phoned in to chat with each of our teams.

I'm so proud to share with you the wonderful things which have been happening in each of the rooms. We have had some wonderful events here at the centre including Nature Play Week, our annual Anzac Day Celebrations which once again saw our Poppy Garden in full bloom. Just recently we have had Emergency Services Week where we talked to the children about the wonderful jobs people do with in our community to help and keep us safe. The children had a visit from Fireman Kevin in his fire truck, Lindzy from St Johns in her Ambulance and the wonderful Officer Gary from Palmyra Police Station in his police car. Thank you to the wonderful mums who stopped in for our Mother's Day Afternoon. We hope you were spoilt on the big day.

Finally, I'd love to point out the wonderful work by Lesley, myself and a few of our wonderful families who helped us achieve our new Curriculum Room. Our team of Educators have now moved into a bigger space and we LOVE IT! Keep your eyes open for the upgrades happening in our new Family Room!

Rachel

Educational Leader



# Theorists and Their Theories

Blue Gum Early Learning and Child Care Centre has been on a learning journey with how we, as Educators, look at, unpack, analyse and reflect on children's behaviors. We have been developing a plan for how we document and guide all children within our service and, if and, how we can offer them support and guidance.

Through this training we have really looked at ourselves and the ideas and theories behind children's development. Early Childhood development is a huge part in our observations and the underlying ground work of our teachings.

Having re-sparked our passion for knowing and understanding the ideas and theories in everything we do, we will be adding links to the relevant theory from a selection of theorist in our observations. These links will be in our 'Stories' in Storypark.

For your convenience we have developed some relevant information on these Theorists so you too can get to know them, understand their ideas and see why we are adding these links to our observations and documentation. We will share some information with you in the coming weeks about theorists we connect too. Enjoy!

## Abraham Maslow - Motivational Theory

**Abraham Maslow (April 1, 1908 – June 8, 1970) was an American psychologist who was best known for creating Maslow's hierarchy of needs, a theory of psychological health predicated on fulfilling innate human needs in priority, culminating in self-actualization. Maslow developed a hierarchy of needs to explain human motivation. His theory suggested that people have a number of basic needs that must be met before people move up the hierarchy to pursue more social, emotional, and self-actualizing needs. He stressed the importance of focusing on the positive qualities in people, as opposed to treating them as a "bag of symptoms". Maslow has been ranked as the tenth most cited psychologist of the 20th century.**

- **Esteem Needs:** Esteem needs are related to a person's need to gain recognition, status, and feel respected (Theorist Maslow)
- **Love and Belonging Needs:** The need for friendship, intimacy, family, and love. Humans have the need to give and receive love; to feel like they belong in a group. (Theorist Maslow)
- **Physiological Needs:** They include the need for shelter, water, food, warmth, rest, and health. A person's motivation at this level derives from their instinct to survive (Theorist Maslow)
- **Safety Needs:** Safety, or security needs, relate to a person's need to feel safe and secure in their life and surroundings. Motivation comes from the need for law, order, and protection from unpredictable and dangerous conditions
- **Self-Actualization Needs:** Self-actualization relates to the realization of an individual's full potential. At this level, people strive to become the best that they possibly can be (Theorist Maslow)

