

# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sadly, at the end of March, we said goodbye to our neighbours at the Environmental Centre, as they have been relocated by ANU. Heritage had a good relationship with them once they have established themselves at their new site. The relocation has come as a result of a need for more car parking places due to the temporary demountable buildings being constructed in the Constables Cottage car park area. The work on the temporary demountable has already closed 27 car parking places, and over the next few months, more parking areas in Constables Cottage car park will be phased out. The temporary demountable will be there until June 2025 and will allow the systematic refurbishment of all the ANU childcare centres.

Following the removal of the Environment Centre and also the Recyclery buildings in April/May, the area will be graded, and extra parking spaces created. This is expected to yield approximately thirty additional parking spaces and will be available from the end of May. In addition to this, a temporary car park accommodating 19 vehicles will be constructed on the corner of Bachelor's Lane and Liversidge Street. This will be available from the end of April. The car park near Lennox House will be sealed and parking bays marked. This will yield approximately six additional parking spaces. This will also be available from the end of April. It is important to note that these temporary closures will not affect designated drop-off childcare spaces.

The happy news is that the much-used environmental gardens, that back onto our centre, will remain where they are and the ANU community can still have their spot to garden and chill out. The garden will now be called the Thrive Kitchen Garden. Heritage has been given its own garden bed for the children to dig, weed, plant and grow whatever we like. We hope to have this garden as an extension of the Yumalandi Garden that the Preschool has been busy establishing. We encourage the Heritage community to join us in developing our part of the community garden.

Heritage's focus this year has been to rebuild our community after all the lockdowns and restrictions that covid brought upon us. We are reaching out to build connections with older adults as we help them also reconnect with the community again. With the help of one of our parents, we are striving to run an intergeneration program where we can widen our children's social opportunities and assist in relationship growth through the sharing of knowledge, skills, and values. Heritage has contacted a few aged care homes, however, we at present have not had any luck in developing this wonderful connective program, so if any of our families can help us with contacts for this program we would be very grateful.

During the last term, we welcomed Rue and Liam into our community. Liam comes to us from Skipper Care Support and works with his carer (Rue) to do small jobs around the centre twice a week for a few hours. Liam enjoys the interactions with our Heritage educators and children and is very proud of completing any tasks he is assigned to.

An important reminder is the upcoming Educator's Development Day on Friday the 14th of July. This is our annual conference day and a day when the centre is closed to allow educators to learn, reflect and plan together. Please start to make other care arrangements for your child/ren for this day.

It is holiday time for me and I am off to travel Europe and the UK. I will be away for 10 weeks and during my absence, the lovely and very capable Katie will take over the running of the centre. Eranga and Kirsty will be here to assist her so Heritage will be in very good hands. Yes, I am leaving the cold weather of Canberra to follow the sun. A little reminder before I leave to please support our efforts to keep Heritage a healthy and safe place for our children and educators by keeping sick children home, especially through the Canberra cold and flu season.

Thank you for your ongoing support.  
Vicki

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Family Morning -**

12 May (see poster)

**Parents/Educators**

**Fire-Side Session -**

18 May (see poster)

**National Reconciliation Week -**

27 May - 3 June

**NAIDOC Week -**

2 - 9 July

**Educator Training Day -**

14 July (HECC closed)



## Developing a Sense of Belonging (Settling/Transition)

### Survey:

If you haven't already, we would love some feedback on our settling/transition - you can do so here!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com>

[/r/X9DKBT6](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X9DKBT6)







## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We have hit the ground running in 2023 and are glad to see children and families all settled in. The settling/transition time at the beginning of the year is a crucial foundation before further educational aspects of our programs can be explored. So, the first part of the year focuses on Belonging/Connections and also makes time to build partnerships with families through settling, everyday conversation, and catching up for parent-teacher meetings. This is where educators & families can plan goals and discuss future learning opportunities for their children during 2023. We always endeavour to make this as smooth as possible. Your feedback on this part of our program is so important, so if your child is newly settled or recently moved rooms please jump onto our settling/transition survey and give us some feedback, this will allow us to celebrate what we are doing well and continue improving.

Our Education team at Heritage got together at the beginning of the year and we are so excited about 2023, looking at ways to explore the community in new and exciting ways. We hope you enjoyed our first event for the year (Our Parent Meet and Greet in February). This is the first community event we have arranged with Duncan & Jakida from Wiradjuri Echoes, and we had so much positive feedback from our families about this positive addition to our annual event. Building relationships with First Australians in our community has been part of our

RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan) goals for many years. Our Leadership team reflected that our children know Duncan and Jakida very well, but we have had few opportunities so far for families to meet and learn with Wiradjuri Echoes, so involving them in our first event of the year to Acknowledge Country was very important.

"Respect: Exploring current affairs and issues" is another area of our RAP we have been focusing on at Heritage. In May, we are pleased to announce that Wiradjuri Echoes will be joining us again for a very personal truth-telling session around the fire, for the adults in our community. Our educators have attended truth-telling sessions with Duncan before and were very moved by the way he eloquently brings forward current affairs/issues of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and is able to explain how this has sometimes personally affected his own family. We reflected that this is something that our parents may wish to learn about and in the lead-up to Reconciliation week, something that is important for all of us to reflect on. This event will also kick off our "Sea of Hands" installation for Reconciliation week, so please don't forget to pencil in your diary Thursday 18th May at 6pm.

In the meantime, keep an eye out for our other events/projects throughout the year, we hope you can all get involved with us!

**Prescilla Yapa, a valued educator who worked at Heritage over a number of years, sadly passed away in March 2023 after a long battle with a cancer.**

**Prescilla was not just a co-worker but a long-time friend to many of the Heritage team.**

**Heritage extends our condolences to her friends and family, she was a special person who will be greatly missed.**



## COMMITTEE REPORT

Welcome to a new year at Heritage. I'm very privileged to have been elected as Chairperson of the Heritage Management Committee for 2023, and am looking forward to an exciting year ahead. This is my fourth year on the committee, having joined in 2020 in the role of Secretary. A big thank you to the members of the management committee, the time and effort you put in is greatly appreciated.

My family has been part of the Heritage community since the beginning of 2018, and we have many wonderful memories from our time here. Thank you to Vicki, Katie and all the educators for taking such great care of our children. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the new families who have joined Heritage this year, it's a wonderful community!

Suzie



## YUMALANDI GARDEN

The Preschoolers 'Sustainable Preschoolers' program has kicked into full swing, the Preschool educators had a chat with the Toddler educators about how we could better involve the children in our gardening processes. We quickly agreed that the lower garden was the perfect place with so much potential. The Preschool educators took on the task of freshening this area up and giving it a much-needed revamp – removing old sheds, giving some love to old plants, moving equipment around, ordering new plants, and cleaning the area. We also decided to give it a new name, the 'Yumalandi Garden' – Yumalandi is the Ngunnawal word for 'welcome'. The children did the rest – adding soil to pots, planting seasonal vegetables and various plants, and ensuring to go down each day to check on them and care for them. As we continue with the program, we have also learned about how the worm farm can assist our garden, and have bought this care into our day too.

The Yumalandi Garden quickly became one of our favourite environments in the centre! Not only do the Preschoolers go down each day to care for the garden, but the Toddlers and Nursery children also head down there regularly to help out, and all of the Heritage educators have also taken pride in this environment, with many of us spending our breaks down there to soak up the sun and enjoy the relaxing environment. The Preschoolers have been diving deeper into understanding the importance of composting and ways that we can reuse our food scraps. The Heritage team bought a compost tumbler which has been placed in the Yumalandi garden, and set up by the Preschoolers. The children have been so excited to add their food scraps to the compost, and are looking forward to seeing the changes that will happen inside, and how we can use the compost to continue growing our garden. We are inviting all Heritage families to contribute to the care of the Yumalandi Garden and enjoy what the garden has to offer. This may include watering the plants before you go home, adding food scraps from home to the compost tumbler (or sending a container with your child!), checking on the worms, or harvesting the vegetables to take home and use in your dinner! We can't wait to see our new and improved garden become a beautiful community environment and soon expand into the Thrive Kitchen Garden!



### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**CHAIRPERSON  
SUZIE ALCORN**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON  
ROHAN DAYAL**

**TREASURER  
NEIL DAWSON**

**DEPUTY TREASURER  
KSENIA GNEVSHEVA**

**SECRETARY  
PENNY GREWAL-SIDHU**

**PUBLIC OFFICER  
KAREN IKIN**

**HUMAN RESOURCES  
RYAN BARTLEY**

**SOCIAL & CULTURAL /  
FUNDRAISER OFFICER  
SUSAN O'REILLY**

**GRANTS OFFICER  
KATHERINE CARROLL**



# WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR HERITAGE COMMUNITY



## BLUEBELL

We extend a warm welcome to new Bluebell's families and children and strive to build lasting relationships based on trust, respect, and open communication. Our transition group has successfully integrated into the toddler room, and our community events have facilitated closer relationships between children of different age groups. Our "Yumalundi Garden" forest learning activities and community gardens, complete with composting areas, promote sustainability in our daily practices, and we are proud to share this initiative with our community. Our new "Wellbeing and Communicator Program" seeks to support children's development by enhancing their understanding of emotions, physical and mental health, and verbal communication skills. At Bluebells, we are committed to providing high-quality care and education and take pride in helping children gain practical knowledge and skills. Our centre frequently invites Indigenous cultural educators, such as Duncan and Jakida, and music sessions, like Hey Dee Hoo, to provide children with opportunities to learn about diverse cultures and engage in various activities. By integrating these experiences, children can develop a better understanding and appreciation of the world around them. Bluebells remains dedicated to supporting each child's growth and development and is excited to continue this journey of learning and discovery with families and children.



## GREVILLEA / WATTLE

Hi everyone!

We are back again with another newsletter update from the toddler room. It is great to see our toddlers settled so well in their new environment and already established strong attachments with educators and developing connections with peers. It boosted children's confidence and it is great to see them thriving and fully participating daily in different activities related to our new "Communication and Wellbeing" program. Educators daily creating atmosphere that nurtures children's mind, body, soul of each child, steering them to communicate, understand themselves, their emotions and world around them through range of activities and experiences including art, movements mindfulness and physical activity. We would like to thank all of you for understanding, ongoing support, trust and sharing your culture with us. This helps to make Heritage a welcoming, inclusive place that fosters belonging. We love to see this continue!

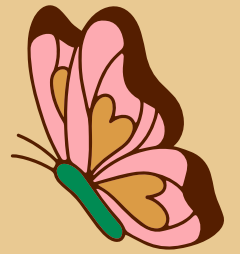
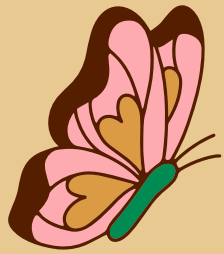


## BANKSIA

Our current 'Sustainable Preschoolers' program, is off to a flying start! Last month, we focused on being sustainable within ourselves in our health and physical wellbeing. This is continuing to compliment our ongoing practices through emotional support and the routines of responsible food intake and how we can make this fun! Our ABC fruit/veg has been a big highlight for the preschoolers as each week they are keen to try out a new healthy food.

This month, we are expanding this outlook to within our community. Showing respect for our environment and creating spaces that the preschoolers are responsible for has been a main focus and led us to the gradual development of the Yumalandi Garden ('Welcome' in Ngunnawal). Embedding sustainable habits that flow on all year round throughout all rooms is something we hope to encourage, and ultimately promote an understanding that expands to new environments.





Heritage Early Childhood Centre

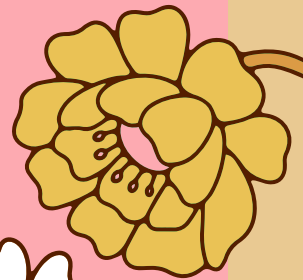
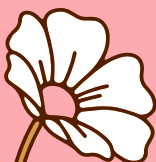
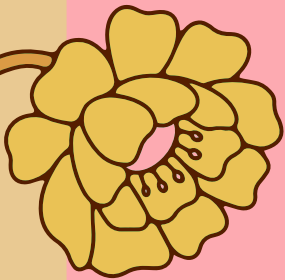
# FAMILY MORNING

**CELEBRATING ALL MEMBERS  
OF OUR HERITAGE COMMUNITY**

**Date: Friday 12 May**

**Time: 8:30-9:30am**

**Start off your day by joining us  
for a little treat of pancakes and  
nature-based craft activities in  
the front outdoor area**







HERITAGE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE  
INVITES PARENTS, GUARDIANS &  
EDUCATORS OF OUR COMMUNITY TO  
JOIN US FOR A

*campfire truth-telling session*

Date: Thursday 18 May 2023

Time: 6:00PM

Join Duncan Smith from Wiradjuri Echoes  
Reflecting on personal stories and Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander current affairs / issues

*Please note: this is an adults only session*



# HERITAGE T-SHIRT & FLEECE JUMPER FUNDRAISER

ALL CHILDREN SIZING WITH HECC LOGO - T-SHIRT COLOURS:



**FLEECE JUMPER COLOURS:**  
ROYAL PINK GREEN PURPLE RED AQUA

**T-SHIRT: \$12**  
**JUMPER: \$20**

T-shirt & Jumper Size	0	1	2	4	6	8	10	12	14
Chest (cm)	28	30	32.5	35	37.5	40	42.5	45	47.5

JADE, ROYAL & EMERALD COLOURS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN SIZES 0-3

<b>Child's name:</b>			
<b>T-SHIRT:</b>			
<b>Colour:</b>	<b>Size:</b>	<b>Quantity:</b>	<b>Subtotal:</b>
<b>JUMPER:</b>			
<b>Payment Method:</b> Direct Payment to Heritage Fundraising Account BSB 062 903 / Account number 1037 0080			<b>Total:</b>