



Gum Nut Preschool  
and Child Care

Monthly news sheet - September



## Calendar

### October

- 5th World Teachers Day / Daylight Savings starts
- 6th Term 4 Begins
- 7th Australian Wildlife Week
- 15th National Nutrition Week
- 20th 26th National Water Week - **Water Heroes: Save Every Drop'**
- 22nd Childrens Week
- 26th National Grandparents' Day
- 27th-31st School Readiness Week (Kinder Room)

### November

- 4th Melbourne Cup Day (Public Holiday, Centre Closed)
- 8th - 15th Food Safety Week
- 9th- 14th Orangutan Awareness Week
- 11th Remembrance Day
- 11th-16th Recycling Week
- 13th World Kindness Day

We respectfully  
acknowledge  
the Traditional Owners  
of the land where we learn  
and play, the Wurundjeri  
people of the Kulin Nation.  
We pay respect to their  
Elders past, present and  
emerging.



Centre opening hours.  
Mon - Fri  
7:30 AM - 6:00 PM



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[gumnutpreschool.com.au](http://gumnutpreschool.com.au)

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE CENTRE

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## **Reminder:**

**Starting September 1st, children must wear hats and sunscreen during outdoor play.**

**Please ensure you pack your child's  
\*\* labeled hat \*\***

**Additionally, remember to apply sunscreen to your child before arriving at Gum Nut. This will ensure they are prepared and protected for morning outdoor activities.**

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## **Staff Updates**


### **Anthea's Term 4 Leave**

We would like to share that Anthea our wonderful Kindergarten teacher, will be taking leave during Term 4 to pursue a special opportunity at a school.

This experience will allow her to deepen her understanding of how children with additional needs learn and thrive.

We're proud of Anthea for taking this step in her professional growth and look forward to the valuable insights she'll bring back.

Anthea will return to Gum Nut in January, 2026.












# STEAM FEST

SCIENCE  
TECHNOLOGY  
ENGINEERING  
ARTS  
MATHS

22 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER

School Holiday Program

	Fitzroy Library	Bargoonga Nganjin	Carlton Library	Collingwood Library	Richmond Library
Mon 29 Sep	<b>Aussie Wildlife Wonders</b> 10.30am-11.30am Ages 5+				
Tues 30 Sep			<b>Spring Storytime</b> 11am-12pm All ages Bookings essential		
Wed 1 Oct	<b>LEGO Lounge</b> 2pm-4pm Ages 5+		<b>Airbrushing a Tote</b> 10am-11.15am Ages 5+ Bookings essential		
Thur 2 Oct		<b>Space Jam Workshop</b> 11am-12pm Ages 6+ Bookings essential			
Fri 3 Oct				<b>CARP Productions: Dinosaur Dance</b> 10.15am-11am Ages 3+ Bookings essential	
Sat 4 Oct	 <div><h1>STEAM FEST DISCOVERY DAY</h1><p><b>Saturday 4 October • 10am to 1.30pm • Richmond Library</b></p><p>STEAM Fest 2025 is a fun-filled, free event for kids and families! Discover the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math through exciting hands-on activities, giant bubbles, LEGO building, robots, and more. Come explore, create, and be inspired together at the library.</p></div>				 <b>Big Bubble Bash</b> 2 Sessions: 10.30am & 11.30am All ages Bookings essential  <b>LEGO Builds</b> 10.30am-11.30am Ages 5+ Bookings encouraged <b>Robogals LEGO SPIKE Prime Workshop</b> 10.30am-12pm Ages 8+ Bookings essential  <b>Greenscreen Photos</b> 11am-1pm All ages Bookings essential 
For bookings visit Eventbrite or call: <b>1300 695 427</b>					



# TERM THREE SUMMARY

## POSSUM ROOM

This term in the Baby Room, we've had a wonderful time exploring nature-inspired and sensory activities, especially as we celebrated Biodiversity Month and Save the Koala Month. Our little Gum Nutters engaged in a variety of creative experiences, from exploring Aboriginal colours and enjoying the texture of paint to making their own unique marks. For National Bilby Day, we collaborated on a group art piece using natural materials to create our very own bilby, encouraging both sensory exploration and teamwork. In celebration of National Wattle Day, the children practiced their fine motor skills by scrunching yellow tissue paper and gluing it to create beautiful representations of wattle flowers.



**We explored the changing seasons, especially Guling (Orchid) Season. We enjoyed water play using food dye and droppers, with the vibrant colours sparking curiosity and wonder as the children observed colour mixing in action.**

**We celebrated National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day by introducing clapping sticks during group time. The children enjoyed joining in with Indigenous music, learning to keep rhythm and engage with cultural sounds in a joyful, interactive way.**

**It's been a colourful, creative, and engaging term filled with learning through nature, culture, and sensory play. We can't wait to see where our learning journey takes us next term!**





# WOMBAT ROOM



This term, the Wombats have been busy engaging in a wide variety of rich and meaningful learning experiences that supported their creativity, communication, and connection to the world around them. We began the term exploring Indigenous culture through the beautifully illustrated book *Big Rain Coming*. The children created a collaborative artwork inspired by the moment in the story when the rain is approaching, using paint to express their ideas visually. They also enjoyed engaging in dramatic play using an Indigenous-inspired menu, which allowed them to explore cultural practices through pretend cooking and role play. In celebration of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day, the Wombats participated in a special art activity using bubble wrap printing in the colours of the Aboriginal flag, red, yellow, and black. This sensory-rich experience encouraged creativity while deepening their cultural awareness.

Nature-inspired play was a highlight this term. The children explored coloured sand and animal figurines, which sparked imaginative storytelling and sensory discovery. They also created nature paintings using leaves and sticks, expressing themselves through texture and natural materials. These experiences supported both fine motor development and creativity in a calm, engaging way.

Book Week brought extra excitement, with a special focus on the much-loved story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. The children created their own bears through pasting activities and worked collaboratively to build a sensory diorama using natural materials like real grass, sticks, sand, and dirt. Sensory tubs filled with materials connected to the story encouraged hands-on exploration and story retelling. They also practised their cutting skills using newspaper, showing growing confidence and coordination.



# KOALA ROOM

This term, the Koala children explored a variety of engaging and hands-on learning experiences. We celebrated Dental Health Week with a special visit from Elice, who taught the children about the importance of brushing teeth, visiting the dentist, and keeping a healthy smile. We extended this learning with toothbrushing activities and hygiene games. Children also explored their interest in construction through painting with tracks and wheels and worked together to create a large group collage. Science was a big focus too, with exciting experiments like lemon volcanoes, growing rainbows, and erupting volcanoes. These activities encouraged curiosity, teamwork, and problem-solving. Group times included memory games about insect life cycles, and children continued to develop fine motor skills through scissor cutting, pasting, and playdough activities. They also practiced independence by cleaning up after meals and learning about healthy routines like handwashing and tooth care.



**Book Week was a highlight, with the children proudly dressing up and engaging in a range of story-based activities inspired by favourites like The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Rainbow Fish, and The Gingerbread Man. The week was filled with reading, themed crafts, and imaginative storytelling. As spring arrived, children created colourful flowers using recycled materials and explored seasonal changes through art. Physical play remained a favourite, with scooter board games supporting turn-taking and coordination. We also celebrated Crazy Hair Day, sparking lots of laughter and creativity. Throughout the term, the Koalas showed wonderful enthusiasm, growing independence, and strong social connections as they explored, created, and learned together.**





# MAGPIE ROOM



In the Magpie Room, children engaged in a rich variety of learning experiences that supported their curiosity, creativity, and understanding of the world around them. We celebrated Dental Health Week with a special visit from Freddy's mum, Elice, a dentist, who brought real dental tools and shared valuable tips on oral hygiene. The children also explored National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day through meaningful art and stories. Their interest in numeracy was sparked by activities around measurement, comparing quantities, and visual counting using everyday materials like coloured reels. During National Science Week, children became budding scientists,

participating in exciting experiments such as "sink or float," volcanic eruptions in the sandpit, and colour mixing. These hands-on activities encouraged prediction-making, critical thinking, and collaborative discussion. A memorable moment was Milo's mum, Catalina, reading *The Colour Monster* in Spanish, introducing the children to another language and new ways to express emotions.

Literacy and creativity continued through Book Week, with children creating their own books, bookmarks, and participating in graphing activities linked to *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Their interest in the natural world was further explored through the study of insects, focusing on bees and the butterfly life cycle, supported by creative crafts and group projects. We also introduced magnet exploration, setting up a magnetic play station where children tested their ideas and learned how to research answers using books, peers, and technology. Spring's arrival was celebrated through Wattle Day art, gardening activities, and learning about the significance of Australia's national floral emblem. As part of National Child Protection Week, children participated in thoughtful discussions around personal safety, expressing what makes them feel safe through a shared "Safe Tree" activity. To end the term, we explored *Animals Around the World*, reconnected with nature through planting and sustainability projects, and built scarecrows to protect our growing gardens. These experiences reflected the children's deepening understanding of their environment, their role within it, and the importance of working together to care for our world.





## KINDER ROOM

The Kinder children have been immersed in a wide variety of exciting, hands-on learning experiences this term. A standout was the MAD About Science incursion, where they explored light, colour, electricity, magnets, forces, and living things through fun and interactive experiments. Their curiosity continued with Dental Health Week, where Dentist Elise taught the children about brushing, healthy eating, and looking after their teeth. This learning was extended through dramatic play in the transformed "Dentist Corner." Over at Bush Kinder, the children deepened their understanding of fire safety while cooking damper over a campfire—an experience that promoted teamwork, patience, and resilience. They also celebrated National Wattle Day with a species hunt through Darebin Parklands, learning to observe, compare, and classify the different types of wattle trees.



Throughout Biodiversity Month, the children became little scientists and environmental explorers. They created mini habitats for jungle and ocean animals, played in a sensory discovery station filled with garden textures, and used rosemary sprigs as natural paintbrushes—combining creativity with sustainability. Their dramatic play extended into the Biodiversity Office, where they role-played as researchers and nature detectives. Another highlight was the opening of the Kinder Scoops Gelateria, a pretend ice cream shop built from loose parts and recycled materials. This play supported teamwork, numeracy, and communication skills. The Kinder group also enjoyed building robots, making flower crowns, planting spring vegetables, and learning about composting. A

change in plans brought them to Alphington Wetlands, where they explored nature, made bug houses, created fishing rods from natural materials, and even composed their own songs to welcome the bugs. These rich, open-ended experiences have supported creativity, connection to nature, and a growing sense of environmental care and community.



## SPEECH PATHOLOGY

# Tips for Reading with Children

When educators and families read aloud to children, they introduce them to a world of language, imagination and learning. Numerous studies support the benefits of shared reading and has consistently shown that children who engage in reading activities with adults display improved language skills, literacy development and academic achievement. Creating a positive reading experience is key to fostering a love for books.



Here are some practical tips for educators to make reading enjoyable and effective:

- 1 CHOOSE THE RIGHT BOOKS**  
Select age-appropriate books. Look for colourful illustrations, engaging characters, and relatable themes. Interactive books with flaps or textures can also enhance engagement.
- 2 CREATE A READING ROUTINE**  
Establish a consistent reading time. Routines help children anticipate reading time and build it into their daily lives.
- 3 BE EXPRESSIVE**  
Use different voice for characters and vary your tone to bring the story to life and emphasise grammatical features. This not only captivates children but also helps them to understand the emotional context of the narrative.
- 4 ENCOURAGE INTERACTION**  
Ask open-ended questions about the story and encourage children to predict what might happen next and reflect on the story. This supports critical thinking and keeps them engaged in the reading process.
- 5 FOLLOW THEIR LEAD**  
Let your child choose books that interest them, even if they are repetitive or simple. Repeated readings build familiarity and confidence, allowing children to explore language at their own pace.
- 6 INCORPORATE MOVEMENT**  
Particularly for toddlers, incorporate physical movements into reading. Act out scenes, use hand gestures, create sound effects or even use puppets or toys to make the experience more dynamic and enjoyable.
- 7 MODEL READING BEHAVIOUR**  
Show your child that reading is a valuable and enjoyable activity. Let them see you read for pleasure and discuss the stories you encounter. This reinforces the idea that reading is a lifelong skill.
- 8 MAKE IT SOCIAL**  
Consider joining a local library's story time or book club for kids. Shared experiences with peers can enhance motivation and make reading a fun social activity.