



# FARM ROAD PRE-SCHOOL

TERM 4 NEWSLETTER 2024



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the final Farm Road Preschool newsletter for 2024 and my final newsletter after 2 years as your president. I have been fortunate to have the amazing support from the entire teaching staff, committees and Catherine to support the Preschool in its activities and functions.

I would like to thank the below 2024 Committee for volunteering their time to enable the Preschool, education team and children with the support to succeed.

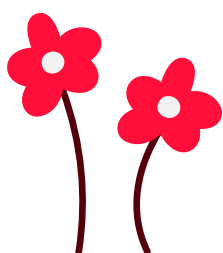
Name	Role
Joshua Gosling	President
Kim Ly Scott	Vice President
Stacey Kyriakou	Secretary
Nadeem Andary	Treasurer
Nicole Papadopoulos	Staff Liaison Officer
Amanda Kimpton	OHS Officer
Tina Moravcik	Enrolment Officer
Christian Fox	Fundraising Manager
Rachel Leahy	General Committee - Events

I would also like to welcome the incoming committee. As a community based preschool we wouldn't exist if it wasn't for the willingness of families to put their hand up to join the committee, welcome and thank you.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Christian Fox	President
Ashleigh Bell	Vice President
Tara Wright	Secretary
Valery Komarov	Treasurer
Nicole Papadopoulos	Staff Liaison Officer
Kat Bell	OHS Officer
Tina Moravcik	Enrolment Officer
Amanda Kimpton	Fundraising Officer
Rob Baines	General Committee - Policies
Eleni Maroulis	General Committee - Events

I wish you all a very safe and happy holidays.

Josh Gosling,  
President Farm Road Preschool





## 3 YEAR OLD BILBY GROUP

As we approach the end of a remarkable year, we're delighted to share the highlights of Term 4. This term has been filled with exploration, growth, and joy as our Bilbies continued their learning journey.

The children's fascination with snails has been a source of inspiration for many experiences. We created snail and bug habitats, encouraging a hands-on approach to understanding ecosystems. Stick insects became our classroom pets, sparking curiosity about other small creatures and their care.

Our learning extended to butterflies (ballam ballam), which we often spotted on Sky Country, adding magic to our outdoor explorations. These moments helped deepen our connection to nature and our respect for Country.

The Holly's Bee Incursion was a buzzing success! Children learned about the essential role bees play in the environment and were thrilled to taste honey fresh from the hive.





### 3 YEAR OLD BILBY GROUP CONT...

The Bilbies have loved expressing themselves through playdough creations and photography as part of our child-photographer activity. We provided children with cameras, allowing them to document their surroundings, fostering observational skills and creativity.

Artistic activities, such as watercolour painting, reindeer ornament making, and collaborative collages, inspired imagination and teamwork.



Social and emotional development has been a key focus this term. Through our "Super Friends" invitation, children practiced turn-taking, teamwork, and including others in play. These activities nurtured resilience and helped children build confidence in navigating social interactions.

Routine opportunities like meal-sharing and group games reinforced these skills, while the Resilience Project "GEM" framework (Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness) provided further language for emotional literacy.

Our sustainability efforts included maintaining the worm farm, sorting recycling, and planting seeds in our garden. These hands-on activities allowed children to understand the importance of caring for the environment and their role in it.



### 3 YEAR OLD BILBY GROUP CONT...



As the year closes, the Bilbies are eagerly anticipating the Christmas break and their transition to 4-year-old kindergarten next year.

We've seen incredible growth in their independence, social skills, and curiosity. We're so proud of their accomplishments and look forward to seeing them thrive in the next chapter of their learning journey.

To all our families, thank you for your support throughout 2024. Your involvement in activities like "Stay and Play" and our washing roster has enriched our community. A special thank you to volunteer educator Diane for her ongoing dedication every Wednesday.



Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Warm regards,  
The Bilby Team: Bec, Narelle, Kate, Catherine, and Robyn





## IMPORTANT DATES

### Tuesday 10th December

Last After Kinder Care  
Session (4YO Wallabies)

### Monday 16th December

Party Day (4YO Wallabies)

### Monday 17th December

Last Day (4YO Wallabies)

### Wednesday 18th December

Last Day (3YO Bilbies)



## FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Dear Farm Road families and team,

The following policies were reviewed and updated in Term 4:

### Quality Area 2

- Dealing with Medical Conditions
- Delivery and Collection of Children
- Excursions and Service Events
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
- Safe Arrival of Children

### Quality Area 4

- Determining Responsible Person

All of our policies can be found on the Kinder website ([www.farmroadpreschool.com.au](http://www.farmroadpreschool.com.au)), or in the folder located in the foyer.

If you have any questions in relation to any of our policies, please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Ingham, Business Manager by emailing - [admin.farm.rd.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:admin.farm.rd.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au).



## 4 YEAR OLD WALLABY GROUP

It is so hard to believe we are already approaching the end of the year! It has been such an exciting and rewarding year that time has flown by and we couldn't be prouder of how far all the children have come. We are looking forward to finishing the term with many fun activities!

It has been another wonderful term in the Wallaby group with the highlight being our excursion to Chesterfield Farm on Monday 21st October. The Wallaby team would like to extend our gratitude to all the parents who volunteered on the excursion – we couldn't have done it without you! At the farm, the children enjoyed a tour and were able to get hands-on with the animals in the nursery and feed emus, goats, deer, sheep, kangaroos and even a camel on the feed trail. They also went for a ride on a tractor-drawn wagon and watched fun farm shows including sheepdog work and milking a cow.



In November, we had a visit from Holly's Bees. The children observed a real honey bee colony in action, watched a demonstration of beekeeping tools and separated into smaller groups to try on a beekeeping suit and taste some honey – yum! At the end of the session there were lots of great questions with the children all very interested to learn about sustainability and the important role bees have in helping our environment.



On Friday 22nd November, we celebrated our last Bush Kinder session with a family picnic. It was a great turn out and we hope all the families enjoyed spending this special time together with the Wallaby group in the Bush Kinder setting. We presented Graham, Rebecca and Shirley gifts to thank them for all their amazing help this year supporting the Bush Kinder program and hope to have them all back again in 2025.

## 4 YEAR OLD WALLABY GROUP CONT...



There is always something exciting happening at kinder – this term with thanks to Robyn, we got 7 Spiny Leaf Insects to keep as pets. The children named them Ochre, Rosie, Leafy, Bumblebee, Farmer Joe, Dragon and Dumpty. Cherie made Bottle Brush water with the children and of course there has been a lot of outdoor play, enjoying the warmer weather.



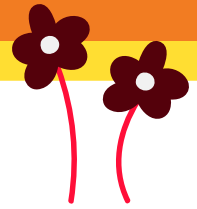
Here are some of the other experiences the Wallaby group children have participated in this year:

- KidsROAR body safety session (where the children learned about protective behaviours)
- Drama with The Flying Bookworm Theatre Company
- The Responsible Pet Ownership program (learning how to approach dogs safely)
- Photo Day
- Teddy Bears' Picnic
- Science Week
- Special dress up days - Mad Scientist Day, Book Week, Footy Colours Day/Crazy Hair Day and Pyjama Day
- Obstacle-a-thon and Disco Fundraisers
- National Reconciliation Week - the children created a Womindjeka sign
- Other special days of significance were acknowledged through stories and discussions e.g., National Simultaneous Storytime.

Also, during Term 4, we have focused on developing skills to prepare the children for school and for life. The children have had the opportunity to develop their literacy skills with through library borrowing and letter recognition activities, learning the relationship between letters, songs and stories which have extended their vocabulary and they have been encouraged to use language to express their thoughts and ideas. In addition to literacy experiences the children have been developing their numeracy skills by exploring number recognition, counting and understanding simple patterns and shapes.

For the first six weeks of term, we had a pre-service teacher, Jake, completing his final Bachelor of Early Childhood Education placement at Farm Road Pre-school. During his time with us, Jake completed an inquiry project with a focus on supporting children's emotional regulation. This extended on learning that occurred through our participation in The Resilience Project at kinder this year. Learning to understand and manage feelings is an important skill for the children to have before commencing school as it will help them when they are faced with challenges and to focus on learning.





## 4 YEAR OLD WALLABY GROUP CONT...

Jake supported the children to consider how they were feeling with Zones of Regulation and to learn calming techniques. It would be great to build talking about and labelling feelings into your daily routine at home and to read stories that help children to understand and express emotions.



There has been great interest in the creative arts recently with the children engaging in arts and crafts, music and dance. The four-year-olds have begun practicing some of their favourite songs from throughout the year for an end of year concert and have been very busy creating Christmas decorations and end of year presents too. Apart from creating end of year gifts, we have also been swept up in the Christmas fever and have begun creating a variety of festive artwork. The children are engaging in role play in school and Christmas dramatic play spaces. In the final few sessions for the year, will be engaging in reflective activities about the year that has passed and getting excited about school and Christmas.

We will celebrate the end of the kindergarten year with a party day for the children on Monday 16th December. Each family is asked to bring along a food item for the party. The children will enjoy this special day together with fun games and party food. We hope all the 4-year-old Wallaby group families can join us for the last hour of our final session on Tuesday 17th December. The children will perform an end of year concert commencing at 12:30pm and will also be presented with certificates.



Transition Learning and Development Statements have been completed online and submitted to schools for all children starting school in 2025. Thank you to parents who completed the family section and provided valuable information for their child's Foundation (Prep) teacher. Families will receive a copy at the end of the year.

During this transition period between kindergarten and school, you may notice some changes in your child's behaviour. Becoming tired easily, not coping with frustration, tears and anger are some changes that are common in children that are about to embark on a new chapter in their lives and may be feeling nervous about it. As many people talk to your child about the transition, they come to understand that it is possibly the biggest change in their lives so far. This can cause some anxiety, pressure, or even apprehensiveness. Encouraging your child and supporting them through their transition days can help to alleviate some stress. Give them time to unwind and think about school after each transition day, also help children to understand how school works and its surroundings, and to reflect on what they have experienced.

## 4 YEAR OLD WALLABY GROUP CONT...

The teaching team would like to thank all parents for their ongoing support throughout the year. It's been wonderful watching your children grow, learn, and develop. We have enjoyed getting to know all the families and children. We pride ourselves on being those significant others in the children's lives who guide them and help them develop into unique individuals. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's life. We're looking forward to enjoying these last two weeks with the children and wish them all the very best as they continue their educational journey. We will invite all the children back for a reunion in Term 1, 2025.

On a final note, I would like to thank the Committee once again for volunteering their time and for all their hard work this year.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and safe holidays!

The Wallaby team - Debbie, Cherie, Narelle, Robyn and Tanya





## STARTING SCHOOL

Here are a few helpful hints to help support your child next year:

- Reading stories at home is a great way to support literacy before your child starts school. Visit the library and borrow books with your child.
- Discuss your own experience of starting school.
- At the end of each school day, listen but don't ask too many questions. Children will talk when they are ready. Bedtime is often good listening time.
- Children are often hungry after school, occasionally they might skip their lunch due to excitement or anxiety. A healthy breakfast before school and snack after school is important. Some children may be too tired to eat at dinner time.
- Let your child help prepare their own lunch box, fruit and snacks and discuss with them when they will eat these during the day.
- Take advice from your child's teacher – they will have a number of strategies to help make the first few days as stress free as possible.
- Label all your child's belongings and remember to pack a hat and drink bottle.
- Ensure your child is able to open everything that they have in their lunchbox as they may not feel comfortable asking for the teacher's help at first.



**FUNDRAISING**

**2025 Xmas Raffle**



FARM ROAD PRESCHOOL

# Christmas Raffle

DRAWING WILL HELD ON DECEMBER 17  
AT WALLABY GROUP LAST SESSION

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*Tickets*  
\$2 per each ticket  
or  
\$5 for 3 tickets

Please return raffle books no later than December 13

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Cash or transfer for tickets:  
BSB: 633-000 Acc: 133-657-213



## FUNDRAISING

As we approach the end of year we're looking for donations to help pad out the Farm Road Christmas Hampers. As the final fundraising activity of the year, we're seeking donations to make the raffle a success.

Think bottles of wine, fancy olive oil, a box of chocolates, perhaps you own a business and can donate goods and services in the form of a voucher.

🎄 No contribution is too small and would be of huge assistance. Please checkout the jot form below. We are accepting donations until the 10th (drop off Farm Rd) Tickets will be sent home with your child today! 🎄

<https://form.jotform.com/243291849365871>

Raffle books are expected to be returned back to Farm Road on the 13th of December.

The raffle will be drawn on the 17th of December.



## FUNDRAISING CONT...



### Victorian Fundraising Scheme!



Farm Road PS are registered to receive donations for the Victorian Container Scheme. Why is this important? The Victorian Container Scheme has been set up by the state government to allow individuals, families and eligible organisations to receive a 10c return for every container donated.

Not only does this open a new avenue for Farm Road PS to receive funds but in collaboration with the Farm Road Curriculum, this is an important tool to assist in teaching your children about sustainable practices, recycling and giving back.

It's as easy as 1,2,3:

1. Collect eligible drink containers
2. Find your closest refund point
3. Donate at your refund point

All collateral can be found using the Victorian Container Scheme website found below.

When donating, you can find Farm Road PS on the list of eligible partners, use the barcode on the CVS app or find us listed on the <https://cdsvic.org.au/donating> website.

We also have a drop off bin at the pre-school (find the big blue bin) that'll empty for families low on time, but want to contribute!

Eligible containers below:



## FUNDRAISING CONT...



### School Uniform



Did you know Farm Road offers a kinder uniform and a portion of the profits go straight to Farm Road PS?!?!?

- Make mornings easy with kinder clothes
- Free returns and exchanges
- Same business day shipping when you order before 2pm
- Check the flyers below for size guides, pricing and online ordering!

*Uniform is not compulsory.*

How it works:

- Orders can be placed by families at any time before midnight on the above day. A free delivery option may be available for you to select at check-out.
- Each order will be pre-packed and labeled - this will include name and order reference to assist with distribution. Families will receive a notification when their order is completed and a reminder of the date for collection.

A sizing guide can be found [here](#).

For ordering, click [here](#).





FUNDRAISING CONT...



# edU<sup>THREADS</sup>

EASY ORDERING . SUPER FAST DELIVERY . FAST AND EASY EXCHANGE



T-Shirt



Bomber Jacket



Long Sleeve Tee

Scan me to see colour options!



**Want to try it on?**  
See your office or uniform facilitator to test and try on any item.  
If you order the wrong size we offer **fast and easy** exchanges so you have the right fit.

JUMP ONLINE  
[WWW.EDUTHREADS.COM.AU](http://WWW.EDUTHREADS.COM.AU)

