We have had a bit of wet weather, but the children have made the most of the learning opportunities this has created. Mud play has been a focus for lots of children and our rubber boots have been well used…..although some have chosen to feel the mud between their toes! The second stage of the yard development will be starting shortly, with a planned lawn area, bike track and forest.

We have been waiting for confirmation of our assessment against the National Quality Framework and have just been advised it will be conducted on Tuesday 22 August. All Early Childhood Services are assessed and rated against seven quality areas of the National Quality Standard:

1. **Educational program and practice** Your child is supported to participate in play and learning
2. **Children’s health and safety** Your child is protected from illness and hazards
3. **Physical environment** Your child plays in a safe and well maintained environment
4. **Staffing arrangements** There are enough qualified staff to give your child the attention they need
5. **Relationships with children** Your child is made to feel supported and welcomed
6. **Collaborative partnerships with families and communities** Local community involvement and respect and inclusion of all beliefs and values
7. **Leadership and service management** Your child is cared for in a positive environment

We have done a lot of work to prepare for the assessment and are looking forward to being able to show the assessor our wonderful Preschool.

A big thank you to the families who came along to our Special Persons day. The children enjoyed showing their special visitors around the Preschool and sharing morning tea with them.

**Book Week August 21 - 25**. The Book Week Parade will be held on Thursday, 24 August at 11.30 in the hall. The theme this year is ‘Escape to Everywhere’ and we encourage children to dress-up and participate. Children in Kari group and their parents, are welcome to attend Preschool from 11am, if they wish to join in. Yambo families are also welcome to stay and watch the parade.

On **Friday, August 25 at 9.00am**, author Katrina Germain will be visiting and reading her book ‘Big Rain Coming’ to the Preschool and school children. Kari children and their families are also invited to this event, which will be held in the hall.
**Rest and Relaxation** - After lunch, the children are participating in rest and relaxation whereby they lie down, rest their bodies and minds whilst listening to calming music. Some children use beanbags on their foreheads or chest to help them focus on their breathing to promote self-regulation and recognise the needs of their bodies. This routine links well with the Rock and Water program we have on Wednesday morning with Master Joey, and the Interoception activities being taught across the whole school. The building-blocks of the Rock and Water program are self-control, self-reflection and self-confidence. Interoception is one of the most important skills we have; being able to understand signals from our body. How you know if you’re hungry, thirsty, tired, etc. are key abilities to live a healthy life and are skills which many of our children need to develop. We are introducing short activities and exercises with the children daily.

An Interoception information session will be offered at **9.00am on Friday 15 September** for families who would like more details or may like to introduce the exercises at home.

**RAN training for volunteers.** All of the department’s ongoing volunteers must receive the Responding to Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care (RAN-EC) induction session for volunteers. This includes people on a governing council. The session explains what you are expected to do if you have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of children and young people. It helps you understand appropriate ways of relating with children and young people. A certificate of participation is provided when complete. The school will be holding this training in the spill-out area in front of the school’s library **9.30am on Friday 15 September.** Please let staff know if you wish to attend.

**Thursday 21 September.** We are beginning to prepare for the bi-annual concert which will start at 4.00pm. Preschool children from both groups will be performing and Governing Council have approved a 12.00pm start for both school and preschool children. More details will follow soon.

**End of day pick-up.** Preschool finishes at 3.00pm and we realise some families need to collect their children before this time. We are often reading stories and intentionally teaching up until this time and find children are easily distracted when others leave early. If you need to take your child early, please collect them before 2.45pm so learning can continue until 3.00pm for everyone else.

Don’t forget to look for and join our Facebook page.

Preschool Educators