

Family News

July 2023



Absences from child care: what does it mean to your child care subsidy?

If your child is absent from child care you are still charged full fees for the day, and CCS is still applied. It is important that you let us know by phoning your child's room so the absence can be accurately recorded. Absences due to holidays are charged at a different rate if three weeks written notice is provided.

Services Australia allows up to 42 allowable absences each financial year. It is important that you monitor the allowable absences as once you have reached 42 CCS will no longer be applied to your account. You can check your child's absences on your weekly statement of entitlements here.

Week Totals	Sessions Charged	Entitlements	Absences	Sessions Duration	Entitlements Duration	Attendances Duration	Entitlement: Duration
26/06/2023 - 02/07/2023	\$244.00	\$220.21	0	20:00	20:00	13:53	0:00

You can also track your absences by logging on to myGov or by looking at the Spike app.

If you reach your limit you may be able to get additional absences, for example if your child is ill, or you as carer are ill. However supporting documentation is required for the absence to be entered. You can only use absence days for days when your child would normally attend child care. This includes public holidays and other holidays which are entered as an absence.

You do not need to provide documentation for any absences taken under the allowable absence limit. It is only once you reach the limit that you will be able to provide documentation for additional absences to be applied.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/child-care-subsidy-if-your-child-absent-from-child-care?context=41186>

The WCCC Succulent garden

Plans are in place for a succulent garden to be located in the entrance section to WCCC. If you have small bedside table sized shelves that you could donate to be used for this garden please let Eleanor know.

Your child will be able to bring a small cutting from home in a pot for the garden.



Waite Campus Childrens Centre is on Facebook.



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Congratulations to Tamara, Graeme and Ivy (Room 1) on the arrival of **Piper**.



Congratulations to Cassie, Kevin and Connor (Room 2) on the arrival of **Kylah Teresa**.

Cassie is the Room Coordinator of Room 2 and is on maternity leave at the moment.

Cassie says everyone is doing well and sleep is happening at the moment!

Welcome to the newest member of their family.





What's cooking in the kitchen with Grace?

NAIDOC Week 2023

With a growing awareness of the distinct cultural histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, NADOC was expanded to recognise Torres Strait Islander people and culture. The committee then became known as the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC). This new name has become the title for the whole week, not just the day.

As a child care centre we have incorporated indigenous native foods to our menu for the week. This has allowed & inspired myself (chef Grace) to include native herbs and spices, by Nornie Bero.

SBS- On Demand, The Cook Up with Adam Liaw gave up his program at 7pm, for Nornie Bero to host with friends. Mabu Mabu joined The Cook Up as host. Guests Gail Mabo, Arabella Douglas, Bjorn Stewart, Damian Coulthard, Kristy Dickinson, Jody Orcher, Rowdie Walden, Kirsten Banks, Matty Mills and Christian Hampson cook delicious food and share stories with Nornie.

Nornie is a Torres Strait Islander born and raised. "I'm lucky that my father raised me there, a single father, who was awesome about making sure I learned about tradition and culture," says Nornie Bero, who is from the Komet tribe of the Meriam people of Mer Island. "It's a sustainable way of living. Everybody grew and fished for what they'd eat."

Children at WCCC this week learnt about and tasted many different flavours, such as Davidson plums. This was made into jam, freeze dry powder and incorporated into a Zatar mix. Also lemon myrtle, wattleseed, pepperberry, finger limes, saltbush and many more herbs and spices.

Besides kangaroo and crocodile meat the children tasted a traditional fish **barramundi**. It was a big hit with the children. The weeks menu also included damper with wattle seeds & black pepperberry, pancakes with Davidson plum jam and bush tomato roasted soup.



Barramundi In Smoked Paperbark

Wrapping the fish in paperbark produces a smoky aroma when heated. You can also cover the fish in baking paper then foil, but you will lose that delicious flavour. This recipe from chef Mark Olive, pays tribute to the Australian outback with its use of native ingredients.



- 30gs Davidson plum butter, at room temperature
- ½ tsp ground saltbush seeds
- 2 tbsp ground lemon myrtle
- 2 lemons, 1 juiced, 1 cut into 8 slices
- 125 ml(½ cup) rice bran oil
- 4 x 200 g pieces Barramundi or salmon, skinned
- 4 large sheets paperbark (*see Note*)

Preheat oven to 180°C. To make butter, (see notes) combine butter with saltbush seeds and 1tsp lemon myrtle. Stir in lemon juice, spoon onto a sheet of plastic wrap and roll tightly to form a log. Refrigerate for 30 mins to firm.

Meanwhile, combine 60 ml rice bran oil with 3 tsp lemon myrtle and rub over fish. Brush paperbark with remaining 60 ml oil and sprinkle over with remaining lemon myrtle. Divide fish and lemon slices among paperbark sheets. Roll up paperbark, gather ends and tie with kitchen string to form parcels. Place on 2 oven trays, sprinkle with water, cover trays with foil and roast for 20 mins or until fish is cooked to liking. Serve with butter.

Note: Paperbark, from delis and [Vic Cherikoff](#) produces a smoky aroma when heated. You can also purchase this bark at other local Native Food producers. You can wrap fish in baking paper, then foil but it wont have the same smoky flavour.

Davidson Plum Butter

- 125 g unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 10 g Davidson plum powder
- ¾ tsp fingerlime
- 1 tbsp bush tomato chutney
- 2 lemonade fruit or lemons, zested and juiced

To make the plum butter, place all ingredients in a bowl and beat vigorously with a wooden spoon until well combined.

Room One Report to Families

July 2023

This month we have welcomed Hugo and Indiana into Room 1. They are settling in well and are being supported by the other children to feel welcome and safe. We have also begun the room 2 transitions of 5 children who are successfully transitioning and enjoying the change of learning environment. These children will be transitioning with Tamala into Room 2 as we temporarily say goodbye to her from room 1.

The children's interest in dramatic play continues with the children continuing to play with the dolls and dress up with the bags and hats. The children have continued to care for the baby dolls by feeding them and patting them to sleep as they sing twinkle, twinkle little star. The children also engage in pretend play as they dress up in the hats and put the bags on as they pretend to go for a walk, often as they go off to the shops. Additionally, the children have been engaging with pretend play in the play kitchen we have outdoors. They often make food and drinks in the kitchen and sandpit to serve to their friends and the educators. We are continuing to support this interest in dramatic play by provide accessibility to the resources as well as making the learning environments engaging for this type of play.

The children's interest in music has also increased, both with the instruments and the music speaker. The children often request for us to play music so the children can dance around outside. They love when the educators join in, they often find it very humorous to watch. The children love to dance and move their bodies to the rhythm of the music. We also have been using the instruments to make our own music. Additionally, the children are finding their voice as they continue to sing songs with and without the educators some of the favourites being twinkle, twinkle little star, ABC's, and row, row, row your boat.

We have continued our visits to Pilyabilyangga when the weather permits. We recently visited during the afternoon to which we were greeted by a koala by the fence. The children were excited by the site of the koala and watched as it went across the road and up the tree. The children were also very interested in the worm farm as well as collecting sticks and seed pods which were pointed out by Gayle. Connecting to their interest in music, the children found sticks on the ground and used these to make a musical beat on the metal trolley.

We have also been enjoying the Grandma visits from Kay. The children have connected well with her and enjoy the time spent engaging in play with her. The children have enjoyed dancing with Kay as well as engaging with the balls outside, kicking and throwing the balls to each other and Kay.

With Love from Room One; Gayle, Karen, Cherry, Tamala, Yaejee & Zoe

Room Two Report to Families

July 2023

In July, we have had 6 children who have started their transition to Room 2, 4 children from Room 1 and 2 children new to the centre. We have farewelled Zoe, Asher, Jimmy, Sebastian and Robert as they make the move to Room 3. They are doing well and will make new friends and explore a new learning environment. We are getting to know the children who are new to Room 2. Welcome to Annie, Lilly, Annabelle, Tom, Maggie and Jeanie.

Our students Leah and Isabella have finished their placements in Room 2 and we appreciate their efforts to support our children's learning bringing so much love and fun for everyone in Room 2. They did a farewell cupcake making experience with children and everyone in Room 2 enjoyed yummy cupcakes they made. Isabella has joined our team as a casual educator and has already done some shifts in Room 2.

In June and July our children have enjoyed:

- Natural playground and butterfly garden exploring experiences. We visit these two places regularly so children are really familiar with the physical challenges and practice their physical skills every time they are there. They are confident to climb up to the cubby house and cargo net climbing set and monkey bars. They are curious and excited to find bugs under the rocks, wood and little bushes. They also enjoy chasing each other or following Room 3 big children.
- Sand pit experiences and dump trucks are still popular outdoor experiences for our children, as well as jumping into puddles on a rainy day.

Room Three Report to Families

July 2023

Winter is well and truly here and this has seen some cold and wet weather of late. We have taken advantage of this weather by putting on our warm and waterproof clothes and have spent time playing in the water and puddles. Lots of construction occurred with the water and lots of delicious food was created when sand and water was mixed together. We have also been fortunate to enjoy a few sunny days and we have maximised this beautiful weather by taking the opportunity to spend some time in The Adventure Playground and in Pilyabilyangga. During our time in these beautiful natural play spaces, we have explored the various fungi that is growing, found a variety of different bugs, tested our physical skills when climbing trees and on the climbing equipment and used natural materials in pretend play scenarios.

With Term 3 starting, the educators have engaged in critical reflection and discussed the strengths and interest of the Room 3 children. From these professional discussions, we have developed a new program of Term 3.

There will be a focus on-

- Children are aware of and develop strategies to support their own mental and physical health and personal safety
- Children become strong in their physical learning and mental wellbeing-
- *Sensory play and physical activity and continuing to explore food*
- Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment-
- *Observation and listening skills while connecting to nature*
- Children resource their learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

Some other highlights of the past few weeks have included-

Construction and pretend play- an ongoing interest to the children. Lots of wonderful creative ideas have been generated and included into play. The children have engaged in pretend play both inside and outside

A preschool school excursion to the Botanic Garden where we connected with nature and engaged our senses

Celebrating NAIDOC Week by enjoying native foods in our meals across the week, listening to stories and music by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, continuing to use and learn Kurna language

Welcoming children who are new to the centre and the transitioning children from Room 2- lots of kind, caring and respectful behaviour has been displayed and is helping these children to develop their sense of belonging to Room 3




Challenging ourselves- through climbing, completing tricky puzzles, giving things a try for the first time

The Room 3 team


Waite Campus Childrens Centre Calendar

July

Term 3: 24th July to 29th September

Education for Sustainability Wednesday	R2/3 Pilyabilyangga Tuesday
23 rd July 	National Pyjama Day – Wear your pyjamas to WCCC all week
24 th July 	Centre visit from Kristal Matthews
31 st July 	Plant a tree for National Tree Day

August

4 th August 	National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day (NATICD)
12 th to 20 th August	National Science Week – Innovation: Powering Future Industries
14 th August 	Centre visit from Kristal Matthews
15 th August	Early Closure – CPR refresher training
19 th to 25 th August 	Book Week: Read Grow Inspire
25 th August	Wear it Purple Day 
31 st August	Last day of Winter 

October

4 th October	Early Childhood Australia National Conference Centre Tour at WCCC: Ecological identity and sustainability
9 th October	Closure Day – WCCC team professional development day