



# FARM ROAD PRE-SCHOOL

## TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 2026



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



Farm Road Pre-School respectfully acknowledge the Bunurong / Boon Wurrung people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, learn and play, and pay respect to Elders past and present.

Our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) has been reviewed by Reconciliation Australia and republished on the Narragunnawali website.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to all our new and returning families at Farm Road Preschool! It is a pleasure to be serving my second year as President, and I am energised by the incredible momentum we've built together already.

It is hard to believe we are already at the end of Term 1. Looking back at the last few months, the standout highlight has been the extraordinary level of parent involvement. We are seeing a record number of families engaging with the preschool, whether it's through daily chats at drop-off, weekend park catch-ups, or volunteering your time. This sense of community is the heartbeat of Farm Road, and it's been wonderful to watch our children grow their connections alongside such a supportive group of adults.

I would also like to recognise the evolution of our Committee of Management (COM). We have seen significant growth in our leadership team this year, with new voices bringing fresh ideas and seasoned members providing invaluable stability. This collaborative spirit between the council, our dedicated staff, and the COM is ensuring a highly constructive year for the preschool.

A huge thank you goes out to our incredible educators Catherine, Debbie, Bec, Narelle, Cherie, Robyn, and Amy for their tireless work in settling the children into their new routines.

If you haven't yet signed up for Stay and Play or volunteered for Bush Kinder, I highly recommend it. It is a special opportunity to be involved in the preschool and share in the joy of your child's play and discovery.

Finally, please see below the 2026 Kindergarten Committee of Management. We are a group of parent volunteers who meet monthly to ensure the smooth running of the preschool. We are always happy to hear from you, so please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or suggestions.

I hope you all have a wonderful and relaxing break, and I look forward to seeing you back for Term 2!

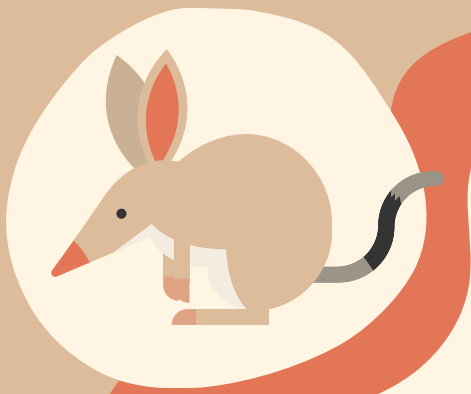
Thankyou,

Christian Fox

# 2026 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Role	Name	Email
<b>President</b>	Christian Fox	president.farm.road.preschool@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Nick O'Connor	vp.farmroad@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Anthea Plousi	secretary.farmroad@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lulu Goodall	treasurer.farmroad@gmail.com
<b>Staff Liason Officer</b>	Nicole Papadopoulos	sl.farmroad@gmail.com
<b>OHS Officer</b>	Suzie Weiman	ohs.farmroad@gmail.com
<b>Enrolment Officer</b>	Mona Gholami	enrolment.farmroad@gmail.com
<b>Fundraising Officer</b>	Eleni Maroulis	farmrdpsfundraising@gmail.com
<b>General Committee - Policies</b>	Rob Baines	general.farmroad@gmail.com
<b>General Committee - Events</b>	Yana Dutka	general.farmroad@gmail.com





3 YEAR OLD



# BILBY GROUP

## What a wonderful start to the year!

This term has been all about settling in, getting to know each child, and helping everyone feel comfortable at kindergarten. We've been focusing on daily routines so children know what to expect, building confidence, and supporting them as they separate from family.

### Settling In & Routines

We love seeing the children grow in confidence during morning arrivals, exploring outdoors and re-engaging with familiar activities. Using consistent routines and familiar educators' helps children feel safe and secure. We've also been sharing family photos, using each other's names continually in supported conversations, and reading stories like *Owl Babies* to support emotional connections.

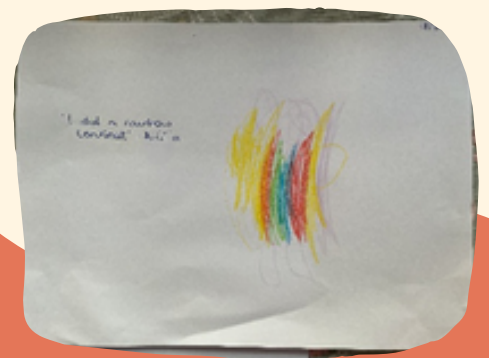


### Playing & Learning Together

This term, children have been forming friendships through shared and parallel play. Supported, small group activities, songs, and social games help everyone practice turn-taking and cooperation. Encouraging children to explore, make choices, and engage in creative play supports curiosity and early learning.

### Exploring Country & Nature

We've spent plenty of time outside on Country, noticing seasonal changes and learning about native birds. Children are already enjoying using some Bunurong words: Bunjil (Eagle), Waang (Crow), Dan dan (Rainbow Lorikeet/Parrot), and Ngayuk (Cockatoo). Water play, bird art, and movement with scarves connects us to learning and caring for Country.





## Language & Communication

Songs, rhymes, stories, and the Yarning Basket have been central to supporting communication. Children are learning to express their needs and feelings, attend to group experiences, and enjoy shared reading. Learning of Auslan signs is introduced throughout our day, especially with songs such as Morning Hello, Acknowledgement of Country and Happy Birthday. Repetition helps everyone join in confidently.

### Did you know, we have MCHS onsite in the rooms next door?

If your child hasn't had their 3½-year-old check-up yet, please book it soon. It's an important time in your child's development and the nurses are there to answer questions or concerns you may have.

## TERM 2 begins on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

We're so proud of how the Bilbies are settling in, exploring, and learning. Term 1 has been full of curiosity, fun, and growing confidence, and we can't wait to see what Term 2 brings!

**BEC, NARELLE, ROBYN AND CATHERINE**  
**-THE BILBY TEAM**



# 4 YEAR OLD WALLABY GROUP

**Welcome to Farm Road Pre-School for 2026!**

It has been a wonderful start to the year as we welcomed both new and returning families into our kindergarten community. The children have settled in beautifully, forming connections with educators and peers, and developing confidence within the learning environment.



A strong focus this term has been supporting children to develop a sense of belonging as they settle into their new groups and routines. Through shared experiences and daily interactions, we have seen friendships begin to form and children grow in confidence when participating in group discussions, imaginative play and outdoor exploration.

In the 4-year-old Wallaby Group, the children all had the opportunity to present All About Me bags to the group, supporting children to share their interests, favourite toys, family photos and experiences they enjoy. This supported children to build confidence, communication skills and a strong sense of identity

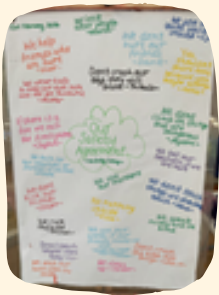


Educators have also been supporting children to develop independence in self-care routines, including toileting, managing lunchboxes and applying sunscreen. This is an ongoing focus as we work in partnership with families to build skills that support a smooth transition to school next year.

Children have been developing their understanding of emotions, friendships and respectful interactions. Through group discussions and play-based learning, they are learning to recognise and name feelings, practise calming strategies and show awareness of others. Our Harold's Big Feelings visit through Life Education further supported children's understanding of emotional wellbeing in an engaging and meaningful way.



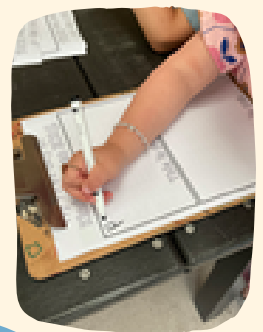
The Wallaby group also participated in the Responsible Pet Ownership dog safety program, learning important strategies to keep themselves safe, particularly in preparation for Bush Kinder.



Creating a safe and inclusive environment remains a priority. Following our Term 1 evacuation drill, the Wallaby Group worked together to develop a Safety Agreement, incorporating children's ideas about how to keep themselves and others safe at kindergarten. Including children's voices in decision-making supports their sense of agency and contributes to a strong child-safe culture.



Children have been engaging in a range of early literacy experiences, including drawing, name writing and practising scissor skills to strengthen fine motor development. We continue to embed Auslan into our daily program and practice with signs added to experiences set up in the room and children learning signs for letters, colours, emotions, family members, animals and objects.



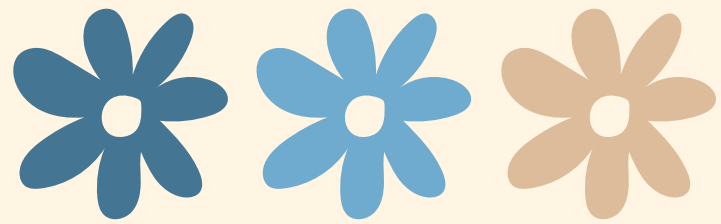
We have been introducing Bunurong words through our daily Acknowledgement of Country, where we promise to take care of the land (biik). Children share their ideas about what we will care for each day, such as bees, snails, birds, trees and butterflies (balam balams), and we support this learning by incorporating Auslan signs. Bunurong language has also been embedded in learning experiences, including when children created their placemats and chose between Murnalong (bee) and Dan dan (rainbow lorikeet). These experiences support children's connection to Country and foster respect for Aboriginal culture.

# All About Nature & Bush Kinder



Children have shown a strong interest in the natural world, engaging in learning about Australian animals, habitats and insects. The introduction of our Spiny Leaf Insects that hatched from eggs we collected last year has sparked curiosity as we watch them grow.

Bush Kinder commenced on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, with children enthusiastically exploring the environment, searching for bugs, climbing, running and engaging in safe risk-taking. These experiences support physical development, resilience and a connection with nature.



# HARMONY WEEK



Throughout the term, children have participated in a variety of creative experiences, including cooking (making pizza together following child interest) and art-based activities. Harmony Week provided a meaningful opportunity to explore diversity and inclusion. Children contributed to discussions and collaborative work with the message, "We are one, but we are many, and from all the lands on earth we come." Some children also participated by wearing orange - the colour for Harmony Day.



We value our strong sense of community and family involvement. Thank you to our committee of management and all families who contributed to our Working Bee, Stay & Play sessions and garden care over the summer holidays. A special thank you to Chris (Antonio's Dad) for completing the yarning circle and to Cooper's Dad for offering to install new outdoor seating. Your support makes a meaningful difference to our program.

It was lovely to welcome back 15 children from last year's Wallaby Group for a visit in February. They were happy to be reunited and it was a great to see them in their school uniforms and to find out how they were going with their transition to school.

Our Aftercare Program continues to be supported by our dedicated educators, providing a calm and engaging end to the day. Activities have included group games, yoga, beading, pillow making and opportunities to assist with cutting fruit.

We are pleased to have Kate and Tanya back as additional educators supporting inclusion within the Wallaby Group.

As we move into Term 2, we will continue to extend on children's interests, nature-based learning, early literacy and social development. We look forward to strengthening independence skills and continuing to foster a strong sense of belonging for all children.

It has been a positive and successful start to 2026. We look forward to another exciting term ahead. Please feel free to speak with our team at any time - your input and involvement are always valued.

We hope you all had a safe and happy holiday! Thank you for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,

**DEBBIE, CHERIE, NARELLE, ROBYN, KATE,  
TANYA & AMY**

**-THE WALLABY TEAM**





## School Readiness

You may hear the term “school readiness” as the year progresses. At kindergarten, we focus on building the skills that truly support a successful transition to school.

Guidance from the Victorian Department of Education highlights that school readiness is not about early reading or writing, but about developing important life skills such as:

- Independence (managing belongings, opening lunchboxes)
- Social skills (taking turns, building friendships)
- Emotional regulation (coping with challenges and expressing feelings)
- Communication (asking for help and sharing ideas)

These skills are embedded in our daily program and supported through play-based learning.



## Child Safety

Farm Road Pre-School is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all children. We continue to meet the Child Safe Standards and updated requirements to ensure every child feels safe, respected, and heard.

All educators and volunteers are required to have a Working with Children Check, complete mandatory child safety training and follow our clear policies and procedures to support child wellbeing and protection. This helps ensure that everyone working with children understands their responsibilities and how to respond to any concerns.

We actively support children to have a voice, build their understanding of safe and unsafe situations and know who they can talk to if they need help.

If you ever have questions, concerns, or feedback, please feel comfortable speaking with our teaching team at any time.

# Fundraising at Farm Road Pre-School



As our Farm Road community is non-for profit, we rely heavily on fundraising activities to continue to not only offer our children a variety of experiences but also support the maintenance of our beautiful gardens and outdoor equipment. There are a few small ways that you can contribute and support our wonderful Farm Road community this term.

## Victorian Fundraising Scheme

Farm Road is a donation partner for the Victorian Container Scheme. In case you aren't aware, the Victorian Container Scheme has been setup by the state government to allow individuals, families and eligible organisations to receive 10c for every container, beer bottle, can donated. Not only does this open another channel for Farm Road to raise funds, but we also get the opportunity to teach our children about sustainable practices, giving back and recycling.

### So how do I donate?

- Step 1 - Collect Eligible Drink Containers
- Step 2 - Locate your closest Refund Point
- Step 3 - Donate your refund to Farm Road Preschool

When donating, Farm Road PS is on the list of eligible partners. There is also a VCS recycling bin located at the preschool. This bin gets emptied every week with everything donated to Farm Rd. We'd love your support in donating all your used bottles and cans.

## Lookout for other fundraising activities coming out soon

Grill'd  
Community Jar

Obstacle-  
a-thon

Bunnings  
Sausage Sizzle

Farm Road  
Disco

## School Uniform

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

- Make mornings easy with kinder clothes
- Free returns and exchanges
- Same business day shipping when you order before 2pm

Head to the website for ordering and more information:  
<https://eduthreads.com.au/collections/farm-road-pre-school>  
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 labelled - 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

