Community in focus: Moriac.

Surf Coast Kids Go Bush!

HIPPY Surf Coast has been running Surf Coast Kids Go Bush each school term – even in Winter Weather!

Bush Playgroup is a FREE service for families already participating in HIPPY – encouraging play in a natural environment; developing gross motor skills, imagination, improving mood, reducing stress, building connections and having fun!

Winter Weather has not kept families from coming – So far we have decorated trees, built bush cubbies, had water play, created muddy tracks for bike riding, jumped in puddles and any other activities children come up with.

Bush Group is open to all families – not just HIPPY families – so feel free to bring along a friend or family member and explore nature play together in a supportive learning environment!

Our group runs at Newling Reserve, Moriac every second Tuesday (Term 3 commencing 12 July) 10:30am-12:00.

For more information, please contact Melynda.rogers@bcyf.org.au Ph: 0419 580 715

For more information on HIPPY please contact Hayley Davis: Hayley.davis@bcyf.org.au Ph: 0407 913 151

Moriac Pre School

Moriac Pre School Centre is nestled in quiet court location backed by beautiful parklands and surrounded in a rural setting.

As part of our program, we encourage our children to explore their environment in many different ways. Our outdoor area is a great place to start, with an extensive sand pit where many children can play together and build, dig, create and use their imagination with many different items to play with. Thanks to a recent grant from the Surf Coast Shire, we were able to retire a lot of our old worn out sand toys and purchase new toys for the children to enjoy.

Due to the amazing fundraising efforts of past and present families, we recently had an outdoor pergola added to our kinder which enhances our program, allowing
children more play space and an area to conduct additional activities in the inclement weather.

To welcome in the winter, our preschool children had a camp fire where they made and cooked damper. It was a great experience for the children as they learnt about building a fire, how to prepare a safe fire area and the all-important safety around a fire.

In the coming weeks, we are planning on utilising the open parklands behind our preschool to give the children an opportunity to explore the rural surrounds. We will be able to use the newly purchased wet weather gear and encourage the children to bring their gumboots.

Moriac Primary School

Moriac Primary School is a rural school in the township of Moriac. There are 203 students enrolled, of which half live in the township and half live in the surrounding districts, using one of two bus services to travel to and from school.

In 2016/2017, Moriac will be receiving a new school with a $3.15 million Capital Works project, thanks to the State Government. This is a very exciting time for the whole school community.

The highly engaged students work closely with their teachers and use technology to track their school achievements and set future learning. Parent surveys form an important role in the school’s decision-making with topics such as Student Academic Reports and Collaborative teaching practices both benefitting from parent input. Students also have an important voice in the school and the School Captains meet regularly with the Principal to have their say in school decisions. Students are also regularly surveyed for their ideas and the school’s leadership program ensures that it isn’t just the School and House Captains making all of the decisions.

Moriac doesn’t have lists of “Don’t do this.”, “Don’t do that.” Instead, everyone is united within the three simple behaviours of the ‘Relationships Triangle - Be Kind, Be Safe, and Learn Well. This links in with the school’s Trademark values of being Exceptional, Responsible and Respectful.

A fantastic program operating in the school is iMPACt (Moriac Performing Arts Certificate). This seven year program for Performing Arts immerses all students, Prep to Year Six, in all aspects of the performing arts including areas such as dance, acting, prop-making, lighting, singing, script-writing, directing and even advertising…to name a few. Students finishing Year Six are awarded their iMPACt Certificates at Graduation.

On Thursday 28 July, our Preps celebrated their first 100 days of school. The whole school celebrated this and cheered as they ran through the banner to mark this milestone, as the photos show.

Moriac is a great community school.

Maternal and Child Health at Moriac

The Maternal and Child Health Nurse is at the Moriac centre on alternate Thursdays. The nurse sees clients by appointment and can be contacted on 0417499227. Alternatively you can call 52610549 to make and appointment.

The nurse is available for all routine Key Age and Stage visits and is also happy to see clients where there may be a particular concern around a variety of issues, such as: growth, development, nutrition and parenting matters. She is also able to offer ongoing support to mothers where there may be issues with adjustment to parenting.
Family Day Care Review - Outcomes

In March 2016 we made you aware of a review that Council had commenced regarding the Family Day Care (FDC) service. This review has now been completed and we wanted to let you know the outcome.

Council officers completed a number of activities as part of this review, including

- Community consultation, which invited input from families and the broader community.
- Discussion and consultation with our staff and our educators.
- Discussion with some private providers of FDC services.
- Discussion with other Councils who are providing, or had provided, an FDC service.
- Investigation into the current operations of the FDC program.

Following this work, Council assessed a range of options before recommending a preferred option to Councillors for adoption.

- The preferred option included consideration of a range of factors including the views of the service users put forward through the consultation process. Some of the key messages we heard during the community consultation were:
  - The service provided by the educators is fantastic, personal and in some instances is a long standing relationship.
  - The service provided by Council’s coordination unit is excellent.
  - Council being involved provides service users with trust in the service being provided.
  - The service provides a great alternative to long day care – flexibility, small group sizes, personal attention being the key reasons why.
  - A lot of feedback suggested that people would be willing to pay more for the service if it meant retaining it at its current level.
  - A general theme of ‘leave it as is it’.

The recommended option, adopted by Council at its meeting on 28 June, was for Council to continue to provide the service at a net cost to Council.

Maternal and Child Health Line

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Line is a 24 hour, 7 day a week state wide telephone service available to Victorian families with children from birth to school age. The service functions as an adjunct of the universal Maternal and Child Health Service and is fully funded by the Victorian Government.

The service is staffed by qualified maternal and child health nurses who provide information, support and guidance regarding child health, nutrition, breast feeding, maternal and family health and parenting.

Contact number 13 22 29

The service is able to connect Culturally and Linguistically Diverse families to female interpreters from the Translating Interpreter Service.

It is also available to hearing or speech impaired callers who have access to the National Relay Service (NRS).

Early Years and Youth Register

Would you like to receive regular email updates on Early Years and Youth Services & events in the Surf Coast?

If so, please register on www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/My_Community/Aged_Family_Services/Children_Services/Early_Years_and_Youth_Register

Early Years & Youth Policies review

As part of the Surf Coast Shire continuous improvement plans the Early Years & Youth policies are reviewed on a monthly cycle which families can participate and make comment. To view and participate in the policy review process please visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au and head to the Children Services page.

Surf Coast Shire Kindergarten Cluster

Surf Coast Shire kindergarten cluster welcome Anglesea Kindergarten into the cluster.

As of the 1st of July Anglesea Kindergarten became part of Surf Coast Shire kindergarten cluster. Thanks to the parent committees past and present for their time, energy and enthusiasm in overseeing the governance of the kindergarten and supporting the kindergarten to thrive.

The new integrated hub looks fantastic, including Maternal and Child Health and playgroup.

Thanks also to the staff who have dedicated their time and passion to making the kindergarten a wonderful learning space and for their collaborative work to ensure a smooth transition to Council processes.
Maternal & Child Health Services
(The following has been taken from http://raisingchildren.net.au)

The Maternal and Child Health service often recommend the Australian Parenting Website raisingchildren.net as the evidenced based resource for parents using the maternal and Child Health Service. There are many resources available and this can often confuse parents when making decision and choices about aspects of their child’s progress and development.

Raising Children Network is the complete resource for Australian parents, taking you from pregnancy to newborns to teenagers. It offers evidence-based content you can trust on hundreds of topics about raising children and looking after yourself as a parent.

The Raising Children Network website is based on the philosophy that all children and families are individual and different. They provide scientifically validated information, translated into everyday language, to help parents and carers make decisions that work for them in their individual family circumstances.

Why play is important

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

Playing is one of the most important things you can do with your child. Play is more than just fun for babies and children. It’s how they learn, and how they work out who they are, how the world works and where they fit into it.

Play also helps your child build confidence, feel loved, happy and safe, develop social skills, language and communication, learn about caring for others and the environment.

It helps them to develop physical skills and connect and refine pathways in their brain.

Your child will love playing with you, but sometimes they might prefer to play by themselves and won’t need so much hands-on play from you. They might just want you to give them ideas and let them know how their play and games are going.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF PLAY

Unstructured, free play is the best type of play for young children.

This is play that just happens, depending on what takes your child’s interest at the time. Free play isn’t planned and lets your child use their imagination and move at their own pace.

Examples of unstructured play might be:

Creative play alone or with others, including artistic or musical games

Imaginative games – for example, making cubby houses with boxes or blankets, dressing up, playing make-believe, exploring new or favourite play spaces such as cupboards, backyards, parks, playgrounds.

You can be part of your child’s unstructured play – or not. Sometimes all you’ll need to do is point them in the right direction – towards the jumble of dress-ups and toys on his floor, or to the table with crayons and paper. Sometimes you might need to be a bit more active. For example, ‘How about we play dress-ups? What do you want to be today?’

Structured play is different. It’s more organised and happens at a fixed time or in a set space, and is often led by a grown-up.

Examples of structured play include:

• Water familiarisation classes for toddlers, or swimming lessons for older children –
• Storytelling groups for toddlers and pre-schoolers at the local library, dance, music or drama classes for children of all age’s and family board or card games.
• Structured and unstructured play can happen indoors or outdoors.
• Outdoor play gives your child the chance to explore, be active, test physical limits – and get messy!

Youth Team

The Youth Development Team recently surveyed 650 young people to ascertain key concerns and issues. 150 adults were also surveyed to gauge their understanding of young people’s issues and needs. The findings are intended to help people better understand Surf Coast’s young people and will inform changes to current Council approaches regarding youth engagement and programs. There have been a number of surprising results which will be presented to Council soon, with community presentations to follow.

If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please contact us on bedwards@surfcoast.vic.gov.au or 5261 0806

Geelong Region Library
Term 3 information

Story Time with Geelong Regional Library at Anglesea
19 August and 9 September.

Sessions are held with Christine Vandor of GRLC at the Anglesea Kindergarten, Urquharts Room at 10:30am, and run for 30 minutes. (gold coin donation)

We are also hosting Mini Maestros on Thursday 1st and 15th September at 9:30am in the same room.

(please see attached flyer)
HIPPY is a 2 year early childhood home enrichment program that helps parents prepare their child for a successful start to school.

- HIPPY gives parents an opportunity to be involved in fun activities for about ten minutes per day with their child at home and promote a love of learning.
- HIPPY helps builds relationships between parents and children by providing one on one time with an individual child.
- HIPPY mentors deliver weekly packets of activities to the family home and provide support to parents on how to deliver the materials to their child. Children are provided with story books, pencils, scissors and shapes.
- Optional fortnightly group sessions also provide activities for the children and support with parenting issues.
- HIPPY Winchelsea covers the Surf Coast Shire at NO COST to participating families.

HIPPY Winchelsea is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations through the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters.

Contact the HIPPY Winchelsea Coordinator, at Glastonbury Community Services for more information call 5267 3169.

Gosney St, Winchelsea
Mini MAESTROS are coming to Anglesea

9:30am Thursday 1 and 15 September 2016
Anglesea Kindergarten, Urquhart Room, McMillan Street, Anglesea
$3 per child

Book Now Places Limited: 0410 640 472
The Surf Coast Junk Trunk is looking for community support.

The Junk trunk was established in partnership with local Kindergartens to engage the community to create a more sustainable Surf Coast. Items that are donated will be reused and assist us in educating children to be more sustainable. Children create their little masterpiece's from recycled materials such as:

- bottle tops
- wood off cuts
- plants
- paper
- cardboard
- plastic containers
- and corks. Just about anything can be upcycled to make games, gifts and artwork.

Can you help us....?
Kinder Gym

18 Months - 5 Years

Term 3 commences Monday July 11th and Friday July 15th, 2016

- Mondays 18m-3years 10.30am-11.15am
- Mondays 3-5years 11.30am-12.15pm
- Fridays 18m-3years 10.30am-11.15pm
- Fridays 3-5years 11.30am-12.15pm

- Surf Coast Sport & Recreation Centre

- Improve your child’s confidence, coordination and social skills through an equipment based movement program for 18 months to 5 years old.
- Children will learn how to do tumbling, balancing, ball-games, follow instructions and a variety of other fun activities all coordinated by our qualified and very experienced instructors.
- Each session will be limited to 25 participants
- Parents are encouraged to book for the whole term—Please return your enrolment form to secure a place
- Cost: Monday or Friday class $123 for 10 visits, or $13.90 per class (casually)
- SPECIAL OFFER - First class complimentary for new students