



Caring for Country

August 2023

Parent Advisory Group (PAG)
Inverloch and District Preschool

Photostory Laura Brearley



We honour the beautiful Boonwurrung/Bunurong Country, and we thank the Ancestors who have cared for this Country for tens of thousands of years.

We recognise the wisdom of First Nation Peoples here and across the world who have taught us the importance of caring for Country.

Aunty Sonia Weston welcomed us to her Country with a Smoking Ceremony.



It was so windy, she said that we had already been smoked even before we walked through it.

We went through it anyway, just be sure.









Children's Acknowledgement To Country

At Inverloch and District Preschool

We say thank you to
the Boonwurrung/Bunurong people
of the Kulin Nations
for letting us share your land and your waters.

We promise to look after them
The animals, the plants, and the people too.

Hello land (touch the ground)
Hello sky (hands up to the sky)
Hello me (self hug)
Hello friends (open arms).



What does caring for Country look like?

On Friday during kindergarten, the educators asked:

"How can we take care of Country? What does it look like?"

This is what Fiona read out ...

Ava: "Save the world."

Sascha: "If you hurt someone you say sorry."

Marley: "Water the plants."



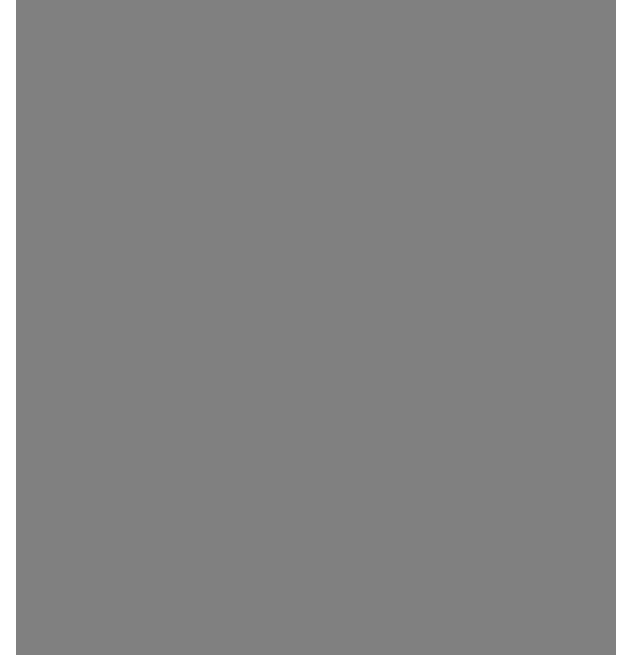


Zephyr: "Don't leave rubbish on the road,
it will go down the drain and into the ocean."

Zoe: "Be kind. Be careful."

Evie: "We don't give birds rubbish."

Madeline: "Don't hurt anyone."



John showed us how to put the grasses and trees into the holes that had been prepared.





John and Jess helped us pick out the grasses and trees that we would plant.

There was enough for everybody.







Sometimes you could see the roots of the plants coming out of the bottom of the pots.

We took the grasses and trees out of their little pots.

Sometimes we had to squeeze the pots quite hard before they would come out.

We had to be very careful not to hurt the plants when we did that.



We put the plants into the holes, making sure the roots were nice and deep.

We then patted the soil firmly all around them.





Sometimes we worked on
the planting together ...







And sometimes ...
we did it all by ourselves.







It was a good feeling
seeing the plants in the soil,
knowing they would grow
big and strong.



All of the plants were given a drink of water after the planting was done.





Some of the plants even had a bit of extra soil added to them.

The soil was in a wheelbarrow and was a deep brown colour.



There was music and dancing
after the planting.
Everyone looked happy.







Aunty Sonia says ...

When we care for Country
Country will care for us.



Big Thanks to ...

Parent Advisory Group (PAG) Inverloch and District Preschool

Educators of Inverloch and District Preschool

Aunty Sonia Weston

Jessica Brent

Sally McNiece

John Cuttriss

Ed Thexton

Shaun Hayes

Chris Rankin

Bryce Cuttriss

Joel Evans

Tash Bird

Dan Martyn

The South Gippsland Conservation Society

The Inverloch Recreation Reserve

The children and families of Inverloch who
have shown us how to care for Country

