



Centre name: Balgownie Montessori and Preschool

Project name: Native Bee Hive Project

Why: We want to provide solutions locally to decrease the amount of carbon in the atmosphere and increase the habitat for native animals. We believe in encouraging the children to learn about environmental and conservation issues; emphasis is placed on the use of natural and recycled materials, wise water usage, power saving, recycling, caring for animals, vegetable gardening, waste minimization, and positive regard and sense of responsibility for all living things.

How: Installing a native beehive will increase the local bee population and in turn improve local plant life numbers and reduce carbon dioxide in the environment.

Together we could observe and discuss first hand how nature does its own recycling of waste add to the current environmental recycling and waste reduction activities already underway in the school.

Further education of plastic reduction can only benefit children in the future and our environment now.

Outcome:

We have added more natural native plants our environment. The children have been involved in designing the garden including flower choices and discussing needs of the bees.

- The creation of a new garden bed and plants is complete.
- Installed our bee hive and they are foraging in their new environment.
- Children awareness has increased dramatically
- Our vegetable patch has been installed and discussions have started on healthy eating
- We have purchased information books and the lifecycle of native stingless bees and exotic bees. The educators and children are now learning about the importance bees and their role in the interconnectedness of the environment
- Networked and visited the local bee community through our connections with the Lions Club of Thirroul
- A parent has advised the educators and spoke to the children about bees.



DALGOVINE PUBLIC PRESCHOOL AND MONTESSORI

14 OCTOBER 2018

Welcoming our BEE HIVE



Learning about bees

For a couple of weeks we learned about bees, looked at flowers in our garden and discovered our preschool garden through the BEE-lenses.

Each time we started to talk about bees, the children shared what they know about them, like: 'Bees carry the honey on the their legs!' or ' They like to go to flowers!' Well, together we had to look at some of the ideas, discuss them and find out what is true and what isn't. But all in all they learned and know a lot about our little friend the bee.

STEPS leading to our BEE HIVE

1
LEARNING
Getting to know the new friend

2
INVITING
Playing, planing and preparing

3
WELCOMING
Planting seedlings, plants and making a BEE - garden



BEE a BEE

A little art project: Making our own bee-headband. Moving and dancing like bees.



BEES come and SEE our VEGETABLE GARDEN

The children picked their favourite vegetables ...



PLANTING SEEDLINGS

After we prepared the garden bed we planted our favourite vegetable seedlings





PROGRESS of our BEE - GARDEN project

Coming together - working like bees



The children discovered bees, learned about their behaviours and got a sense for the necessity of bees. Together they discovered bees, learned about their function in nature.

For a couple of month the children and families got familiar with our new project. We talked about the beehive and informed their families about the exciting news: Welcoming the bees!



What do we need to welcome bees?

PROJECTS – PLANING & PREPARING THE GARDEN

It was for sure a big job, and some parts of this project have been 'hard work' (that's what some of the children called it).

We have been busy bees the last couple of month:

Together we dug up the garden and prepared a new vegetable bed. The children chose flowers, plants and vegetable seedlings and planted them.

