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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter.

We are excited to introduce to you our new trading name, **Saltbush Balnarring Beach**. Read more about the transition to our new name on page 2.

After reopening late last year, it has been wonderful to welcome guests back at Balnarring Beach to rest, play and connect once again. It's been a very busy summer, with 3 weeks of **School Holiday Programs** (page 4) and our first ever **Multicultural Encounters Festival** with Wellsprings for Women (page 6).

As always, the wonderful support of our volunteers, donors, board, staff and the wider community enables us to welcome 1500 people to Balnarring Beach every year. We look forward to sharing with you what's happening in 2022.

Warm regards,
Rachel Connor,
manager@pfc.org.au

If you would like to support the work of the Presentation Family Centre by donating or volunteering, please get in touch:

E: manager@pfc.org.au
P: 5983 1819

Introducing our new trading name



Saltbush, Balnarring Beach

In 2022, Presentation Family Centre will transition to using the trading name **Saltbush, Balnarring Beach**.

Saltbush, Balnarring Beach was chosen because it evokes proximity to beach and bush and reflects the importance of the local Mornington Peninsula environment where Saltbush is abundant. A hardy and resilient plant species that has important regenerative qualities, Saltbush thrives in a variety of conditions.

Guests frequently refer to the natural, local environment when describing their experiences here, using words such as “peaceful, safe, rest, nature, bush, quiet, beach”. **Saltbush, Balnarring Beach** captures the feeling of a natural place, embedded in its environment, and open to welcoming guests for a range of experiences including independent holidays, school holiday programs, and retreats.

Our service is evolving, but the purpose of **Saltbush, Balnarring Beach** continues to be to enrich the lives of people experiencing hardship by providing a place for rest, play, growth, and connection.

The new name has been chosen with the support Kildare Ministries and the Presentation Sisters, who established the centre in 1989 and whose vision remains at the heart of **Saltbush, Balnarring Beach**.

The transition to the new name will occur gradually. We will remain contactable through the Presentation Family Centre website and the info@pfc.org.au email in 2022. Updates on the transition to **Saltbush, Balnarring Beach** will be posted on our website.

Saltbush Balnarring Beach: Master Plan

After extensive consultation, PFC has finalised the Masterplan. The vision reflected in the Plan includes peaceful spaces for rest and reflection, outdoor gathering spaces, areas for multi-generational play in an environment of natural materials and abundant vegetation. The goal is a welcoming, inclusive place that feels connected to the natural environment of the Mornington Peninsula and reflects the unique location proximate to beach and bush.

The Masterplan provides a framework that facilitates thoughtful short-term decisions about replacing, repairing, and upgrading building and spaces, ensuring decisions are not made in isolation, but in consideration of the whole.

The Masterplan also supports long term planning for change, enabling a shared vision of the site to be communicated to donors and grant making bodies, and time to raise funds for significant change.

As we grow and develop our service to support more people through the provision of evidence-based programs and experiences, the development of quality facilitates that make the best use of our space is crucial to achieving our vision of enriching the lives of people experiencing hardship.

We are delighted with this shared vision of the site that has emerged through the thoughtful contribution of many, and hope that you are too.

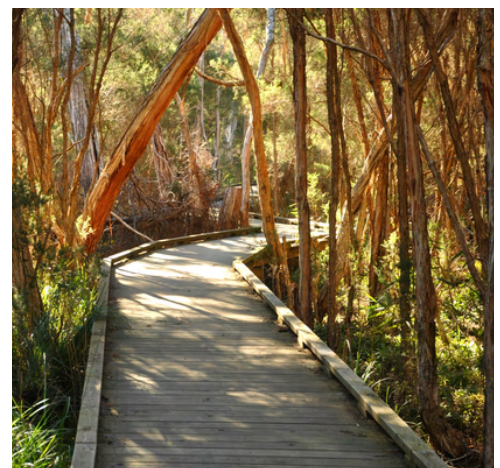
Masterplans are a guide and remain open to change and your feedback is welcome. We will be sharing the specifics of this Masterplan via our website soon.



Show Booth (Erika Hock)



Natural playscapes



Timber boardwalk

Summer School Holidays: Youth Adventure Program

It was a very happy, busy summer of programs here at Balnarring Beach. We began with two, back-to-back weeks of our new Youth Adventure Program, followed by a week of summer holiday program.

We welcomed groups of families and guests to each of the programs with an inviting group welcome meal, which was set up outside the Nanospace recreation centre, facing the Wilderness space. Each week, we dined on a feast fit for a king, with much appreciated help from volunteer Shane Smith, and our resident gourmet cook, Margie Maher.

Our new Youth Adventure Programs were a blast, with many children and teenagers participating alongside their parents and carers in the programs.

Surfing was a hit, and was held at Point Leo, with the support of the amazing Prue and her crew from East Coast Surf school. Guests also enjoyed taking part in tree surfing, adventure activities and mazes at Enchanted Adventure in Arthurs Seat. Then for some quality low-key fun with guests, we enjoyed picnicking and playing games in the new picnic/day area in the Wilderness, amongst the birds and fresh air.

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Images: Top: Picnic Day;
middle & bottom: Surf
Adventure Day

Summer School Holidays: Summer Holiday Program

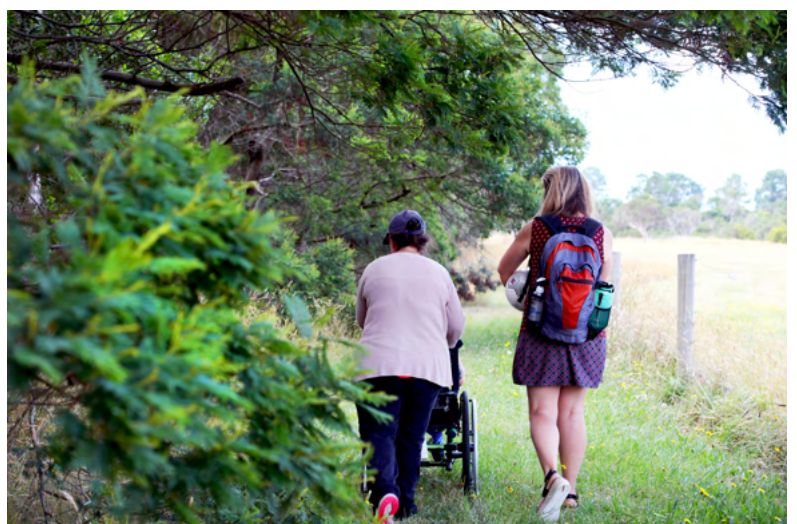
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We wrapped up with a week of summer holiday program. We once again enjoyed our welcome meal, a picnic, and a play in the wilderness. We took time to make the most of a glorious beach day at Balnarring Beach where we played with our new shovels, spades and sand-drills and collected natural objects from the waters' edge. We had a blast in the bush making bath salts and gorgeous soaps (thanks to the divine soap donations from Polly's Farm), and weaving natural/found objects into art.

Our amazing volunteer photographer Tasma captured some of the highlights of the program and came along on many of the days.

Thank you to Tasma, Shane, and Margie for volunteering your time, expertise, and energy for the summer!

We (Cassie and Jade) had as much fun as the participants and cannot wait until the next program!



School Holiday Program:



Here's what participants enjoyed most about the School Holiday Program:

What I enjoyed most about the program was the surfing. It was my first time ever and super fun! It was a bit tough getting the suit on, but it was fine when I was in the water. I finally learnt how to surf and other positions I can do on a surfboard! (Teen participant, Summer 2022)

Discovering beautiful places near Balnarring such as Point Leo

Spending time with my daughter, enjoying all her activities, welcome dinner on first day, meeting another families, beautiful place to stay

The welcome, the respite my children clearly received as well as my own. I even got to do some Crocheting! The booked events; surfing lessons and tree-surfing.

Why the School Holiday Program was valuable to the families participating:

The children and I have experienced issues with finding a home or affordability of necessary items like new shoes. This on top of Covid isolations made a holiday the last thing we thought we might be able to achieve, let alone the capacity to participate in activities that we, as a large family, cannot do. This program has reestablished hope, rest and ample respite in more ways than one.

To spend time together as a family and providing activities for the kids that me might not otherwise be able to provide for them.

I did not have so many opportunities to take my daughter for holidays because of my health issues or I couldn't afford longer holidays. I was very happy that my daughter was participating in the holiday program. She was glad to step up for an adventure opportunity, challenge, and experience. Surfing was her favourite. I am very appreciate [sic] for the opportunity for the holidays. I could bond with my daughter and make beautiful memories for her.

Break away from normal routine. Time to feel not alone as well.

Multicultural Encounters Festival



In January, PFC hosted its first ever **Multicultural Encounters Festival**, in partnership with **Wellsprings for Women** in Dandenong. The festival was an opportunity to create connections between culturally diverse groups, and celebrate Victoria's multicultural character through food, and visual and performing arts. The festival was a great success, with an attendance of 200 people, including families coming from Wellsprings for Women, and the **Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project**.

Wellsprings for Women, also governed by Kildare Ministries, is a not-for-profit group that provides support for women through programs and services focused on education, health & wellbeing, and employment. They brought out an excellent team to cook a multicultural feast of qabuli palau (rice) with kurma banya (okra) and borani banjan (eggplant), chwabi (minced meat kebabs), samosas and a selection of sweet treats. We also had delicious Middle Eastern food from **Gourmet Hummus** food truck, and a sausage sizzle run by the **Balnarring Scouts**.

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Images by Tasma Pittock

Top left: Administrator Mel Power with volunteers Tasma Pittock and Shane Smith

Top right: Rachel Connor, PFC manager, and Dalal Smiley, CEO, Wellsprings for Women, with Jungle City Projects dance group

Bottom: Gourmet Hummus food truck



Multicultural Encounters Festival

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We also enjoyed workshops for Zumba, Bollywood dancing and African dance, as well as henna tattooing and other kids activities, and we thank all our artists and performers for their time and talent.

We would like to thank our sponsors, **Balnarring & District Community Bank, Victorian Multicultural Commission, Rotary Club of Rosebud & Rye**, and the **Mornington Peninsula Shire** for their support. We would also like to thank the Red Hill Show, Red Hill Lions Club, and our valued volunteers for their incredible hard work to make the festival a success.

Thank you to all who attended our first ever Multicultural Encounters Festival, we hope you had a wonderful day of food and fun!

Cassie Mills
Administration &
Program Support
info@pfc.org.au



Images by Tasma Pittock

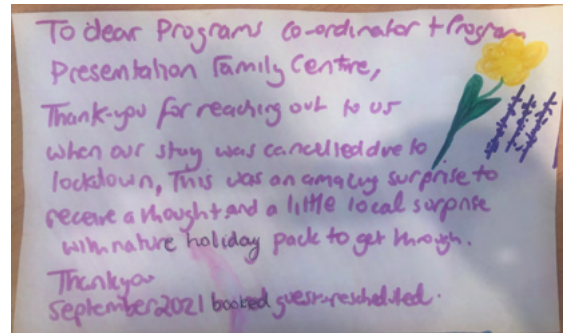
Top: Henna tattooing
Bottom: Rachel Connor, PFC
manager; Vivian Nguyen AM,
Chairperson, Victorian
Multicultural Commission;
and Dalal Smiley, CEO, Wellsprings for
Women.

An update from PFC

What's been happening at PFC, with the help of our generous donors and supporters...

GIFT PACKS

Over the holiday season, PFC sent out holiday packs and gifts to our guests, with many thanks to Flinders Probus and Safety Beach Sailing Club for supplying the gifts.



SOLAR PANELS UPDATE

Our recently installed solar panels are already impacting the electricity bills for each house, and reducing our carbon footprint! Thank you to Middle Park Masonic Lodge, with the support from the Freemasons Foundation.

GIFT FUND DONATIONS

Thank you to Star of the Sea College for their generous donation to our Gift Fund, which will be used to sponsor families who are in need of a holiday that may otherwise not be able to access one.

If you are interested in sponsoring holidays, please see our website:

www.presentationfamilycentre.org.au/donate



INTRODUCING OUR NEW PROGRAM: NOURISH FOR CARERS RETREAT

The Nourish for Carers Retreat exists to recognise the invaluable role of carers, and for carers to enjoy a week of activities designed to enrich and relax. Two types of low-cost Nourish programs will be run across March, May, June and July. The retreats have a focus on nature and include activities such as massage, yoga, gentle bushwalking, floristry workshops and journal making.

Please get in touch via info@pfc.org.au to learn more about dates, costs and availability.

This program is possible because of the support of the Victorian Government.

Chairperson's Report

Dear Friends,

Much has been happening since our last newsletter. Most importantly, we are now operating at full capacity in a COVID safe way with our guests enjoying their stay with us over the Christmas period. We have run a very successful school holiday program incorporating the first Youth Adventure Program where we introduced programs specifically for teenagers and their families. The program included surfing lessons and tree surfing at the Enchanted Adventure Maze.

During January, we ran a **Multicultural Encounters Festival** in collaboration with Wellsprings for Women. This Festival involved about 200 people from diverse backgrounds, including families from the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project and many members of our local community. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful effort of everyone involved, including all staff, Rachel, Jade, Mel, Cassie and our newest employee, Chiara. Many thanks to all the volunteers from our local community and the local organisations that supported the event including **Balnarring Scouts, Red Hill Lions Club, Rotary Club of Rosebud & Rye, Balnarring & District Community Bank, Mornington Peninsula Shire**, and the **Victorian Multicultural Commission**.

I am pleased that we have recently established an **Accommodation Gift Fund** which will enable us to provide limited financial support to those families and individuals who would otherwise not be able to benefit from a stay at PFC.

You will have read that we are changing our trading name to **Saltbush, Balnarring Beach** with a new logo to emphasise our strong connection to the local environment at the beautiful Balnarring Beach. This has been a big decision for us and we have consulted widely. Central to our ongoing mission we will maintain the wonderful spirit of welcome, kindness, peace and safety shown to guests by the Presentation Sisters when they established the Presentation Family Centre over 30 years ago.

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Chairperson's Report

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We are also excited to share with you our Masterplan. This is an exciting development that provides a foundation for the future development of our site. We hope that over time we will be able to provide an even better experience for our guests who stay with us that will make it easier for them to connect with our beautiful natural environment and with each other.

I would like to thank our donors and volunteers whose support enables us to continue to make PFC a place of welcome and peace for our guests. I would like to thank Cate Sydes who has recently retired as a PFC Board Member and to welcome Shelley Isles and Jan Aitcheson who have recently joined the PFC Board.

I look forward to working with all of our supporters this year to build and strengthen PFC so that we will be able to provide a more enjoyable and enriching experience to more guests.

Phillip Steele



Wilderness picnic,
School Holiday Program Summer 2022