

MEDIA RELEASE

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'Kids in the Mallee' holiday fun at Yongergnow



Local kids who live in and around the mallee bushland got the chance to learn more about their environment and contribute to the promotion of their community last Tuesday 15 July at the Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre in Ongerup.

22 children from Ongerup and Borden took part in the holiday fun day organised by Marketing & Promotions Coordinator Ellen Milne as part of the events programme at Yongergnow which aims to raise the profile of the centre on a localised level within the shire of Gnowangerup.

Noongar Elder Bill Woods gave the kids a Welcome to Country and explained his connection to the Ongerup district. Ellie Campbell, Natural Resource Management Officer with the North Stirlings Pallinup District very generously volunteered her time to explore the treasures of the mallee bushland with the children who took great delight in filling their egg cartons with all sorts of tiny bush treasures!

Following the bush walk the kids met back at a campfire tended by Luke Mowaljarlai, an indigenous Kimberley man. Luke also had his didgeridoo which was made from Moort wood from the Ongerup area, and he played for the kids getting them to recognize some of the sounds of the bush. Campfire damper was enjoyed by all with the kids eating it warm from the coals and listening to the stories of Bill Woods.

The afternoon was all about painting! Because of the beautiful rain the gallery became the art studio and 22 children wielding paintbrushes could have been disastrous! It was a credit to the kids and their wonderful behaviour that not a drop of paint went where it wasn't supposed to.

Local artist Bronwyn Gaze and her two daughters Louise and Pia, also talented emerging artists, led the activities along with Mungart Boodja artist Pauline Farmer. The main focus was designing and painting onto fabric to create promotional flags which will be used to highlight the main road entrance to Yongergnow. The children also made a bandana and painted a small canvas to take home.

A highlight of the painting session was the posters created by the children to promote 'Good Neighbours Month @ Yongergnow'. 'Good Neighbours Month' will run over the month of August and will promote Yongergnow within the Gnowangerup, Jerramungup and Kent shires, encouraging those residents to visit the centre for a gold coin entry fee, enter a competition to win some fun prizes and take part in some social events being held. Look out for the posters created by the kids on the shop windows around town!

All in all it was a great day for the kids with the key messages of environmental awareness, Noongar cultural interaction and community pride and participation strongly present throughout the day. 'Kids in the Mallee' was made possible through the financial assistance of Country Arts WA and Mungart Boodja Gallery in Katanning.

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