

# "CHILDREN OF THE BUSH" INCURSION (documented by Thérèse) 10 March 2011

The Narrative: Today the Kindergarten had a "Children of the Bush " incursion with staff from La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary. Julie and Mark brought with them plants, seeds, bark, books, a real wombat (taxidermy) , leaf litter with living creatures, potting mix, pots, and grass for us to plant. They also brought with them a computer and huge screen, and presented to us lots of information about plants and animals.



## THE INTERACTION & CONVERSATION

Julie asked the children lots of questions about the different animals that live in the La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary.

She talked to the children about big (trees), medium (shrubs) and small (grasses) plants.

The children were shown different coloured flowers and everyone got to feel and smell plants including mint.



Julie talked to the children about the different parts of trees - leaves, branches, trunks and roots.

Then we all played "Simon Said" and a new version of "Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" naming the parts of trees rather than body parts.



We loved the feel of the wombat's fur!



We set up a table for the bark, leaves and twigs (some with seed pods) that Julie and Mark provided. We sorted through these and each child was able to make a piece of art using these materials.

We put our new artwork up on display on our red notice board - it looks and smells amazing!

The children demonstrated their knowledge of plants and animals. They identified many animals living in the Australian bush - snakes, wombats, kangaroos, and kookaburras - but not tigers and elephants as suggested by some!

One child said that plants need sun and water to grow. Another explained that "shoots" appear from seeds when they start to grow.

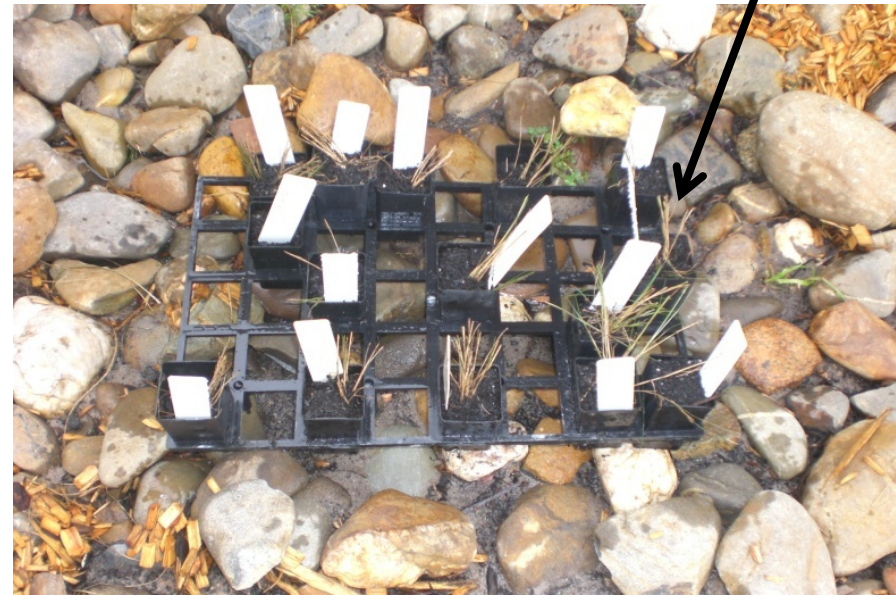


We went outside and sorted through leaf litter to find lots of living creatures. We put these in special containers which magnified them so that we could see them really well. When we had finished examining them we gave them back to Julie and Mark so that they could return them to their natural environment.



**Victorian Early Years Learning & Development Framework - outcomes included:** LEARNING - Children express wonder and interest in their environments. They are curious and enthusiastic participants in their learning.

We were given a little pot to fill with potting mix and we planted some native grass in our pots. We labelled each pot with our names and left them in the creek bed to grow.



REFLECTION/WHAT NEXT?

This incursion provided us with lots of learning opportunities through hands on experiences. We used all our senses to explore the materials Julie and Mark brought in to the Kindergarten. We will care for the plants we have potted and when they are bigger we will transfer them to a suitable spot in our yard. We would also enjoy learning more about native Australian plants and animals.