



# BARAMBAH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

Term 1 Newsletter 28/01/2019 - 5/04/2019

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## Editors Column

We have spent the first couple of weeks back at work doing all our Mandatory Training, First Aid/CPR refresher and Professional Development, as well as preparing for the start of our camps. From week 2 we are flat out for the rest of 2019. Our camp applications and confirmations, as usual were sent out last year in term 4 and 2019 is looking busy already, it is not too late if you still want to book, check out our web page [www.barambaheec.eq.edu.au](http://www.barambaheec.eq.edu.au) for availability.

Sadly, we farewelled Don Reid from staff, in doing so we have welcomed Rachael Kim to Barambah in his place. We also welcome our relieving cleaner Lane Clements back until term 3.

Our explicit improvement agenda focus for 2019 is deepening learning, assessment and data literacy and embedding inclusive education at Barambah. Our teaching team will explain the how and why of this through articles in our 2019 newsletters.

*Read on and enjoy 😊*

*Sandra*

## PRINCIPAL'S FOREWORD

In 2019, our centre will continue to pursue our moral purpose of "Connecting People and Place" so that when people leave Barambah they will feel their experience has made a positive impact in their life. Our vision for a sustainable future, achieved through delivery of engaging learning experiences and reflective practice, will continue to drive our operations here at the centre.

We have three priorities in our 2019 explicit improvement agenda:

- Deepening Learning and Assessment at Barambah EEC
- Deepening Data Literacy at Barambah EEC
- Embedding Inclusive Education at Barambah EEC.

Our work towards achieving these goals has involved trialling a variety of reflective journals with visiting students and collaboratively reviewing samples for evidence of deep reflection. We'll also be involving several external agencies to develop our data literacy skills. The ability of all students to access the curriculum at Barambah is one of our highest priorities so we will also be reviewing our programs to look for areas for improvement of our inclusive practices.

## Professional Development at Amaroo EEC

On the January Student Free Days the Barambah teaching staff spent two days at Amaroo EEC (near Toowoomba) collaborating with our colleagues from Amaroo and Columboola EEC's on topics of shared interest. Amaroo EEC staff were able to show off their new sustainable classroom, which features a "heat sink" wall and passive solar features and revisited the practice of "Earth Walks" in the nearby Ravensbourne National Park. Professional discussions include inclusive practices and strategic planning as well as visits to USQ's Mt Kent observatory and Gummingurru cultural site.



## SCHOOL CAMPS AND DAY VISITS

In Term 1 our Centre has delivered 10 camps, 1 day visit, 2 off site day visits, 6 pre-visit and 1 weekend visit for Professional Development.

## BOOKINGS FOR 2019/2020

We will continue to take bookings throughout 2019 depending on availability, applications can be downloaded from our website [www.barambaheec.eq.edu.au](http://www.barambaheec.eq.edu.au) or you can contact us on 41 688190 or email [admin@barambaheec.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@barambaheec.eq.edu.au) and ask us to send an application form to you. You can also place an expression of interest for camp bookings in 2020 at any time throughout the year, application packages will be sent out on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and are due on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

We offer great programs that align with the Australian Curriculum - Program Overviews, which outline Curriculum alignment, can also be found on our website [www.barambaheec.eq.edu.au](http://www.barambaheec.eq.edu.au) and our expert staff members deliver these programs to suit all age groups and abilities.

## NEW STAFF



### **Rachel Kim**

Rachel is a beginning teacher with 2 years teaching experience.

After completing my first year at Pittsworth SS and Wellcamp SS, I travelled to Germany to complete my Diploma of Outdoor Education. I was director at the summer camp in Germany and instructed canoeing, hiking, archery, camp outs and high ropes.

I learnt my love of the outdoors through growing up on a small country farm helping my Dad outside.

I enjoy playing volleyball, bush walking and kayaking around local rivers. I love to travel to different countries embracing cultures and new adventure, last year I travelled to over 10 countries in Europe.

I really enjoy teaching and learning at Barambah EEC. I am learning a lot since I have joined the team and I appreciate the opportunity to add to the amazing programs offered here.

## HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAM

### High Ropes

Participation in the High Ropes Challenge provides the opportunity for personal development and team building in a safe and supportive environment. Students operate in small groups with one person completing a high ropes element while the others form a belay team. All students will be instructed on the safe use of harnesses, helmets, belay ropes and climbing hardware as part of this program. The program is conducted at Gympie East State School by qualified Barambah EEC staff and is best suited to a full day visit by a single class group.



The course includes elements with varying degrees of difficulty so is suited to repeat visits. The high ropes program has clear links to the Australian Curriculum in particular **Personal and Social Capability** and **Health and Physical Education**

### NURSERY NEWS

After a long, hot and dry Christmas break the plants in the nursery were looking a little the worse for wear (except for the plants in the flood and drain which were looking very healthy and hydrated) and I am sure they were grateful for the extra watering they have been requiring.

Thankfully, Barambah received some much needed rain towards the end of March and the gardens and nursery plants are looking lush and green again.

Cyndi has been busy going from one extreme to another – watering to now having plenty of mowing to do.

Finger Limes (*Citrus australasica*) are now a popular plant available for purchase through our nursery as part of our bush tucker range (\$5 each).



### P & C NEWS

The Barambah P & C were once again busy catering for the Beginning Teachers Summit on the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February. This is our main fundraiser for the year and we are very grateful for having the opportunity to do this each year. Thank you to Peter & Sue Gibson, Rachel Kim and Sandra Gilchrist for giving up their spare time to run this fundraiser.

If you would like to become a member of the Barambah P & C please email Peter Gibson for a membership form [pgibs8@eq.edu.au](mailto:pgibs8@eq.edu.au) we meet 6 times a year via phone conference.

### ANIMAL WANDERINGS

**Bell Miner (Bell Bird) – *Manorina melanophrys***

Here at Barambah the beautiful and familiar call of the bell bird is a constant, perhaps not equally beautiful to other birds trying to share the habitat with them. An aggressive, domineering and territorial bird, when they move in they usually evict most of the smaller birds.

**Identification:** The smallest of the miners, it is a medium-large and solidly built honeyeater. Mostly olive-green in colour with a short, bright yellow down curved bill with a red-orange bare eye patch and orange-yellow feet and legs.

The sexes are similar to look at with the males slightly larger, young birds are duller and browner.

**Distribution:** The Bell Miner ranges from Gympie, Queensland, to Melbourne, Victoria, but is restricted to coastal and mountain regions.

**Feeding:** Insects are the main diet especially psyllids and their lerps from the foliage of eucalypts.

**Breeding:** They have a complex social structure, the colony can range from 8 – 200 birds, and they generally mate for life, raising their young with the help of 1 – 20 helpers.

**Predators:** Kookaburras, Eastern brown snakes and cuckoos to name a few.



In our next newsletter:-

- Feature Program – Environmental Leadership
- Nursery News
- Wildlife Wanderings



**Barambah Environmental Education Centre**

***“Connecting People and Place”***

**Our Vision:**

- To provide engaging learning experiences, utilising reflective practice - for a sustainable future.

**Our values:**

- Excellence in environmental education.
- An inclusive and collaborative approach based on productive partnerships.
- The empowerment of tomorrow's environmental decision makers.