



# FAIRY TREE NEWS SUMMER

DECEMBER 2014  
TERM 4, ISSUE 4

*As parents, one of the most precious gifts we can bring to our children is encouragement, the belief in what they will give to the future, in what they can become. (Sona-ma.com)*

Welcome to our final Fairy Tree News for this year.

The sun is shining, and you can feel with each day that the light is growing and we are moving ever closer to midsummer and Christmas. There are a lot of big family life transitions at this time, many of us preparing to move into a new school rhythm in the coming year and nearing the end of our journey at Yandell. It's hard to believe that we only have weeks before the end of this kinder year.

This is my last newsletter for Yandell and I would like to thank Olivia, Natalie and Maxine for their support, fantastic editing skills and contributions over the year. Also thanks to all the Yandell parents who have contributed in the 1000 ways one contributes, and of course I would like to thank Wallace the Unicorn and the fairy folk of Yandell Kindergarten for always watching over us and playing with the chickens and guinea pigs in our absence.

I have loved co-creating this newsletter over the year and hope that they may continue to be a useful resource for you in the future. Back copies can be accessed through the website.

A very special thank you to our divine teachers Sharon and Mandy, Melinda, Jo and Kristie for all of your love and devotion. Thank you, for teaching our children from your hearts to have a deep trust and love of the world.

May we all have a wonderful Christmas, and journey with grace and ease into the new year and beyond.

Regards  
Sh'ana Shean (Mama to Jardin in 4yr old kinda.)

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IMPORTANT DATES	
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	First Sunday of advent
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Last committee meeting for 2014
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	4yr old kinder bring a pair of leather shoes for St Nicholas
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Full Moon
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am Festival of Advent and final kinder day for 2014 Dress in white and bring a plate of food to share for morning tea
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Summer Solstice

## FROM OUR TEACHERS

Hello families!

### Ring a Rosie

What a wonderful year this has been! It has been such a pleasure watching these children grow and develop over the year and make so many discoveries and connections with the people, animals and environment here at Yandell. I wish all the families that are leaving and those who are continuing, a magical journey through the next chapter of their adventure!

Love Mandy



The little darling, Spring, has run away;  
 The sunshine grew too hot for her to stay.  
 She kissed her sister, Summer, and she said:  
 "When I am gone, you must be queen instead."  
 Now reigns the Lady Summer, round whose feet  
 A thousand fairies flock with blossoms sweet.  
 Cicely Mary Barker

### 4 Year Old Kindergarten

It has been such a busy and exciting year for the children in the 4 year old program this year. Their enthusiasm for the work and play of the kindergarten was exhilarating to nurture and I am rewarded in knowing that they take with them to school the very best of themselves, confident and independent, and a love for playing, learning and each other. As I look over the year I am aware of just how much these children have grown and blossomed, having established trusting relationships with each other, the educators and their community and thrived in their environment.

Over the year we have celebrated the coming of a new season with a Festival and with lots of baking and making; and of course we finish the year in preparation for Advent. We are now busily making puddings, cake and biscuits to share with our families and friends and we will begin our decorating in the coming days. I hope that the children and their families continue to visit us at Yandell as I will miss them terribly and will enjoy hearing about their journeys in the future.

With love

Sharon

# COMMITTEE NEWS

Dear Families

Thank you to everyone that attended and helped out at our AGM last night. It was a great success with almost every 2015 Committee role being filled on the night. An enormous thank you to the 2014 Committee, and huge congratulations to the newly appointed committee!

## 2015 Committee

Name	Position
Jason Williams	President
Karen Greer	Vice President
Zanthe Bohan	Treasurer
<i>Unfilled</i>	Secretary
Chris LeGrys	Assistant Maintenance
Vashti De Guara	Assistant Treasurer, General Member
Maria Cameron	General Member
Marti Ahern	General Member
Michelle Borowski	Fundraising
Kylie Kerr	Newsletter Coordinator
Sam Fielding	Maintenance Officer
Petah Hanson	Library Coordinator
Ivy Chow	Plant Fair Subcommittee
Yolande Perreau	Plant Fair Subcommittee
Olivia Wykes	Plant Fair Subcommittee
Felicia Semple	4 y/o Parent Liaison & Social Officer
Tiffany Bryant	3 y/o Parent Liaison & Social Officer
Martine Sproule-Carroll	Plant Fair Coordinator
Susi Davies	Plant Fair Coordinator

Rebecca Holland	General Member
Jo Askham	Website Manager General Member

Dee Bryant has kindly offered to provide IT Support thank you.  
Please let us know if we have inadvertently missed anyone, or if your details are not correct.

***Vacant committee 2015 roles - [help, we need a Secretary !!](#)***

Importantly, there are a handful of roles that we are still seeking to fill. The Secretary role is vital, the kindergarten cannot legally operate without this position. Please give consideration to applying for this rewarding and important role.

We are also keen to see any more people that would be interested in a Fundraising Officer role, as this is more rewarding if there is a small team involved.

We are also interested in creating some support roles for the Executive Positions, which will provide the kinder with extra support, and can also work as 'shadow' roles for people who may be interested in taking up an Executive role in 2016. If you are potentially interested in a role as Assistant President, Assistant Vice President, or Assistant Secretary please speak with Committee President, Jason Williams .

Have a wonderful Christmas and fun filled holidays,

Yandell Committee

## SPRING-SUMMER VERSE

Come bright butterfly, close to me  
Your beautiful wings I should like to see  
You fly like a bird, you sip like a bee  
But you're really a flower the wind set free

Golden light,  
Sun so bright  
All through the summer  
We feel your might.

# THE DOMESTIC GODDESS' SPRING RECIPE

## BIRD SEED COOKIES

I wanted to share a recipe for the newsletter. My kids love these cookies and it has been wonderful to add these to Casey's lunchbox at a (mainly) nut free school. They can easily be made dairy free and gluten free as well. Cheers, Gemma.

Nut free~ safe for school

### Ingredients

60g each: Rolled Oats, WM, SR flour (or gluten free alternatives)

4T toasted sunflower seeds

2T toasted sesame seeds

1T poppy seeds

125g Brown sugar

½ t cardamom pinch salt optional: small portions of flaked almonds, shredded coconut, choc bits, chopped dates, linseed or linseed meal, coconut flour

75g butter (DF options~ Nuttelex or coconut oil)

2T sunflower oil

2T water

### Method

Cream butter and sugar, then add dry ingredients and mix well. Roll into balls and flatten slightly on tray covered with baking paper, bake in Moderate oven (~180C) for approx 20 mins until golden brown.

### Notes

\*If I use choc chips then I often reduce the amount of sugar.

\*I have found butter or Nuttelex definitely better than coconut oil for keeping cookies together.

\*Dried fruit often burns so my best results have been fruit free.

\*I have been very lazy at times and not creamed butter and sugar, just thrown ingredients together (I melted the butter) and they still work fine.

\*Gently crushing seeds (I use a mortar and pestle) after toasting helps to allow access to nutrients (and flavour).



## ADVENT ...

Advent in the Steiner Home is something that is frequently celebrated by people of every religious background, faith and spiritual path as part of the festivals of the cycle of the year. It is a four week festival - the four weeks leading up to Christmas and solstice.

I love the way that festivals are woven into the rhythmic tapestry of the year here at Yandell, and I feel we are in need of festivals more than ever. We need festivals that can be celebrated irrespective of religion, race or nation. We need festivals that can remind us of our essential human task – the responsibility to honour and protect Mother Earth and to see and live from a true sense of our interconnectedness with all of creation, that all the beauty and seasonal change we see reflected around us lives here inside.

I always find it takes me some time of reflection regarding some festivals celebrated here in the southern hemisphere as so many aspects come from a very different seasonal reality.

The advent celebration is one that I have not before this year consciously brought into our family's life. So I have spent the last few weeks doing a bit of reading and feeling into what advent means for me, this article has come from my reflection. I invite you to look at what it means for you and your family this year.

*"During Advent we are invited to be vulnerable to our longing and open our hope. Like the pregnant mother who counts the days till her labour and prepares little things for her child on the way, we count the days and increase the light as we light our candles and prepare our gifts"* Gertrud Mueller Nelson.

I feel that when I read this passage for the first time I really came to understand the journey of advent from a place inside that I as a mother understood. Our advent journey towards Christmas, a time of birth, is so like the last weeks of pregnancy, a time of waiting, of patience and expectation. There is a feeling of joy in the mystery about to take place. It is a time to look inside to the inner world and the hidden jewels we have to bestow upon the earth, the gifts from within that we have to share with our families and communities. The word Advent comes from the Latin word, Advenir, which means: to arrive. And yes this 4 week festival is about arriving, at a place of wonder inside, of the arrival of gifts, the arrival often of family and friends into our home, and some are poised to honour a special Christmas. We can take this opportunity to feel new in ourselves.

During the coming four weeks of advent I plan to consciously take up the practice of patience, care and wonder, and open these qualities up for my family to practice as well.



Within the Steiner framework, this time invites us to deepen our relationship to the world around us by recognizing and celebrating the strength and beauty of all four of the kingdoms of the natural world.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of November it is the first Sunday of advent. You may want to prepare before then with a simple area with four candles and a bowl in the centre for the family to place something representing each of the four wonders. On the first Sunday light the first candle. The second week, we light the first candle again, and then add a second candle. Each week the progression grows until all four candles are lit. The four candles represent many four-fold wonders, such as the four seasons of the year, or the four virtues of Peace, Faith, Hope, and Charity.

Rudolf Steiner connected Advent with the four animal kingdoms in this lovely poem:

“The first light of Advent is the light of stones.  
Stones that live in crystals, seashells, and bones.  
The second light of Advent is the light of plants.  
Roots, stem, leaf, flower and fruit by whom we live and grow.  
The third light of Advent is the light of beasts.  
Animals of farm, field, forest, air and sea.  
All await the birth in greatest and in least.

The fourth light of Advent is the light of humankind.  
The light of love, the light of thought, to give and to understand.”  
~Rudolf Steiner

Each week we will read one stanza of this poem after lighting the candles. And then blow out the candles in reverse order from how they were lit.

As each week passes each of the four kingdoms of nature arrive – Mineral, Plant, Animal and Human – from beneath to above – awaiting the coming birth. Advent is a fun and joyous time for children especially.

For those celebrating the Advent festival, and to all spiritual beliefs and traditions, this time of year has something special for everyone – the Season of Light, and lots of sunshine, (hopefully) here in the southern hemisphere.

## SIMPLE ADVENT CALENDAR IDEA

From [little gnome home blog site](#)

Take 25 matchboxes covered with some gold paper or you can cover each one with felt.

Slide each onto a long piece of ribbon and hang near the bed of your child.

Each night during advent the angels will place a very tiny treasure in the bottom matchbox.

It is not supposed to be something expensive or fancy, perhaps something from nature....a shell, some small seed pods, or perhaps some star sequins or some sheep's wool, something to add to the growing nativity scene or nature table, is also good.

The gift could be in keeping with the four kingdoms of Advent –

For the first week the gifts could be some beautiful crystals or stones

The second week moss, a seed pod or flower

The third week some sheep's wool, a little wooden animal, a fly

The fourth week some little dolls representing your family.

Four kingdoms of Advent

The first light of Advent is the light of stone—  
Crystals, seashells, and bones.

The second light of Advent is the light of plants—  
Plants that reach up to the sun and in the breezes dance.

The third light of Advent is the light of beasts—  
All await the birth, from the greatest and in least.

The fourth light of Advent is the light of humankind—  
The light of hope that we may learn to love and understand.

*What does Christmas mean for your family? I was re-inspired to revisit this question after reading the following blog from little gnome home blog site [www.thelittlegnomeshome.blogspot.com.au](http://www.thelittlegnomeshome.blogspot.com.au)*

## ADVENT, THE COMING OF THE CHRISTMAS CHILD, A TIME OF PREPARATION AND WAITING.

This Sunday, the beginning of Advent, we will begin to tell our children the Christmas Story. It will be something sweet and simple.....'Once upon time, long ago there lived a woman and a man. They live in a little wooden house just next to the sea. The man spent his days making things with his hands out of wood and the lady loved looking after all the animals.....one day an angel came to earth with a special message for the lady. She would have a baby.' So will begin the journey to find the manger where the baby will be born. The story will be told using simple felt standing dolls and wool felt animals I have been making over the past years. Each night by candle light we will tell a little more of their journey. As my girls are only young, the stories will be short. One day they lost their way and a spider spun a golden thread to get them back on their path. Another day, while they cooled by the sea side, a beautiful shell washed up to shore.\* Each Sunday of Advent we will light a candle on our wreath (a candle ring we will decorate with fresh blooms and greens from the garden each day) until all four candles are burning bright on Christmas Eve. Christmas angels will stop by our house each night and leave a small gift in the chain of little gold boxes hanging above Abbie's bed\*\*. Something will be left that appeared in the story that night or in line with the four kingdoms of Advent. These will be simple treasures, some crafted by me, others by mother nature, little treasures we can add to the nativity.

On Christmas Eve, our tree will be decorated, a baby will be in Mary's arms, the Christmas story will be told and finished, Christmas biscuits will be eaten and Silent Night will be sung. We shall celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christmas Child, the Child of Light, the Divine Child - whatever you wish to call him.

Christmas day, there will be too much food, carols, paper hats, lots of family, hopefully sunshine, and of course presents.

Some things you might want to do in preparation for the coming festive season:

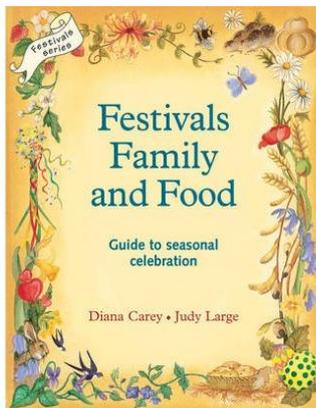
:: This week I shall gather bits and pieces to cover 24 little matchboxes in gold paper and help the Christmas angel prepare 24 little treasures for those boxes.\*\*\*

:: We will bookmark a biscuit recipe to make in the week before Christmas, and gather all our tins to store them in.

:: Muslin (thin cotton fabric) will be dyed with food dyes in lovely tones of blue to adorn our nativity.

:: The Advent wreath will be created, using a wooden candle ring and flowers will be collected on Saturday afternoon (beeswax candles have been bought).

## YANDEL LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW



This book is a great source of stories, recipes, things to make, activities, poems, songs and festivals. Each festival such as Christmas, Candlemas and Martinmas has its own, well-illustrated chapter. There are also sections on Birthdays, Rainy Days, Convalescence and a birthday Calendar. The perfect present for a family, it explores the numerous festivals that children love celebrating.



## FAIRY EXCITING WEBSITES AND BLOGS

A list of great blogs, groups and sites that deal with all things Steiner & Waldorf related.

[The Magic Onions](#) - doesn't the name alone make you want to visit? Full of craft and education and rhythm and fun related posts to bring out the child in all of you.

[The Parenting Passageway](#) - fantastic resource for all things parenting related and home schooling related, if you happen to be doing that also. Great advice and lots and lots of articles to help you with just about anything.

[Mamma Moontime](#) - Craft projects, inspiration for mamas, parenting - it's all here.

[Celebrate The Rhythm of Life](#) - probably one of my most frequented blogs on Waldorf parenting. Recipes, monthly guides, advice.

[Frontier Dreams](#) - crafts, parenting, Waldorf - check it.

[Rhythm Of The Home](#) - Parenting, nurturing, crafts, inner work, special celebrations and all of it divided into the four seasons. Wonderful site and so beautiful.

[Rhythm & Rhyme](#) - Great source of Waldorf inspired crafts and lovely site to just browse around. Lots of good tutorials too.

[The Wonder of Childhood](#) - Online Waldorf/Steiner magazine. Full to the tippiest top with goodness and inspiration and great articles on all aspects of positive, respectful parenting. You'll love it.

[The Mystical Kingdom](#) - Absolutely the best resource I've found for Waldorf verses for just about everything from morning to night.

[The Ancient Hearth](#) - Beautiful site that offers Waldorf inspired homeschooling education and tips, book reviews and just looks so beautiful. She also has some killer tutorials.



# A LETTER FROM WALLACE THE UNICORN



Dear Children,

What a wonderful year it's been here at ring a rosy and kinda. The fairy's and I have been watching you all grow soooo big . We have seen you play on the monkey bars and you are all getting so good at that. I've loved eating from your garden and you know we love riding on the backs of the guinea pigs at night time We love the new chickens, Sparkles and bok bok .The thing that I really think you are all getting really good at is using your hands. The fairy's and I have a song about hands and I thought you might like to hear it. My voice is so little you can't hear me but I do sing it all the time around the kinda. Maybe mummy or daddy can sing it for you and you can learn it ! It goes like this:

Hands are for helping  
Hands are for holding  
Hands are for making  
And shaping and moulding  
Hands are loving  
Hands are kind  
Hands are part of my body  
And my body is mine.

I flew over to the big school down the road and heard the children there singing it and liked it so much I taught it to the fairy's and now I hope you sing it too.

We are all excited that you will soon be having your Advent Festival and we will get to have all your yummy left overs from you morning tea !

Have a really fun time over the holidays and I will look after things here at kinda.

Bye for now, Wallace the fairy winged, unicorn.

Happy happy holidays xxxxxxxxxx