



Nature and Natter

Program Handbook

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Introduction

The Nature and Natter Program is a nursery-based activity for people living with Dementia, held at the Barossa Bushgardens every Monday morning from 10-12pm. The Barossa Bushgardens provides a safe, accessible, and appropriate place for people from all walks of life to connect to nature.

As Council staff and volunteers, we will continue to grow our understanding about Dementia, how it affects people and how it can change your 'normal' behaviour. We will strive to show empathy, compassion, respect and understanding towards you, (the client) and your carer as we aim for an enjoyable experience by all.

To enhance the participant's experience we will ensure that the Nature and Natter Program will only accommodate a small group at the discretion of our staff.

The Nature and Natter Program has been developed to:

- improve the lives of people living with dementia
- provide participants (and their carers) with an opportunity to have a hands-on experience working with soil and plants
- develop a social connection with other people living with dementia
- provide a meaningful activity to improve self-esteem.

All the tubestock produced by the Nature and Natter Program are donated to local not-for-profit groups and organisations (churches, schools, wildlife rescue groups, etc.) to improve biodiversity outcomes across the region.

Program Activities

Most of the activities undertaken during the Nature and Natter Program will be focused on clients working within the nursery area and/or in our Food for the Soul Community Garden. Tasks include:

- Pricking out seedlings into tubes
- Potting on from tubes to larger pots
- Seeding trays and toilet roll tubes
- Emptying soil from tubes, trays and pots
- Weeding plants in pots or in the community garden
- Grading plants
- Making tubes from toilet rolls
- Planting cuttings
- Making floral art

The activities reflect a range of tasks and are chosen specifically for each client, depending on their capabilities and/or special needs. They can vary from week to week or clients can do the same task weekly if they prefer.

Program Registration

To participate in the Nature and Natter Program, you will need to complete and sign the Registration and Consent form agreeing to the conditions outlined within this Handbook.

There is a probation period of two (2) weeks whereby we (or you) may decide the Nature and Natter Program is not suitable for you.

Program Safety

The Barossa Council has implemented strict safety controls to ensure the safety and welfare of all participants involved within the Nature and Natter Program.

Meet the Team

Meet our dedicated team:

Phone: (08) 8563 8330 or Kim on 0476 781 936

Email: MBXbushgardens@barossa.sa.gov.au

Address: 653 Research Road, NURIOOTPA SA 5355

ADD STAFF PHOTOS

Arthur Mousamas – Disability Support Officer

Reta Cousins-Bray – Disability Support Officer

Penny Devlin – Nursery Coordinator – 0460 885 902

Kim Thompson – Senior Environmental Officer – 0476 781 936

Glen Carter – Manager, Operations – Infrastructure & Environmental Services

Inclement Weather Process

If we are expecting an inclement weather event (high temperatures, high winds, storm activity (electrical, hail) or rainfall, we may cancel the Nature and Natter session, and a staff member will contact you to confirm this. Otherwise your attendance will be at the discretion of you and/or your carer.

If the CFS Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or higher, there will be no Nature and Natter session.

A staff member from Council may contact you to confirm your understanding of this.

All participants should abide by the SunSmart requirements:

- Wear suitable/appropriate clothing
- Bring a hat (in case the activity is outside)
- Apply sunscreen

Emergency Management

All Council staff will follow the Barossa Bushgardens Emergency Management procedure. All Council staff and volunteers working with the Nature and Natter group have a current First Aid Certificate and a National Police Clearance.

Code of Conduct

We ask that you show respect towards all participants, members of public and Barossa Bushgardens staff and volunteers.

If misbehaviour is a manifestation of your illness, we will take this into consideration at the point of registration to understand how this may potentially impact the Program.

Unacceptable and/or bullying or harassment behaviours will not be tolerated and further conversations will be had at the time of the incident as determined by staff.

Inability to Attend

If you are unable to attend or if you know you will be absent for a period of time (holidays, sickness), please advise our staff (see Meet the Team contact details).

This will avoid a staff member from Council unnecessarily checking on your welfare.

Refreshments

Fresh water is available at any time – please help yourself.

Coffee, tea and biscuits are available during morning tea, provided by The Barossa Council.

If you wish to stay and enjoy lunch with us, please bring your own and/or some to share – Council will not be providing lunch.

Privacy and Confidentiality

Please note that your data may be shared with relevant staff and volunteers who are involved in the delivery of the Program.

In the event that photographs are taken and Council wish to use the photos for marketing purposes the client (and carer) will be asked to complete a Permission and Release Form. Once signed, this will provide approval for Council to use photos and videos for marketing use only. You can remove this consent at any time by providing written advice.

Complaints/Feedback

As Council is always looking to improve our service delivery and customer experience, we welcome any feedback at any time.

Should you have a confidential complaint in relation to the Nature and Natter Program and/or staff/volunteers and/or you don't wish to speak with anyone on our team directly, please contact Glen Carter on 0429 394 580 or email gcarter@barossa.sa.gov.au.