

Bermagui Preschool Newsletter March 19th 2021



2021 TERM DATES

Bermagui Preschool AGM (see below):	Thursday 25 th March 2021, 9:15am
End of Term 1:	Thursday 1 st April 2021
Good Friday:	Friday 2 nd April 2021 (Preschool CLOSED)
Easter Monday:	Monday 5 th April 2021 (Preschool CLOSED)
Autumn Vacation Care:	Tuesday 6 th April 2021 to Friday 16 th April 2021
Start of Term 2:	Monday 19 th April 2021
Queen's Birthday Public Holiday:	Monday 14 th June 2021 (Preschool CLOSED)
End of Term 2:	Friday 25 th June 2021

Please note these dates may be subject to change.

PRESCHOOL PHOTOS

Tara will be visiting the Preschool during the week Monday 26th- Friday 30th April (2nd Week of Term 2) to again do our Preschool Photos. The forms and payment options will be sent to families soon. If you would like a sibling photo with siblings who do not attend Preschool this can also be arranged for 8:30am, but please see staff closer to the date to organise this. Stay tuned for further information.

StEPS VISION SCREENING

The StEPS program is an initiative of NSW Health and offers all 4/5 year old children free vision screening. They will be at Pre School later in the year to do vision screening, however a consent form needs to be completed by parents. Please see Narelle if you have not completed and returned the screening consent forms for your child.

MINDFUL MONDAYS

Sarah Campbell Lambert is running a free supportive gathering on Mondays 6-7.30pm at the Cobargo School of Arts Hall. Visit cwg.org.au/about for further information.

Mindful Mondays

Are you feeling exhausted? Overwhelmed? Depressed?
Are you struggling sometimes to keep your life together?
Are you having difficulties sleeping?
There are techniques which will help you manage these conditions.

What is Mindful Mondays?
A free twelve week supportive gathering presented by Sarah Campbell Lambert and funded by the CCBRF.
When? 6-7.30pm
Where? The Cobargo School of Arts Hall.
Starting on Monday the 8th of March.

What will we cover?
A brief overview of how the mind works.
Simple techniques that can get us out of trouble quickly, building resilience over time.
Practices that explore new perspectives for a positive way forward.

To register please visit cwg.org.au/mindful

Who is this for?
Everybody who has been impacted by the bushfires. Some of us need support to 'get back on the horse' and now is a wonderful opportunity for positive change.
Everyone over 15 years of age is welcome!

If you want to know more about us please visit cwg.org.au/about

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Bermagui Preschool has a proud history of working hard to meet the needs of the community, over the past 40 years. In response to the needs of our families we have grown from a Preschool for 3-5 years olds that was only open 3 days a week from 9am-3pm. We now offer before and after school care, vacation care, long day care for 0-12 year olds are open 5 days a week and have approximately 80 children enrolled across 4 different programs. Throughout this, as a not for profit service we have tried to keep our fees as low as possible, with our fees being amongst the lowest in NSW. We have managed this while delivering the highest quality education and care and proudly hold a rating of excellence the highest afforded by ACECQA. We currently have 20 children on our waiting list and continue to work hard behind the scenes to secure funding to further increase our capacity with projects to create additional classroom space, improve outdoor learning areas and create a designated therapy room.

We understand that at our current capacity we may not be able to meet the needs of all of our families, but please know that we are working hard to support our families, care for your children and provide the best start to each child's early education. If you have any suggestions on how we could better support you within our current capacity please talk to our staff as we will endeavour to help where we can. Alternatively you may like to advocate for our Preschool and improved access to early childhood education and care by joining the Thrive by Five Project and sharing your story. The Thrive By Five team are the strongest and most comprehensive advocacy opportunity we have as a collective at the moment - they are driven by The Mindaroo Foundation, and they REALLY REALLY understand what is needed by Early Childhood, the children and families and they are representing us at levels of government we as Preschools can never reach on our own. They want to hear everything, the good, bad and ugly... you might like to talk about how wonderful Bermagui Preschool is, how fees are challenging, how access to hours or days at Preschool don't match your needs. Staff might like to share stories about work conditions, low wages, access and expense of training. This is the perfect platform to help the state and federal government to understand the importance of the first 5 years and what the challenges and the inequity of the Australian Early Childhood system are.

For more information visit <https://thrivebyfive.org.au/>

To share your stories visit <https://thrivebyfive.org.au/actions/voices/>

LEADER NETWORK

We are delighted to announce our Preschool Director/ Teacher Narelle Myers has been appointed one of three Champions for the Early Education Leaders Network. This Network is being piloted by the NSW Dept of Education and CELA to bring together Early Childhood Teachers and Leaders to share ideas, knowledge and experiences. While she will continue to teach at Bermagui Preschool, this will be a great opportunity to further support and strengthen not only our own Preschool, but other Children's Services across NSW. As a strong advocate for high quality in Early Childhood Education, Narelle is honoured and excited to be leading the formative stages of this network.

FEE FREE PRESCHOOL

A temporary COVID-19 free preschool funding program has been extended throughout 2021 to continue to support families with cost of living pressures and to support the ongoing provision of 600 hours of early childhood education in the year before school. Unfortunately the government has applied this funding to Preschools only and not Long Day Care programs. As our Preschool offers both Preschool and Long Day Care Programs this has caused some confusion for families.

To clarify, the Covid19 Free Preschool funding is only available for children that are funded under the Start Strong guidelines for community preschools. Eligible children are those who are 4/5 years old or equity 3 year olds (health care card holders) on or before 31 July in that preschool year. Please note that we work hard to ensure that all our fees are kept as low as possible and that funding is provided equitably, and is focused on those families that are most in need. If you have any questions or concerns regarding fees or fee payment please see Kirsty or Narelle.

FOUR WINDS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hello Four Winds supporters!

Only a few weeks to go until Festival time! I hope you're all looking forward to it as much as we are. Just to give you a quick update from the Four Winds office, we're locking in the travel plans of artists, finalising the beautiful program, making final plans for the stalls and site structures, and, most importantly (☺), gathering all our wonderful volunteers together to make sure the days run smoothly!

I have had a great response from some of you putting your hands up for roles such as meeting & greeting, box office, artist care and donor services and merchandise- and there are many roles still to be filled. If you have already responded, thank you so much! I would like to put out another call for volunteers and thought it might help to be a bit more specific in our needs for both the lead-up to the festival and the performance days. I am on the lookout for help with:

- Service of food and drinks during the festival
- Monitoring and guidance for parking
- Management of recycling and waste
- Providing artist care, particularly during rehearsals in the week leading up the festival including music and dance during the day times, and the full-dress rehearsals of *The Iliad* (Out Loud) in the evenings
- Merimbula airport transfers for artists on Wednesday 31st March, Saturday 3rd April, and Monday 5th April.
- Site preparations, supply runs and decorating on the Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd April.

If you think you might be able to help, or if you know someone who can, please be in touch. Just 2 x 4-hour shifts gets you a free pass to the entire festival. If you haven't yet had a look at the program, you can see it [here](#). I am hoping to lock in our Volunteer Orientation Session soon, but it is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday the 28th March. During this session we will be welcomed by both Lindy Hume (Artistic Director) and Cheryl Davidson (Aboriginal Creative Producer) and will hopefully enjoy a small taster of one of the performances. We will also be introduced to some Customer Service Guidelines, which have been designed to help make all our roles easier and more rewarding. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please don't hesitate to be in touch. Looking forward to working with you all.

Reka Upward | Volunteer Coordinator

Work-day: Wednesday † +61 431 368 126

BERMAGUI PRESCHOOL AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 25th March 2021, at 9.15am, in the Bidhu Room here at Bermagui Preschool. All Preschool families are welcome to come along and join us for the meeting and morning tea.

Please detach and return to Preschool by Wednesday 24th March 2021 if you would like to attend and/or be nominated for a position on the 2021 Bermagui Preschool Board of Directors.

I will be attending the AGM and Preschool morning tea on Thursday 25th March 2021, 9:15am at Bermagui Preschool

Name: _____

Number of Adults: _____ Number of Children: _____

I would like to nominate for a position on the 2021 Bermagui Preschool Board of Directors.

_____ (insert name) _____ (signature) _____ (date)

Nomination Moved By: _____ (name) _____ (signature) _____ (date)

Nomination Seconded By: _____ (name) _____ (signature) _____ (date)