

# Bermagui Preschool Newsletter – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023



## 2023/2024 Important Dates:

**King's Birthday Public Holiday (Preschool CLOSED):**

**End of Term 2:**

**Winter Vacation Care Program:**

**Start of Term 3:**

**End of Term 3:**

**Spring Vacation Care Program:**

**Labour Day Public Holiday (Preschool CLOSED):**

**Start of Term 4:**

**End of Term 4:**

**Staff Development & CHRISTMAS CLOSURE:**

**Summer Vacation Care Program:**

**Australia Day Public Holiday (Preschool CLOSED):**

**Staff Development Day (Preschool CLOSED):**

**Preschool Orientation Day:**

(Children and families invited for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour orientation & re-enrolment session)

**Start of Term 1 - 2024:**

**Please note these dates may be subject to change.**

**Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Jun**

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Jun**

**Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul to Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Jul**

**Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Jul**

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep**

**Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Sep to Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Oct**

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct**

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Oct**

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**Thu 14<sup>th</sup> Dec to Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024**

**Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2024 to Thu 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024**

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024**

**Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024**

**Tue 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024**

**Wed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024**

## What's On at Preschool...

National Reconciliation Week is an opportunity to reflect and act on ways we can connect with and respect Aboriginal culture and community. As a preschool that holds equity and inclusion at the heart of its philosophy and pedagogical approaches, we have embedded recognition and celebration of Aboriginal Australia in our service program. Reconciliation Week provides us a focus on how do we enable others to understand the importance of our rich and diverse First Nation history, language and culture?

At Bermagui Preschool we ensure Aboriginal culture is seen throughout our program as part of our daily routines and activities, not just celebrated in a tokenistic way on certain days. Stories, puzzles, art work, play resources, our Reconciliation Action Plan, welcome signage, furnishings and commitment to staff cultural training all pay respect and acknowledge Aboriginal history and culture on an ongoing basis. We look for ways to reflect and promote Aboriginal language and culture in our experiences, including music, storytelling and of course in our Moodji Garden. We take time during Reconciliation Week to further reflect on our wonderful and rich Aboriginal history and culture in meaningful ways.

We have shared stories about Bermagui and our mother mountain Gulaga, learnt words in Djiringanj and Dhurga (local Aboriginal languages), engaged in sand storytelling and have created a Reconciliation Week mural which is displayed in our signing in/out area. The children learnt about the Aboriginal flag and the significance of the colours red, black and yellow through group discussion and the wonderful song and dance from Aunty Wendy's Mob. We also talked to the children about the significance of our acknowledgement of Country. We have included a copy of this here for you to share at home.



### Bermagui Preschool Acknowledgement of Country

#### The Earth is Warm

The earth is warm beneath my feet  
The sun shines bright above  
And here I stand so straight and strong  
All things to know and love

Here is the earth and here is the sea  
Here are my friends  
And here is me

We pay our respects to the Djiringanj people  
On whose land we come to work and play and learn



Reconciliation is everyone's business. By embedding Aboriginal culture in our Preschool program we are promoting friendship, harmony, recognition of difference, as well as respect, acceptance and understanding. In this way we work to improve connections and outcomes for all children.

In the Bungaree Room we have been focusing on whales/mooreeyira as we notice the whales migrating along our beautiful coastline. Storytelling, games, activities, art and craft and excursions support our children to learn about these wonderful mammals and their habitats.

## Mid-Year Child Assessments and School Transition Statements

Our educators have started on our Mid-Year Child Assessments and School Transition Statements for each of our focus children. Assessment is a critical part of a high-quality, early childhood program. We use observations and a variety of play based activities to gather information about each child. Our specifically designed assessment tools are used to record and review the information, which is then used to plan educational activities that support and extend each child's learning and development following their interests and ideas. Assessment can;

- Provide a record of growth in all developmental areas: cognitive, physical/motor, language, social-emotional, and approaches to learning.
- Identify children who may need additional support and determine if there is a need for intervention or support services.
- Help educators plan individualized instruction for a child or for a group of children that are at the same stage of development.
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses within a program and information on how well the program meets the goals and needs of the children.
- Provide a common ground between educators and families to use in collaborating on a strategy to support their child.

Our educators share this information informally with families through conversations so they can follow their child's progress, understand their child's strengths and challenges, and plan how they can help extend the learning into their homes. Families are invited to organise a formal meeting at a mutually convenient time, if they have concerns and/or wish to discuss their child's progress in more detail. Please see preschool staff if you would like to organise a formal parent/teacher interview.

## Preschool Gardener Needed

Garry Cole is unfortunately no longer available to do our preschool gardening. A big thank you to Garry for his hard work and dedication to our preschool gardens and we wish him well with his new ventures. Any suggestions from families in regard to finding someone who can do gardening, gutters, lawn mowing and maintenance at preschool would be greatly appreciated.

## Policy Update

Services are legally required to ensure families are notified of any changes to policies which affect: the service's provision of education and care to any enrolled child or a family's ability to use the service; fees; or fee collection procedures, 14 days in advance. (Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011). Bermagui Preschool is currently reviewing the **1.03 Arrivals and Departures** and **1.04 Family Involvement and Responsibilities**. Copies of the existing policy are available on our website and the proposed Policies are available on request at Preschool for families to review and provide feedback via email [bermikids@hotmail.com](mailto:bermikids@hotmail.com). Please see Narelle for further information.

## Thankyou 😊:

- Saphira for donating clothing to our preschool