

Bermagui Preschool Newsletter – September 8th 2023



2023/2024 Important Dates:

Spring Vacation Care Program: Mon 25th Sep to Fri 6th Oct

Labour Day Public Holiday (Preschool CLOSED): Mon 2nd Oct

Start of Term 4: Mon 9th Oct

End of Term 4: Wed 13th Dec

Staff Development & CHRISTMAS CLOSURE: Thu 14th Dec to Mon 1st Jan 2024

Summer Vacation Care Program: Tue 2nd Jan 2024 to Thu 25th Jan 2024

Australia Day Public Holiday (Preschool CLOSED): Fri 26th Jan 2024

Staff Development Day (Preschool CLOSED): Mon 29th Jan 2024

Preschool Orientation Day: Tue 30th Jan 2024

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

Start of Term 1 - 2024: Wed 31st Jan 2024

Please note these dates may be subject to change.

PJ Day/Week

We are showing our support for a wonderful cause and inviting our children, families and staff to wear their pyjamas to preschool in week 10 (Monday 18th Sept-Friday 22nd Sept). Pyjama Day is to show support for children in foster care. For a gold coin donation we are encouraging children, families and educators to wear their PJ's this week. For more information please visit www.thepyjamafoundation.com

What's On at Preschool...

At Preschool the children have celebrated Book Week. Children's Book Week aims to enrich young lives through Australian stories. Their vision is to see a thriving creative world embracing the transformational power of stories, across generations. Their mission is to connect, communicate, celebrate, and advocate for the value of stories. To check out the Book of the Year Winners visit

<https://cbca.org.au/winners-2023>.

For tips and tools on reading with your child visit

[Let's Read reading tips and tools - Let's Read \(letsread.com.au\)](http://letsread.com.au)

Educator Day

Early Childhood Educators' Day recognises and celebrates the work of Australia's educators in early learning services in their important role of supporting children's wellbeing, learning and development in the early years. It's a chance to say thank you to Australia's early childhood educators for their wonderful contribution to the wellbeing and healthy development of the young children in their care. This year Early Childhood Educators' Day took place on Wednesday 6th September. Feel free to say thank you to our educators and let them know they are appreciated by you and your child/ren.

Please Return School Enrolment Forms

Bermagui, Tilba and Cobargo Public Schools have now provided all enrolment information, including important orientation dates, to families with children intending to start school in 2024. If you have not received this information, please contact the school immediately. For those families with children transitioning to Primary School in 2024, it is important to return your enrolment application forms as soon as possible. Bermagui, Tilba and Cobargo Public Schools need this information urgently to support their planning and staffing for next year. Thank you for your support.

Thankyou 😊:

- Carly (Jays Mum) for the yummy scones and lemon curd and the free saunas at her gym for our educators
- Naomi (Ashton's Mum) for donating plants to our preschool and for the yummy cake for our educators
- Kelsie and Ivan (Lillyanna's family) for the recycled items for our art studio
- Rita (Lucy's Mum) for donating beautiful books to our Preschool
- Bermagui Mudworks for donating clay to our Preschool Art Program

Vacation Care

With Spring Vacation Care fast approaching, can families who have children permanently booked into vacation care please confirm if their child/ren will be needing care this vacation care period on their regular days. You can let Kirsty know at the preschool window or send a quick email, that would be great! Thanks 😊

Voice Referendum

The upcoming Voice referendum and related First Nations issues have sparked conversations on TV, social media, and in our everyday lives. Perhaps your child has approached you with curiosity and questions about The Voice or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Or maybe you're looking to introduce them to these important topics but aren't sure where to start. It's never too early to teach children the true history and rich culture of our First Nations Peoples. "It's important to address these issues as First Nations issues are issues for all Australians to navigate," says Kate Lloyd, RAQ Senior Clinical Supervisor. But there are a few crucial things to keep in mind to ensure the conversation is age-appropriate and your child can engage in a meaningful way. Kate offers some helpful guidance for parents and carers to talk to their kids about The Voice here.

Ask them what they know

Don't assume your child's existing level of knowledge - let them show you, tell you, and teach you their worldview. Finding out what they already know or think about The Voice is a great place to start. You might ask "What have you heard about The Voice to Parliament?" and then listen carefully to what they have to say, keeping an ear out for anything you'd like to explore further with them, and allowing this to guide the rest of your conversation.

Keep it age-appropriate

The best way to approach any serious conversation with a child is to tailor your language and details around their individual development and needs. Use simple, clear language and consider whether certain details are appropriate for their age. For example, a 5-year-old may not understand the concept of racist microaggressions or may be scared by specific details of abuse. Depending on your child's age, you may even like to keep it light and fun with an activity that encourages your child to connect with First Nations culture. Consider using age-appropriate resources such as the picture book 'Finding Our Heart - A Story About The Uluru Statement for Young Australians' read by Tony Armstrong for Play School Story Time in [this video](#). Former AFL star Adam Goodes has a collection of children's books inviting kids to connect with First Nations culture, including 'Somebody's Land: Welcome to Our Country'. You can also find photos and videos of children celebrating NAIDOC Week and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day around the country online. This is a great way to increase your child's exposure to First Nations Peoples and culture among their peers.

Maintain an open dialogue

This shouldn't be a one-and-done conversation. Encourage your child to ask questions and share their thoughts with you during the referendum debate and beyond. Create a safe space for your child to feel free to share - even if their views and ideas are different to yours or others'. Remember that it's OK not to have all the answers. Work together on the unknowns and uncertainties, and seek trustworthy resources to fill the gaps. This is a great opportunity to increase your own knowledge and understanding of First Nations issues. [Reconciliation Australia](#) and [Multicultural Australia](#) have some great credible resources on The Voice to Parliament.

Make respect a priority

Keep the safety and respect of First Nations Peoples top of mind however you intend to vote. Your child will be far more influenced by a conversation with you than anything they see or hear from the media or a third party. So be sure to model respectful language and kindness, regardless of your beliefs. **We offer some practical ways to consider the safety and respect of First Nations Peoples leading up the referendum [here](#).**

Be aware of your own emotions and sensitive to your child's

Opinions and feelings are strong on both sides of The Voice debate. It's important to know your own vulnerabilities and feelings around the topic so you can address and manage these before you approach a conversation with your child. Lead Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement and Cultural Advisor Aunty Debra Bennet reminds us: "Our children are precious." Be sensitive to your child's feelings, and take breaks if you notice they're experiencing strong emotions.

Support Services

We understand this topic may raise difficult emotions for some people. Help is available. RAQ offers culturally safe counselling and support services for First Nations Peoples. You can call **1300 364 277** to make an appointment or get help finding the right support for you. For 24/7 crisis support, call **13YARN** on **13 92 76** to talk with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter.

CCS has Changed for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Children

Did you know you can now get at least 36 hours of Child Care Subsidy (CCS) for each Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander child in your care, regardless of the amount of recognised activity you do? If you are caring for an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander child and would like to get at least 36 hours of CCS, you will need to call Services Australia on the Centrelink families line. It is voluntary to do this. You may get more than 36 hours of CCS per fortnight based on your circumstances and the amount of recognised activity you do - this will not change. Your CCS rate will continue to be based on your income. You must still pay the gap fee. Watch [a short video about the changes](#) on the Department of Education website.

Child Care Subsidy balancing has started...

Services Australia has started balancing Child Care Subsidy (CCS) for the 2022-23 financial year.

You must confirm your income so Services Australia can balance your CCS.

You can confirm your income by:

- lodging your tax return with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), or
- telling Services Australia, you don't need to lodge a tax return, even if you've already told the ATO.

Once Services Australia has balanced your CCS, they will send you an outcome. Find out more about CCS balancing on the Services Australia website.

Wallaga Lake Bridge Update

Following community feedback, **Transport NSW will not start work in September 2023** as originally planned. Instead, essential maintenance work on Wallaga Lake Bridge will now **start in 2024** as Transport NSW continue to explore the best approach and timing to complete the work, which is safe for their workers, minimises impacts and provides the community with sufficient advanced notice. In the meantime, Transport NSW will continue ongoing monitoring and inspections of the bridge to ensure it remains safe for crossing. Enforcement of the 22.5 tonne load limit will be ramped up to help prevent further deterioration of the bridge. If further deterioration is identified, urgent work may be required, which may include closures. A summary of feedback received is being developed and will be shared with the community in the coming weeks. The community will be informed as the project progresses.

Cricket Blast is Back in Bermagui!

Is your child between 5 - 11 yrs. and love cricket? Or want to try something new?

Bermagui Cricket Club is excited to announce that Woolworths Cricket Blast is back in Bermagui starting on October 12th.

For \$99, your child can join us for an 8-week program presented by our passionate volunteers and delivered at Bermagui Primary School. They will receive a fantastic blast pack including a shirt in their favourite cricket teams colours (this includes the Australian and Indigenous shirts) and so much more. We are also an Active Kids provider! For more information, contact: Bermagui Cricket Club Facebook Page Or Naomi Day - 0457 330 596



Join Woolworths Cricket Blast
A safe way to have fun and stay active for kids of all abilities.

Bermagui Cricket Blast at Bermagui Primary School
When: Every Thursday for 8 weeks; commencing 12th October with 3.15pm afternoon tea and 3.45pm start time.
Contact: Naomi Day-0457330596 or naomi.day@live.com.au

SIGN UP TODAY!
Play Cricket

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY
Woolworths

CRICKET

ReBoot in
Bermagui

Fun for kids, families, everyone!

ReBoot in Bermagui is on the long weekend Saturday 30th September and Sunday 1st October

2023. Adults and kids fun runs, ocean swims, tug-o-war (kids comp too!), boot camp, tai chi, yoga, pilates, Oops! The Clown, netball shoot out, SUP, barefoot bowls, tennis, croquet and more! See the full program at rebootinbermagui.com.au and REGISTER NOW online or by email to rebootinbermagui@gmail.com

For event updates follow ReBoot in Bermagui on Facebook and Instagram.