

# Bermagui Preschool Newsletter – 1 March 2024



## 2024 Important Dates

**Annual General Meeting (AGM):** Friday 22nd March, 9:15am

**Good Friday:** 29th March (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**Easter Monday:** 1st April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**End of Term 1:** Friday 12th April

**Autumn Vacation Care:** Monday 15th April to Friday 26th April

**ANZAC Day Public Holiday:** Thursday 25th April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**Start of Term 2:** Monday 29th April

**Preschool Photos:** Monday 3rd June to Friday 7th June

**Monarch's Official Birthday Public Holiday:** Monday 19th June (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**End of Term 2:** Friday 5th July

**Winter Vacation Care:** Monday 8th July to Friday 19th July

**Start of Term 3:** Monday 22nd July

**End of Term 3:** Friday 27th September

**Spring Vacation Care:** Monday 30th September to Friday 11th October

**Labour Day Public Holiday:** Monday 7th October (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**Start of Term 4:** Monday 14th October

**End of Term 4:** Wednesday 18th December

**Staff Development & Cleaning:** Thursday 19th & Friday 20th December (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**Annual Shut Down:** Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January 2025 (Preschool **CLOSED**)

Please note these dates may be subject to change.

## What's On at Preschool

In the Bidhu room we have been focusing on art and sculpture projects, with the children working collaboratively on a giant turtle sculpture they will have displayed at Sculpture Bermagui next week, remember to visit this fabulous exhibition to see the children's amazing creation and the wonderful sculptures from local and visiting artists. In the Bungaree Room the children have engaged in a lot of imaginative social play involving animals and habitats, as well as STEM based construction and building projects. A reminder to also check your emails (Educate/HubHello and newsletter), the noticeboards at the front of Preschool and follow Bermagui Preschool's Facebook page to stay in touch with what's happening at Preschool.

## Building Project Update

After a long wait, the construction phase of our building project has finally commenced. We are so excited that our vision to create a therapy room, outdoor learning area, staff study and retreat space, as well as extension to the Bidhu classroom, refurbishment of the Bidhu bathroom, kitchen and adult bathroom and laundry is coming to fruition.

We have completed risk assessments, developed plans, and made detailed considerations to ensure our children and families are well supported and our preschool program will continue to run smoothly during the build. This has included vacating the Bidhu Room for part of the building process. Once the building project is completed, the Bidhu Room will be reopened, with all children, families and the broader community benefiting from the improved facilities we will be able to offer.

The project is running to timeframes, however due to the detection of traces of asbestos in the original part of the Preschool building, we have been asked to vacate the Bidhu Room 3 weeks earlier than anticipated (see below for further details on Preschool Program delivery during the build). We would like to reassure families that this issue presents no risk to our children, staff and families and removal will be done professionally under strict guidelines. The building project will continue, with completion due towards the end of May.

We appreciate that any changes can be challenging, but we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding while the building is in progress. Please see staff if you have any questions or concerns.

## Preschool Program Delivery During the Build

During the build, the Bungaree Program (0-3-year-olds) will continue to operate from the Preschool's Bungaree Room. The Bidhu Preschool Program will operate from the Community Centre next door and the Bungaree Room, with the group split into two smaller groups while the Bidhu Room is closed.

For those children in the group that will be in the Bidhu Preschool Program operating from the Bungaree Room, if ratio/space requirements permit, then children may be able to move between the Preschool programs being delivered in the Bungaree Room and the Community Centre. We unfortunately won't be able to lock it in to specific days, due to the Education and Care Services National Laws Act and Regulations and the BVSC/Community Centre Policies and Regulations related to space requirements and ratios.

We would like to reassure you the Preschool Programs that will be running in the Community Centre and the Bungaree Room will both be delivered by a Teacher and an Educator, to ensure all the children will still receive the same high quality Early Education Program. The program will continue to focus on meeting the educational and care interests and needs of each child, including school transition. The children will be benefiting from the two smaller groups of two educators with 6-10 children.

To support social interactions the children will still come together for our outdoor program in the playground, in the Moodji Garden, for excursions, and as mentioned, when ratio/space requirements permit in the Community Centre.

The builders will prioritise the completion of the therapy room and outdoor learning area, so we hope to return to delivering the Bidhu Preschool Program back at Preschool before the completion of the whole build.

We apologise for the short notification due to the unforeseen circumstances and appreciate that any changes can be challenging, but again we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding while the build is in progress. Please see staff if you have any questions or concerns.

## StEPS Vision Screening

All eligible children have now received their vision screening consent forms. We ask that families please return these immediately so the vision screening visit can be scheduled. Please see staff if you have not received, completed, or returned the screening consent forms for your child.

## Healthy Lunch Boxes

We have noticed lots of wonderful healthy lunchboxes coming into Preschool, with the children excited to show us the yummy healthy things they have. A big thank you to all families for promoting healthy eating habits and supporting our preschool's focus on nutrition, 'nude' foods and healthy food choices. Check out the wonderful 'Healthy Lunch Box' poster our preschool children have created at the front of Preschool 😊



## Moodji Farm Update

Moodji Project Manager, Dan Bakker is looking for volunteers to help with the up-and-coming Moodji Futures Fundraising Dinner and visit from Costa Georgiadis in May. If you have the capacity and time to support these amazing community events, please contact Dan Bakker on 0427 746 980. Thank you.

**EAT DIRT**  
PERMACULTURE

# THE COSTA GEORGIADIS ANNUAL REGIONAL TOUR

May 8th - 11th 2024

Eat Dirt Permaculture is excited to announce the eighth Far South Coast tour of premier Permaculture educator, Silver Logie recipient and host of ABC's Gardening Australia - Costa Georgiadis.

Each year tour convenor, Dan Bakker, brings together community driven enterprise in a collaborative capacity to boost the profile of:

- regenerative, urban and Indigenous 'care for country' agriculture
- disaster recovery, climate change ready, and community resilience initiatives
- intergenerational garden programming and school garden projects
- waste-to-resource and circular-economy innovation
- youth education & advocacy

eatdirtpermaculture@gmail.com • 0427 746980 •  
www.facebook.com/eatdirtpermaculture •



## Playgroup in Bermagui:

Come along to the Pop Up Playgroup in Bermagui. Not only a great opportunity to meet and play with other families with young children, but also access to the Toy Library and Resource Service.



# MOBILE TOY LIBRARY AND PARENTING RESOURCE SERVICE

Discover our wide range of toys for all ages.  
If you see us out and about, pop over for a chat

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
5th February TOWAMBA Playgroup 10.30 - 11.30	6th February BEGA Sapphire Neighbourhood Service Playgroup. 10.30 - 11.30	7th February ROCKY HALL Preschool 9 - 10am	
12th February Spencer Park, MERIMBULA 10 - 11.30	13th February Colombo Park, BEMBOKA 10.30 - 12	14th February Apex Park, BERMACUI 10 - 11.30	
19th February EDEN Playability Playgroup 10.15 - 11.15	20th February COBARGO Playability Playgroup Apex Park 10.30 - 11.30	21st February BEGA Playability Playgroup 35 Parker St 1 0.15 - 11.15	
26th February BEGA Glebe Park Bunyarra Drive 10-12	27th February EDEN Endeavour Park, Endeavor Court 10-12	28th February TATHRA Playgroup 10.30 - 11.30	
4th March TOWAMBA Playgroup 10.30 - 11.30	5th March BEGA Sapphire Neighbourhood Service Playgroup 10.30 - 11.30	6th March ROCKY HALL Preschool 9 - 10am	
11th March Spencer Park, MERIMBULA 10 - 11.30	12th March Colombo Park, BEMBOKA 10.30 - 12	13th March Apex Park, BERMACUI 10 - 11.30	
18th March EDEN Playability Playgroup 3 Crown Ln 10.15 - 11.15	19th March Apex Park, COBARGO 10.30 - 11.30	20th March BEGA Playability Playgroup 35 Parker St, BEGA 10.15 - 11.15	21st March PAMBULA Envision Education. 9.30-10.30
25th March BEGA Glebe Park Bunyarra Drive 10-12	26th March EDEN Endeavour Park, Endeavor Court, 10-12	27th March TATHRA Playgroup 10.30 - 11.30	
EASTER MONDAY	2nd April Sapphire Neighbourhood Service Playgroup, BEGA 10.30 - 11.30	3rd April ROCKY HALL Preschool 9 - 10am	
8th April Spencer Park, MERIMBULA 10 - 11.30	9th April Colombo Park, BEMBOKA 10.30 - 12	10th April Apex Park, BERMACUI 10 - 11.30	END OF SCHOOL TERM

For more information, call our office on 64961918

## Sculpture Bermagui

Staged in the heart of unspoilt nature, Sculpture Bermagui is one of the NSW Far South Coast's most popular events. The outdoor sculptures are displayed on the beautiful Dickinson Point headland and foreshore overlooking Horseshoe Bay and Gulaga. The indoor sculptures are displayed in the nearby Bermagui Surf Club and on Lamont Street out of the elements, to enable appreciation of them and their more vulnerable nature. With works coming from across the country and occasionally overseas, they continue to exhibit a high standard of artistic expression, diversity, and quality, with a focus on affordability too. The program often includes extra activities like engaging workshops, music, and poetry. The children are also excited to have their own sculptures displayed. Remember to go visit and see the children's amazing work!!! For further information about Sculpture Bermagui visit <https://sculpturebermagui.org.au/>

Free lantern making workshop  
@ Bermagui Library  
10.30am-12.30pm  
Sat 16 March

SCULPTURE BERMAGUI presents

# Twilight Picnic

featuring  
**bioluminescence**

with DJ Hedge Zeppelin + free BBQ  
Bring a picnic and a rug

**Saturday 16 March**  
**Music & BBQ from 6.30pm**  
**Lanterns and projections on at 7.30pm**

SCULPTURE BERMAGUI SOUTH EAST ARTS NSW GOVERNMENT FLING PHYSICAL THEATRE biga valley shire council bermagui state library

Bioluminescence is supported by the NSW Government through CreateNSW

This year Sculpture Bermagui is proud to present the very first Twilight Picnic. A family friendly event to be held on the second weekend of Sculpture Bermagui, asking you and yours to join us from 6:30pm for a free BBQ and smooth tunes spun by DJ Hedge Zeppelin. There will be a lantern making workshop for bigs and smalls, as well as video projection mapping of the Bioluminescence Project - we are going to light up the headland! So bring your LED's, glowsticks, your rug and your picnic and join to celebrate this wonderful community and our beautiful event.

Free BBQ and music from 6:30pm.

Lanterns on and projections from 7:30pm - 8:30pm.

### Signing In/Out

Please remember it a legal responsibility under the Education and Care National Regulations and Law Act for all children to be signed in and out of preschool by a parent or guardian. Significant fines and penalties are attached for failure to comply with these regulations and laws. We ask all families to please make sure QR Codes or iPads are used each time to sign your child in and out each day. This includes those in the Bidhu Preschool Program that will operate from the Community Centre during the build. Thank you.



## Thankyou 😊:

- Naomi (Harry's Mum) for donating beautiful Kokodama plants to our Preschool
- Grace's family for donating a lovely play kitchenette to our Preschool

## Challenging Behaviour

The Teachers and Educators at Bermagui Preschool work hard to ensure the Preschool is a place for learning, fun and above all safety for all children. Children come with a wide range of personalities, backgrounds and interaction skills, so at times there may be occasions when children need support to manage and regulate their behaviour. We work with our children and families to ensure each child is supported. In summary...

**1. We have an agreed understanding of age/developmentally appropriate behaviour.** The following behaviours, although not pleasant, are normal and age appropriate: snatching toys, pushing, hitting, throwing objects, swearing, spitting, temper tantrums, biting and rough and tumble play. Please let us reassure you these behaviours are not frequent at Bermagui Preschool, however when they do occur our staff take it very seriously and are guided by our Preschool Policies, our early childhood training and pedagogical knowledge, to deliver strategies to support children to develop positive social skills, emotional regulation and resilience. The role of our staff is twofold: to assist the children to regulate and manage their behaviour when frustrated, tired or emotional with children supported to learn new behaviour and make choices that include sharing, turn taking, waiting, losing graciously and managing feelings of anger, frustration and sadness. We also make sure children are learning to be resilient, confident, safe and secure, learning to be empowered and to overcome adversity, incidents and mistakes.

**2. We work closely with families to support children.** Sharing information about your child helps each child to be supported. Acknowledging the child's feelings and supporting them to find a solution can help children to feel resilient and empowered. Helping your child to learn new skills by modelling and suggesting strategies is also very powerful. Some of the scripts we use at preschool include saying "Can I join your game?", "Can I have my turn next/when you have finished?", "How did that make you feel?", "What could you do next time?", "Stop I don't like that".

**3. We are there to support children.** Whether at Preschool or in a social setting with family and friends, young children need adult support and guidance to learn and develop skills, so they can use these skills independently as they get older. "Children who are shielded from upsets and disappointments, hinder the development of resilience. During life we will experience many disappointments, failures, hardships and tragedies, but it is how we deal with them that is important. If we are protected from experiencing them on a small scale as children, how will we learn to handle them as adults" (Social and Emotional Learning, Volume 7, Every Child Journal). Our staff love and care for your children and will endeavour to minimise and manage challenging situations and behaviour. However we can not stop it completely, as we are dealing with children who are learning and exhibiting normal childhood behaviour. By working in partnership with our children, families and staff we can support children to be kind and gentle, assert themselves to feel confident, engage an adult to help when needed, and most importantly to practise problem solving, sharing and caring and skills that will benefit them beyond their Preschool years. A full copy of our support behaviour policy is available on request, or you may like to visit "The Circle of Security", Maggie Dent or Sue Larkey web pages.

## Bermagui Preschool AGM

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Volunteers and Members of our Community,

We need your help! If you are interested in joining our Board of Directors for 2024. As Bermagui Preschool is a community-based Preschool we cannot operate without a voluntary Board of Directors, so we really need your support. Our Annual General Meeting will be held in March on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 @ 9:15am. At our AGM our 7 Board Members for 2024 will be elected. These Board Members will represent our families at our Board meetings for 2024. Meetings are held approximately once a month on a Friday at 9:15am (at the Preschool and/or via Messenger video). The fabulous Catherine Chen will be available for governance training, for anyone interested in learning about or enhancing their Board Member/Committee skills.

You can be involved by putting up your hand to be elected for one of the 7 positions on the Board by completing the nomination slip below or simply by coming along to show your support.

The AGM will run for approximately 15 minutes. This will be a great opportunity to meet our new families, socialise and just have fun!

The AGM will include a brief presentation of reports, followed by all positions of the Board of Directors being declared vacant. Nominations will be called for the 7 positions for the 2024 Board of Directors. These positions are all equal, with no position having power or more responsibility over others, i.e. there will be no titles such as president, secretary, or treasurer.

Nominations will be read as received prior to the AGM. If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to be considered for election, please complete the attached nomination slip. If more than 7 people are nominated, then all those who are entitled to vote (i.e. all parents/ caregivers who have paid Preschool fees) will be given a ballot paper to record the people they wish to see elected. The 7 people receiving the highest number of votes will become the new Board. Once elected, the Board members will meet approximately once a month (meeting usually run for about 1 hour on a Friday morning at Preschool) to make decisions related to the "macro" management of the preschool, such as strategic planning, overall directions etc. The date for the first Board Meeting will be set by the newly appointed Board of Directors. Once the Board has been elected, the Annual Meeting will be closed.

If you are interested or know someone in the community who may be interested in becoming a board member or wish to discuss what is involved in being a Board Member, please see Narelle. A Board of Directors Induction Folder containing lots of information is available in the office.

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Please detach and return to Preschool.

### **Bermagui Preschool Co-Operative Society Ltd**

#### **NOMINATION FOR ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024**

I hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for a position on the Bermagui Preschool Board of Directors.

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination accepted - Signature (Nominee): \_\_\_\_\_