

# Bermagui Preschool Newsletter - 12 August 2024



## 2024 Important Dates

**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.**

## Official Opening of the Bilima Room

We were so excited to officially open our Bilima Therapy Room and 3-year-old Classroom on Friday 26th July 2024. Preschool children, families, teachers and local professionals will now be able to work together in small groups or take part in targeted counselling in the classroom, learning through play in an engaging environment which includes cubby nooks and sensory areas.

Bermagui Preschool will host specifically designed sessions including art and play therapy, cooking, gardening and storytelling for children to support their recovery and emotional development. This space will also double as a 3-year-old classroom when not in use for sessions.

This project will support each child and family to learn, within ourselves and our community, we have the power and the resilience to be strong in our own mental health and well-being. When children develop these skills at a young age it helps them with any future stress, anxiety and trauma that may present in their increasingly complex lives. By also supporting our families and educators to develop the knowledge and skills to raise resilient children, our communities become more vibrant and stronger.

The official opening was attended by Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick, Cr Helen O'Neil, the Hon Kristy McBain MP, representatives of the Dept of Education and Dept of Health, community stakeholders and of course the Preschool children, families and teachers. The event also included the book launch of "Creating Sanctuaries for Learning" written by local child psychologist Kate Gentle and Tenille Abell. This amazing book and resource was written after Kate worked with the children and families at Bermagui and Cobargo Preschool in targeted programs to support regulation, resilience and recovery from trauma. This is an excellent tool to provide trauma informed care to children under 5 years.

Again, we would like to thank the Australia and NSW Government Bushfire Local Economy Recovery Fund (BLERF) and the Australian Government Community Child Care Fund (CCCF) and their teams for supporting our project.

## Excellent Rating

There are many outstanding Children's Services on the south coast and across Australia delivering high quality programs, but Bermagui Preschool is one of only a handful to receive a rating of Excellent in The National Rating and Assessment for Australian Children's Services. The Excellent rating is the highest rating an Education and Care service can achieve under the National Quality Framework.

After recently receiving a rating of Exceeding National Quality Standard in all seven quality areas of the National Quality Standard, Bermagui Preschool was then eligible to apply for the Excellent rating. With only 5 Services across Australia still holding this rating for 3 consecutive periods, the teachers, educators and families at Bermagui Preschool are honoured and proud to be included in this group of outstanding children's services.

The awarding of the Excellent rating by ACECQA indicates that a service is embracing continuous quality improvement and practice, and are evolving over time to improve outcomes for children and families at the highest level. It also recognises providers who are champions of quality improvement, innovative leaders beyond the service, and are raising the bar on quality education and care for Australian children. Bermagui Preschool demonstrates excellent practice with its Mental Health and Wellbeing Program, Teacher and Educator Mentoring and Training Programs and Moodji Community and Cultural Garden Project. The Preschool's partnership with local services and businesses also shows their strong connections with community partners.

Director/Teacher Narelle Myers said the achievements of the Preschool were due to the wonderful team of dedicated Teachers, Educators, Board Members and families at Bermagui Preschool, all of whom are passionate about Early Childhood Education. "Even though we are a small rural preschool our children and families deserve not just quality but exceptional Early Childhood Education and Care. Research shows the first 5 years of life are the most important time for learning. We are passionate about ensuring our program is accessible to all, so that all children regardless of cultural background, socio-economic circumstances and/or diversity in abilities can learn, grow and play together and reach their full potential.

## Moodji Winter Fire Ceremony Postponed

Our Winter Fire Ceremony has been rescheduled for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 5pm-7pm. Please save the date and stay tuned for further information.

## Preschool Photos

Preschool photos have arrived!!! A big thank you to Tara for creating such beautiful photos of our gorgeous Preschoolers. If you have any questions regarding preschool photos or would like to chat to Tara about her wonderful photography, please contact [tara@daisyhillphotography.com.au](mailto:tara@daisyhillphotography.com.au).

## Wanted

If anyone has a baby monitor, they no longer use and they would like to donate to Preschool, the Preschool would greatly appreciate it.

## Interest in Parenting Program

Bermagui Preschool is looking to host a "Bringing up Great Kids Parenting Program", one day a week for four weeks. We don't have confirmed details yet but please let us know if this is something that you might be interested in attending.

## 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 4.11 Snakes, 4.12 Incident, Injury and Trauma and 4.13 Illness Policies. 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.

## Facebook

Remember to check out your HubHello/Educate emails and like us on the Bermagui Preschool Facebook page... Great ways to see what we've been up to at Preschool!!!



# PYJAMA DAY

National Pyjama Day is all about wearing your favourite pair of PJ's to help The Pyjama Foundation raise much-needed awareness and funds for children in foster care.

Money raised from National Pyjama Day, helps offer learning skills to children in foster care, fund educational resources and help provide stable, positive relationships.



A reminder it's PJ Day all week at Preschool... don't forget to wear your jammies and dressing gowns and bring a gold coin donation to support children in foster care.