

THE KIDS COTTAGE TERM 2 NEWSLETTER

Term 2, 2021 | Issue 11 | Date: May 2021



Term 2 Updates

ASC Hip Hop Dance Program will commence on Tuesday 27th April and continue every Tuesday for the following 8 weeks. It will be run from 4pm- 5pm with an additional charge of \$8 per session. Spaces filling us fast so if you are interested in signing your child up please send us an email.

BSC Rugby Program will commence on Thursday 29th and continue every Thursday for the following 8 weeks of Term 2. It will run from 7:30am- 8:30am with an additional charge of \$8 per session. Spaces filling us fast so if you are interested in signing your child up, please send us an email.

Winter Vacation Care program and booking forms will be out on Friday 28th of May with lots of fun offerings to keep your children entertained. Vacation Care will run from Monday 28th June to Monday 13th of July.

Biting Truth is back again for term 2 with the second session taking place for the Senior group on Wednesday 12th May from 4pm-5pm.

Heart Foundation Bake Sale is taking place on Wednesday 28th of April from 3pm. Kids Cottage wants to give back to the community through this fundraiser with our aim to be not only to raise funds but also awareness in our local community.

Director's Message

Firstly, I wanted to thank all the families for congratulating myself and husband Isa on our wedding. We had an amazing day celebrating with our family and friends and current Cottage staff and past. We are looking forward to our new stage in life as husband and wife.

I wanted to praise all the hard work from the Cottage team on organising and running the successful bake sale on Wednesday 28th April for the Heart foundation. So far, we have raised \$925.25, the online donations website is still open and running if you wished out donating on Wednesday you can still donate online. Here is the link: <https://www.doitforheart.org.au/fundraisers/imogenfaux>. Special thanks to Imogen the staff member who organised this fundraising event.

We have recently set up a parent board on the window outside the cottage front door to your right. We would like you feedback on vacation care, activities, or programs you would like to see here at Cottage. along, with upcoming events and feedback on our Quality Improvement Plan. To offer your feedback there is a basket with pens and paper on the window seal, so feel free to give us your feedback.

As it is now getting cooler, we wanted to remind all families that during winter we ask all children who are playing outside to wear a jumper from 5pm. If you could please remind your child/ren to pack a jumper in their bag, so they do not miss out of the fun outdoor activities.

Here at Cottage, we do provide a homework time for children to do their readers or sight words or Mathletics and literacy planet. If you would like your child to do their homework here, please put their name on the homework list which is located on the sign in and out table on the left. Please note homework is only done Monday to Thursday from 4:50pm to 5:30pm.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

SPARE HATS- Spare hats get assigned to a child if they do not have a Cottage hat so we can keep all children sun safe and differentiate who is in the care of Kids Cottage. Please look through your child's bag and around your home for any spare hats that your child may have brought home. If you have had any spare hats find their way home, please return them to Kids Cottage so we can keep all our children sun safe whilst at Cottage. If you are needing to purchase a new Cottage hat for your child, please let us know and we can provide your child with a new hat and charge the \$9 to your account.

14 DAY CANCELLATION POLICY- Kids Cottage has a 14-day cancellation policy which means that if you wish to amend or end your permanent bookings or remove a one-off day you will need to give us 14 days' notice. If you miss the 14-day window to remove your bookings those bookings will be marked as absent, and you will still be charged.

Kids Cottage currently has **full Before and After School Care availability** in Term 2. If you would like to increase your permanent bookings, please contact us.

Autumn Vacation Care Highlights



On Wednesday 7th the Juniors went to Wild Play at Centennial Park for a fun filled morning playing in nature! The children loved running through the bushes and playing imaginative games. They especially loved walking across the bridges, climbing up the playground and whizzing down the slide. They were even lucky enough to have the water turned on for the splash park allowing the kids to cool off!

On Friday 16th year 2 headed off to the Maritime Museum for a glorious day on the water. The children learned a lot from the day with one of the highlights being an exhibit showing all the waste that ends up in the ocean including the Inconvenience Store made from everything you never needed and more. The children also loved walking through the Destroyer learning how the Navy live day to day when out at sea.



On Thursday 8th year 3+4 had the opportunity to head to Rock House Brookvale for an energetic morning of climbing. The children loved the excursion pushing their boundaries and surprising themselves with how high they could climb. The children got really involved and showed great sportsmanship throughout the excursion encouraging their friends along the way. This will be one to program again soon!



On Wednesday 7th year 5+6 children headed off to Sydney Royal Easter Show. The children got to pet farm animals, test their nerves on rides and buy yummy food in the Woolworths food tent. The children's favourite part of the day was the show bags, with them spending time choosing what sort of show bags and toys they wanted to buy to take home as a souvenir. It was great to see the children have so much enthusiasm; the whole day was a great success!



Kids Cottage Parents Wall

Kids Cottage has developed a Parents Wall that is now displayed in the front window of Cottage up on the deck.

It will be showing what the upcoming events are at Kids Cottage for parents to get involved with including the upcoming Vacation Care and Bake Sale for the Heart Foundation.

We have also created a space for Parents to provide feedback on Kids Cottage. Questions have been placed up from both our Quality Improvement Plan and Parent Inputs for families to have their say. Blank cards have been placed out for you to complete and we would like to encourage all parents to let us know what you would like to see from Kids Cottage. Please place your input back into the box and we will try to get as many suggestions implemented as possible.

Our current Quality Improvement question is around Physical Environment:

Are there any sustainable practices you wish to see implemented at Kids Cottage?

We will also be placing up a set of profiles showcasing parents who work tirelessly on our Kids Cottage Committee. We hope this will provide the opportunity to our wider community to understand the running of Kids Cottage and provide some faces to the volunteers who make Kids Cottage possible.

STAFFING SPOTLIGHT

To start off Term 2, we thought we would introduce some of our long-standing Casual Educators. For those of you who have been attending Kids Cottage, these will all be very familiar faces who have been looking after you for many years now however if you are new or returning to Kids Cottage, they may be unfamiliar faces. Our Casual team work tirelessly each morning and afternoon to make your children's time at Cottage as fun as possible. They can often be found at Kids Cottage during before school care, after school care and the twice a week attending team meetings, training on child development and best practices within the out-of-school hours care industry.

Lily Flood



Lily has followed in the footsteps of her brother and sister who have both worked at Kids Cottage. She is in her second year working at Cottage and can be found usually out with the Juniors either cooking up a storm in the kitchen or creating a masterpiece at the craft table.

Will Crellin



This is Will's third year at Kids Cottage starting out as a Junior Staff member and then moving up to casual once he turned 18. Whilst at Cottage Will can be found either out on the Oval playing a great sports game or sharing his love of food!

Sarah Carr



Sarah has been working on and off at Kids Cottage for many years now whilst she has been completing her Law Degree. When at Cottage Sarah can be found with the Kids Club year group creating craft or running an outdoor game.

Tom Wagstaff



Tom started at Kids Cottage as a Junior staff and worked his way up to a Casual once turning 18. Fun fact Tom attended Middle Harbour as a child and can be found telling the children how the school has changed over the years. Tom can be found at Cottage across all the different year groups getting the children enthusiastic about any outdoor group games.

Xplor Home App User Guide

Your Xplor Home app does much more than just allow you to sign in and out your children from Kids Cottage. It is your one stop shop for all things Kids Cottage allowing you access to your bookings, payment details, personal details, and observations on your child's time at Kids Cottage.

Did you know that you can mark your child/ren as absent via the app? It is easy and time saving as we no longer require you to send us an email or give us a call. All you need is to open your Xplor Home app, navigate to the sign in tab which will show you your current bookings for the day. If you click the expand button in the top right-hand corner of the booking it will open up more details and at the bottom right-hand corner, you will see the 'absent' button to mark your child as absent.

Have you made a casual booking via the Xplor app yet? It is a quick and easy process and again saves time on sending an email! If you go to the bookings tab in the app it will display all your current bookings at Kids Cottage. To request an extra booking all you need to do is click on the date you wish to make the booking and then click the '+new' button in the top right-hand corner of the page and select 'booking' in the pop up. Available sessions will be viewable for that day, please select the room and time you wish to book. Once selected, click on the pram icon in the top right-hand corner to go to the summary screen and if all details are correct click request. *(Note casual booking are for BSC and ASC only, VAC bookings are still via email)*

Is someone regularly collecting your child other than a parent or guardian? If so, you can add them as a hub guest so they will be able to sign your child out of Kids Cottage on the Ipads. To add a Hub Guest, go to the Hub Guests tab, click '+new' in the top right-hand corner and add in their name and email address. They guest will receive an email asking them to create a password which they will use to sign out on the Ipads.

More Info <https://support.ourxplor.com/hc/en-us/categories/203542608-Home-Parent->

Kids Cottage Committee

Did you know Kids Cottage is a not-for-profit organisation with all proceeds going back to the Middle Harbour Community?

The Kids Cottage Committee is made up of parent volunteers who work tirelessly to keep Kids Cottage running. They attend meetings twice a term to discuss all things Kids Cottage over wine and nibbles giving up their own evenings despite their already busy schedule.

All our Committee members have children who attend the service regularly and wanted to give back.

Sejal McNicol is our current Chair of the Committee who has a daughter who attends Cottage.

Kim Thomas is our current Secretary of the Committee and has two children who attend Cottage regularly.

Celina Cross is our current Treasurer of the Committee and has two boys who attend Cottage.

Our other Committee members are Inga Latham, Nicole Kaplan, Rebecca Stuart and Arti Brown.