

THE KIDS COTTAGE TERM 3 NEWSLETTER

Term 3, 2022 | Issue 22 | Date: August 2022



Term 3 Highlights

September Vacation Care: Will be running from **Monday 26th** of September to **Friday 7th** of October.

Christmas Closure Dates: Kids Cottage will be running December Vacation Care from **Tuesday 20th Dec** to **Fri 23rd** and will then open back up for Jan Vac on **Monday 9th of January**.

OOSH Educators Day: We celebrated OOSH Educators Day on Wednesday 27th of July 2022. We would like to take the opportunity to thank all the families who showed their appreciation for the hard work of our Educators every day!

School Show: Kids Cottage will be providing care for Middle Harbour children during the School Shows taking place on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd of September.

School Disco: The Date has been set of the annual School Disco run by Kids Cottage for Friday 25th of November 2022. More information including the theme will be sent out soon.

Director's Message

It is with great sadness that I must inform you of my resignation at Kids Cottage with my final day being Friday 19th of August. I have been thinking long and hard about my next step with Jacqui returning from maternity leave and I am ready for a new challenge closer to home. I have worked at Kids Cottage for over two years as Assistant Director and over the past six months as Acting Director whilst Jacqui has been on maternity leave.

I will truly miss the close-knit Kids Cottage Community and the children that have put a smile on my face each and every day. I want to thank you all for welcoming me into the Middle Harbour Community and entrusting me with the care of your children, it has been an honour.

Jacqui is returning from maternity on Monday 19th of September with Katrina stepping up as Acting Director in the interim.

I would like to invite you to join us for my send off in true Kids Cottage style. We will be hosting a fun party on the oval on Friday 19th with games, inflatable slide, fairy floss and snow cone machine and a sausage sizzle, from 3:30pm till 5:30pm. If your child is not booked into attend Kids Cottage on the 19th but would like to join in the celebrations, please let us know and we will book them in for the afternoon.

Kindest Regards,

Eleanor

Term 2 Reminders

Search Fee Charge: If you fail to inform The Kids Cottage of your child/ren's absence by 3pm the day of the booking and you receive a phone call following up on your child whereabouts you will receive the \$10 search fee charge added to your account. You can notify us of an absence through the Xplor Home app, via phone or email.

Casual Bookings: As numbers are picking up for after school care our availability for casual, last-minute bookings are reducing with Tuesday and Thursday afternoons being our busiest. If you are needing a casual after school care booking on either a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon, please provide us with as much notice as possible to ensure we have space for your child. If booking in on the day we may not have space available for your child/ren.

Sept Vacation Care Highlights

Our Juniors these school holidays will be heading off to see Zoom, an immersive theatre production about a child who is unable to sleep and so befriends a star at the Opera House. They will also be testing their skills at barefoot bowls at the Greens North Sydney and traveling to the beautiful home of Australia's foremost children's author and illustrator May Gibbs at Nutcote House. Staying closer to home the Juniors will be enjoying a fairytale puppet show by Jeral Puppets and even get to make their own to take home. Our full vacation care programs and booking forms will be sent out on Friday so get your bookings in ASAP to not miss out!

The Seniors have a jammed packed Spring Vacation Care program for your children to get involved with. They will be off to Clip N Climb to challenge their climbing abilities on all the rock climbing walls and activities. The seniors will also be tested when they head off to Underworld Laser Tag Menai as they are pitted against each other to see who has the aim and skill to become the champion! They will also be heading to Aquatopia for an action-packed excursion to the ultimate Splash Park! Back at Cottage the fun doesn't stop with the children testing their culinary abilities and trying different food at the Food Truck Day along with heading off to the fair for our Fair Day at Kids Cottage including jumping castles, carnival games and much more. Our full vacation care programs and booking forms will be sent out on Friday so get your bookings in ASAP to not miss out!

Join Kids Club these school holidays as they head off to Escape Room and Bowling at Macquarie as they test their problem-solving abilities. They will also be heading down to Manly Beach including swimming beach games along with Fish and Chips + Ice Cream for lunch. Kids Club are also off to Cables Wake Park to explore both the Aqua Splash Park and Cable Wake Park. Staying at Kids Cottage they will be taking part in a cultural MasterChef Day cooking up a storm in the Cottage kitchen along with packing care packages for the homeless. Our full vacation care programs and booking forms will be sent out on Friday so get your bookings in ASAP to not miss out!



Local Business Awards Winner 2022

We would like to share the brilliant news that last night we were announced as the winner of the 2022 Local Business Awards North Shore Outstanding Early Childhood Centre. This is a momentous achievement for the Kids Cottage team and validation for everyone's hard work and dedication each and every day.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the entire Team for going above and beyond to provide the highest quality care for our children; the Kids Cottage families for all their support especially over the past two years and getting behind Kids Cottage with your votes, without you Kids Cottage would not be possible and the wider community for supporting Kids Cottage as an essential service within our community.

We are truly humbled by this award and the exceptional recognition of the talent and resilience of our outstanding team! We will be celebrating as a team and hope you will join us in commemorating this achievement.

STAFFING SPOTLIGHT

Katrina Sparkes will be stepping up as Acting Director from Monday 22nd of August to the 19th of September when Jacqui returns from Maternity Leave. Katrina has worked at Kids Cottage since 2018 and in that time has held many roles within the team. For the previous 6 months she has been Acting Assistant Director and thriving in the role. She has been part of this close-knit team for years and is excited to be stepping up to this new challenge. If you have any questions or queries over the four weeks, please contact Katrina at info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com or via phone at 0290561113 and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

Our Group Leaders are staying the same with Imogen Group Leader for Juniors, Gabe Group Leader for Seniors and Kalani as Group Leader for Kids Club.

Fee Increase 2022

Our goal at Kids Cottage is to continue to provide the highest level of care possible for your children which includes developing a challenging, engaging and fun program in line with our approved learning framework, My Time, Our Place (<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-law-regulations/approved-learning-frameworks>)

In order to continue to deliver the program, level of care expected at Kids Cottage and to ensure the financial security of the centre, a fee increase will be put into effect as of the 26th of September 2022.

The new fees that will take affect from 26th of October are detailed below:

Care Session	Current Fee	Fee Increase (from 26 th Sept 2022)
ASC	\$25	\$26.25
ASC Casual	\$27	\$28.25
BSC	\$15.75	\$16.25
BSC Casual	\$17.75	\$18.25
VAC	\$71	\$74.50
VAC Non-MH	\$80	\$83.50

These fees are before any deductions are applied for your childcare subsidy (CCS) entitlements. If you would like to calculate your new gap fee after CCS, please visit www.childcaresubsidycalculator.com.au.

Along with the fee increases listed above the Committee has agreed to create a new casual charge for vacation care bookings. Any Vacation Care booking requests that are submitted after close of business (6:30pm) the Friday prior to the final week of term will be charged the new casual rate. This is a \$5 increase for the casual rate with the **VAC Casual** booking charge set at **\$79.50** and the **VAC NON-MH Casual** booking charge set at **\$88.50**.

The implementation of a casual booking charge is to encourage parents to enrol their child/ren into vacation care earlier so we can ensure our rosters are set to ratios and minimise the administration load whilst within the vacation care period.

The Kids Cottage Parent Management Committee and Centre Management understands the impact a fee increase can have for families. If these fee increases are going to impact you significantly or you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact the Kids Cottage Management and we be more than happy to discuss payment options.

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback please contact Eleanor or Katrina at info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com.

Child Safe Standard 7:

Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe, through continual education and training.

As a child safe organisation, we promote continuous learning and provide regular ongoing education and training. Our team continually build on their abilities to keep children safe.

Our team receive annual training that encompasses the nature and indicators of child maltreatment, particularly abuse that occurs in organisations.

Our team also receive training on the organisation's child safe practices and child protection efforts and weekly and termly meeting.

The team is supported to develop practical skills in protecting children and responding to disclosures through mentorship and professional learning.

QIP Development:

Our Quality Improvement Plan is a self-assessment tool that guides us to assess our performance in delivering quality education and care helping us plan for future improvement.

It is updated annually allowing us the opportunity to reflect on the improvement plan set from the year before and then create a new plan for the year ahead.

Part of our QIP development is gaining feedback from families. This term we would like feedback from families on innovative ideas for the program.

If there are any activities or cultural events you would like to see celebrated at Kids Cottage please let us know and we will get them on the program.

We are placing a greater focus on having the voices of all stakeholders as part of our programming cycle and that includes the families and community of Kids Cottage. Any ideas please send them through to info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com

BASC Voucher:

Families can claim the voucher from Service NSW between the 28th of February and the 30th of September 2022 and must be redeemed at a participating Before and After School Care Service by the 31st of December. You can claim your vouchers through the Service NSW app on your smartphone or by following the verification steps as outlined on the Service NSW website <http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/basc-voucher>

Once you have received your vouchers redeeming them at Kids Cottage is a simple process. There will be a QR code and unique single use code attached to the voucher. You can take a screenshot of your voucher and send it to us to enter into our Service NSW business app. Once entered and linked to Kids Cottage we will place a \$500 credit onto your account for you to use for future bookings.

If you have any questions regarding your BASC vouchers, please let us know.

Parent Committee Call Out

The Kids Cottage Middle Harbour is a not-for-profit organisation overseen by a Volunteer Parent Management Committee, a Sub-Committee of the Middle Harbour P&C. We wanted to take the opportunity thank our current volunteers and recruit new members to join the Team!

We hold two Committee Meetings a term on site over wine and nibbles however attendance can also be adapted to suit your availability including via Zoom, phone dial in, tag teamed with another Committee Member or be a Committee Member on speed dial, called on when needed. The Parent Committee recruits the Director, provides the Kids Cottage governance structure, develops strategy and policies along with supporting the Kids Cottage Team with advice and guidance when needed.

Being part of the Kids Cottage Committee allows parents a greater connection to the School and Kids Cottage. It offers the opportunity to have a greater influence on community, having your say on the priorities for the children and implement change. It also presents an excellent chance to make a real impact a Middle Harbour through projects to give back to the school. Past donations have included the large fan in the hall, the weather blinds on the Kindy balcony, the renovation of the Kids Cottage building, and we are currently in communication with the school around Playground development.

Our current Parent Committee members include Sejal McNicol, Inga Gold, Arti Brown, Kim Thomas, and Celina Cross. They would love to tell you all about it. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please email the Kids Cottage info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com.