

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 11 2024 Thursday 10 April

Rosary Park Catholic School
Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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Website: www.branxton.catholic.edu.au

We acknowledge the Wonnarua people-the first custodians of this land

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults - particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese. All employees are required to undergo a National Police Check and, where legislated, hold a Working with Children Check. Diocesan workers are expected to personally adopt and enact the Diocese's Safeguarding Commitment Statement.

IMPORTANT DATES

Weekly Mass Times: 6pm Saturday Branxton; 8am Sunday Greta

APRIL		MAY	
Thur 10	Holy Thursday Liturgy Easter Egg Raffle and Hat Parade – 2:15pm	Tue 6 th	Baiame Cave Excursion Year 4
Fri 11	Good Friday Liturgy – 9:15am LAST DAY OF TERM 1	Wed 7 th	Maths Olympiad Contest 1 Assembly 9:15am
Thur 25 th	Anzac Day – Branxton march commences at 11:00am	Thur 8 th	Mother's Day Stall
Mon 28 th	FIRST DAY OF TERM 2 ANZAC Day Liturgy 2:15pm	Fri 9 th	Mother's Day Breakfast and Liturgy – 7:45am Wear Your Footy Jumper to School Day for Zane
Tue 29	Athletics Carnival for K-6 – Maitland Athletics Field	Wed 14 th	Diocesan Cross Country Carnival
Wed 30	Stage 3 NRL Gala Day	Fri 16 th	School Spelling Bee

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all have a happy and holy Easter time, our most important event as a Christian community.

We reflect on the Easter triduum from the chant of 'Hosanna!' on Palm Sunday to Good Friday when those chants change to 'Crucify Him, Crucify Him!' It is a reflection on our humanness of being both saint and sinner. Held in tension as we look to do better and be more the saint but

noting that sometimes we get some things wrong. Jesus dies to help us tip our balance for goodness. Our prayer from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday should always be one of gratitude, for strength, for grace, for forgiveness and for the transformation only Jesus can bring.

I hope that this Easter season is able to bring you this over the break.

Student Led Conferences

Open and regular communication between school and home is so important to best optimise our children's learning outcomes. To this end we have now opened Compass for parents who wish to book a phone interview (10 mins' duration) with their child's teacher in week 1-2 of term 2. The bookings will close on Tuesday of the first week of the holidays (15 APRIL)

Please ensure that you answer the call from a private number. Attached to this newsletter you will find instructions on how to book a time for this phone interview.

Semester one reports will be available to parents in the week of Wednesday 25 June. Then on <u>Monday 30 June</u> we will hold Student led conferences for ALL children and their parents to attend on this allocated day which is a PUPIL FREE DAY.

Through the outstanding work of all staff and students, through the Leading Learning Collaborative (LLC), wonderfully led by the Executive Team here at RPB, children use Learning Intentions and Success Criteria to achieve success in a learning task and during this term they have started the setting of goals in aspects of their numeracy and literacy learning which will be shared and discussed with you at their conference on 30 June. At this conference the child is not only present but is encouraged to explain their progress and reflect on their accomplishments and set goals.

MAT life skills program

In Term 2 our year 5 6 children will participate in this weekly program. This is a therapeutic martial arts program that combines the principles of physical and mental wellbeing with those of therapeutic martial art training techniques. Its format engages and empowers young people to learn life skills and to better manage the challenges in their lives. The program uses drills, games, metaphors, and stories to deliver the physical, and mental wellbeing objectives. It does NOT involve sparring of any form.

Trained life skill instructors Darius and Lisa Wingate-Pearse (with the assistance of class teachers) will lead the children every week, commencing in the second week of Term 2, on a Tuesday. Please refer to your note, which was given out by teachers / place on Compass.

The philosophy of the program is BE STRONG - BE CALM - BE KIND - TRY HARD

The school is providing the funding for this initiative.

Grades 3 and 4 will participate in the program in term 3.

Complaints and Concerns - A Positive Approach

Concerns arise at schools for a variety of reasons, sometimes due to the very busy nature of the school environment.

In addition to solid teaching & learning, there are many extra curricula activities to enhance school life, and a great deal of coordination is required. Accordingly, many considered decisions are made every day by our professional team to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and the wider community, and promote learning for all. At the same time, the school community

is quite diverse, with many individuals or groups having vastly different opinions on how things should be done.

It is inevitable therefore, that times will arise when some parents agree with the school's actions while others disagree and wish to discuss the matter and seek clarification with the school. We welcome such discussions and encourage parents to raise issues so that they can be dealt with speedily and resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Raising concerns or seeking clarification is not a negative experience if everyone focuses on it being a solution-focused experience by valuing everyone's opinions. The following process for presenting and managing parental concerns works well and is the way we manage all concerns at our school.

The diocese now has a new complaints and feedback process. Brochures are available in our school foyer should you wish to access these.

The CSO website has now been updated to reflect the new Complaints Resolution Framework. Please see Complaints Resolution and Feedback at https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/about/complaints-resolution-and-feedback/

Winter Uniform

Changeover to winter uniform occurs in Term 2. Unless we have a cold snap earlier, all children are expected to be in <u>full winter uniform by the start of Week 4 (19 May)</u>. In the two weeks prior to this, parents are welcome to use their discretion and if there is a cold snap children can wear their Winter uniform. Your support is greatly appreciated to maintain our very high uniform standard. All items are available at Flanagan's Menswear, Vincent Street, Cessnock.

<u>Staffing</u>

Mrs Janelle Dixon, our Assistant Principal, has been seconded by the Catholic Schools Maitland-Newcastle to serve as Acting Assistant Principal at St Patrick's Lochinvar, during the First six weeks of Term Two. This change has been facilitated by Mr Dennis Nolan at St Patrick's Lochinvar, being seconded to St Peter's Stockton in the absence of their Principal, Mr Michael Punch, who will be going on Long Service Leave.

During this time the following changes will occur at Rosary Park:

- Miss Mackenzie Gageler will undertake the role of Assistant Principal during this time. Her Executive Release teacher will remain as Mrs Deb Parkes. The class function will remain exactly as normal.
- Miss Grace Dever will undertake the role of Religious Education Coordinator. Her Executive Release teacher will be Miss Maddy Percival. Miss Percival will work on Year 4 Blue on Thursdays and Fridays.
- Ms Amber van Duuren will undertake the roles of Primary Coordinator and Pedagogical Mentor (0.4) for the 6 week period. Her Executive Release teacher will be Mrs Paige Pringle, who will work in Year 6 Blue on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays for the six week block. We welcome Mrs Pringle back to the staff.
- Miss Nikola Groves will continue in her role of Gifted Education Mentor and Miss Maddy Percival will continue to release her on Tuesdays.
- Due to Mrs Dixon's secondment, an opportunity has come up for an English As a Language or Dialect (EAL/D) teacher. Mrs Kate Burgess will be undertaking this role 2 days per week.

- We also welcome back Mrs Nichola Ellis, as Learning Support Teacher. She will be joining Mrs Kathryn Piggott from April 28.
- Sadly we will see the departure of Mrs Melita Robertson, from Rosary Park as Learning Support Assistant Admin, Ms Linda Museth, Learning Support Assistant and Mr Jeremy Brown, Learning Support Assistant, whose contracts expire at the conclusion of Term One. I wish to publicly thank Melita, Linda and Jeremy for their contributions to our school and wish them all the very best for their futures.

Enrolments

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2025 are now open & will close 23 May. Please visit our website www.branxton.catholic.edu.au then Enrolments – Enrol Online Now to submit your application, if you have a child eligible for kindergarten or know of someone intending to seek enrolment. We have a large number of enrolments and we would not want to see any siblings miss out.

Anzac Day

Our local RSL will run their annual Anzac Day service on Thursday 25 April. Rosary Park children are invited to march (in full summer uniform) and attend the service. This will start with meeting from 10:45am between the hotel and the butchers, to march to the rotunda for the service.

Thank you

I would like to personally thank every student, staff member and parent / friend of Rosary Park for your very heartwarming welcome to the school. It has been a whirlwind 11 weeks coming to a new environment, but I feel very much settled into this beautiful school.

As always, I am more than happy to receive any feedback, both strengths and areas of development, for Rosary Park. We can not grow as a school if we don't know where to go next.

Have a Happy, Holy and Safe Easter break.

Kind regards,

Mr Ashley Borg (PRINCIPAL)

Assistant Principal's Message

End of term Child Protection and safety lessons

As always at Rosary Park we revisit our safety and child protection lessons at the end of each term before the holidays. Teachers will be providing the opportunity for students to identify safe people in their home circle, as well as safe behaviours when in the community. If you would like to have these conversations in your home, you may find the following resources helpful.

Kids Helpline online - https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids

Road Safety - https://www.safetytown.com.au/

If you would like further information about road safety or child protection education, please contact the school via the administration email.

Parent Phone Call Conferences

During the first 2 weeks of next term teachers will be conducting parent phone calls to discuss the learning of your children. These conferences have been opened on Compass. Have you booked in on Compass for a phone call with your child's teacher? Please take

advantage of this opportunity to engage in an important conversation about your child/children's

learning and social development. These bookings will close on TUESDAY afternoon 15th April, so make sure you secure your time.

This is the schools allocated time for calls to parents. Teachers will not offer another time in the first half of the term.

Well Wishes

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Rosary Park families a blessed and safe Easter time with their loved ones.

I also wish Mackenzie all the best as she takes on my Assistant Principal role for the first 6 weeks of term 2. I am looking forward to taking on the Assistant Principal role at St Patrick's Lochinvar and am excited to see what new learnings I can bring back to Rosary Park when I return later in the term.

Warm Regards, Janelle Dixon

Religious Coordinators Message

Holy Week:

Holy Week is an important time during the Lenten season. It marks the final week of the season of Lent, and it recounts the final days of Christ's life, as well as his death, burial and resurrection. I thank all the staff and students for their preparation preparing the holy week liturgies and to our wonderful parents and families that were able to attend a liturgy. As Lent comes to an end, please ensure all project compassion mission boxes are sent back to the office by the end of this week. Thank you for helping transform lives today and for all future generations. We appreciated all your support and generous donations.



Pope Francis:

Francis' Focus – Who better to help guide us in the true depth and meaning of our Catholic faith than the charismatic and authentic leader of our Church, Pope Francis. Below he encourages us to go out and live joyfully the Easter message that Christ is alive: Reflecting on Easter, Pope Francis highlights the importance of 'walking away from the tomb.' Once found, faith must be lived. As Saint Peter said, 'we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people.' Easter is, in a sense, the starting point of our Christian responsibilities. Living the Easter mystery means becoming a joyful Easter people. We must, therefore, be open to action and change. We cannot become stuck in our ways, crippled by doubt, despair or habit. As Pope Francis says, Easter shows us that 'it is always possible to begin anew, because there is always a new life that God can awaken in us in spite of all our failures.' The annual celebration of Easter reminds us that what we celebrate is present here and now. Ours is a living faith. As the Pope adds, 'faith is not an album of past memories; Jesus is not outdated. He is alive here and now.' Easter is a celebration of the mystery that Jesus is present. He is here, in both the needy of the world and through the actions of His followers. So, having celebrated the mystery, we are sent forth to live it. 'Having made himself present in the heart of our world,' the Pope points out, Jesus 'invites us to overcome barriers, banish prejudices and draw near to those around us every day in order to rediscover the grace of everyday life.'

Upcoming events:

Anzac Day 25th April, 2024

Students who would like to represent our school in the Branxton RSL Anzac Day march, please meet Mr Borg at the Branxton Butcher Shop by 10:45am to commence marching at 11:00am.

The Resurrection April 29th: 9.15am Monday

Anzac Day liturgy: Join us in our school hall on Monday the 29th of April at 2.15pm where Year 5 will lead us in our Anzac Day liturgy.

God bless.

Mackenzie Gageler

Exciting Sports News!!

A huge congratulations to our students Logan, Matilda, Holly, Annedrea and Mackenzie who have all performed very well at the NSW PSSA Swimming Championships today.

Logan has placed 12th in the State in the 11 years Boys 50m Freestyle – what an effort!

The girls not to be left out have placed 11th in the Junior Girls Relay – woohoo!

Congratulations and well-done representing Rosary Park so well – we are very proud of you all.





Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received awards in the last fortnight.

Week ending Friday 4th April 2025 (Week 10)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Zara S	Harlyn H	Gordon H
Kinder White	Riley M	Ava M	Liliana H
Year 1 Blue	Eva N	Tyler T	George A
Year 1 White	Angus M	Isla C	Astrid C
Year 2 Blue	Miya W	Zoe C	Xavier T
Year 2 White	Teren G	Lincoln H	Evie E
Year 3 Blue	Alfie W	Hallie D	Matilda b
Year 3 White	Lleyton L	Alexis I	Ari s
Year 4 Blue	Jaxon C	Noha M	Indy M
Year 4 White	Jack C	Reni S	Louella T
Year 5 Blue	Charlize L	Hannah C	Frances M
Year 5 White	Addison S	Hudson W	Isaac I
Year 6 Blue			
Year 6 White	Cruz G	Lilly S	Jacob L

Week ending Friday 11th April 2024 (Week 11)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Hunter P	Hazel S	Owen e
Kinder White	Emmett B	Amelia I	Lottie L
Year 1 Blue	Oliver C	Kylan K	Georgie-Lee K
Year 1 White	Henry C	Ayla D	Dustin P
Year 2 Blue	Jett I	Tanner H	James D
Year 2 White	An N	Jack C	Harvey C
Year 3 Blue	Ava W	Jenson F	Stella G
Year 3 White	Maici B	Harrison AL	Eleanor C
Year 4 Blue	Cooper S	Aramaia M	Ken P
Year 4 White	Annabelle L	Hendrix B	Sofia P
Year 5 Blue	Levi C	Dev T	Sasha A
Year 5 White			
Year 6 Blue			
Year 6 White			





ANZAC Day

Branxton Town March 2025

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US

All Schools are to form up in the laneway between the Butcher Shop (Hungerford Meat Co) and the Old Commercial Hotel (Maitland St Collective) at 11am

Step off Begins at 11:15am

Arrival at the Rotunda at 11:30am

Commencement of ANZAC Service at 11:45am





Cessnock Library Presents:

Film and Snacks for Teens at Branxton Community Hall

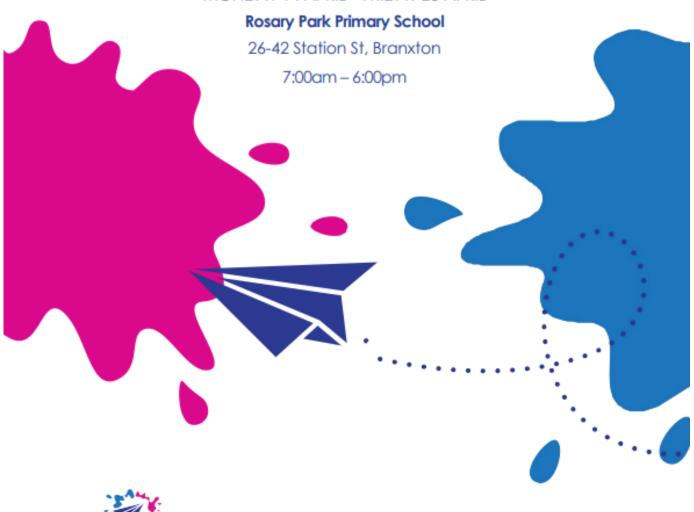
The untold tale of two unlikely companions, one born with green skin - kick back, follow their magical journey, and eat snacks!

Thursday, April 24 · 2 - 4pm AEST



VACATION CARE

MONDAY 14 APRIL - FRIDAY 25 APRIL



St Nicholas OOSH

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stnicks.org.au

WEEK ONE

MONDAY 14 APRIL

PJ AND GAMING DAY

It's like a sleepover party but at OOSH. Rest up and relax in your pyjamas today while watching movies, playing party games, and enjoying delicious and nutritious food!



TUESDAY 15 APRIL

DISCO FEVER

Join Nathan from Vesta Kids for a super fun disco! Boogie the day away with your friends and take a few snaps in the photo booth to take home.



WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL

MINECRAFTS ADVENTURES

Follow the blocks of the Minecraft adventures at Hoyts Cinema Greenhills. Join your friends and grab your popcorn for a thrilling adventure!



THURSDAY 17 APRIL

PAINTING DAY

Get creative with your artistic flair and let your imagination soar with a day to relax and paint.



FRIDAY 18 APRIL

PUBLIC HOLIDAY - VACATION CARE CLOSED

WEEK TWO



MONDAY 21 APRIL

PUBLIC HOLIDAY - VACATION CARE CLOSED

TUESDAY 22 APRIL

EASTER DAY

Keep the Easter fun rolling with an OOSH Easter egg hunt, crafts and a unique Easter themed scavenger hunt.



WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL

KYM THE REPTILE MAN

Jump into the fascinating world of reptiles thanks to Kym the Reptile Man with some insightful facts and the opportunity to get up close to some slithery, slimy and scaly friends.



THURSDAY 24 APRIL

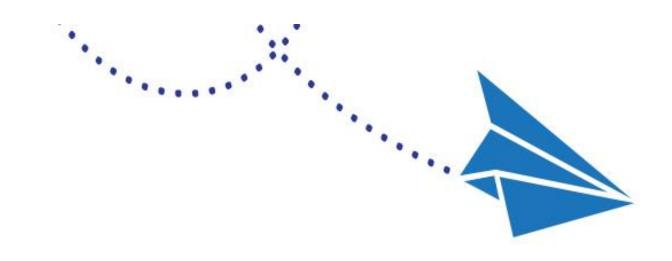
RELAX AND RECHARGE

Indulge is the most relaxing day with calming experiences to help you jump into the new school term. Enjoy a buffet lunch and celebrate the end of the school holidays.



FRIDAY 25 APRIL

PUBLIC HOLIDAY - VACATION CARE CLOSED



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WHAT TO BRING

- Wide-brimmed hat School hats are usually best. When the UV is 3 or above, children will be required to wear a hat. Sunscreen is provided and routinely applied as per our Sun Protection Policy. If your child is sensitive to standard broad-spectrum 30+ sunscreen, please provide appropriate sunscreen clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Morning tea and lunch OOSH staff are not able to heat or cook food. Please ensure anything sent can be eaten straight from their lunch box. Our service is a nut-free zone. Breakfast and afternoon tea are provided.
- Enclosed shoes must be worn, such as joggers or sneakers.
- Refiliable water bottle.
- Spare set of clothes in case of an accident or excessive mess.
- Jumper or jacket

BOOKING CHECKLIST

No booking is accepted until all the following items have been completed and you have received emailed confirmation from your service's Nominated Supervisor:

- Complete our booking request through the Xplor Home app
- Confirm your enrolment details are up to date through Xplor (if you are not yet enrolled with St Nicholas OOSH, you will be sent a link)
- Any outstanding fees have been paid

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY (CCS)

Did you know you are entitled to a discount of up to 90% off your fees through the Australian Government's Child Care Subsidy?

To ensure you receive your entitled subsidy, remember to confirm your CCS enrolment via the **Centrelink** website or app.

CANCELLATIONS AND ABSENCE

To change your booking, simply reach out to the St Nicholas OOSH service you requested a booking for.

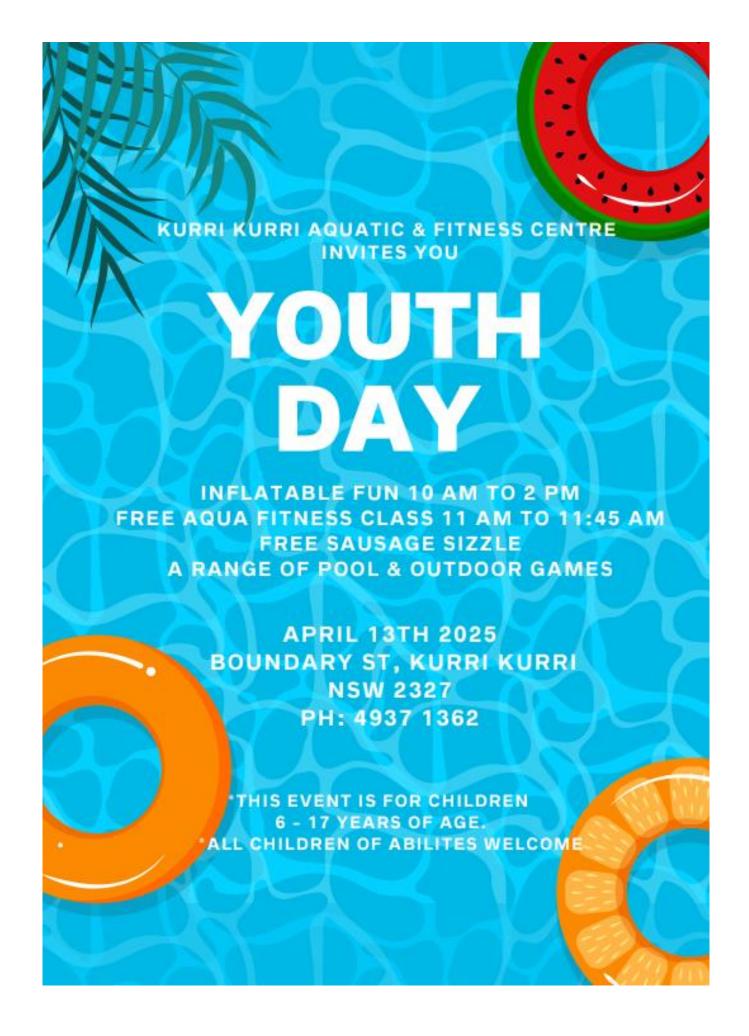
Please note, our cancellation policy requires notice of five (5) business days for cancellation of Vacation Care bookings. If you cancel within 5 business days of your booking, you will be charged the full rate.

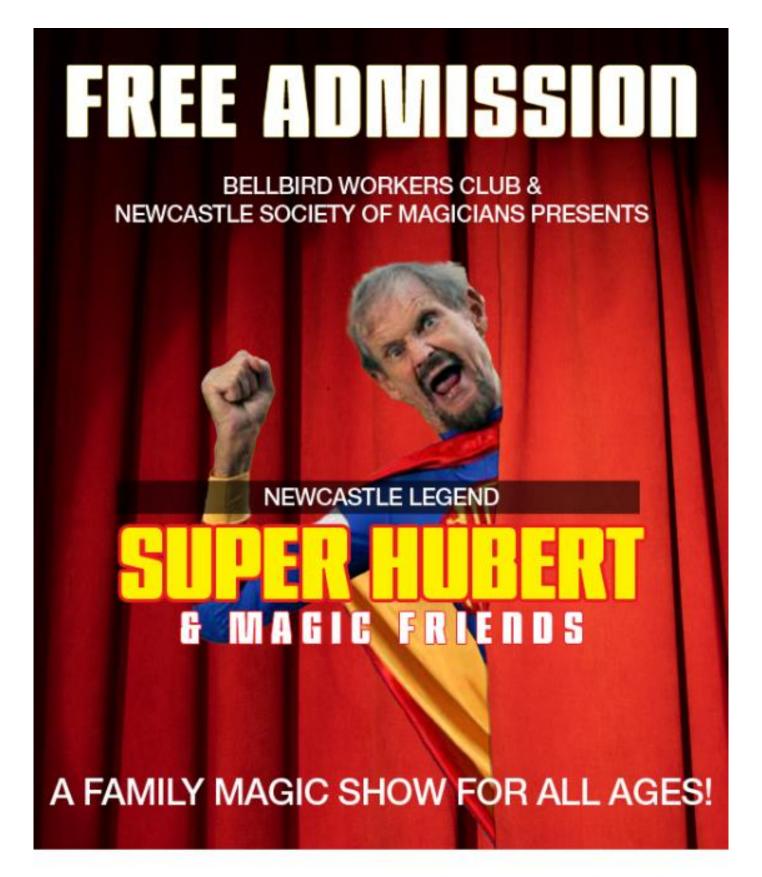
If your child is sick or otherwise unable to attend for one of your bookings, please let us know with as much notice as possible by phoning or texting the service's mobile number. Please note, you will still be liable for any fees incurred on this day. If children are unwell, please refrain from bringing them to care.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Risk assessments are completed for all excursions and are available onsite for viewing. An OOSH staff member can provide a copy of any risk assessments to parents/ caregivers upon request.

Please note. The sapported outcome may not may the postagogical intent of the pleases arguments. This is a troub suggestion, but should not be lettle as the only possibility. The closurof an autoome related should to the learning and benefit we entiquate officially will gen from the expensions, inswere should you with to after this outcome due to your own controllers.





SATURDAY 28TH JUNE 2025, 2PM BELLBIRD WOLLOWBIRD, BELLBIRD



GENERAL ADMISSION \$8 • UNDER 3 FREE
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW ONLINE AT TRYBOOKING.COM

https://www.trybooking.com/CZNJZ



SHOW TIMES

SAT. 12TH APRIL 10am to 4pm SUN. 13TH APRIL 10am to 2pm

Wide variety of custom LEGO models on display

- LEGO Play Tables
- Lots of Interactive Activities
- Assorted LEGO items available for purchase

WHERE IS IT?

BRANXTON COMMUNITY HALL 35 BOWEN ST BRANXTON NSW 2335





Holiday, for kids for 4-16 years

Tuesday 15th April Wednesday 16th April Thursday 17th April

8:30am to 11:30am \$39/day or \$100 3 consecutive days

Book online www.singletontenniscoaching.com



Email

Hello@singletontenniscoaching.com Phone 02 6572 3889

Boundary St, Singleton





Screen-free fun

In a world full of screens, it's important to make time for real-life play! Swapping screen time for active, creative, or social activities helps kids develop problem-solving skills, build friendships, and improve their well-being.

Here are some screen-free ideas to try:

- Make a splash Go for a swim at the pool or beach with family.
- Play together Engage in activities that you know your child enjoys, for example: puzzles, building LEGO or cooking together are great for family fun.
- Get moving Dance, kick a ball in the backyard or go for a bike ride together.



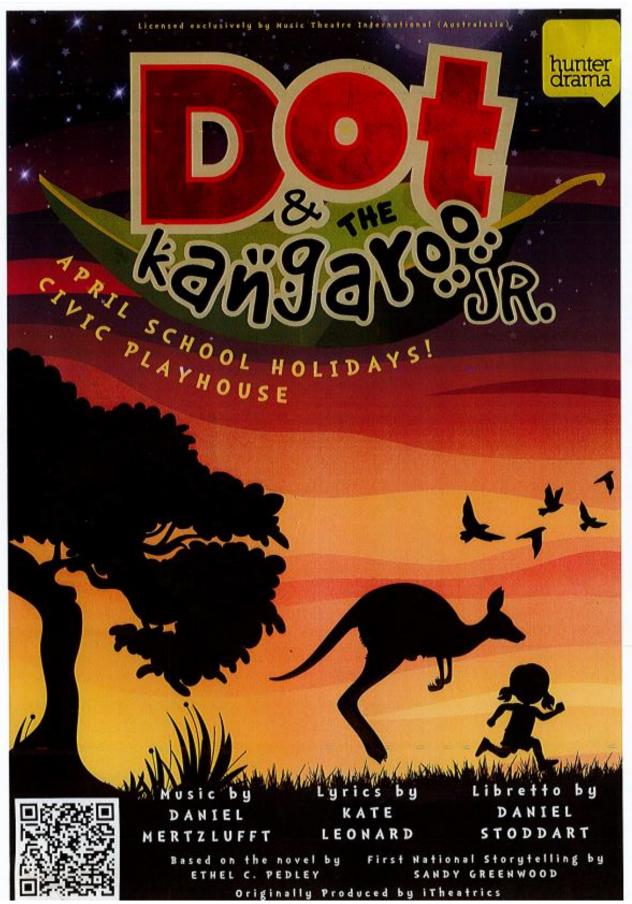


Encouraging kids to enjoy screen-free activities helps them develop lifelong healthy habits. Plus, it's a great way to connect as a family!



MNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
https://goodforkids.nsw.gov.au

Good for Kids acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land that we live and work on as the first people of this country, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.



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