



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrong 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057 Fax: 9644 8157

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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

### School Development Day

At our Term 3 **School Development Day** on Monday 13 July our teachers participated in a series of presentations and workshops on literacy and formative assessment. These highly successful activities, led by experienced teachers from the school, provided a great professional opportunity for teachers to work collegially, to share ideas and expertise, and to enhance teaching practice for our diverse student population.

### Subject Selection for HSC 2015

**Year 10** are currently making important decisions regarding subjects and courses for Year 11 2015. The girls have been assisted in this task through the information provided by the very successful Subject Market presented by experienced teachers and Head Teachers on Wednesday 17 July. At this market students were reminded that they should *make their subject choices based on their interests and abilities*. Selecting a subject because friends have chosen it, or family members believe it will lead to a high ATAR or even because a particular teacher is teaching it this year, are all foolish reasons on which to base a choice. The best predictors of HSC success are subject choices based on individual ability, interest and school attendance.

The market was complemented by an informative session on the Board of Studies Teaching & Educational Standards (BOSTES) requirements for the HSC on Thursday 18 July. Armed with all of this information and advice from our Careers Adviser, Ms Wailes, the girls will make appropriate decisions about subjects for Year 11 and 12 to enhance pathways into tertiary education and TAFE or the workforce.



**Experts provide advice to Yr 10**

To assist your daughters to make appropriate subject selections, Year 10 parents are encouraged to attend the next meeting of the P&C at **5pm on Wednesday, 29 July in the Common Room** where issues related to BOSTES requirements for the HSC will be discussed.

### Year 12

Year 12 students are now finalising major projects and preparing for their **Trial HSC examinations** which will commence in Week 5. Excellent attendance, motivation, self-discipline and hard work are essential to success in the HSC and, indeed, life. Students should also seek out their teachers who have the knowledge and expertise to assist them in maximising their success.

### Tell Them From Me survey

I encourage parents to provide feedback on our school by participating in the *Tell Them From Me* survey. Feedback from parents will inform school planning. The survey only takes 10-15 minutes to complete and can be done either at home or here at school from **31 August to 4 September between 2pm and 3.30pm**. Mrs George will be assisting those parents who elect to do the survey at school

### New Toilet Block

The toilet block was demolished in the holidays and I am very pleased to report that the new toilet block is in the process of construction. While there may be some short term inconvenience in terms of noise and access to the temporary toilets, students can look forward to a spacious modern facility early in term three.

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### Congratulations to:

- all the talented dancers and their enthusiastic supporters who made the **PDHPE display on Thursday 25 June** a tremendous success. A very interested and excited audience of Year 4 & 5 girls from our local primary schools applauded our students for their inspiring and creative performances. Great talent, dedication and enthusiasm from students and their PDHPE teachers made this a very spectacular show.



*One of the inspiring performance groups*

- the following students who participated in the NSW Public Schools Aboriginal Dance Workshop: Tori Davanzo, Samantha Garces, Courtney Norton, Tarrenga Roberts and Kealie Trimble. Mentors from Bangarra Dance Theatre worked closely with our student, fostering the development of dance skills and an understanding of the cultural significance of the dances.
- students in 8B** for their inspiring poetry anthology based on the Aboriginal experience.

### Thank you to:

- the parents who took the opportunity to discuss their daughters' Semester 1 reports with the teachers at the **Parent-Teacher meeting** on Tuesday, 23 June. The feedback received from on-line survey completed by parents on the evening was very positive. Parents indicated they believe very strongly that:
  - the school provides helpful information about their daughters' progress
  - the teachers are caring and provide stimulating and challenging learning activities
  - the school is always looking for ways to improve what it does.

The parent survey also endorsed the homework centre as a valuable resource supporting learning. Two trained teachers supervise the homework centre four afternoons each week, assisting students with their homework and supporting them in developing an improved understanding of work covered in class. I would urge all parents to encourage their daughters to access this valuable resource.

### Coming Events

All parents are warmly invited to the next **P&C meeting at 5pm on Wednesday 29 July** in the Common Room.

Should you have any issues you wish to discuss about your daughter's education please feel free to make an appointment with me. Please enjoy reading about the achievements and activities of the school in the following pages.

**Margaret Fletcher**  
Principal

### REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Welcome to Term 3, one of the busiest terms for all students across the school.

Term two was capped off with a wonderful dance display in the school Hall. It was the culmination of a Dance unit for all Year 7 to 10 students with the best performances selected for the display. The selected groups performed for local feeder primary schools in Years 4 and 5 and then later for their peers. A great day was had by all who attended and by those who were involved in production. It was good to see so many girls working collaboratively to develop choreography skills and perform at a high level.



**BGHS Dance Display 2015**

Parents and students have received mid-year reports and students now have the opportunity to reflect on their progress. It is important that parents help students to identify their strengths and weaknesses and plan how they can work to achieve improvement. For many, this involves taking small regular steps. All students from Year 7 to Year 12 should have a school diary to develop their organisational skills. Additionally, students should also use a home study timetable to ensure they balance family and sport commitments with their study requirements. These strategies help students to feel in control and reduce their stress levels. Most importantly, they help girls to learn the valuable lifelong skill of time management.

The opportunity to recharge over the term break has certainly seen teachers and students return with increased energy and focus. This term is one of the busiest terms with several years preparing for important examinations.

Year 7 have settled well into Birrong Girls as indicated by their reports. Year 7 will need to continue working hard to develop good habits to enhance their core skills. Parents can assist by checking their daughters' work books and regularly encouraging them to complete homework and revise classwork each evening. These established habits will help your daughter to achieve to the best of her ability.

For Year 8, the challenge of making decisions for next year begins. Students will be preparing for their 2016 subject selection over the next few weeks. All Year 8 students will be issued with a course booklet outlining individual course information. Parents are encouraged to talk with their daughters and ask questions to help them make their final decisions.

Year 9 students attended several extracurricular activities including a trip to Questacon in Canberra. Tori Lee Davanzo and Samantha Garces worked with Ms Jarvis to develop and deliver an insightful speech describing the meaning and purpose of NAIDOC week. They displayed confidence and poise in delivering their engaging speech at assembly.

This term also marks an important time for Year 10. Students have started the term with a Subject Selection market where students were provided with specific information about the range of courses available for Year 11 2016. Students gained valuable insights into the focus and rigour required for all Preliminary courses.



**Ms Lazarevski assisting Yr 10 with subject selection**

Students are encouraged to discuss subject selections their Year Adviser, Head Teachers and Deputy Principals to support responsible decision making.

Towards the end of this term Year 11 will finalise their Preliminary courses. These courses form the foundations for success in Year 12. It is vital that students develop a strong understanding of course work to ensure the challenges of HSC courses can be met.

Year 11 students will also be involved in nominating and selecting the 2016 Prefect body. The selection of prefects is most prestigious with candidates reflecting the traits of the exemplary 'Birrong Girl'. Prefects are ambassadors for our school. Successful candidates will be hardworking, dedicated individuals with a strong social conscience and outstanding commitment to our school.

For Year 12 students, their trial HSC examinations are fast approaching. Parents need to encourage and support their daughters through this challenging time. It is expected students devote at least 3 hours nightly to their studies and revision. This is an opportunity for students to develop successful examination techniques and identify the areas of most need. Analysing feedback will help to maximise future performance. Parents often report their daughters becoming stressed. It is important that parents monitor and support their daughters. This could involve showing interest by asking her about her studies, providing a quiet space for study or seeking assistance from the school if you notice significant behavioural changes.

Good luck to all the girls who were selected to represent the school and Zone at the Regional athletics championships.

During Education Week (27 July – 31 July August) BGHS students will participate in a number of activities including a Spelling Bee. They will also be given an opportunity to contribute to our 2015 *STELLAR* publication. The theme for this year is "Reflections". We look forward to publishing the most thoughtful student responses in our annual *STELLAR* magazine.

During this term staff and parents are asked to complete the *Tell Them From Me* survey. The students completed their section of the survey earlier on this year in Term 1. The results of the student survey have been used to make



changes around the school and will guide future school planning. We hope all parents will take time to complete their section of the survey so that as a school community we can make the necessary adjustments to best support your daughters' education. The *Tell Them From Me* survey is an online survey which can be completed by you at home. Alternatively, we will make provisions at school for parents to access the survey in our computer rooms.

As we find out more about the logistics of the survey, we will pass information on to you. If at any stage you have any questions or concerns about the survey process please contact the school.



**English Faculty at Parent / Teacher session**

**Ms George and Mr Saule**

Deputy Principal and Relieving Deputy Principal

### **NEW GENERAL ASSISTANT**

**Ian Sinden**



Hi, I am Ian Sinden and you can find me in the GA faculty located in The Shed.

I have previously worked part time as a GA at four schools and enjoy the reduction in stress and increase in job satisfaction compared with corporate life. Part of that enjoyment comes from making a real improvement to the school environment and planning visual and practical enhancements with staff.

As a handyman, I have designed and built two home extensions and completely renovated three homes. A recent buzz was designing and installing our new kitchen (I think I like it more than my wife does). I also “enjoy” working on my children’s cars, usually at short notice.

My professional background is in IT, working as a systems analyst and programmer at Fairfax and AGL. While most of my efforts were focussed on financial systems, the most satisfying was extracurricular work on systems such as the City to Surf. There is no truth to the rumour that I doctored my own results... ☺ At AGL, I wrote the program which calculates your gas bill.... ☺

Outside of work I enjoy my family, soccer, cricket, aviation and mountaineering (not always in that order). In winter I am a technical director of soccer referees and this summer will see me umpiring in the Sydney Grade cricket competition.

From what I have seen so far, Birrong Girls is a wonderful school (OK, except for the temporary girls’ toilets). You have all certainly made me feel very welcome and I look forward to making a positive contribution here.

## **ATTENDANCE REPORT**

### **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

#### **ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES AT BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL**

##### **ATTENDANCE**

- At Birrong Girls High School students are expected to attend school every day unless there is genuine illness or reason for absence.
- If your daughter is absent from school you will need to contact the school via phone or reply text to explain her absence.
- Your reply text should include your daughter’s full name, roll class and a brief reason for the absence.
- There will be no need for a written note once you reply to the text or contact the school via phone.
- Unexplained absences will appear on your daughter’s report at the end of the semester.

##### **EARLY LEAVERS**

- If your daughter needs to leave school early for reasons such as dentist appointments she is to bring a note from you.
- The note should contain her name, the time she needs to leave school and the reason for leaving. This note should also provide a contact number and parent signature.
- The note must be given to the Head Teacher Administration by 8:20am on the day your daughter needs to leave early. Your daughter will then receive an official Birrong Girls High School exit pass.

##### **LATECOMERS**

- At Birrong Girls classes begin at 8:30am.
- Girls who arrive after this time are to go to the late room where their time of arrival is recorded. Girls will receive a blue late note for parents to complete. Once the blue late note is completed it is to be handed in to the Front Office.



- All late students must see the Head Teacher Administration at recess on the day of the late arrival. Detentions and letters to parents will be issued with persistent lateness.
- If your daughter knows she will be late she is encouraged to bring a note to explain why.

#### TRUANCY

- There is an expectation at Birrong Girls High School that students take responsibility for their learning. This includes attending all scheduled classes.
- Teachers mark their class roll each lesson. If your daughter is absent from class but not on an excursion or the daily absentee sheet, her absence is reported to the Head Teacher Administration.
- Letters are sent home and phone calls are made to inform parents that their child has been absent.
- All truancy issues will be documented on your daughter's school records and displayed on your daughter's school report.

**Ms Shinas**

Acting Head Teacher Administration

#### WELFARE REPORT

##### Helay Zarmati Year 11 Citizenship Award 2014 -2015



Last term Helay Zarmati received the prestigious Citizenship Award for 2014 to 2015 at a presentation where she gave a well received speech about her active participation in the school community and her achievements.

**Ms Salvagio**

Head Teacher Welfare



**Helay at the Zonta Club Awards Night**

#### CAREERS NEWS

##### Year 10

On Wednesday, 15 July, the Year 10 Subject Market provided girls with important information and resources concerning senior subjects in Years 11 and 12. In upcoming weeks, Year 10 students will be making major decisions in regards to their subject selections.

The Subject Market was successful, providing us with vital information about the range of subjects that are available. Teachers from each faculty delivered details about the content and requirements of each course. They also gave useful advice, such as not to choose subjects based on scaling, if your friends have chosen it, or if a certain teacher is teaching it. This will no doubt assist us in our decisions leading to the subject selections.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Subject Market as it provided me with insight into what is in store in my senior studies, and gave me a taste of the different courses open to us in 2016.



**Ms Lazarevski with Yr 10 students**



**Ms Feld and Modern History**

Thank you to Ms Wailes and all staff for the effort put into organising and conducting the Subject Market.

**Natasha Luu 10PT**

On Thursday, 16 July, Year 10 attended the Subject Selection Information Session run by Ms Fletcher. Year 10 were informed about the subjects available in Year 11 and BOSTES requirements for successful completion of the HSC.

Ms Fletcher provided the students with a presentation informing us about the requirements of the Preliminary Course (Year 11) and the effort we must put in.

After the presentation, Ms Fletcher explained the procedures for subject selection and students and parents were then given the chance to ask questions about this process. Both parents and students were very engaged with this information session and Ms Fletcher successfully answered all questions asked by the students and parents.

**Jana Khalil 10PT**



**Ms Fletcher and Yr 10 subject selection**

**Year 12**

University applications open through UAC 5 August and close on the 30 September. Students are able to apply for up to 9 courses and these must be in order of preference. To complete your university application

you will need your UAC Guide, student number and UAC pin. More information about the UAC process will be given to you over the course of the next few weeks. If you haven't had an interview with me to discuss your options, please book in a time ASAP. If you have any questions regarding UAC, please don't hesitate to see me.

**Ms Wailes**  
Careers Adviser

**SPORTS REPORT**

**PDHPE PRIMARY SCHOOL DANCE SHOW CASE**



**7G – Waka Waka**

During the last week of Term 2, the annual Birrong Girls High School dance display was held. We were given the opportunity to watch dances of a high standard. The Year 7 and 8 showcase and the Year 9 and 10 performances were wonderful, demonstrating the effort and hard work the girls have put in to make their dances beyond the audience's imagination. Birrong Girls demonstrated great dance and technological skills, organising music and proving to teachers that they could work exceptionally well as a team. The PDHPE staff also showed their talents of choreography because of the extraordinary dance techniques they taught their students.

The judges handed out the encouragement award to Act 18, *Nerds versus Cools*, their favourite performance from the Years 7 to 8 was *Blame it on the Boogie* and their overall favourite was Act 11, *Dancing through the Decades*.

Year 7 were given a theme of Around the World and the Year 8 also had a theme of Disco. The Year 9 and Year 10 dances incorporated vast ideas and included storylines, costumes, props and great technique.



Ms Lord congratulated all PDHPE students who took part in the unforgettable display and the PDHPE staff who worked so hard during rehearsals, assessment and performances. The girls produced an excellent

understanding of the movement skills that have been taught to them.

Students from our local primary schools provided the audience for the morning production. Their favourite dances included the Golden Girls, the Mag, Dancing through Decades and Nerds versus Cool. The primary school students loved the acts and had a smile from ear to ear throughout the entire production.



**8G – Saturday Night Fever**

Some of the comments from the Year 4 and 5 girls were “cool” “amazing” “awesome” “fantastic”. One girl was very disappointed that she couldn’t come back and watch next year’s display and can’t wait to come to Birrong when she reaches Year 7 so that she can participate in the dance display herself.

All of the students from Year 4 to 5 behaved in an exemplary and supportive manner. The enthusiasm for our girls was overwhelming and appreciated too, by the performers and the PDHPE staff.

We look forward to taking more pictures of the mind-blowing display next year!



**7S – Can Can**

**Raiann Ali & Dilara Nugay - Media Team**

## **YAGOONA PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMENTS**

Thank you to Yagoona Public School Year 4 and 5 students who sent letters congratulating us on the PDHPE Dance Display. We very proudly publish some of their comments.

*“ ... Thank you for inviting us to your High School to watch the amazing performances. I really enjoyed all the drama and loved how the girls were all confident. The dance and music was very beautiful. All the performances were good, so I can’t pick out the best one. I liked that the girls came up with the ideas for the costumes, songs and dance moves. Well done BGHS! ...”*



**7B Rasputin**

*“... We really liked the dance performances because the girls were brave and confident. The music was beautiful and the children were very talented. I saw our past friends and they had really changed. They have grown taller and prettier. ...”*

*“... I really liked the Nerds verse Cool performance! I also liked both of the Elastic Heart dances. The high school students were happy and smiling at us. Nerd verse Cool was the best as the music showed different genres. I also saw people that used to go to Yagoona Public School. ...”*

*“... When I was watching the wonderful performances the girls made up, I couldn’t stop smiling. They tried very hard and put in a lot of effort. It was a great show. ...”*

*“... We really like how the costumes were in theme with the song, especially the dance moves. ...”*

### **Isabella Johnston Araujo: proud recipient of the prestigious Pierre de Courbetin Award**

The 2015 Pierre de Coubertin Award Presentation and Olympic Academy Day was held on 19 June. As the recipient of the Pierre De Courbetin Award I received an award certificate and a gold Olympic pin. The day was filled with presentations from Olympians in various different sports including Scott Kneller (Ski Cross), Youcef Abdi (Steeplechase) and Stephanie Magiros (Gymnastics and Snowboarding).



We were empowered by the stories of their Olympic journeys and how they had the resilience to cope with the many hardships they faced not only as athletes but as individuals. For example, Scott Kneller overcame what others might consider impossible, he broke his back six weeks before the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games commenced and recovered to participate in the Ski Cross event.



**Isabella with Stephanie Magiros**

Presentations from the Australian Olympic Committee and the NSW Institute of Sport also focused on goal setting to give us guidance to reach our full potential in life.

At the award presentation the Chef de Mission for the 2016 Australian Olympic Team, Kitty Chiller, gave an empowering speech about the importance of resilience in sport and the importance of not giving up in the face of adversity even when you believe there is no way to overcome it.

I am very honoured to have taken part in the Academy Day and thankful to have met such incredibly passionate and inspirational athletes. Most importantly I am very humbled to be the recipient of such a prestigious award.

**Isabella Johnston Araujo**

## TAS REPORT

### OBK Excursion

On Tuesday, 9 June, 2 Food Technology classes of Year 10 went on an excursion to *Our Big Kitchen*, or OBK, in Bondi. It is a community-run kitchen that prepares and distributes meals to those in need. Simon, one of the volunteers, showed us the kitchen which is a place for everyone, of any religion or background.

We helped to cut various vegetables and fruits which were then transformed by the staff into a soup and pasta. Six of us helped deliver these foods to a nearby centre.

We also talked to a 90 year old holocaust survivor, Serena Veselly, a long-time volunteer who shared how she escaped through a window to safety during the war in Europe. The Rabbi who founded the kitchen

also gave us a tour of the Jewish mosque above the kitchen and educated us on Judaism.

The kitchen was founded in 2005 by Rabbi Dovid Slavin & Laya Slavin. They formed the idea of creating OBK after doing some communal cooking for a lady who was unwell. They borrowed a kosher kitchen and gathered volunteers willing to do the food shopping, cook, pack and deliver food. The volunteers were keen to help her but also saw the potential for helping others on a larger scale. Thus, OBK was born.

OBK helps both those in need within the area by enabling them to eat a proper meal and by offering various complementary courses including barista courses. Also, OBK helps those in jail, giving them an opportunity to do community service and be treated like regular members of society. This helped many, like Simon, feel better about themselves. No-one who did community service there went back to jail.



**Students assist OBK with food preparation**

We can support OBK by donating at their website (<http://www.obk.org.au/>) or volunteering at the kitchen.

This was an amazing day. We were able to help those in need, meet an inspiring person and learn for ourselves about life's hardships.

**Vyvy Nham**

## CAPA REPORT

Term 3 is always a big term for the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty. We have our annual Extravaganza on Thursday 20 August (Wk 6) between 3pm and 5pm. This is the one opportunity to see the Year 12 Bodies of Work before they go to the marking centre for their final HSC assessment. As usual there is wide variety of thought provoking works in a range of media areas across every year group.

The musical items on the evening will be captivating and may even reveal a future star. Mr Eveleigh has programmed an enthralling afternoon of singing and performing carefully selecting quality acts across all year groups.

The Hospitality students will be coordinating the mouth-watering finger food and drink. This always



adds that touch of sophistication and the service is second to none.

Everyone is welcome and by coming you will have the opportunity to vote for the work you feel is worthy of the People's Choice Award.

We look forward to seeing you on the afternoon

**The CAPA Faculty**

**LIBRARY NEWS**

What is *Who is?* ?

"Who is?" is a competition run by the BGHS library designed to develop the skills students need to become active and informed citizens. It aims to encourage independent research skills, improve general knowledge and develop the language skill used in the thesis of an essay.

The question "Who is \_\_\_?" will be posted around the school with the name of a significant person in the space. From Tuesday till Thursday the names will change each day. On Friday's the new signs will appear with the questions: "What do \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ have in common? What can we learn from them?" Students have till 8:30am Monday morning to email the librarian with the answer. Answers must be 15-75 words.

Three correct answers earn a merit award. There will be small chocolate prizes every week for winning entries from different age groups. To win, students need to think more deeply about what these people have in common and evaluate the information they have discovered.

For example:

*Ms X, Mr Y and Dr Z all won a Nobel Prize for medicine, would be a correct answer.*

*Ms X, Mr Y and Dr Z are all Nobel Prize winning scientists whose ground breaking medical research has enabled doctors all over the world to save millions of lives. Their example demonstrates the phenomenal difference an individual can make to the world they live in through the field of scientific research, would be a winning answer.*

**Ms Waters**  
Relieving Teacher / Librarian



**BIRRONGS GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL  
PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

Parents are invited to attend the  
P&C meeting  
on Wednesday, 29 July 2015  
at 5pm in the common room

**BIRRONGS GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR  
For your diary / noticeboard**

**July**

Monday, 27	
July -	Yr 11 hospitality work placement
Friday, 7 August	
28 July	Regional athletics
29 July	P&C meeting, common room, 5pm

**August**

3 August	Yr 9, Romeo & Juliet at Opera House
10 – 21 August	Yr 12 HSC trials
18 August	Yr 8, Jump Rope 4 Heart, P4 & 5
20 August	CAPA Extravaganza
24 August –	Yr 11 exams
4 September	
26 August	Yr 10 Road Trauma forum

**September**

2 September	P&C meeting, common room, 5pm
3 – 5	CHS athletics
September	
8 September	Yr 8 field day
17 September	Yr 12 graduation

**Help Wanted!**

**If you see trespassers in our school,  
outside of school hours,  
contact School Security (24hrs) on**

**1300 880 021**

# UOW OPEN DAY

**10am – 2pm**  
**Saturday, August 29**

Sydney CBD Campus, Circular Quay  
Gateway Building, 1 Macquarie Place

[uow.edu.au/sydney-open-day](http://uow.edu.au/sydney-open-day)

Attend the Sydney CBD Open Day and explore three levels of modern teaching facilities overlooking Circular Quay and the Sydney CBD precinct.

You will have the opportunity to:

- Chat face-to-face with our academic staff
- Learn about our business courses
- Meet current students and industry partners
- Tour the campus

**UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG AUSTRALIA**

Actual view



CatholicCare Parent Education Team presents

## Tuning Into Teens

A five session course for parents

This 5 week course will help parents of tweens and teens learn skills to talk to & understand your teenager, help them to manage their emotions, prevent behaviour problems & teach them to deal with conflict.

Would you like to learn how to:

- be better at talking with your teen?
- be better at understanding your teen?
- help your teen learn to manage their emotions?
- help to prevent behaviour problems in your teen?
- teach your teen to deal with conflict?

**Dates:** Wednesdays July 22 – August 19

**Time:** 6.30pm – 8.30pm

**Venue:** Bankstown Family Relationship Centre  
8 Jacobs Street, cnr French Avenue, Bankstown

**Cost:** \$75 per person or free for concession card holders

**Bookings Essential:** 9707 8555

**Childminding available**  
Please book. \$5 per child \$10 per family  
Gold coin for concession card holders

