

INSIDE GOSSIP

NEWSLETTER FOR THE KOOLOORA COMMUNITY

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As the year comes to a close, we at Kooloorra Community Centre reflect on the incredible spirit of generosity, resilience, and togetherness that has defined 2024. This season of giving reminds us of the remarkable people who make Kooloorra a beacon of hope and support for our community.

From the dedicated volunteers who selflessly give their time, to the generous donors whose contributions sustain our programs, and to every person who steps through our doors—your efforts and participation embody the true meaning of Kooloorra. Together, we have continued to foster a welcoming space where everyone can find connection, support, and opportunity.

At Kooloorra, we are grateful for the incredible support from our community and the shared commitment to making a difference. Let's carry this spirit of togetherness into the new year.

We celebrated our annual Christmas Party on 9 December, and it was filled with joy, laughter, and plenty of fun. During the event, we also held our Playgroup graduation for our little friends who will be moving on to big school next year. It was a bittersweet moment for all of us as we watched them take this big step into their next adventure.



Some of these children I've had the privilege of watching grow – from their first steps to making new friends, learning songs, and dancing with delight. Seeing them ready to move forward fills me with both pride and a touch of sadness. We wish them all the very best on their journey ahead and hope to cross paths again in the future.

Reflecting on this past year, I am incredibly proud of the community we've built at Playgroup. It's heartwarming to see parents forming friendships with others they've met here, and children developing their social skills while creating cherished memories during these formative years.

Personally, I've grown a lot this year too. What once felt challenging – leading group time – has become something I look forward to every Monday and Wednesday. Seeing the world through the eyes of the children has given me a new perspective on learning. I now understand how deeply songs, stories, and dances contribute to shaping their minds and enriching their childhood. It has been a tremendous honour to play a role in their lives. Your stories about your kids singing Playgroup songs at home truly warm my heart.

As a parent myself, I know how vital it is to have a safe and nurturing space where our children can learn and grow. I'm grateful that Kooloora has become such a meaningful part of your lives, and I'll continue striving to make Playgroup even better – a place you and your children look forward to coming to each week.

Parents, we've made it through another year! As challenging as it can be, let's cherish these fleeting moments of childhood, for one day, we'll miss them as our little ones grow.

Thank you for being a part of our wonderful community. Enjoy the holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you all again next year!

With love,
Miss Charm



KOOLOORA VACATION CARE



6-24 January 2025 School holiday program

Spaces are limited for excursions

www.kooloorra.org

***EVERY DAY: bring hat, water bottle, snacks, lunch, extra clothes**



**Mon, 6 Jan
CHINESE LION DANCE**

Let's learn the cultural significance of Chinese New Year through this Lion Dance Workshop. Try on traditional costumes, engage with the lion dance and learn some simple movements. We'll make Lion Paper Puppet for everyone to bring home!



**Tues, 7 Jan
POKEMON DAY**

Get ready to catch 'em all! Join us for Pokémon scavenger hunt, create your own Pokémon, fun training challenges, and Pokeball toss games. Dress up as your favorite Pokémon or trainers and enjoy a day full of Pokémon magic, crafts, and games!



**Wed, 8 Jan
ZUMBA PARTY WITH
ELENA**

Get ready to move and groove! Join us for a high-energy Zumba session led by Elena, one of our awesome parents. Kids will dance to fun music, learn new moves, and enjoy a healthy, active day filled with rhythm and laughter.



**Thur, 9 Jan
AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**

Let's discover ancient fossils, amazing animals, and learn about Australia's rich history and natural world. It's a hands-on adventure packed with learning and fun!

Please be at the centre by 9:00am



**Fri, 10 Jan
DES RENFORD
LEISURE CENTRE**

Get ready for a splash-tastic day at Des Renford Leisure Centre! Kids will enjoy a fun-filled outing with swimming, water play, and inflatables in a safe, supervised environment.

Please be at the centre by 9:00am



**Mon, 13 Jan
SYDNEY CIRCUS**

Get to experience aerial lyra, aerial silk, aerial hammock, juggling, plate spinning, acrobatics and airtrack + hula hoop. Let your dreams take flight!

Please be at the centre by 9:00am



**Tue, 14 Jan
PICNIC @
CENTENNIAL PARK**

Enjoy a day of outdoor fun with picnic games, delicious snacks, and plenty of fresh air. It's the perfect opportunity to relax, play, and explore the beautiful park with friends.

Please be at the centre by 9:00am



**Wed, 15 Jan
ABORIGINAL CLAY PLAY**

Let's learn this traditional art technique and create a masterpiece to bring home! It's a day of creativity, cultural connection, and fun through the art of clay.



**Thur, 16 Jan
LASER TAG**

A high-tech game packed with fun and adventure! It's a fantastic way to build teamwork skills in a safe and controlled environment. Come ready to move, think, and have a blast!



**Fri, 17 Jan
SUPER MARIO DAY**

Race through obstacle courses, collect gold coins, knock down Yoshi and rescue Princess Peach while dodging Bowser, — it's a day full of Mario time!



**Mon, 20 Jan
ENCANTO DAY**

Step into the magical world of Encanto! Join us for a fun-filled day of music, crafts, and games inspired by the beloved movie. Let's make arepas, weightlifting game, gift of the day challenge and many more Encanto adventure!



**Tue, 21 Jan
DODGEBALL**

Get ready to dodge, throw, duck, catch and have a fantastic day! Team up with your best mates in this day full of friendly competition.



**Wed, 22 Jan
DES RENFORD
LEISURE CENTRE**

Get ready for a splash-tastic day at Des Renford Leisure Centre! Kids will enjoy a fun-filled outing with swimming, water play, and inflatables in a safe, supervised environment.

Please be at the centre by 9:00am



**Thurs, 23 Jan
H2-OH!**

It's a wet and wild day full of water balloon games, bucket relays, watergun fight—don't forget your swimsuit!



**Friday, 24 Jan
MOVIE DAY**

Let's enjoy our favorite movie in the big screen. It's a perfect way to unwind, share laughs with friends, and experience the magic of cinema. Grab your popcorn and get ready for a fun-filled movie day!

Please be at the centre by 9:00am



We had an absolute blast at our Christmas party on Monday, 9th December, with a water fight as the theme! The weather was perfect, like it was in on the fun with us.

We kicked things off with a gingerbread house-building competition, where the winning group got to pick their "weapons" for the water fight first. After that, it was just all-out fun and a lot of mess—exactly how it should be! The kids had a great time running around in the lawn, enjoying the extra space to let loose and play freely.

Once the excitement settled, we tucked into a delicious meal and some sweet treats made by Fely—thank you for spoiling us!



To wrap up the day, we handed out Christmas gifts. This year, we went with something useful for school, like water bottles, lunchboxes, and socks. While we know Santa's got the fun stuff covered, we thought these practical presents would come in handy and be just as appreciated.

We want to say a big thank you to all the parents for your ongoing support and for trusting us with your children every week. Those two hours mean so much to us—not just for the kids but for the friendships and connections we get to build with all of you too.

Thank you for being part of our little community. We hope you have an amazing holiday season, and we can't wait to see you all again next year!



How to Order FOGO Caddy Liners and Alternative Options

If you're out of FOGO caddy liners (also known as FOGO bags), don't worry! Here's how you can have new ones delivered to your home, along with some handy alternatives to manage your food scraps.

How to Order FOGO Caddy Liners

Randwick Council will deliver FOGO caddy liner bags to your door within five (5) working days. Here's how to place your order:



1. **Order Online:** Visit our website to order a pack of FOGO caddy liners.
2. **Call Council:** Contact us at **9093 6000** or **1300 722 542** to request a delivery.

Important Note: Liners are not available for pick-up at libraries, the Recycling Centre, or other Council facilities.

Alternative Options for Food Scrap Liners

If you'd prefer not to wait for FOGO liners, here are some excellent alternatives:

- **Use Newspaper or Brown Paper Bags:** Reuse supermarket brown bags, mushroom bags, or any other brown paper bags to wrap your food scraps.
- **Go Nude:** Skip the liner entirely! You can place food scraps directly into your bin without wrapping.
- **Purchase Certified Compostable Liners:** Look for liners with the **AS4736 Compostable Certificate** to ensure they are suitable for FOGO bins.

Bulk FOGO Caddy Liner Delivery

A bulk delivery of FOGO caddy liners to all Randwick City households is scheduled for **March 2025**. This service is provided automatically, so you don't need to do anything to opt-in. For those who need liners sooner, specific delivery requests can still be lodged at any time using the methods above. Source: Randwick City Council website

Introducing MyHousing Repairs: A Convenient Online Service for Maintenance Requests

Homes NSW is excited to announce the launch of **MyHousing Repairs**, a new online service available through the MyHousing app. This innovative tool allows tenants, as well as their family, friends, and support networks, to easily submit non-urgent maintenance requests from the convenience of their device.



The development of MyHousing Repairs has been a collaborative effort between Homes NSW and tenants in the community. By listening to their experiences and feedback, the team has designed, developed, and rigorously tested a service that prioritizes simplicity and ease of use.

This user-friendly service comes with a range of features designed to streamline the maintenance request process:

- **Clear and Intuitive Navigation:** Easy-to-understand icons guide users step by step when lodging a repair request.
- **Photo and Document Uploads:** Users can attach photos or documents to provide additional context for their request.
- **Real-Time Updates:** Tenants can track the status of their repair requests directly within the app.
- **Shared Building Insights:** For those living in shared buildings, tenants can view repair issues already reported by others (tenant-only access).

Seamless Integration with the MyHousing App

To take full advantage of MyHousing Repairs, tenants are encouraged to download and register for the MyHousing app. The app streamlines the process by automatically authenticating users, so there's no need to re-enter details when submitting a repair request.

Alternative Repair Request Options

While MyHousing Repairs makes requesting maintenance faster and easier, tenants can still call the **Maintenance Hub at 1800 422 322** to lodge repair requests if they prefer.

We encourage you to share this exciting update with your networks to ensure everyone can benefit from this new service. MyHousing Repairs represents a step forward in making life simpler and more convenient for tenants while improving communication and efficiency in managing maintenance needs.

Aboriginal First Time Mums Group

A new addition to Kooloora's services is the Aboriginal Playgroup, facilitated by Child and Family Health, Health NSW.

This wonderful initiative is designed to support new Aboriginal mothers and their babies aged 0–12 months, offering a safe and welcoming space to connect, share experiences, and access valuable resources.

Running every Wednesday during school terms, the playgroup provides an opportunity for mothers to bond with their babies while building a supportive community with other families. Best of all, attendance is completely free, ensuring this service is accessible to everyone who needs it.

This playgroup not only promotes the well-being of mothers and their babies but also celebrates Aboriginal culture and identity, creating an inclusive environment for families to thrive. We're excited to see this program enrich our community and provide meaningful support to new mothers. For inquiries, please call Phoebe George on 0434 322 241.

Join Our

Aboriginal First Time Mums Group

Every Wednesday from 1:00–2:00pm
during school terms

Kooloora Community Centre
167 Bilga Crescent, Malabar NSW 2036

FREE REGISTRATION

Contact
Phoebe George
0434 322 241

For First time
Aboriginal mums and
bubs 0-12 months old
only

Kooloorra's Christmas Party and Annual General Meeting

The Kooloorra Annual General Meeting and Christmas Party was a vibrant celebration of community spirit, marking the end of another remarkable year. Held at Kooloorra, the event brought together friends, supporters, and community members for a day filled with gratitude, reflection, and festive cheer.

The day began with a heartfelt Welcome to Country by Aunty Maxine, whose words reminded everyone of the importance of connection to land and community. Her powerful message set the tone for a gathering rooted in respect and unity.

We were honoured to welcome esteemed guests, including Matt Thistlethwaite MP, CR Bill Burst, CR Noel D'Souza, representatives from Maroubra Police, and Cameron and Hans from Maroubra Housing. Their presence highlighted the strong partnerships that sustain Kooloorra's efforts in supporting our local community.

The Annual General Meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the year's achievements and challenges, showcasing the hard work of Kooloorra's dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters. Following the meeting, attendees were treated to a delicious lunch spread, featuring a variety of cuisines which we all look forward to every year.



A special thanks goes to Tabatha and Alicia from DCJ for their support and involvement, which continues to be invaluable to our programs and services.

While the day was filled with joy and camaraderie, we deeply missed the presence of George and Gillian Collinson, long-time friends and steadfast supporters of Kooloorra. Their absence was keenly felt, yet their contributions to our community continue to inspire and are profoundly appreciated.

To all our Kooloorra friends who couldn't join us at today's celebration, we raise our glasses in your honor. Though you couldn't be here in person, you are firmly in our hearts and thoughts. Your contributions and presence have always been an integral and cherished part of our community, and we sincerely felt your absence today.



The Kooloorra Christmas Party was more than a festive celebration; it was a testament to the strength of community bonds and the shared commitment to making a difference. As we look forward to the coming year, we remain inspired by the people who make Kooloorra such a special place.

Here's to another year of growth, connection, and shared success!

Centrelink 2024 holiday reporting and payment dates

Centrelink will be closed:

- Wednesday 25 December 2024
- Thursday 26 December 2024
- Friday 27 December 2024
- Wednesday 1 January 2025.

Centrelink advises that you can use your Centrelink online account through myGov to :

- report your income
- view your reporting dates for the next 12 weeks
- change some of your appointments
- apply for an advance payment or
- request a document.

Other options include Express Plus mobile apps and phone self-service.

You can still report your income to Centrelink, even when it is closed. However, if you do this on a public holiday you will be paid *after* the public holiday.

January 2025 programs:**Kooloorra Vacation Care 8-24 January**

Playgroup—Wednesday, 29 January 10-12

Energy Accounts Payments Assistance (EAPA) - Tuesday, 4 February 9:30am-12pm

Veged Out— 31 January from 10:30am

Seniors Exercises— 4 February 9:30-10:30am

TaiChi 11 February 10am

Seekers Seniors Social Support group 3 February 12:30pm

Second Bite will continue throughout January

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from Kooloorra!**

