

## *Jingi Walla ~ Hello and Welcome*

*"There is a garden in every childhood, an enchanted place where colours are brighter, the air is softer, and the morning more fragrant than ever again" Elizabeth Lawrence*

*The staff and management committee of Lilly Pilly Community Pre-school extend a warm welcome to your child. It is a privilege and gift of trust to be caring for your child during these formative years. We strive to develop and nourish respectful, supportive relationships with families to ensure a positive experience for children, parents and staff and to maintain a smooth running of our centre.*

*Our centre offers a safe home like environment based on the National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care. We are guided by the Early Years Learning Framework (ELYF)*

*Hours of operation are 9am till 3pm. We operate a 5 day fortnight program so children have a long week and a short week.*

*Our Blossom group is every Monday and Tuesday plus every second Wednesday.*

*Our Possum group is every Thursday and Friday plus every second Wednesday.*

*We follow the NSW school holidays. We ask you to honour and respect these hours please,*

### **Daily Requirements**

*Suitable play clothes and footwear (no thongs or Crocs)*

*A hat which can stay at Lilly Pilly for the year*

*A complete change of clothes*

*A wholesome lunch in a lunch box (please avoid processed and packaged foods we prefer nude food)*

*Water only in a pop top drink bottle.*

*Slippers for winter*

*Gumboots for wet weather*

*N.B All items must be clearly labeled*

*The attendance book must be completed at the beginning and end of the day. We are unable to allow children to go home with anyone other than parents unless notified.*

*Hand holding in car park land from your car till inside, Lilly Pilly can get very busy at this time.*

*Siblings are more than welcome to come at drop off and pick up and are not to be left in the car for a quick drop off.*

*Communication is vital and we are available to answer any questions or concerns.*

*Please share with us your understanding of your child's strengths, interests, abilities and needs.*

*Toys are to stay at home, we find that personal toys, games and belongings cause more tears than joy. Natures treasures and flowers are always welcome for our seasonal table as is a childs comforter for rest time.*

*Sickness and vomiting must stay at home, 24 hours after last vomit. If children require medication, they are often too ill to be with other children. We ask that you keep them home until fully recovered.*

*Nits please check the night and morning before pre-school as this saves a phone call and early pick up.*

*Birthdays are an important celebration of pre-school life. We celebrate birthdays by creating an afternoon birthday house with parents/siblings/extended family coming at 2:30pm with 5-10 photographs from birth till present. We make birthday cake to share.*

### **Management**

*We are a non-profit community based organisation and registered charity, administered by a management committee of parents/carers elected at the Annual General Meeting.*

*The Constitution of the pre-school is available on request. The Annual General Meeting is held in March each year. All parent/carers are invited and encouraged to attend.*

*A parent/carer of each child attending pre-school must be a full member of the Association.*

*This entitles you to vote at our monthly management committee meetings, which you are encouraged to attend.*

### **Funding**

*As a community based preschool we attract a Department of Education grant, this requires us to maintain a certain standard of care and management. The grant together with fees collected from parent/carers represents our budget. It is expended on wages, administration costs, equipment and funds for special projects. As an incorporated body, our financial affairs are subject to independent annual audit.*

### **Fees**

*Fees are to be paid in advance at the beginning of each term. Additional assistance in the form of a fee rebate is available from Centrelink if your eligible.*

*Fees are subject to change each year.*

*\$10.00 per day full fee*

*\$5.00 per day for Health Care Card holders*

### **Program**

*Life in pre-school can be compared to living and working in a large family. The group of children comprises of 30 girls and boys between the ages of 3 and 6. Blossom days are every Mon, Tuesday and every second Wed., Possums days are every Thur, Fri and every second Wednesday.*

*The program is arranged so as to strike a balance between free play, in which the children use their own initiative and general activities and intentional teaching which the whole group participates. There is a daily mix of play and rest, creativity and receptivity, free play and listening. The day is rhythmically structured and ordered to provide artistic and imaginative activities, games and rhyme, music and storytelling. We also include domestic activities such as washing, sweeping and packing away.*

*The experience of enjoying and caring for their preschool helps children build an appreciation of the environment and fosters a healthy outlook on the wider world.*

*The education of small children is based on rhythm and repetition. We provide a variety of general activities that adhere to rhythmic sequence. Children feel very secure when they know what is happening next in the day. It also eliminates the need for constant verbal direction.*

*Children have an intimate relationship with their surroundings and this is something we actively cultivate. We take a lot of inspiration from the cycle of the year and many of our activities are linked with events of the seasons. We try to help the children develop an increasingly deep and living relationship with the cycle of nature.*

*Our aim is to make the preschool environment a positive encouragement for creative play. Play is the child's 'work'; they learn to solve problems, anticipate difficulties, plan ahead, communicate with others, negotiate differences and ask for guidance and help when necessary. It is crucial, therefore, to create a space that allows them to play creatively and imaginatively.*

***"Imagination is more important than knowledge" - Albert Einstein***