

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

7 FEBRUARY 2022



WELCOME TO NEW & RETURNING FAMILIES

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new families joining our service for 2023. The start of the new year brings excitement, nerves and anticipation as children are often leaving their family for the first time or move up into a new classroom. This transition to a new environment can go smoothly for some children and provide challenges for others but our staff are always there to support you and your child.

The NSW Government has online resources to support families with children starting preschool. [Starting preschool \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/starting-preschool) They include topics such as:

- A Getting ready for preschool e-book
- Healthy preschool routines
- Learning at preschool
- What to do when your child is sick

Please call the service at any time to discuss your child's day in more detail with their individual teachers and educators.

CLASSROOMS & STAFF

Teachers from each classroom will have sent each family a message through the xplor app, introducing themselves and their team. You can send messages back through this app. This will support the communication between you and your child's teachers .

If you need any support using the app please let us know and we are happy to help.



Staffing for 2023

Bangu Room (0-2 years)
– Lucy, Sharon & Olivia

Yapii Room (2 to 3 years)
– Rashelle & Leanne

Additional EYLC Educators
– Kareen, Amie, Hailey & Taleah

Gawul Room (Green Preschool Room)
– Jenny & Kayla

Dapin Room (Blue Preschool Room)
– Kathryn & Tyler

Additional PS Educators
– Jasmine, Kareen, & Kasey

Office Staff – Robyn & Calida

Cooks – Louise & Amie

Cleaners – Jacquie & Tiffany

Assistant Director - Kareen

Director – Elizabeth

Committee Members

The service's upper management is run by a small but dedicated group of family members. They were elected to their positions in our March 2022 AGM. If you are interested in joining the committee for 2023/24 please look out for nomination paperwork that will be coming out soon.

Current members:

President - Patricia Banyer
Vice President & Grievance liaison person -
Chontelle Ninness

Treasurer - Clare MacGregor
Secretary - Catherine Wieneke

Ordinary Committee Members - Sue Ray,
Eleanor Newman & Lauren McRae

To contact Committee email use:
glouc.preschool.committee@gmail.com

PLAYGROUP DATES

*Gloucester CWA...Tues 7 Feb
Booral...Tues 12 Feb
Coolongolook...Wed 15 Feb
*Gloucester CWA...Tues 21 Feb
Booral...Tues 28 Feb
Coolongolook...Wed 1 Mar
*Gloucester CWA...Tues 7 Mar
Booral...Tues 14 Mar
Coolongolook...Wed 15Mar
*Gloucester CWA...Tues 21 Mar
Booral...Tues 28 Mar
**Gloucester playgroup is available via invitation or referral only.*

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Committee Meeting—**
Thursday 16th February,
6pm at the Preschool.
- **AGM— TBA March, 7pm at**
the Preschool

BE SUN SAFE

Just a reminder, all children must bring a broad-brim sun hat to school each day and wear clothing that covers their shoulders and tops of their arms. Items such as caps, singlet tops and dresses that don't give adequate sun protection should not be worn to pre-school. Please tick off on the daily sheet if you have applied sun screen to your child so educators don't need to reapply it in the morning.



Hats and T-shirts
\$10 each

SERVICE OPENS AT 8AM FOR LONG DAY CARE

Please note that children and their families are not permitted on the premises before 8am, as we are not licensed until then. We are happy for you to wait outside the front of the gate or in your car until 8am.

Preschool hours begin at 8.15am. Children arriving before this time may incur an early-arrival fee.

HATS, SHOES & LABELLING

Just a reminder to all families that part of our service's policies is that all children must have a broadbrim hat each day they attend the service. If they arrive with a peak hat, we will provide your child with a loan broadbrim hat for the day. Remember that your child is always happier and more comfortable wearing their own hat and can learn to identify and be responsible for their own belongings.

Thongs, lose fitting sandals and crocs are not safe footwear for our outdoor environment. All these areas provide children the opportunity for climbing, balancing, and moving about on uneven surfaces. This becomes difficult and sometimes dangerous when children are not wearing the appropriate footwear. In addition children in the preschool environment will often go for walks around the neighbourhood and to the local park. They must have enclosed footwear to participate in these activities.

Labelling all hats, clothing, bags and drink bottles help educators to support children to learn to identify and become responsible for their own belongings. An identifying tag on your child's backpack will help to differentiate similar bags at the end of the day. Many children have the same or similar drink bottles and labeling minimizes children from drinking other children's water bottle.

COMMUNICATION METHODS WITH EDUCATORS

Phone 65581643

Email: Elizabeth director@gloucesterpreschool.com.au

Kareen assistant.director@gloucesterpreschool.com.au

Accounts/Robyn accounts@gloucesterpreschool.com.au

Admin/Calida admin@gloucesterpreschool.com.au

Educators/Teachers staff@gloucesterpreschool.com.au

Messaging through Xplor app

Phone & face to face conversations



COMMUNITY SHARE CUPBOARD

Currently located at the entry to the service we have a table and small fridge that is known as **“The Cupboard of Shared Happiness”** usually located on the preschool verandah. These cupboards are run in many communities and gives families the opportunity to give and receive.

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED... BRING WHAT YOU CAN...

We receive donations of near out of date items from Woolworths most days which is collected by the Bucketts Way Neighbourhood Centre and shared with us. Parents & other locals donate other food and items.

The clothes & shoes have also been donated so please help yourself or add items that are still in good condition that you no longer need from your home.

CASUAL DAYS

These can be booked through Kareen or Elizabeth. You can email or phone in your request and if a place is available, we will confirm the booking. Casual day booking forms are available from the office. For children booked in for the preschool program, casual days are only available as a long day care booking. If you think you may require casual days, please complete a Child Care Subsidy application before booking your day and/or alternatively speak to Robyn.

Please be aware that CCS subsidies have limits on the number of hours so extra days may be charged at the full rate.

MEDICAL PLANS

If your child is returning from 2022 and has a medical plan, please see Kareen to check that all the information is current. These documents will need to be signed as agreed for 2023.

If your medical management plan from your GP or specialist is more than 12 months old a new plan will need to be provided to the service.

Congratulations to Jacklyn

and her family, with the birth of her new baby – Ella May, born on the 7th January.



ABOUT THE NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK

The National Quality Framework (NQF) provides a national approach to regulation, assessment and quality improvement for most education and care services for children around Australia.

The NQF aims to improve the educational and developmental outcomes for children attending education and care services and promote continuous improvement in service quality.

The framework includes:

- the National Law and National Regulations
- the National Quality Standard (NQS)
- a nationally consistent assessment and quality rating process
- approved learning frameworks.

A key element of the NQF is the National Quality Standard (NQS) which identifies seven quality areas that are important to outcomes for children.

These quality areas are:

- Education program and practice
- Children's health and safety
- Physical environment
- Staffing arrangements
- Relationships with children
- Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- Governance and leadership.

Services undergo regular assessments and are given a rating for each of these quality areas as well as an overall rating based on these results. Our service is rated as "Exceeding"

More information can be found on the following websites:

[About the National Quality Framework \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://nsw.gov.au)

[National Quality Framework | ACECQA](http://ACECQA)

Families input to the service, NQS & QIP

As part of the NQS, our practice needs to be shaped by meaningful engagement with families and the community. This gives families the opportunity to reflect on our current practice and actively contribute ideas and possibilities. To support this participation educators will be sending out questions and surveys throughout the year. We strongly encourage you to participate in these as they help our journey of continual improvement.

The service's QIP (Quality Improvement Plan)

Another part of the NQS is that services develop a QIP. This document is focused on setting goals for further improvement of knowledge, skill & practice within the service.

Areas that we will be focusing on this year will include:

- How are our current sustainability practice embedded in our daily practice?
- Developing greater knowledge in supporting language development in children 0 to 5 years of age.
- Further developing our knowledge & skills in supporting risky play with children.
- Support further skills of our Room Leaders

More information will be available soon on our website, member area and through the newsletters.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR TEAM

In each child's journal there is a document that shows who is who in your team, including their roles and responsibilities. There is an additional document that gives you more information about your child's key educators. Please take the time to look at your child's journal so we can get to know each other better. In our newsletters this year we are going to focus on 1 or 2 staff members each month sharing more information to help support a great knowledge of their strengths and personalities.

Elizabeth Price – Director

I have been the Director of Gloucester Pre School since 2012 but have worked as a teacher and director for the past 30 years. I gained my teaching qualification from Macquarie University and later went on to complete a Post Graduate Certificate in Inclusive Education at Charles Sturt University.

I am passionate about giving children the best opportunity in care & education, understand that the first 5 years of life will set the foundation for lifelong success. To support this, I believe in the rights of the child: their right to play, access to nature, positive social relationships, to be treated fairly, to have a say about decisions that affect them, to be safe & to live and grow up healthy.

My passion for always striving for these principles and working in partnership with families and the community has resulted in my work here at Gloucester Pre School being recognised locally & national through winning the following awards:

- 2016 Australia College of Educators Teaching award
- 2018 National PlaySafe Design Awards for Education & Care
- 2022 Individual Leadership award for our industry.

My love of the environment, sustainability and nature is reflected in all my activities from sailing around the Pacific Rim for 5 years with my husband and 2 young children, livestock farming & vegetable production, hiking more than 100km both sole and with friends & developing and influencing changes in better sustainability practices.

I love connecting with families so I have an open-door policy, so drop into my office anytime to share your news, concerns & ideas.



Welcome Kasey

Kasey has joined our team after many years working at Barrington St. Long Day Care Centre. We are excited to have her onboard, please make her feel welcome. Her position will be Outdoor Learning Environment Educator supporting the educators and children to design, implement and maintain a high-quality learning environment that reflects our Outdoor Learning Environment Vision & Philosophy. We look forward to her working in collaboration with educators, children, families & the broader community. Please share any of your ideas for activities in this area.

