

GRAYS POINT ACTIVITY CENTRE

OUR MISSION

Collaborating with our Community to ensure we provide high quality Outside of School Hours (OSHC) services which meet the needs of Grays Point Public School children and their families.

Term 3 Newsletter

Term 3, 2025 edition



Grays Point Activity Centre Acknowledgement of Country

Below is the land
Above is the sky
Here are our friends
And here am I

We acknowledge the Gweagal peoples of the
Dharawal Nation and Torres Strait Islander
peoples who share their land on which we learn
and play.

Together we promise to look after the land, the
sea, the plants, the animals and pay our respects
to the Elders past, present and to those of the
future.



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Educational Leader Update



Another amazing Term completed for us here at GPAC!

Our dramatic play area transformed into a Hollywood Dressing Room and performance space. This space encouraged collaboration, creativity, and lots of fun as we dived into the world of film and performance.

We acknowledged R U OK Day by having thoughtful discussions about feelings, checking in on friends, and practicing how to ask for help and support one another.

We also celebrated National Wattle Day through wattle-inspired artworks and sensory experiences.

Throughout the Term we welcomed Spring which means our Kindness Tree also blooms with the season. We have seen buzzing bees appear on the tree for the acknowledgement of going the extra mile with kindness.

This Term, we focused on the cultures of the United States and Indonesia. We are so thankful for our community and our families for coming in to provide learning about American traditions like Thanksgiving and the 4th of July. We engaged with food, flags, and stories that sparked curiosity and respect for diverse cultures.

This Term we have also seen some reoccurring trends throughout the Centre with various learning and development skills, those being: sewing, Origami, paper planes and we can't forget K Pop Demon Hunters!

We have some amazing excursions planned again for the upcoming October Vacation Care program getting out of the Sutherland Shire down to the HARS Aviation Museum and Wollongong Science Space as well as welcoming GO Karts 2 U again and engaging in our very own colour run!

See you in Term 4!

Taylissa



GPAC Management and Committee



Grays Point Activity Centre is a community based not-for-profit organisation led by the Volunteer Management Committee.

Becoming a member of the committee provides opportunity for parents to use their knowledge and expertise for overseeing the running of the Centre. Quality care requires families and staff to collaborate to be partners in providing the best for our children. We value the diversity that each family brings to our Centre and invite everyone to share their ideas, skills and information to enrich our environment.

Upcoming GPAC Management Committee Meetings

Term 4

Wk 5: Monday 10th November 2025

2026

Term 1

Monday 2nd February 2026

Monday 23rd March 2026 AGM

October School Holidays

GPAC will be open for Vacation Care from Monday 29th September to Monday 13th October.

(excl. Fridays)

If you need to book in for the School Holidays or for the Staff Development Day we still have limited availability - book in here (late fees may apply).

[GPAC Vacation Care Booking Form - Sept/Oct](#)

Changes to the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) activity test

From January 2026, the activity test is being replaced so all CCS eligible families can get at least 72 hours of subsidised child care each fortnight. Read more on the [Services Australia website](#).

Policy Review

The following policies have been revised, amended or created this Term:

- Statement of Commitment to Child Safety – new
- Sleep and Rest Policy
- Safe Sleep and Rest Risk Assessment
- Nutrition and Food Safety Policy
- Volunteer Students Visitors Handbook
- Client Protection Policy
- Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy
- Asthma Management Policy
- Equal Employment Opportunity Anti-Discrimination Policy
- Staff Social Functions Policy
- Code of Conduct Policy
- Sun Protection Policy
- Tobacco Alcohol and Drugs Policy
- Working Alone Risk Management Plan
- Digital Device and Social Media Use Policy
- Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments Policy New
- Leave Policy and Procedures
- Smart Watch Staff Declaration Permission- new
- Child Protection Policy
- Device Student Agreement for Vacation Care
- Device Student Agreement Year 5 & 6's
- Telephone Mobile and Internet Policy
- Emergency and Evacuation Staff Procedures
- Lockdown Procedure
- Bomb Threat Checklist
- Program Risk Benefits Assessment
- Pet and Animal Risk Assessment
- Loose parts risky play risk benefit assessment
- Girls Guide Hall Evacuation Risk Assessment
- Emergency and Evacuation Risk Assessment
- Emergency and Evacuation Policy

How GPAC is managing the review into child safety requirements

I would just like to update you in response to the new requirements in response to the review of child safety requirements, and how GPAC manages these changes to the Education and Care Services National Regulations.

This change reforms aim to strengthen children's safety. The key take outs are - New rules from September 1 include digital technology safety policies, 24-hour abuse reporting and a ban on vaping.

I can assure you that GPAC practices and will reinforce a strong child safe culture including good governance, a stable workforce, and embedding of the Child Safe Standards.

As part of the new regs personal mobile phones cannot be used at GPAC whilst caring for children. I can assure you we already had those Policies and Procedures in place and all our Educators put their phones in their lockers upon commencement of shift. The changes advertised will not amend our current policies such as : Child Protection, Telephone, Mobile and Internet Policy and our Digital Device and Social Media Use Policy.

We have however created another new Policy and Risk Assessment :

Safe Use of Digital Technology and Online Environments Policy
Digital Technologies and Online Environments Risk Assessment

If you have or do see a staff member on a phone or device they would be using the GPAC devices to do a GPAC Facebook post, messaging a guardian or reviewing their programming/typing reflections etc.

We also partake in continued personal development, and will be redoing our training at our Thursday meeting so if you have any input, please let us know.

The change is that staff members CANNOT wear a smart watch that is enabled to take a video or photo. This is also in line with children at the Centre cannot wear a device with that technology or take photos whilst in our care.

We will also be speaking to the children at announcements - to support children's understanding of online safety by providing age-appropriate guidance, discussions and activities that help them to recognise safe and unsafe online behaviours consulting about matters that impact them, including the use of digital technologies and online environments, to ensure their voices are heard and respected in a meaningful way.

Risks remain if Policies are poorly implemented or reputation is prioritised over child safety so, please provide your feedback in relation to GPAC's Policies or how we can assist in any way. We do have useful links on our website including the ECA Statement on young children and digital technologies

As always, if you ever have any concerns with the care we provide to your child, please immediately report it to myself or the GPAC President.

Kind regards
Karen

Centre Manager
Grays Point Activity Centre Inc
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Ph: 02 9540 2020

Website: www.gpactivitycentre.org

From 1 September 2025, important regulatory changes to keep children safe came into effect across ECEC services. [Read more](#) on what this will mean for your child's service, and what you can expect.

Re-enrolling for 2026

1. You will have received a re-enrolment link via email from Xplor - please only use this link to re-enrol. The link will remain live for 7 days. If you need the link to be re-issued, please send admin an email - admin@gpactivitycentre.org. DO NOT USE THE ENROL BUTTON ON THE WEBSITE TO RE-ENROL
2. Please submit the Booking Request Form - ONE FORM FOR EACH CHILD YOU ARE RE-ENROLLING. If you wish to use the Centre on a casual basis and select 'Casual Only'
3. Current GPAC students re-enrolling for 2026 have first priority if the re-enrolment link and booking request form have been received before 15th September. After this date, we will open enrolments to all new families wishing to start care at GPAC in 2026 and your re-enrolment will be processed on a first in, first served basis along with the new enrolments.
4. Don't forget to return the 2026 Code of Conduct & Expectation Charter
5. Please note that the Annual GPAC Membership Fee for 2026 has increased to \$60 per family from \$50

Not returning in 2026?

If your child is off to high school or you've decided not to return to GPAC in 2026, please send an email to admin@gpactivitycentre.org to advise us.

New siblings enrolling for 2026

1. Head to the website to enrol www.gpactivitycentre.org/enrolments
2. Please have your child's birth certificate, immunisation statement and any medical plans ready to upload
3. You will be able to select your preferred sessions of care on the enrolment form. Alternatively, you can submit a Booking Request Form.
4. Siblings of current GPAC students enrolling for 2026 have second priority (after current students re-enrolling for 2026) if the enrolment form and booking request have been received before 15th September. After this date, we will open enrolments to all new families wishing to start care in 2026 and your child's enrolment will be processed on a first in, first served basis along with the new enrolments.

2026 Annual membership fee of \$60 will be charged after 15th September for those who have re-enrolled.



OOSH Educators Day

On 30th July we celebrated OOSH Educators Day!
The children made some special cards and left lovely messages for our wonderful Educators.

Thank you as well to all our wonderful families who took the time add a kind message to our message board.

THANK YOU!



Fundraising

GPAC DISCO

What a night!

Thank you to everyone who came to the GPAC Disco. We hope you had as much fun as we did!!

Massive thank you to our volunteers and staff who took time out of their Friday night to help make sure everyone had the best time.

Enjoy some photos and videos of the night and bring on the GPAC Disco 2026!



And a big thank you...

GPAC would like to thank and recognise one of our GPAC family member who through her work at Suncorp has donated to us.
Thank you so much Rachel Smith.

"Suncorp's Community Investment and Collective Giving Strategy has donated \$1000 to GPAC by matching hours volunteered by one of their employees over the year. This program enables Suncorp employees to support local charities and not-for-profit organisations of their choice. If your company offers a similar program, you are welcome to contact us for further information."

Did you know that maybe your company you work for may potentially be interested in different donations to non for profit organizations like GPAC.



GPAC Art Gallery



Messages from the Office



Illnesses

How long should families keep sick children home for?

With the change of weather, spikes in infectious diseases are common, including gastro, conjunctivitis and colds.

Access this [table](#) from the updated Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services – 6th Edition to identify when children should be excluded from the service and when they can safely return.

Absentee notification from Xplor

When a child is expected at GPAC for their morning booking but does not arrive they will be marked absent by an Educator after the children in attendance have been signed out. This will trigger an instant notification to guardians that their child was marked absent from GPAC. GPPS have confirmed they send an SMS at 11am if a child hasn't arrived at school. If no explanation for the absence is received from that parent then an email to both parents is sent the following day. During Vacation Care, GPAC will mark you child absent in Xplor at our first head count roll call. If you subsequently arrive after this roll call we can manually mark them present for the day.

Absences & non-notification

Please ensure you advise us if your child will be absent from GPAC, especially for After School Care. If your child is booked in and does not show up for After School Care, a staff member will be required to come off the floor to locate your child/ren. As per GPAC's fees policy a non-notification phone fee of \$10 per child, will be charged to your account.

Breakfast Service

A friendly reminder that GPAC serves breakfast from 7am until 8am. If your child/ren would like to have breakfast at GPAC, please ensure they are here before 8am. This is because the staff member serving breakfast will need to help supervise the children playing inside and outside.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation!

Device Agreement

Please ensure your child/ren are aware that their Smart Watches must remain on school mode while at GPAC.

GPAC Calendar

Don't miss a thing – download a copy of our 2025/26 GPAC calendar [HERE](#)

Signing in & out of GPAC

A friendly reminder that only parents are to use the iPads to sign their children in / out. Once your child has been signed out of GPAC, we kindly ask you make your way off school grounds.

Sustainability

Term 3, 2025

As Spring had sprung this term our Eco Warriors have also been springing into action! Over the course of the term we have focused on harvesting our herbs to give back to our families as well as collecting our worm wee for our families to fertilise and assist their gardens. We have been experimenting with various seeds to create seed bombs through making our own paper and placing seeds inside to grow and further produce. Both our gardens have been have upkept and monitored so we can use our produce in our delicious meals we have here at GPAC. We are finishing off the term drying our Old man's salt bush to create our very own dried herbs and spices.



WANTED

We're looking for an old Kindle or other tablet/e-reader that you can send PDF files to.

If you have an old Kindle or tablet that is collecting dust in your cupboards, we would love to give it a new purpose

We are also on the hunt for fluoro vests and a blender!



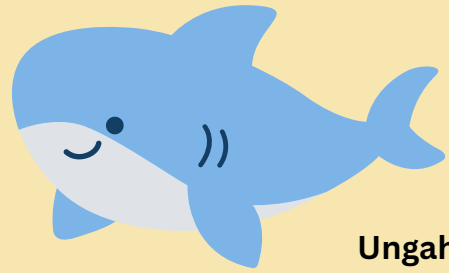
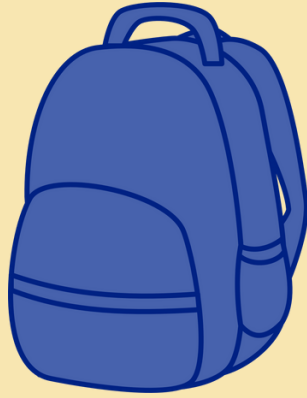
We are seeking the following for donation:

- electronic wok
- soccer balls and basketballs
- Indoor plants, real or fake
- Wii Games
- Card games eg. Uno and board games
- Small fussball table
- A lap top; usable, just to type up documents
- An iPad for one app so memory space doesn't matter

Anything your workplace may be getting rid of in bulk that we can use to create a new dramatic play area every term ? eg. Hospital, vet, Bunnings, restaurant, school. An endless list of what we could recreate our spaces into. For example a parent previously bought fake ex display phones so it became a phone shop. A parent bought a trolley in so it became a supermarket etc.

Dharawal words around GPAC

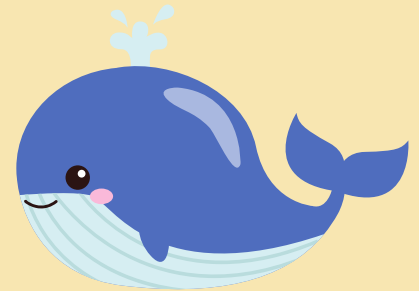
Gaarma
Backpack



Ungah
Shark



Nagangbi
Hello



Burri Burri
Whale (humpback)

Wida-la badu.
Let's drink water



Midjang
Girl



Banda
Boy

Gumbul djaadjaa (strong brother) men's group

The gumbul djaadjaa men's group is a Social Support group run through Kurranulla weekly on Tuesdays. gumbul djaadjaa men's group brings together Aboriginal men to avoid social isolation and participate in a range of activities such as; Fishing, BBQ'S, Cultural Outings, attending Movies and Football Games gumbul djaadjaa men's group also have regular health and well-being activities.

Yanadi women's group

Yanadi women's group is a Social Support group run through Kurranulla. The Yanadi Women's Group meets weekly on Fridays and brings together Aboriginal women to participate in a range of activities such as; Arts and Crafts, Candle Making, Traditional Weaving, Jewellery making and much more. Yanadi women's group have regular health and well-being activities.

Aboriginal Kids and Youth Cultural Program

Open to all Aboriginal children aged 4-16 years old.

A cultural program to ensure our youth can develop a strong connection to their culture and identity.

To book call Kurranulla on 9528 0287 or email Noah@kurranulla.org.au

Activities will include:

Art
Dance
Storytelling
Didge
Artefacts
...AND MORE

FREE OF CHARGE | EVERY THURSDAY 4 – 5:30PM @ JANNALI HALL

Staff Update



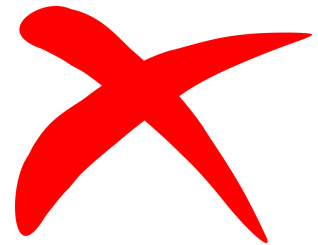
Huge congratulations to
Ellyse & Luke who got
married in Bali in
August!



Recycle your used ink and toner cartridges at GPAC!



Printer cartridges
Inkjets
Waster toner units
Drum units
Toner bottles



Waste ink (from machines)
Screen print inks
Rubbish/packaging

GRAYS POINT

MTB FESTIVAL
ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

**SATURDAY
22 NOV**

GRAYS POINT



Made by Hand

Hazelhurst Art & Design Market

Sunday 12 October 2025

10am to 3pm

80+ stallholders

Free entry



TO REGISTER: FREE CALL
1800 780 900

SMS 0409 745 645 for a call back
Register online at www.go4fun.com.au

Help your family to get healthy,
active and happy with Go4Fun

FREE healthy lifestyle program
for kids aged 7-13 who are above a healthy weight.
A parent or carer is required to attend each session.

Scan the QR code to find
a program near you

