

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 4 Newsletter

Term 4, 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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Centre Manager End of Year Wrap Up



Hi families,

What a wonderful and busy year it has been at GPAC. We welcomed a very large number of new children in 2025 - over 65, with each child added something special to our Centre. 2026 is showing a smaller number of children enrolling and a smaller GPPS Kindergarten intake.

We began the year with our GPAC Welcome BBQ, setting the tone for a warm and connected start to our community involvement. Throughout the year the children have enjoyed endless craft, cooking, sporting activities, and opportunities to learn about a wide variety of cultures. Our focus on sustainability has continued to grow, with enthusiastic participation in recycling, outdoor play, gardening, and caring for our beloved worms.

Our calendar has been full of fun and celebration, including Halloween parties, our end of term events, book week costume swap, Educator's Day, Biggest Morning Tea

Cancer Council Fundraiser, Election BBQ's, hair braiding for school photos, the list goes on....We've also enjoyed welcoming visitors from Grays Point Preschool, Anchorage, and our local GP Fire Service whom we donated our idea of the lolly drive for the Santa Fire Truck route this year. All of this on top of our valuable Vacation Care program creating even more memorable moments and of course the highlight for so many children the annual GPAC disco.

Also this year we are trialling something new with our Gingerbread House making. We hope you've enjoyed the children's creations for gifting (or eating).

We also hope you've enjoyed the many children's craft and Mr Maker creations they have brought home. Our Dramatic Play area have been some of our most imaginative play spaces yet! A highlight for all of us was the incredible parent involvement, with families sharing their culture, food, languages and skills. One particularly meaningful project was knitting poppies for the Westfield Remembrance Day display.

As always, it's bittersweet to farewell our Year 6 students. We celebrated them with a special breakfast at Jack Gray and gifted each child a small GPAC present as we wished them all the very best as they begin their high school journeys.

We also had some exciting staff news. Easter next year, Teri will begin her trip around Australia. We already miss her and look forward to welcoming her back in April 2027. We invite you all to warmly welcome our new People Lead and Floor Manager, Taya. And at the end of November, we celebrated Educator Rianna's wedding—congratulations to the new Mrs. Kandros, who will return in January 2026.

Vacation Care will reopen us at 7:30am on 7th January 2026. Children from other NSW schools are welcome to join our program, as well as our incoming 2026 Kindergarten students before they officially begin big school.

Thank you for such a lovely year and allowing us to care for your family.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and I look forward to another exciting year next year,

Take care

Karen

Centre Manager

Grays Point Activity Centre

GPAC Newsletter – Community gratitude & support update

A Heartfelt Thank You

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to Gemma P for creating a cohesive connection between the P&C fundraising efforts and GPAC as well as her endless personal donations and resources she sources for free from the community assist so much.

A special thank you mention also goes to the following families and individuals for their valuable contributions:

The Retter Family – for gifting our new trampoline

Rachel S - for organising the Good2Give grant of \$1000

The McGarrity-Ghlay Family – for donating \$100 towards a new games table

The Goodwin Family – maintenance of our entrance garden

Clint H – for building cupboards and shelves, and for the many volunteered maintenance jobs !

Everyone that helped at the BBQ's and Cancer Council Morning Tea - especially our generous sponsors and donors

As always our amazing volunteer GPAC Committee – for their dedicated time and ongoing support.

We are truly grateful for the generosity, time, and energy our community continues to invest in GPAC.

Educational Leader Update



What an exciting and memorable Term 4 we've had at GPAC!

This term, our cultural focus took us on a journey as we explored the vibrant traditions of Greece and Fiji. From stories and music to food and creative art projects, the children loved discovering what makes each culture unique.

We also celebrated one of our favourite events of the year —our annual Halloween party! The children had a wonderful time dressing up, playing themed games, and enjoying a day full of spooky fun and imagination.

In dramatic play, the space was transformed twice: first into a busy school, where children took on the roles of teachers, students, and helpers; and later into the magical North Pole, complete with elves, workshops, and plenty of festive cheer.

For our extra-curricular activity, the children enjoyed participating in gymnastics, building strength, coordination, and confidence through an 8-week program.

Children demonstrated a wide range of learning and developmental skills throughout the term as they engaged in some of their favourite activities such as loom bands, Lego and baking. They showed growing independence, problem-solving abilities, and confidence as they explored new environments and participated in group projects such as our Recycling project for National recycling week.

Thank you to all our families for your support throughout the year. We are so proud of everything the children have achieved and can't wait for more adventures ahead in 2026!

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

2026 Term 1

Wednesday 11th February 2026 - 6:15pm
Monday 23rd March 2026 **AGM** - 6:15pm

2026 Fees

Our Before & After School Care Fees and Vacation Care Fees will remain **unchanged** for 2026. Our Annual Membership Fee has increased to \$60 from \$50 per family

BSC: \$24 regular / \$28 casual
ASC: \$31.35 regular / \$35.35 casual
VC: \$80 regular / \$85 casual
Annual Membership Fee: \$60 per family

January School Holidays

GPAC will be open for Vacation Care from Wednesday 7th January 2026 until Thursday 29th January 2026 (excl. Fridays)

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

[GPAC Vacation Care Booking Form - January.](#)

There is no expected arrival time during vacation care (unless specified for an excursion) however we need to conduct head counts so they will be marked absent but we can sign them in on arrival

Policy Review

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

- Bathroom and Laundry Risk Assessment
- Ambulance Risk Management
- Risk Assessment to Identify Potential Emergencies
- Safe Arrival of Children Risk Assessment
- Parental Leave Policy
- Record Keeping and Retention Policy - Removed Appendix 1 Record Keeping Quick Reference Guide and Appendix 2 – Record Keeping Checklist to create a Record Keeping Quick Reference Guide and Checklist
- Absconding Policy
- Inclusion - Additional Needs Policy
- Risk Assessment Grays Point RFS Fire Brigade Fire truck
- Hand Washing Policy
- Communication with Families
- Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Procedure Policy
- Inclusion/Additional Needs Policy
- Management of Incident Injury Illness and Trauma Policy
- Diabetes
- New Evacuation Diagram – inside floor plan
- Excursions Policy
- Safe Transportation Policy
- Digital Technologies and Online Environments Risk Assessment Action Plan
- Gender Equity Policy
- Interactions with Children, Families and Staff Policy
- Supervision of Children Policy

Celebrations @ GPAC

Yr 6 Farewell Breakfast

To celebrate and farewell our Year 6 students, we enjoyed a special breakfast at Jack Gray on the 10/12/25 together to mark the end of their time at GPAC. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on their growth, achievements, and memories made along the way, while sharing laughs and a delicious breaky. As they prepare to take their next steps, we are incredibly proud of the young people they have become and wish them every success in the exciting journey ahead. We will miss you!

Halloween Party

We had an awesome afternoon enjoying our GPAC Halloween party. Some of us dressed up in our spooky costume! We enjoyed some delicious mac and cheese, Frankfurt's, Halloween jelly and Halloween cake.

Outdoors we enjoyed trying to whack the piñata, face paint, designing lolly bags, mummy wrapping comp and a trick or treat hunt!



Christmas Party

We wrapped up the term with a festive Christmas party filled with laughter, energy, and lots of fun. Everyone enjoyed a spread of delicious food before engaging in a candy cane hunt! The excitement continued with a highlight of playing educators vs children dodgeball game chosen from our prize shop coupons. We spent the afternoon playing party games where lots of festive prizes were won! We were grateful to have one of our year 6 students volunteer to help for the afternoon!

We also proudly announced the winners of the colouring-in competition, celebrating creativity and effort. It was a wonderful way to end the term and head into the holidays together with a special visit from SANTA to finish the day.



Family Corner

Can you help?

Can you assist with any of the following?

- Donation of a gift card/money or sausages, bread and condiments to the March welcome BBQ and we will advertise your business.
- A competitively priced bus service for Vacation Care (private company prices remain extremely high)
- A local contact at a nursing home with access to a bus for intergenerational visits to take our children and their residents to and from GPAC
- A corporate/business sponsor to assist financially to our veranda floor painting and rejuvenation project
- Food supplier donations, such as we have previously had cereal donated
- Good2Give corporate donations or similar, corporate workplaces like Suncorp have this for volunteering projects
- 12 paint shirts (or funding to purchase replacement polo-style paint shirts)
- Parenting and child raising books to expand our parent library
- Vegetables and herbs for our gardens
- Hairdressing supplies—brushes, elastics, or even broken tools—for our children's play salon

Thank you for supporting GPAC

Your generosity and involvement help us provide a welcoming, creative, and enriching environment for all our children. We appreciate every contribution and look forward to continuing to grow together as a community.

If you can assist with any of the above items or have suggestions, please reach out—we would love to hear from you.

Useful Links

The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network offers [free online education programs](#) to help parents and carers understand and manage a range of health conditions. It includes CPR, child safety and asthma.

Changes to CCS

From January 2026, CCS eligible families can get at least 72 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight or 3 days per week. Families are not guaranteed a place with a provider. Families will still need to secure a place with their chosen child care service and may need to pay a gap fee.

Read more on the Services Australia website.

Please find attached the December 2025 edition of the NSW Anaphylaxis Education Program '[In a Nutshell' Newsletter](#). This is our way of staying connected with you and sharing important information and updates. This is a quarterly newsletter with information about allergies and allergy management in the ECE sector.

Fundraising & Community Involvement

RFS Firetruck visit and lolly drive

We were lucky enough to have Grays Point RFS visit us to teach the children about fire safety. The children learnt about the important equipment firefighters wear and carry, as well as what is stored on the truck. They then got to spray water from the fire hose & hear how loud the sirens are!

Thank you so much for donating the lollies for Santa's Christmas Eve rounds - we were also able to hand over what we have collected to date.

2025 Poppy Project

I am excited to share that we have dropped off our GPAC poppies the children knitted, with the help of Ivy's grandmother Linda and Shell's crocheting activities. These will be displayed at Westfield Miranda to create the new Remembrance Day display honouring those who have served and sacrificed for our Country.



Phoenix Christmas Cards

We were fortunate to have the opportunity to connect with the Phoenix Community Project Inc., an organisation that provides programs and opportunities for people with disabilities. They wrote us some lovely Christmas cards, and we were able to write back by creating Christmas cards of our own!



Gingerbread House Decorating Competition

Thank you to those families that entered into the Gingerbread House decorating competition and a special thanks to Katelyn for volunteering to help with the children's creations. Such a fun suggestion from one of our parents!

Our winners were Paddy, Annabelle, Spencer and Penny and we raised \$270 to go towards purchasing resources for the Centre



Anchorage Early Learning & Grays Point Pre-school visit GPAC

Thank you to our little future friends and their beautiful Educators for visiting us!

We cherish our invaluable community relationship and making connections with our new children before they start school

*Thank
You*



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 4, 2025

Throughout Term 4, we continued to harvest and provide fresh herbs for our families and for our daily meals while further integrating sustainability and nature-based learning into our programs.

Our Mr Maker area has flourished with the addition of a natural play section, offering children opportunities to immerse themselves in sensory experiences and explore a variety of recycled materials. We have watched our natural resources spark creativity as children transformed them into wands, clay creations, and imaginative works of art. A highlight of the term was harvesting Lemon Myrtle from our Bush Tucker garden and using it to bake delicious muffins, allowing children to see the full cycle of growth, gathering, and creating.



WANTED

We are looking for someone to sponsor our Annual GPAC Welcome Breakfast

We're looking for donations of sausages, bread and condiments and in return we will advertise your business



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.

Staff Update



Congratulations to Rianna and Stelli on their GORGEOUS wedding. We wish them a lifetime of happiness and we look forward to having Rianna back at GPAC in January



Please give a warm welcome to our People Lead & Floor Manager, Taya Briguglio!!!

Taya is currently studying Primary Teaching and currently also works for Ranger Jamie as a Youth Educator and animal handler. She also recently worked in Canada running 9 lifeguards.

Taya has also taught dance, coached soccer and wants to continue her commitment to creating a positive, educational and fun environment here at GPAC.

Taya will transition into parts of Teri's role throughout the next few months, shadowing Teri until Teri starts her travels for a year in April 2026.




Community Events

SUTHERLANDSHIRE

Sunset Cultural Ceremony



Event details

-  SAT 24 JANUARY 2026
-  4:00pm-7:00pm
-  Burnum Burnum Sanctuary, Woronora

Sunset Cultural Ceremony, Burnum Burnum Sanctuary, Woronora

You're invited to listen and learn about First Nations culture and storytelling at our Sunset Cultural Ceremony. Come along and take part in an afternoon of reflection: join a yarning circle, listen to local musicians, support First Nations stallholders and enjoy a delicious Sutherland Rotary BBQ.

The Sunset Cultural Ceremony will be presented by local Aboriginal Elders at Burnum Burnum Sanctuary in acknowledgement that for First Nations Peoples, Australia Day carries different connotations.

The Sunset Cultural Ceremony, performed against the stirring backdrop of the Woronora River, provides a solemn and respectful way to engage with the profound significance of this day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

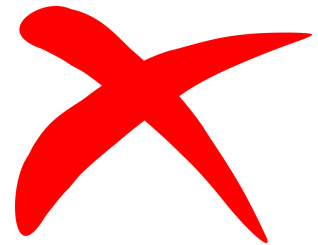
Local Elder Uncle Dean Kelly and Aunty Calita Murray invite people to "Give yourself the opportunity to join us in this important conversation about who we are as people in this country"

Parking is limited at Burnum Burnum Sanctuary. There is alternative parking available at the Tom Evans Sports Field, and you can walk through to Burnum Burnum sanctuary via the path.

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

GPAC RESOURCE REQUEST LIST

DEAR GPAC FAMILIES,

AS A NONPROFIT BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE CENTRE, WE STRIVE TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE EXPERIENCES FOR THE CHILDREN IN OUR CARE BY OFFERING ENGAGING ACTIVITIES AND A WELL-EQUIPPED ENVIRONMENT. TO HELP US CONTINUE THIS, WE WARMLY INVITE FAMILIES WHO ARE ABLE TO SUPPORT US BY PURCHASING SUPPLIES FOR THE CENTRE.

BELOW, YOU'LL FIND A LIST OF NEEDED SUPPLIES, AND WE WOULD BE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD CONTRIBUTE FIVE ITEMS FROM THE LIST. EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS IN CREATING A VIBRANT AND WELCOMING SPACE FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT MEAN SO MUCH TO US.



STATIONERY

LARGE STICKY TAPE ROLLS
MASKING TAPE
COLOURED TAPE
PERMANENT/WHITEBOARD MARKERS
A4 PRINTING PAPER
TWISTABLE CRAYONS

COLOURED PAPER
LAMINATING POUCHES
POST IT NOTES
PAINT TEXTAS
CLIPBOARDS
AA & AAA BATTERIES



CRAFT & ACTIVITY SUPPLIES

BEADS & JEWELLERY MAKING EQUIPMENT
HAIR COMBS/BRUSHES & HAIR ACCESSORIES
COLES BRAND SHAVING CREAM
CORD, ELASTIC & STRING
K MART OR IKEA SILVER CUTLERY
PAINTBRUSHES (ANY SIZE)
DISPOSABLE CUPS
DISPOSABLE PAPER/PLASTIC PLATES

RIBBON & STRING
WOOL & KNITTING NEEDLES
POM POMS & PIPE CLEANERS
CELLOPHANE/CREPE PAPER
CLAY
PARTY FAVOURS / PARTY SUPPLIES
ACTIVITY SHOP PRIZES
STRAWS & BALLOONS



CLEANING & HYGIENE

FACE WASHERS AND TOWELS (NEW)
PALMOLIVE BRAND HAND SANITISER
NEW CHILDRENS UNDERWEAR & WHITE SOCKS
RESEALABLE SANDWICH BAGS (ALL SIZES)
ALDI TRICARE OR PALMOLIVE ANTIBAC HANDWASH
REPELLEX (ALDI) OR AEROGUARD SPRAY

COLES BRAND SUNSCREEN
MICROFIBRE CLOTHS
PLASTIC TABLE CLOTHS
LATEX GLOVES
GLEN 20 SPRAY
GARBAGE BAGS

THANK YOU!

EVERY CONTRIBUTION MAKES A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE AND THANK YOU FOR BEING A VALUED PART OF OUR GPAC COMMUNITY!





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

