



Oatley OOSH Care Navigator

Contact Us!

Email: enquiries@oatleyoosh.org.au

OPS OOSH: 0447 565 281

OCH OOSH: 0437 419 095 | 95701142

Issue 1, 2023

Happy New Year!

Dear Parents,

Oatley OOSHCare Incorporated would like to wish all of our families a very happy new year! We hope that you have all enjoyed the festive season and the break.

Our team has been busy with the summer Vacation Care program and doing quite a lot of work behind the scenes to ensure that the team is ready for a new year of program and activities.

We aim for 2023 to be our best year yet, with a specific focus on core age groups and a detailed plan to carry it out. We have tons of opportunities for families to engage with and have a say in the service we provide and look forward to engaging with you, whether you're a veteran OOSHie or you're brand new to the world of OOSH.

Our theme for the year is to "Make the Invisible, Visible" – you will be seeing and hearing a lot from us in newsletters, on our blog (you should subscribe), through social media, and through our monthly parent meetings. We are very excited to share with you exactly how OOSH is more than just convenient care. Please join us on this journey.

As Ever,

Darren Brisbane
General Manager
Oatley OOSHCare Incorporated

www.oatleyoosh.org.au

Committee Meeting

Our Executive Committee:

Co-President

Hayley Lawson

Co-President

Kate Panchal

Secretary

Jane Miller

Treasurer

Dominique Suter

The Parent Committee can be contacted by emailing: committee@oatleyoosh.org.au

We hold 6 committee meetings a year, which are open to our parents and interested stakeholders. Our next committee meeting date will be in the first week of March. Details will be provided as soon as they are available.



Keiran, Tom and Ethan doing one of the organised activities about sun safety during the staff annual training day.

Staff Annual Training Day

By Darren Brisbane

Early in January I dragged the entire team in to Oatley Public School OOSH for a day of professional development and practice. Each staff member had been tasked in advance with preparing an activity that the entire team could participate and took turns throughout the day implementing their programs. It was a fun day, with some incredibly simple but well thought out activities.

All staff had the opportunity to practice an emergency evacuation or lockdown drill, with some interesting emergency scenarios thrown in. My personal favourite was the stray dog and the compassion shown by the educator leading that drill for the educator who has an irrational fear of dogs.

We also had a visit from Jay from Phoenix Support for Educators, who facilitated a 2.5 hour workshop with the team about behaviour being driven by basic needs – a stellar workshop that will inform our behaviour management practice in 2023.

My Time, Our Place

By Darren Brisbane

OOSH services are required to base their program on an approved learning framework – which means everything we do ties into a series of principles, practices, and learning outcomes. What we plan and implement is not random!

After 10 years, the Approved Framework for School Aged Care has undergone a review and version 2 has now been released for services to implement over the next 12 months.

Our leadership team took the time to read through the new document and we are pleased to see such a focus on play and leisure as two separate things, and they don't need to have an outcome!

We're also excited by the inclusion of Playwork as a legitimate approach to working with children, especially after our trip to Canberra last year and our plans to really explore play in 2023. It's an exciting time for Oatley OOSH - and we're excited to share the journey in the year ahead.

Read more on our blog: [A Playworker's Reflections on "My Time, Our Place v2"](#)



The Royal Flying Doctors Service visiting with a training trailer.

Vacation Care

By Sam Walter

This vacation Care has been a blast! Every day we have been able to organise something special from a wide range of different activities. One of the more popular ones was Ice Skating and the slime day.

Between the activities outlined in the program that was sent out, we ran a few other activities, such as science experiments, group games, water games and other fun activities.

We had plenty of opportunities for our junior staff to be on the floor during the holidays, they planned a few of the daily running activities and ran them. They have been super helpful throughout the holiday period.

This has been the first vacation care that we have offered for our new Kindy students to attend, the turnout was fantastic! It has been super helpful for them to transition into OOSH, and even the long days which will help out with school. It was a good time to meet them before the school rush too.



Our Senior students and Senior Coordinators joined Allen at Mossman for an orienteering activity.

Sustainability

By Sam Walter

Every term the senior team will be holding a sustainability meeting about how we can work towards having a more sustainable OOSH. There are 7 areas that we touch on whilst in these meetings, waste, energy, water, nature, biodiversity, shopping, and food. Over the year we will be focusing on each of these areas and our journey to making a greener OOSH. This all falls under

the National Quality Frameworks area 3.

We were able to start our own self watering wick watering planter box. That a few students helped fill up with soil. It will be sitting on our balcony where students will be able to water it when needed.



Senior Constable Peter showing our seniors some of the tools on his belt that he needs to wear every day.

Seniors!

By Sam Walter

Over the course of this vacation care, we were able to properly jump start our senior program. We got to send our seniors on some super special and fun excursion and inhouse workshops. In the first week of vacation care they went to Freak: VR excursion to Bondi Westfield which they caught an organized but to. Later in the week Ashleigh, one of our Senior program coordinators, took out our seniors Geocaching. They reportedly had a good time, and it was an opportunity to get away from OOSH and do their own thing. In the second week of vacation care they got a visit from the police and in the last week of vacation care they went on their own orienteering excursion in Mossman, and did a first aid workshop.

We have had some great feedback from the children and educators and would love to hear back from you!



A few students placing planting soil in the planter box at OOSH.

Our Junior Staff

By Darren Brisbane

We are excited to share that late last year we welcomed several young people to our team in anticipation of developing a program specific to Kindies at Oatley Public School.

Please join us in welcoming Maria, Theodora, Imogen, Naomi, and Elliahn. We will also be welcoming another junior staff member early in the term – we will introduce them once they're on board.

Maria and Theodora are currently studying a Cert III in Children's Services through school, so Oatley OOSH is providing some real time experience working with children in an Education and Care setting.

Read more on our blog: [Being a Junior Staff Member](#)

Lost Property

Is your child missing a hat or jumper? Our services have dozens sitting in lost property.

Follow us on Social Media!

Come follow us on our socials:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

And in case you haven't caught it so far, you really should subscribe to our [blog!](#)

The RAP

We are excited to announce a new partnership with Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation – we approached them late last year to have a yarn about Reconciliation Action Plans, and seeking ways to work together to improve our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait perspectives in the George's River Region.

We're starting with Cultural Safety training in February, and we'll keep you updated!

War and Pizza!



WAR AND PIZZA! Sounds dramatic. Doesn't need to be.

War and Pizza is an opportunity each term for parents to come together informally with the educator team and discuss the direction of the service program.

We had our inaugural pizzas at the end of Term 4 last year, and outlined our plan for programming in 2023 to a couple of parents who came down for the occasion. It was a good opportunity for our program leaders to talk about their planning, and for Sam to discuss the direction she's taking the service in this year.

Our next W&P will be towards the end of Term 1 – we hope to see you there.

Read more on the blog: [WAR AND PIZZA](#)