



BELONG BLUE MOUNTAINS INC | KATOOMBA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (MAIN OFFICE)

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Gazette Editorial Content: 23rd September 2020

PAGE TITLE: OUR MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY

Springtime fun at KOOSH these school holidays.

Katoomba Out of School Hours (KOOSH) Vacation Care will be filled with springtime fun these school holidays and places are still available. Children can participate in drumming, cupcake decorating, paper-making workshops, be a pirate for a day and plant their own herbs to take home thanks to a generous donation of plants, pots and soil from Bunnings Leura. Children will also have the opportunity to visit the local cinema, participate in Nerf games with all gear provided, and learn about marine wildlife with a visit from Rangers on the run.

KOOSH is a service provided by Belong Blue Mountains Community & Neighbourhood Services and has been providing before school, after school and vacation care to families with primary school aged children in the Katoomba area for almost 40 years. “We are all about creating a safe, happy and relaxed environment where all families feel welcomed and accepted. We have strict COVID-Safe procedures in place so every can stay well and safe.” said Mrs Cate Thompson, KOOSH Coordinator. “Our programs consist of planned educational experiences and spontaneous unstructured play drawn from our interactions with the children. We have a very child-focused approach encourages every child to express themselves creatively and to feel valued.”

The KOOSH indoor space has a large kitchen and eating area, a visual arts and craft area, a quiet reading area with books, puzzles, plenty of board games and card games, as well as an electronic media space for children to play educational or active games (with 15 minute time limits) and films to watch during rest times. There is also a Lego room with enough Lego to be seen from space! The outdoor space at KOOSH has a large grassed area for running around and playing sport, as well as a sandpit and soft fall area with play equipment. There are balls of every size, skipping ropes, badminton, mini trampolines and a Sustainability Corner with a worm farm, our return and earn project, a mini garden and a recycling and composting station.

On Saturday 17th October, KOOSH will host a special ‘Parents Get Ready!’ information session to help parents be as prepared as possible for Bushfire season. All parents from the local area are welcome to join to hear the latest information and advice from the Katoomba-Leura RFS and the Step-by-Step Bushfire Recovery team from Gateway Family Services who will discuss practical ways to prepare your child for Bushfire season and explain how the Step-by-Step Recovery program can help families affected by Bushfires.

Being practically and emotional prepared for Bushfire season will help you and your child build resilience in these uncertain times. Children are welcome to attend the ‘Parents Get Ready!’ event with a parent or carer and activities will be provided to keep them entertained. Registrations are essential so the event can be COVID-Safe.

For more information on KOOSH or the Parents Get Ready event, please call Belong Blue Mountains on 02 4782 1117, email info@belongbm.org.au visit www.belongbm.org.au or go to www.facebook.com/KOOSHBelongBM



KOOSH Kids ready for some springtime planting thanks to a generous donation of gardening supplies from Bunnings Leura.