

# GOWRIE NSW

## Drummoyne and St Marks

### OSHC

### NEWSLETTER

Celebrating  
80 Years

**Gowrie.**  
New South Wales

December 2024  
Edition

## CREATE • DISCOVER • PLAY



### Upcoming Summer Vacation Care:

We will be operating one week of vacation care from the 19<sup>th</sup> of December to the 24<sup>th</sup> of December at Drummoyne Public school from 7am to 6pm. We will be closed from the 25<sup>th</sup> of December to 2<sup>nd</sup> of January. Reopening from 6<sup>th</sup> of January to run a vacation care program till the 5<sup>th</sup> of February.

Some of the exciting activities we have in store at the service include Christmas Coding, a MasterChef day, RC car racing, Carnival Day, and loads of Water Activity days! Our excursions include, but are not limited to, a picnic at Brett Park, movies at the Entertainment Quarter, water world at Centennial Park, and a Ninja Parc adventure day. We will be closed over the Christmas / New Years period and wishing everyone who celebrates a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

All new Kindergarten children are eligible to enrol to our summer vacation care program in January. It is a great way for them to transition to OSHC and make friends before starting big school. All bookings can be made through the Gowrie website <https://www.gowriensw.com.au/vacation-care/drummoyne>

### Contact US

Gowrie NSW Drummoyne  
Outside School Hours Care

7:00am to 9:00am & 3:15pm to 6:00pm,  
Drummoyne P.S – Tues, Weds & Thurs  
St Mark's Catholic – Mon & Fri  
Drummoyne P.S – Vacation Care

**A** Drummoyne Public School  
Rawson Avenue,  
Drummoyne NSW 2047

**M** 0436 616 744

**E** [oshc.Drummoyne@gowriensw.com.au](mailto:oshc.Drummoyne@gowriensw.com.au)

**W** [www.gowriensw.com.au](http://www.gowriensw.com.au)

### FIND OUT MORE

To view our programs, make an online booking, or to find out more, please visit our website or scan the QR code below: [marks.](https://www.gowriensw.com.au/marks)



Visits to our program are always welcome and can be arranged by calling the Program Manager or emailing the centre.

We would love to hear from our families, if you wish to provide feedback, or if you have questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to ask.

Check out the program on our website in the coming weeks, we have some great activities planned over Summer. See also on the last pages of the newsletter for our full upcoming program.

## Frequently Asked Questions

As we head into the end of the year, we have compiled some of the FAQs we've received this year, as well as some general reminders about the service, it's operation, and routines.

### What are the operating hours of the service?

Our service hours are

- 7:00am – 9:00am Before School Care
- 3:00pm – 6:00pm After School Care
- 7:00am – 6:00pm Vacation Care

Please note we cannot sign in or take custody of any students before 7am.

For any late pickups please call the centre on 0436 616 744 before 6pm.

### What is a Non-Notification of Absence fee?

The non notification of absence fees is a part of Gowrie' NSW policy. When your child is absent from the service, you must let the team know through either email, text, or a call. This eliminates the need for extensive follow-ups, taking an educator away from supervision of children.

The fee is \$5, and charges will automatically be added at the end of each week. Please let us know by 9am for BSC and 3pm for ASC to avoid this fee. A big thank you to all the families who actively let us know, we appreciate your responsiveness.

These charges will begin Term 1 2025, and educators will endeavour to remind families in the lead up to the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2025.

### If my child has an extra-curricular activity, can Gowrie staff drop them off?

Our team are familiar with the extensive before and after school activities that both Drummoyne Public School and St Marks offer, and our dedicated staff can organise pickup and drop off of students to and from these activities. Please be aware that we need permission forms signed in order for us to do this, which are readily available to families upon request.

### Where do I drop-off and pick-up my child?

We are at St Mark's on Mondays & Fridays, and Drummoyne on Tuesday to Thursday for Before and After School Care

### Does Gowrie OSHC provide breakfast/afternoon tea?

Yes, breakfast and afternoon tea are provided. Breakfast is between 7.30am to 8.15am and afternoon tea is from 3.20pm to 3.45pm. We also have a late snack.

Our breakfast and afternoon tea menu can be viewed on StoryPark.

### What is the transition like?

Kindy children are picked up by educators from their classrooms at St Mark's Catholic Primary School and Drummoyne Public School

### Is there a separate area and program for kindergartens?

Yes, we have a separate program, which can be viewed on StoryPark, and a dedicated area for Kindy children with an allocated staff member.

### Do I need to notify Gowrie OSHC of any allergies and medical conditions?

Yes, Gowrie OSHC requires children with medical conditions to have an updated Action Plan and medication on-site prior to attending the service

### How to request for casual bookings?



## Upcoming Vacation Care Reminders

As we head into our Summer Vacation care, some important reminders for families:

- BREAKFAST is served between 7.30 – 8.15 am. If your child arrives after these times, please ensure they eat before they arrive.
- AFTERNOON tea is provided at the service.
- PLEASE pack a hat, morning tea, lunch, and a refillable water bottle. To ensure food does not spoil, please place cool packs in their lunchboxes.
- PLEASE do NOT pack food with NUTS as we are a nut-free zone.
- CHILDREN will need to wear sensible, closed-in, walking shoes, and a top that covers their shoulders, and bring a hat, sunscreen, raincoat (on wet days), and a suitable backpack.
- MEDICATION – A medication form must be completed. The medication container must have the child's name clearly labelled on it and handed to staff on the day.
- EPI PENS and Ventolin need to be handed to staff on the day.
- CHILDREN often participate in messy activities so please do not wear their best outfits. Please pack swimmers, a towel, and a change of clothes for all days in summer as we may have spontaneous water play.
- CHILDREN are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones or other electrical devices to vacation care unless on the program. In-expensive toys are permitted; however, Gowrie NSW OSHC will take no responsibility for these items.
- CHILDREN are allowed to bring their bikes and scooters to vacation care. Helmets are essential. Roller skates or rollerblades are NOT allowed

## Christmas Party 18<sup>th</sup> December

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of December we would like to cordially invite you to our Gowrie Christmas Party! This event will be held on the last day of school during After School Care and all parents and students who come to Gowrie are invited to attend, even if you don't have a booking for that day! This is a great way to celebrate the end of the school year and for those who celebrate, partake in some Christmas activities with all the families, friends, and students who have made this year great. We want to thank you for your ongoing support of Gowrie and our team here at Drummoyne, so let's celebrate this wonderful time of year and end 2024 with a festive bang!

## Medical Conditions/Medications to update:

Please be advised that all current medical conditions your child may have i.e. asthma, epilepsy, etc may need to be entered into our XAP system, alongside any current medications they need. We are auditing our system and found that we require these details of medications and medical conditions to be up to date and on file. You can do this through the XAP app. If you have previously completed this, please check to make sure that all conditions are included, especially if there have been recent changes. If you have any questions or have issues with Xap, please contact us or talk to one of our dedicated staff members during service and we will assist you in any way we can.

If you require assistance navigating Xap, please follow this guide:

[Web portal – Guardian requesting Medication to be administered](#)





## Updated Philosophy

As part of our annual review of our practices, we have set out our new and revised service philosophy. This philosophy lays out in detail the way we operate, more specifically detailing what underpins our practices and procedures, as well as how we as a team, service, and community go about providing learning in a safe and supportive way. This philosophy is laid out below.

### GOWRIE DRUMMOYNE AND ST MARKS OSHC PHILOSOPHY

- Our program provides all children with an opportunity to learn and develop, following a play-based approach, and educators create a supportive and inspirational environment that ensures each child feels a sense of belonging, recognising their individuality, strengths, background, diversity, needs and interests.
- We believe in a wide and varied program that requires specialised skills and as such we include the following additional programs for children throughout the week. These include but are not limited to mindfulness practises, cooking classes, crochet, knitting, gardening and French classes.
- We see our learning environments as a third teacher that offers invitations to explore and investigate. They are places that develop, challenge and build children's capacities with materials and a space that values equity and inclusion. We are thoughtful, mindful and deliberate about **what** environments and materials are provided and **how** these are presented as we believe this directly effects the way a child comes to the learning experience.
- We are committed to providing a child safe environment through our policies, practices and routines, which are guided by the Child Safe Standards, National Law and National Regulations. The rights and best interests of the child underpin all practice. Their safety, health and wellbeing are paramount.
- Each child is respected without discrimination or bias and has a voice in matters that affect them. We believe in the importance of developing children's sense of agency and setting children up for life.
- Our staff team reflects a diversity of education, training and life experience, as well as a range of multicultural backgrounds and languages. We ensure we employ staff who possess a passion for working in middle childhood, are active listeners and role models.
- We value collaboration and encourage all families to support our program however they can and include them in decision making. We are proud of our reputation in the community, and families value our staff longevity, supportive and friendly educators, and inclusive environments where children come first.
- We acknowledge and respect the Wangal People of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, play, and learn. Learning has existed on these lands for thousands of years, and we are honoured to facilitate learning on these lands today. We pay our respects to Indigenous Elders past and present, and we extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.



## Community partnerships

### GOWRIE BAKE SALE:

The Bake Sale was a huge success! In total we raised \$200 for OzHarvest, which is a huge amount considering the short notice! Thank you to everyone who bought something and supported a great cause. OzHarvest has quickly grown to become Australia's leading food rescue organisation, every year they hold the FEAST program across over 1,300 primary and high schools, Inspiring over 120,000 student change makers across the country. Thank you so much to everyone who brought in their gold coins and brought some lovely baked goods that were made by the students here at Gowrie. While it means a lot for us and our donation, it means even more to the students who get to see their hard work, dedication, creativity, and perseverance be rewarded by the embrace of the community.

### Oz Harvest Food Drive

In addition to our incredible fundraising efforts, we are also hosting a food drive through Oz Harvest.

Oz Harvest is Australia's leading food rescue organisation with a driving purpose to 'Nourish our Country'. Their mission is to stop food waste, feed people in need and protect our planet by championing the value of food and driving change at all levels of society. The impact of their work is strongly aligned to achieving five United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



We CAN collect:

- All perishable food / frozen food (including dairy, fish and meat, fresh juice) which is on or before its 'use by date' as long as it is still fit for human consumption; all non-perishable food even if it is up to 3 months past its 'best before date'.
- Non-perishable food like pasta, rice, canned fruits, vegetables and tuna, salmon, chicken, beef stews, tinned or jarred sauces and
- casseroles, biscuits (sweet and savoury), tea and coffee, cereals, muesli bars.
- Ring pull cans are preferred over can-opener style packaging
- No products containing alcohol, even at trace amounts. That means no wine or wine vinegars.

By saving quality excess food, you are not only reducing your own waste and disposal costs, but greatly assisting people in need in your community! We will start collecting on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. Thank you in advance!

We would like to hear from you if you have ideas and suggestions for us to further promote sustainability in our program or if you could contribute to our program by sharing some of your skills and talents with children e.g. dance, drawing, gardening etc either for before / after school care or vacation care.



The Leadership Group was rewarded for all their hard work this term with a trip to the café across the street.



## This Month's Featured Educator



**Kamala**

### Cultural Background:

Tamil Sri Lanka

### Languages spoken:

English & Tamil

**Qualifications:** Certificate III in Children's services

### Hobbies:

Art and craft, gardening, playing table tennis, basketball and listening to music

### What is your favourite part of working at GOWRIE OOSH?

Engaging children with Art & Craft which encourages creativity and challenges,

### What is your philosophy in working with children?

As an educator, to encourage and support children's play by incorporating their ideas

As an educator, to encourage and support children's play by incorporating their ideas, interest and strength and providing a warm welcoming, inclusive environment for all children, families and community.

## Clubs at Gowrie

### Mindfulness Corner

*"Mindfulness is the practice of being fully present in the moment with kindness and awareness. By turning everyday activities into mindful moments, families can strengthen their connection, build healthier habits, and teach children important self-regulation skills."*

We spoke with Rosetta, our mindfulness and wellbeing coach, she had some great mindful eating tips parents can try at home, to reenforce some of the practises we already have in place here at Gowrie:

- 1. Start with a Gratitude Pause:** Before eating, encourage everyone to take a moment to appreciate the meal, the people who made it, and where it came from.
- 2. Eat Without Distractions:** Turn off the TV and put away devices during meals. Focus on the food and family conversation instead.
- 3. Chew Slowly:** Teach children to chew each bite at least 10 times and notice the flavours, textures, and temperature of the food.
- 4. Make It a Game:** Ask kids to guess the ingredients in a dish by focusing on the taste and smell.
- 5. Create a "Mindful Bite":** Take one bite and close your eyes while eating it slowly. This helps kids savour their food and avoid rushing through meals.

### More Tips for Parents:

- Model the Practices: Kids learn best by watching you.
- Keep It Playful: Make mindfulness an enjoyable activity, not a chore.
- Be Consistent: Incorporate these practices into everyday routines to build lasting habits.

*Why not try it out, we'd love to hear your feedback on the results!*





# SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

**Gowrie NSW Drummoyne**

19 Dec 24 - 5 Feb 25 (7:00am-6pm)

laser tag!



IN HOUSE
 INCURSION
 EXCURSION



**MON, 16 DEC**  
**School Term**



**MON, 23 DEC**  
**Brett Park Christmas BBQ**  
Come for a fun picnic day at Brett Park! Enjoy a sausage sizzle, outdoor games, and time to relax with friends. Soak up the nice weather, find shade, and play games with everyone for a memorable day outdoors! Lunch will be provided

**\$70**



**TUES, 17 DEC**  
**School Term**



**TUES, 24 DEC**  
**Christmas Eve Super Soaker and Water activities Day**  
It's nearly Christmas and what's better way to spend Christmas Eve than with Super soaker battles, Slip n slides and fun water games with team challenges and water balloons. Bring a spare change of clothes and your favourite Super Soaker!

**\$65**



**WED, 18 DEC**  
**School Term**



**WED 25 DEC - 3 JAN**  
**CLOSED**  
We are closed for this period.



**THUR, 19 DEC**  
**'Code to Save Christmas' Workshop**  
We'll be working with 'Super Cody' to overcome Christmas themed challenges. They'll decipher coded messages through coding and discover secret destinations, then program a drone to complete the deliveries and save Christmas!

**\$85**



**MON 6 JAN**  
**MasterChef Day**  
A fun-filled day where we'll be doing a master chef course and competition, learning about cooking and healthy eating! We'll be doing organised team sports later to work up an appetite for our delicious creations.

**\$65**



**FRI, 20 DEC**  
**Arty Party Workshop & Water play**  
It's Christmas time and we have plenty of Christmas themed arts and craft activities in our Arty Party Workshop which will be run by a professional artist. We'll enjoy painting, crafting, and more, followed by an exciting afternoon of water play to cool off!

**\$76**



**TUES 7 JAN**  
**RC Car Racing**  
Unleash your inner speed avatar and have a go on Radio-Controlled High-Speed RC cars in on our very own inflatable racetrack with lots of obstacles, jumps and bumps to conquer. Learn to drive RC cars or show off your skills!

**\$85**

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Rekkha Moda  
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**WED, 8 JAN**

**Messy Day**

It's Messy Day at Gowrie! Get creative with colours, make slime and Oobleck, get messy in the colour run and explore endless artistic possibilities. Don't forget to wear your messy shirts for a fun-filled day!

**\$65**



**WED, 15 JAN**

**Super Cody Air Combat**

At Gowrie the children will be taking part in a coding workshop using drones. They'll navigate obstacles and participate in mini games using their drones tackle challenges, promoting teamwork and coding skills.

**\$85**



**THUR, 9 JAN**

**Laser Tag & Archery**

Get ready for an action-packed day at Gowrie with Laser Tag and Archery Wars! Kids will go through training and team up for friendly competition, testing their skills in strategy and precision while having a blast!

**\$85**



**THUR, 16 JAN**

**Ultimate Entertainment Centre**

Come to the Ultimate Entertainment Centre! Bounce on interconnected trampolines, dive into the massive foam pits, Climb on the play structures and climbing walls, exploring this huge indoor play centre! We will be leaving at 9:30am

**\$98**



**FRI, 10 JAN**

**Tie Dye and Water activities!**

Unleash your creativity at Gowrie's Tie Dye and Water Day! Paint, craft, and create your own masterpieces with endless colours and tie-dye fun. Get messy, then cool off with a wild water battle in the afternoon!

**\$65**



**FRI, 17 JAN**

**Slip n Slide + Bunnings Incursion**

Gowrie is bringing a inflatable Slip n Slide on site! Enjoy the Slip 'n Slide to cool off in the heat, then dive into a Bunnings DIY incursion where kids can build and create their own take-home projects!

**\$65**



**MON, 13 JAN**

**Animal Zoo and Pony Rides**

The animals are coming to Gowrie, children can enjoy a friendly day with a group of Chickens, Ducks, Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Lambs and Goats with pony rides as well! They'll have the chance to meet and feed the friendly animals.

**\$85**



**MON, 20 JAN**

**Gaming & Arcade Trailer**

The Games bus is back at Gowrie! Come enjoy a mobile arcade with age-appropriate video games you can play by yourself or with a group of friends! Don't miss out on this fun, action-packed experience with lots of variety for everyone.

**\$85**



**TUES, 14 JAN**

**Movies at EQ with  
Centennial Park Lunch**

Sit back and relax on Movie Day! We'll head to EQ Hoyts to catch the latest blockbuster with complimentary popcorn, then enjoy a picnic lunch and free play at Centennial Park. We will be leaving at 9:30am

**\$98**



**TUES, 21 JAN**

**Water World at the WILD PLAY  
Centre**

Join us at the WILD PLAY Discovery Centre in Centennial Park! Learn how bush animals adapt, learn survival skills and enjoy water games, a nature walk, and raft-making for a fun, hands-on adventure. We will be leaving at 9:30am

**\$98**



**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Rekkha Moda

**MOBILE:** 0436616744

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laser tag!

IN HOUSE INCURSION EXCURSION



**WED, 22 JAN**

## Water Slide

It's Summertime and Gowrie has a great inflatable water slide coming on site, cool down and splash around! Join us for endless splash-splash fun on our popular water slide incursion with lots of water activities throughout the day!

\$85



**THUR, 23 JAN**

## Ninja Parc

Your children can unleash their inner ninja by tackling over 20+ thrilling obstacles, from the Warped Wall, Pole Maze, rolling log and more. This Ninja Parc ensures fun and challenges for all ability levels! We will be leaving at 9:30am

\$98



**FRI, 24 JAN**

## Bike, Scooter Day and Electronic Afternoon

Bring your bike, scooter or other wheeled equipment for a fun morning of riding and participating in Scooter and Bike related challenges! In the afternoon, kids can enjoy an electronic Games session. Safety gear required!

\$65



**MON, 27 JAN**

## CLOSED

Today is a public holiday. We will see you tomorrow!



**TUES, 28 JAN**

## Aboriginal Workshop

We'll be engaging in an enriching Aboriginal Workshop at Gowrie Vacation Care! Kids will discover Indigenous culture, art, and traditions through hands-on activities and storytelling, fostering appreciation and understanding.

\$85



**WED, 29 JAN**

## All Day Science fun at Clifton

### Gardens

Join our Clifton Gardens Science Excursion! Kids will explore solids, liquids, and gases, witness liquid nitrogen in action, and enjoy Billy Cart races, Lava Lamp challenges, rocket launches, and Mystery Matter Silmel! \*We will be leaving at 9:30am

\$85



**THUR, 30 JAN**

## Carnival Day with Jumping Castle

Head to Gowrie Vacation Care for a lively Carnival Day! Kids can enjoy a jumping castle, face painting, wild hair styling, tasty popcorn, and a variety of carnival games and activities. It's a day of nonstop fun for everyone!

\$85



**FRI, 31 JAN**

## Lights, Camera & Action!

Make your very own movie, write a script, design your set, film your movie, and edit it! From a simple tale to a galactic epic - your imagination is the limit. There may even be some Oscars given out for different categories!

\$65



**MON, 3 FEB**

## Go Karts

Get ready for an exciting day of racing at Gowrie! Kids can buckle up for an epic electric go-karting adventure on an inflatable course, perfect for all ages. Join us for a fun - safety gear is essential.

\$85



**TUES, 4 FEB**

## Calmsley hill farm

We are heading to Calmsley Hill City Farm! Kids will get up close with native and farmyard animals, hand-feed animals in the nursery, enjoy interactive shows and have a picnic lunch! Don't forget to bring your hats and wear lots of sunscreen. We will be leaving at 9:30am

\$98



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**WED, 5 FEB**

## Super Soaker Day

Get ready for a splash-filled Super Soaker Day at Gowrie! Everyone will enjoy water games, water battles and a water sports fun to cool off. Don't forget to bring towels and sun protection!

**\$65**



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