



NOVEMBER 2020

# OSHC NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter by Adventure Patch



## MESSAGE FROM OSHC DIRECTOR SCOTT NORRIS

In 2020, Covid-19 presented us with one of the most challenging years of our organisation's history. As we faced many challenges and changes throughout this year, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience during these difficult times. Our priority was, and always is in keeping children and families safe, and the decisions we made reflected this ethos.

As we continue to strive for excellence, OSHC actively supports Educators who wish to further their personal and professional development. This year we have had the following successes:

- One Educator complete Certificate III in Early Education and Care
- Two Educators commence Certificate III in Early Education and Care.
- Two Educators undertake Certificate IV in School Age Education and Care

We were delighted to see the opening of the much-anticipated deck extension at our Blackmans Bay Outside School Hours Care site, in October. The unveiling taking place in front of Federal MPs, Councillors, dignitaries, staff and childcare children.

We feel very honoured and privileged to have this addition to BBOSHC, as the deck has transformed the way children interact with the outdoor space and has provided greater opportunities for children in care to experience.

We remain in a strong position with our enrolment numbers in all OSHC services and supporting this is the commencement of a new OSHC service for Adventure Patch at Eastside Lutheran College with positive enrolment numbers reflected.

We now focus our attention to the upcoming festive season and the busy vacation care period that this brings.



## STAFF PROFILES

The aim of our Staff Profiles space is to allow families to get to know some of our dedicated and passionate educators. We will profile two educators each newsletter providing a glimpse into why they are passionate about working for Adventure Patch and about inspiring and supporting the next generation of children to grow, explore and play.

### KATIE BELL

Hello, my name is Katie but the children like to call me KB. I have been working at Adventure Patch for just over three years and for majority of that time I have been based at BBOSHC. I love working in OSHC because I not only get to express my inner child everyday, but I get to interact with an amazing array of children, who constantly make me laugh and smile. I love hearing about their days and being a strong and safe support network for them, and making sure to create a comfortable environment where they feel free to express themselves however, they wish. Encouraging children to reach new heights and test their limits is a very exciting part of OSHC and helping a child learn something new is just one of the incredibly rewarding parts of my role as an educator.

### COREY PAGE

My name is Corey. I have been working at Adventure Patch for just over four years and just recently became a certified supervisor at Illawarra OSHC. I have loved seeing the development of the children over the years, though it does make me sad to see them grow up. I also enjoy having conversations with the kids and making them laugh even if it's at my expense! In my own time I love going to the gym, spending time outside and eating out.





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Do Educators in OSHC need to have a qualification?**

- Regulations state that Educators working in OSHC do not need formal qualifications. At Adventure Patch, we consider a variety of reasons, including qualifications, as to why someone would make a good Educator. These include life experiences, attitude to learn, and other transferable skills someone may have. We pride ourselves on supporting Educators to gain qualifications and offer many professional development opportunities to develop Educators as people and Carers.

### **What will happen if my child forgets go to OSHC after school?**

- If your child has not arrived at OSHC, we will make inquiries with the school and ring parents/families to make sure your child is safe. We ask that you notify us of any absences.

### **When do Vacation Care programs go out to families?**

- Vacation Care programs are typically released to families three weeks prior to the commencement of school holidays. An Xplor post will be sent to all families letting them know that the program is now available and mobile bookings have opened.

### **How do you work with schools to ensure the upkeep of buildings?**

- Many of the buildings that we operate from are leased from the school (mainly Department of Education) so we need to work in collaboration with each school to ensure the buildings are safe and in good repair.

Please see our website for further answers to FAQ's: <https://adventurepatch.org.au/faqs/>



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### November 2020

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- 5th November - Outdoor Classroom Day
- 9th - 15th November - National Recycling Week
- 11th November - Remembrance Day
- 13th November - World Kindness Day
- 14th - 21st November - Australian Food Safety Week
- 20th November - Re-enrolment forms due date
- 20th November - Universal Children's Day
- 27th November - Vacation Care programs released.  
Mobile bookings turned on

### January 2021

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- 4th January - Services re-open

### December 2020

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- 3rd December - International Day of Person's with Disabilities
- 11th December - Due date for Vacation Care bookings  
(bookings can still be made after this date directly through the service, but will incur a casual fee)
- 18th December - Vacation Care commences
- 24th December - 4th January - Adventure Patch  
Services Christmas Break
- 24th December - Services close at 3pm
- 25th December - Christmas Day





## RESOURCES

Children are running wild in the mud, climbing high into trees and playing with knives, but no one is telling them off. This is kindergarten...Danish style. For more on Amos Roberts' story, go to the SBS Dateline website:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/dateline/tvepisode/kids-gone-wild>

## QUICK LINKS

- [Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority \(ACECQA\)](#).
- [Education and Care Unit \(ECU\)](#).
- [Early Childhood Australia \(ECA\)](#).

