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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Another term done and dusted, leading us into the wind up to Christmas!

We have had an amazingly busy term, with Police and Dentist visits to both of our Creche services, new staff, plus our Activity Day and Play Day programs in full swing.

On the office side of things, we have been run off our feet with our annual audit and a few operational changes keeping us on our toes! Abbie & Cristina have been busy planning for our AGM in November and end of year celebrations, which will be here before we know it!

The October school holidays sees RICE staff taking a moment to catch our breath as we head down to Adelaide as a team to attend the Early Childhood Australia National Conference. This event has been in the pipeline for some time and will be a wonderful opportunity for staff to not only network with other likeminded persons, but also enhance their own skills with the professional development opportunities that this conference offers.

With our AGM approaching, this is a great opportunity to share your passion for RICE, what we do and ensuring this vital service is around for years to come. If you are curious about what is involved with the Board of Management, please reach out and we can answer any questions you may have.

Enjoy the break that the school holidays brings and we look forward to seeing you all in Term 4 and the lead up to the end of year!

Chloe Hunter

Director



FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The winter months are always my favourite time of the year; the outback comes to life with shows. The kids are excited about what RICE will have on offer as entertainment and the friends they will get to catch up with and new ones they will get to meet.

The Activity Days that are hosted by outback events act somewhat as an ice breaker for children who don't get to spend a great deal of time together. You see them meet at the toys or activities and within a short amount of time they are deep in a game or covered in goop! Such a wonderful opportunity for children who live remotely.

It's that time of year again when we start looking towards the new year. We are meeting as a board on the 28th of September face-to-face in Port Augusta, a chance to discuss in depth plans for the coming year.

The AGM will be here before we know it and if you have been on the fence about putting your name forward to join the board the time to do so is now.

If you would like to discuss becoming a member of the board or just want to know more about it please do not hesitate to contact me at chairperson@rice.org.au

Anna Nunn

Board Chairperson

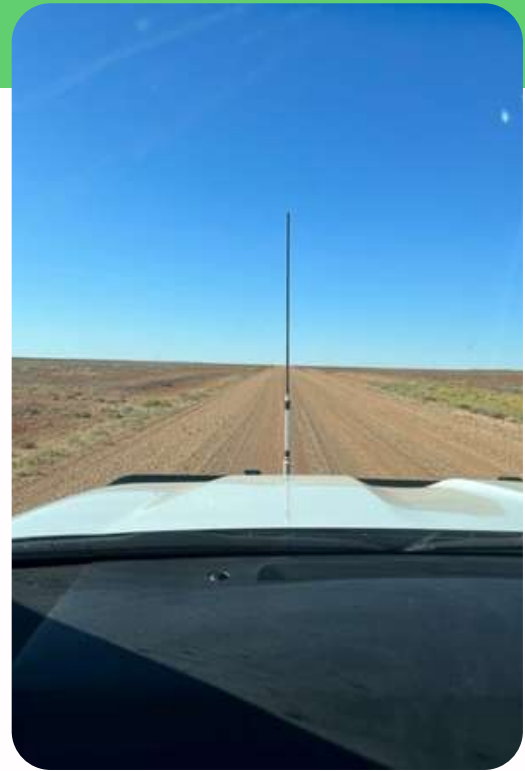


WELLBEING

Here we are at the end of Term 3 - what a busy but exciting term it has been!

Out and about; during the last school holidays we had the opportunity to attend an all-staff training at Arid Lands Botanic Gardens presented by Louise of Autism Inspirations. This was a fantastic day with hands on resources, real life scenarios and the chance to develop our skills and ideas when supporting and working all further with families in the neurodivergent space.

I've also had the opportunity to meet some new and current RICE Members at Playdays and Preschool visits. Thank you to those families that either welcomed me into their community or homes, it's great to see the vastness of the beautiful state we live in while also being able to deliver our programs far and wide.



Community Engagement; we were delighted to welcome Di from Dental on Commercial and Police Officers Ash and Richard to Orroroo Creche this term. The children loved having them visit and walked away with some valuable information regarding keeping their teeth healthy and safety in the community. The little goodie bags, stickers and information booklets were also a special treat. The favourite part was by far sitting in the Police car and having the sirens going and lights flashing!

***Hawker has their Police visit scheduled for Week 10.

We had Mandy Smallacombe, RFDS Primary Health Care Manager visit the RICE office for networking and sharing of information, as always, we look forward to working in close partnership with the RFDS. Thank you, Mandy for providing RICE with some RFDS uniforms to add to our career dress up boxes.

Staying Connected; thank you to those families who are participating in the Post Card activity, we've had some positive feedback about the children being excited to both send and receive their postcards. I hope all the RICE Dad's enjoyed their special Father's Day crafts that members received in the post and a big thank you to our Creche families who sent in a photo or video recently to celebrate Early Childhood Educator's Day! We think our Educators are pretty awesome!

I look forward to catching up with our preschool families at Kindy Experience Week and those RICE Members attending Arid Lands - Coffee Catch up!

Adele Broadbridge

Wellbeing Officer





Thankyou to everyone who signed up to be a part of our “Staying Connected” activity this term. We hope you have been enjoying sending & receiving your postcards & making new pen pal friends!

Thanks to Dusty & Gracie who were paired up & sent in these photos
- look at those smiles!

We’d love to see more photos from those involved - you can email them to wellbeing@rice.org.au



Parent like you know it.



The first five years of a child's life is critical for their health, development, learning and wellbeing, but it's a pretty major learning curve for parents and carers too.

That's why we've created the Early Years SA app - to provide South Australian parents and carers with trusted resources and information to guide you on your journey as a new parent.

Download the Early Years SA app now or visit our website for more information.



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education

education.sa.gov.au/early-years-app

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

- ☎ **Parent Helpline - South Australia**
 - 1300 364 100
 - * 7 days a week
- ☎ **Pregnancy, Birth and Baby**
 - 1800 882 436
 - * 7 days a week
- ☎ **SA Health Direct**
 - 1800 022 222
 - * 24/7
- ☎ **RFDS Emergencies/urgent Mental Health Support in SA**
 - 1800 733 772
 - * 24/7 on call RFDS Dr
- ☎ **Lifeline Australia**
 - 13 11 14/ sms: 0477 131 114
 - * 24/7
- ☎ **1800 RESPECT (domestic, family and sexual violence support)**
 - 1800 737 732
 - * 24/7

- ☎ **Kids Helpline**
 - 1800 55 1800
 - * 24/7
- ☎ **PANDA (perinatal anxiety and depression)**
 - 1300 726 306
 - * Monday- Saturday
- ☎ **Mensline Australia**
 - 1300 789 978
 - * 24/7
- ☎ **Beyond Blue**
 - 1300 224 636
 - * 24/7
- ☎ **Headspace**
 - 1800 650 890
 - * 9am-1am (7days AEST)
- ☎ **Suicide Call Back Service**
 - 1300 659 467
 - * 24/7
- ☎ **Regional Access (counselling regional SA)**
 - 1300 032 186
 - *24/7

CRECHE

This term has flown by, and I can't believe we are nearing the last term of the year! We have had some amazing weather recently which has been a welcome change to the winter cold of last term.



Some things we have been involved in this term have been...

- **Pyjama Day** - which was so much fun coming to creche in our favourite PJ's. We raised about \$60 from this day which I think is fantastic. This money goes toward assisting children who are living in poverty, so every little bit helps.
- **Book Week** which saw the children dress up in their favourite costumes. They looked so adorable. We read our favourite stories during group time and then gave the children the opportunity to create the stories using props we provided.
- We made some super cute cards and mugs for Dads for **Father's Day**
- We had the **Police** come to visit us at Orroroo** and show us their police handcuffs and the police car. The siren was super loud. The children loved this experience.

**Hawker's visit is scheduled for the last day of term

We have focused a lot on outdoor play activities bringing balancing equipment, balls, bats, bikes, big shovels to dig and large connecting blocks. This helps the children get physically active and is extending them in their gross motor movement skills which are vital developmental milestones in the early years.

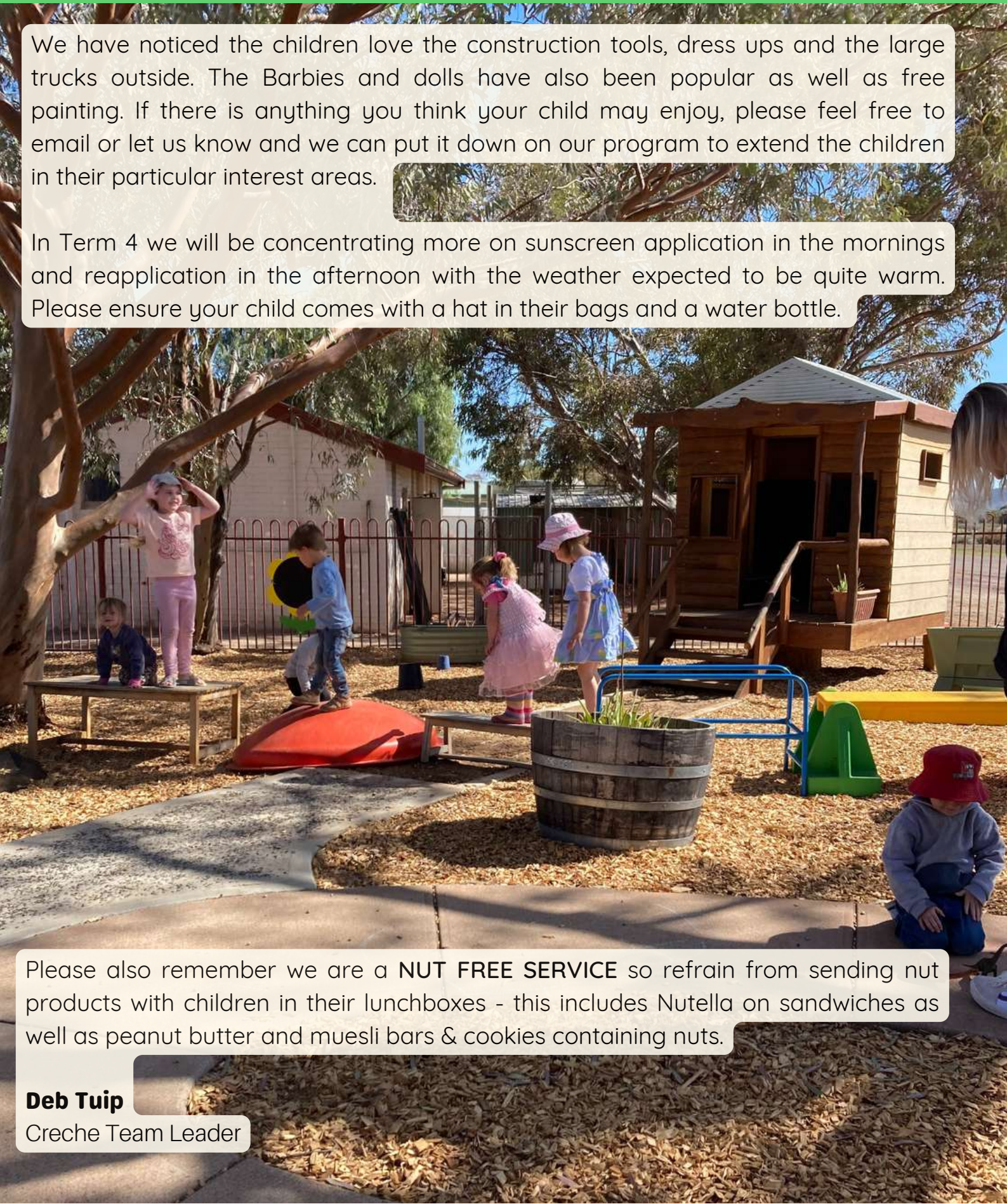
In group times, we have continued focusing on name recognition cards and following instructions through group games, using the whiteboards to draw shapes and letter writing. We sing our favourite songs which the children take turns in choosing.

Sensory play is always popular at creche and we try to change it up a bit from time to time. This term we have explored kinetic sand, flour and cereal pretend cooking experience. We've used Playdough with different tools and toys added and we even tried a vinegar and bicarb experiment which was also a hit.

CRECHE

We have noticed the children love the construction tools, dress ups and the large trucks outside. The Barbies and dolls have also been popular as well as free painting. If there is anything you think your child may enjoy, please feel free to email or let us know and we can put it down on our program to extend the children in their particular interest areas.

In Term 4 we will be concentrating more on sunscreen application in the mornings and reapplication in the afternoon with the weather expected to be quite warm. Please ensure your child comes with a hat in their bags and a water bottle.



Please also remember we are a **NUT FREE SERVICE** so refrain from sending nut products with children in their lunchboxes - this includes Nutella on sandwiches as well as peanut butter and muesli bars & cookies containing nuts.

Deb Tuip

Creche Team Leader

Police Visit

Orroroo Creche

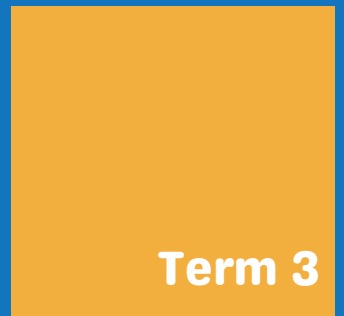


CRECHE



Term 3

CRECHE



Term 3

KINDY

We began Term 3 with Kindy Experience Days to welcome the 5 new children. Thank you to Thomas, Memphis and James for the awesome box constructions that became a dinosaur world. It has been a wonderful addition to the playroom.

Lenny, Cameron, and Thomas have researched the topics mini beasts, scientist, earth and space and dinosaurs. All three boys have really showed personality and self-confidence this term in preparation for school next year.

Term 3 midyear intake children Airlie, Asher, James, Jovie, and Memphis have been getting to know the kindy routine and talking on WebEx, focusing on 'Who am I' and fairy tales. I have chosen to run two separate programs as the children are in very different developmental areas and the half hour sessions are both demanding and limiting on four-year-old children.

Teagan and I have completed some new book packs that kindy families are encouraged to borrow for 2 to 3 weeks at a time before returning and borrowing another. New bags were purchased to ensure the safe travel of the books. We have also continued to create topic boxes for kindy children to explore when here in Port Augusta. The latest is a Doctor / RFDS box.

Please make contact directly or via the RICE website ASAP to enrol your child if they are eligible to attend RICE preschool in Term 1 2024 as pre-entry will start in Term 4.

Tania George

Preschool Teacher

2024 PRESCHOOL ENROLMENTS

If your child turns 4 before May 1st 2024 they are eligible to start Preschool from the beginning of the year

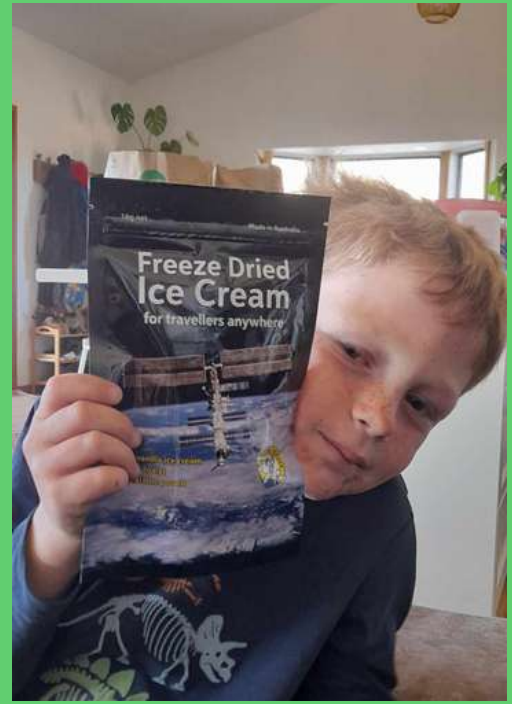
Pre-entry kits are being sent out at the beginning of Term 4

To ensure your child receives theirs



ENROL NOW!





KINDY

TERM 3



RESOURCE CENTRE

We have been quite busy here in the Resource centre - cataloguing new resources, stock control, making up kindy kits, toy boxes and the new book packs that will be available for families to borrow. The new book packs are amazing; Tania and I have worked very hard to personally research and pick books that cover particular areas of learning for the children. We hope that families enjoy them as much as we enjoyed making them for the children.

Toy boxes have been a massive hit these last few months, with great feedback from families about what has been packed for them & coming up with new ideas for the toy boxes. My toy boxes have been very sensory based lately and I hope the children have been enjoying getting a little bit messy and exploring new ways to create a sensory experience at home with friends and family.

The STEM kits are getting prepared as we speak for the new enrolments for Preschool. We hope that families will like what we have organised for the pre-entry kits and have fun learning and getting ready for next year's adventures with RICE.

I hope everyone has a wonderful break these school holidays and get up to some adventures with family and friends.

Teagan Karger
Resource Educator



Examples of toy boxes



Our new book packs

ACTIVITY DAYS

We're attending these events!

Oct
14

GLENDAMBO

Gymkhana & Motokhana

Nov
11

CARRIETON

Gymkhana & Motokhana

Have a date locked in for your
2024 event?

You can contact us now to register your
interest in having us attend

[rice.org.au/programs/activity-days/](https://www.rice.org.au/programs/activity-days/)



PLAY DAYS

Well, we have made it to the end of another term and as always it has gone fast! I am glad to be back at RICE after some time away completing placement and having some time overseas. I would like to extend my thanks to the staff for helping me keep Play Days alive during my absence and we have had some successful days at Blinman, Wilmington, Depot Springs and Cradock.

In other news, we are excited to announce that the Play Day program is growing. Hopefully you have received some of my emails about this new initiative and I am very excited to bring Play Days online! RICE is now offering an online zoom session for families once a week. I facilitated our very first session yesterday and was so happy to have families participating in the songs, counting, colours, story-time and activities. I look forward to seeing this program evolve to suit the needs of everyone. If you want to join in on our online Play Days, please let me know.

Tania and I are also excited to be holding a meet-and-greet with families and some key services at Arid Lands on the 28th September. RFDS, SA Landscapes Board and SOTA will be attending.

As our usual Play Days continue, we are hoping to visit The Peake, Cowarie, Mulgathing, Wilgena, Marree and Mt Sarah next term.

I'll see you out and about!

Renee Bell
Play Day Educator





Introducing...

Online Playdays!

We are now offering Zoom group sessions for members including:

- ★ **songs & dance**
- ★ **counting**
- ★ **colours**
- ★ **story time**
- ★ **related activities & resources**

15 - 20 minute sessions

Option of joining in live or
watch the recorded session at
your own convenience

Join our
ONLINE PLAYDAY
community by emailing
admin@rice.org.au

Early Childhood Educators Day



We took the opportunity on **September 6th** to thank our wonderful **Early Childhood Educators** for everything they do. They are **awesome!**



REMOTE & ISOLATED CHILDREN'S EXERCISE



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 22nd November 2023
10:00 am via Zoom


The RICE Annual Report & related documents will be emailed 2 weeks prior to the AGM

To nominate for the Board of Management, head to the RICE website to download the form

rice.org.au

Register your nomination and attendance by contacting the office

admin@rice.org.au

 **8642 4477**



FAMILY FUN Splash Day



07 DECEMBER 2023

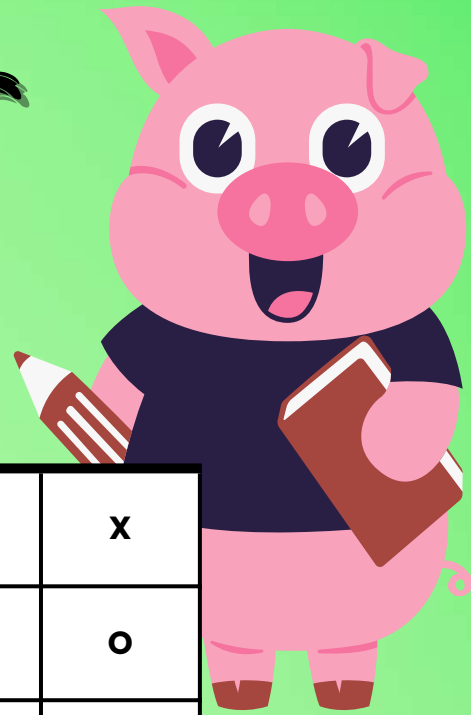
**Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre
Port Augusta**



Further details to come



kids corner



WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words listed below?

E	V	C	P	I	D	C	X
K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O
G	B	O	Z	C	S	W	N
D	O	G	L	A	F	M	T
X	H	U	F	M	W	X	G
P	S	H	E	E	P	Y	O
I	R	Y	M	L	Z	Q	A
G	K	Z	U	J	A	L	T

- CAMEL
- EMU
- SHEEP
- COW
- GOAT
- PIG
- DOG
- KANGAROO



Riddle me this....

- What goes up but never comes down?
.... your age
- What kind of room has no walls, doors or windows?
..... A mushroom
- I have a face and arms but no legs.
What am I?
..... a clock



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