

CARER CONNECT NEWSLETTER



**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ALTHEA PROJECTS FOSTER AND
KINSHIP PROGRAM APRIL - JUNE
2021 | ISSUE 21**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

**YOU WERE BORN WITH THE ABILITY TO
CHANGE SOMEBODIES LIFE, DONT EVER
WASTE IT!!**

IN THIS ISSUE

**CEO UPDATE
STAFF LIST
WE HAVE MOVED
LEARNING LANGUAGE
MAKE YOUR HOME CULTURALLY SAFE
BILLABONG SANCTUARY
CARER CONNECT APP
ALTHEA RECONCILIATION GRANTS
HOW TO BECOME A KINSHIP CARER
BLUE CARD INFORMATION
TOWNSVILLE NAIDOC WEEK
FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARER WEEK
FOSTER CARER ALLOWANCES
CAREGIVER TIP #6
PLAYGROUP FOR CARERS
SOCIAL LANE**

**GET READY FOR WORK
POOL SAFETY CERTIFICATES
BECOME A FAST REP
RETURNING TO FOSTER CARING
MOREHEAD MEALS
NATIONAL SORRY DAY
THE 1967 REFERENDUM
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAG LAUNCH
MABO DAY
BOWEL CANCER AWARENESS
KIDS CORNER
2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR
PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT
DEAR CARERS**

CEO UPDATE

Hello from our new Althea Projects headquarters, Unit 1, 5-11 Fleming Street, Aitkenvale. It is great to have the move behind us, as we settle into our new space. The transition was fairly seamless; however, NBN wasn't connected for the first few weeks and we have relied on WiFi.. I apologise if this made it difficult to reach us during this time, as our phones and internet were periodically interrupted. We expect all to be settled by end of June. Come in any time to say hello.

Another change for the Program is our name change to Althea Projects, Foster and Kinship Program (AFKP). The change comes from one of our strategic goals to better integrate our program names to the Althea Projects brand and better describe the work that we do. Shared Family Care will always be an important part of our history and the quality of our work will continue into our future.

I want to remind everyone about Althea Projects, Townsville Drop in Centre social enterprise, Morehead Meals. This service is focused on connecting our community through affordable, ethical, healthy and delicious pre-made meals. By purchasing meals from us you are directly contributing to a healthier, resilient, and more connected Townsville. Money from each meal purchase will be reinvested back into Morehead Meals to assist us to grow the enterprise to provide opportunities for people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness and socially isolated and vulnerable in our community. Meals are \$6 each or \$25 for 5. If you haven't already come across our new social enterprise please visit our website to find out more. We now have some stock available for purchase and order collection at our Fleming Street office.

Thank you for your continued commitment to caring for children and young people and the trust you place with Althea Projects to support you in the important role you play in our community.

Paula La Rosa
CEO

Althea Projects



STAFF LIST



Below is the list of all current employees for Althea Projects Foster and Kinship Program and the Corporate Team.

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Althea PROJECTS

We have moved!



Our Foster and Kinship Program and Corporate team at
296 Ross River Road has moved to our new location
Unit 1, 5-11 Fleming Street, Aitkenvale (BM Webb Development)
on Monday 24th May.

Phone: 07 4779 3332

Email: admin@altheaprojects.org.au

*We look forward to seeing you in our new space
Unit 1, 5-11 Fleming Street, Aitkenvale*



LEARNING LANGUAGE

Althea Projects Foster and Kinship Program is going to make it a standing page in the Carer Connect Newsletter to have an Indigenous Australian word and/or words and definition, as well as which tribe it originates from.

Maybiya means
Crocodile in the
Wulguru language.
It's pronounced
may-be-yah.



Wulguru is an umbrella term to describe several languages or dialects spoken in the Townsville Region extending from Cleveland Bay to Rollingstone. There are several dialects or related languages across the language Nation including Wulgurukaba, Coonambella, Nhawalgaba, Gabilgara and Mulgu. Wulguru has a dialectic relationship to Nywaigi in the north; there are some shared words with Bindal and the Biri language to the south.



Moochang means
Mother in the
Gunggay language.
It's pronounced
moo-chung.



Gunggay (aka Gunggandji & Koo-gun-ji) is a language group centred on the Yarrabah, Cape Grafton Peninsula region of Far North Queensland. The area includes the Yarrabah, and surrounding areas.

Note: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages were oral-based; there may be several variations in spelling and pronunciation. The following list should be seen as a guide – check with local language speakers as to the preferred local pronunciation.



MAKE YOUR HOME CULTURALLY SAFE

To assist with making your home culturally safe for our young First Nation's people here are a few suggestions:

- Turn your Television onto Channel 34 for our Indigenous TV network called NITV.
- Listen to our Indigenous radio station 4K1G which is on channel 107.1FM.
- Althea Projects Foster and Kinship Program will encourage you to attend the different CULTURAL Events in the region. This is an opportunity to acknowledge leader's past, present and emerging and experience First Nation's Culture.
- Display Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork around your house.
- Display photos of the children and their families in their bedroom.

If in doubt, please do not hesitate to call Althea Projects Foster and Kinship Program and ask for your Cultural Advisor.

Thank you!



BILLABONG SANCTUARY

With school holidays fast approaching, Althea Projects Foster and Kinship Program offers access to Billabong Sanctuary all year round for Carers and family members.

There is no better way to spend your weekends and school holiday then enjoying a day at Billabong Sanctuary meeting your favourite animals in a tropical bushland setting, on the shores of the billabong, where everyone is guaranteed a rewarding personal experience.

Billabong Sanctuary offer a range of activities for a family fun day, including shows throughout the day showcasing Australia's unique animals. Blinky Bill's licensed café offers hot and cold drinks, freshly made meals and desserts, gluten free options are available too or you are welcome to pack a picnic and use their free gas BBQ's on site.

Head over to their website to view opening and closing hours, show times and what the sanctuary has available. Be mindful COVID-19 restrictions have been put in place to ensure the safety of everyone. Information regarding COVID-19 can also be found on their website or contact their friendly staff on (07) 4778 8344.

Important update to Carer Connect!

In exciting news foster and kinship carers can now take photos of receipts and submit CRC requests for reimbursement directly to your local CSSC through the CarerConnect App.

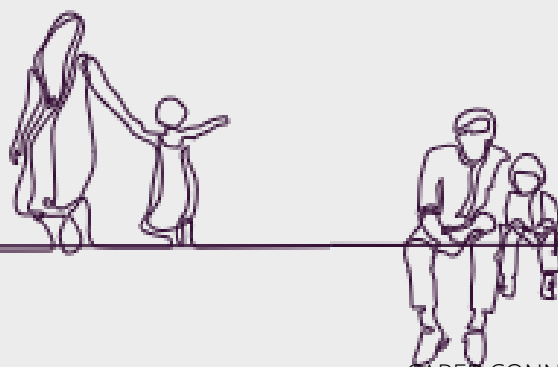
Carers using the App will have noticed a new 'CRC Reimbursement' tab has been available since February and is there to help you submit CRC applications.

The App is available to all carers. Carers not already using the App can register via: <https://carerconnect.communities.qld.gov.au/#/login-or-register>
For carers with frequent CRC, using the App can be a real time saver.

Changes to CRC Delegations!

At the same time as improving the App, the Department has also introduced new financial delegations for Business Officers and Senior Business Officers to support quicker processing of CRC reimbursement under \$250.

These changes have been developed as a direct result of carer feedback through Partners in Care forums and should see real time improvements for carer reimbursements.



ALTHEA PROJECTS RECONCILIATION ACTION GRANTS

Althea Projects welcomes funding applications for those experiencing barriers to their advancement or inclusion to participate in events/activities due to lack of money. This grant can be used for: Text books for university, laptops required for education reasons, sporting costs, course/training fees, uniforms and/or equipment required for school or traineeships etc.

Eligibility to Apply

- Applicants who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander can apply.
- There are no age limits.
- Applicants must live in the Townsville and surrounding regions including, Home Hill, Ayr, Charters Towers, Hughenden, Ingham and Palm Island.
- Applicants can be individuals or groups.
- Applications must be based upon a funding request that would assist you/your team towards reaching your goals.

Applications Exclusions

Applications that will not be considered are:

- Updated mobile phones
- Household items
- Payments for everyday living expenses
- Food or rental costs.

All other applications will be considered.

Grant Sizes

Althea Projects allocates \$10,000 per year to grants. Althea Projects aims to provide as many grants as possible per year within this allowance. Given this, applications of up to \$1500 will be preferred. If the funding amount you require is larger than this, you can still apply and Althea Projects may approve a portion of what is being requested in which to provide you with some assistance towards your goals.

Providing supporting evidence will help with your application.

For a copy of the Grant Application, please call Althea Foster and Kinship Program on 4779 3332, or email admin@altheaprojects.org.au or see our webpage at www.altheaprojects.org.au

The next round dates are:
Opening: July 5th
Closing: August 13th

How to become a kinship carer

Some children and young people are unable to stay at home because their families are not able to look after them or because they may be at risk of harm.

Whenever possible, the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (Child Safety) tries to ensure that children in care maintain close links with their families and communities. Often, we turn to extended family or someone the child knows to provide care. A kinship carer is a person related to the child or is considered to be part of the family or a close friend.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, a kinship carer may also be another Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who is a member of their community or language group, or compatible with the child's community or language group.

In cases where kinship carers are looking after children who are related to them, they are supporting both the children and their parents. Caring for a relative's children not only protects the children but also reassures their parents they are being well looked after while they rebuild their family. It can offer safety and security for both children and their parents while the issues affecting the family are being addressed.

Kinship carers can provide care in an emergency, for respite and for short, medium, or long periods of time.

Before you begin

Becoming a kinship carer is a serious decision for any family. It is a commitment that should not be made without prior discussion and consideration of the change and challenge that are part of the experience. It is important that you take time to speak with your partner, your children and any other significant people in your life to consider the impact that being a kinship carer may have.

Please read the [Family caring for family guide \(PDF\)](#) | [_ \(DOCX\)](#) to help you and the other members of your household think about whether you can care for a relative's children in your home.

How do I become a kinship carer?

You may be approached to become a kinship carer when it is assessed that a child is unable to live at home. Alternatively, you may express an interest in caring for a child from your immediate family or community who is already in care.

To become a kinship carer you must be:

- over 18 years of age, and
- eligible to obtain – or already have – a Blue Card which ensures that you are suitable to care for children.

You will need to lodge an expression of interest and provide proof of identity to Child Safety.

You will then participate in an assessment process to determine if you are suitable to care for the child. As part of this assessment process, personal history checks will be undertaken.

Next steps

Child Safety is responsible for approving carers. If you are approved as a kinship carer, you will care for a specific child for a set period of time. Once the child leaves your care, you will no longer be a kinship carer.

To become a kinship carer, you will be assisted to complete the following forms and interviews:

- Application for approval form. This gives the Child Safety information to complete personal history checks for you and your adult household members. This includes consideration of criminal and child protection history, domestic violence and traffic history.
- Blue card application. This must be completed by you and any other adult members of the household. Child Safety can help with this process.
- Household safety study. This will be completed by the person making the assessment and includes mandatory safety requirements that must be met prior to you being approved as a carer.
- Health and wellbeing questionnaire. This questionnaire will be completed with the help of the person making the assessment. A medical check from your general practitioner (GP) is required as part of this process.
- Referee checks. Referee checks are a mandatory requirement and are conducted as part of the initial and renewal assessments, including employer referee checks if you are in child-related employment.
- Required interviews. These will be conducted by the person making the assessment. You, your children (depending on their age), any adult household members and significant others will be interviewed.

If your application is approved by Child Safety you will:

- receive a letter confirming that you have been approved as a kinship carer
- receive a Certificate of Approval as a kinship carer; this is for an initial 12 months and requires renewal every 2 years thereafter, upon application and approval
- work with Child Safety and your non-government kinship care service to develop a Kinship Carer Agreement detailing the support available to help you fulfil your role, ongoing training requirements and the types of placements you are willing to consider.

If your application is not approved by Child Safety you will receive a letter stating the reasons for the decision and your right of review.

If I am kin to the child, why do I need to be assessed?

When a child requires a placement in foster or kinship care, it is the responsibility of Child Safety to make certain the child is cared for in the most suitable environment.

Although you may have previously cared for the child informally on behalf of the family, it is now Child Safety's responsibility to determine where the child will live.

In some circumstances, there may be a number of relatives who can provide care, or a child may have special needs and requires a carer with certain skills or training.

Assessments are conducted to identify who will be the most appropriate full time carer for the child.

Will I need to do training?

Training is not required for kinship carers, however you may choose to attend foster care training to assist you in your caring role.

Pre-service training (provided to foster carers) gives carers an understanding of the experiences of children in care and how this impacts on their care needs. It also helps new carers gain the knowledge and skills to better meet the needs of children and young people in their care.

Kinship carers are also encouraged to access other training opportunities offered by Child Safety and non-government foster and kinship care services.

What allowances do I receive?

Foster and kinship carers receive a fortnightly caring allowance for each child or young person placed with them by Child Safety.

It covers items such as food, clothing, household provisions, gifts, pocket money, entertainment and other everyday costs of caring for a child.

The allowance is not considered a 'payment' for caring and it is not a source of income. It is a reimbursement toward the real costs of providing care. Kinship and foster carers who provide respite also receive the fortnightly caring allowance for the period of time they provide care for a child or young person.

The caring allowance is not subject to tax and should not be cited as income for any purpose, such as yearly tax returns, applications for Commonwealth benefits or when applying for loans from financial institutions.

You may also be eligible for Commonwealth Government benefits such as the Family Tax Benefit A and/or B, Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy (child wellbeing), Maternity Payment or Parenting Payment.

What support will I receive?

There are many people and places you can turn to for guidance and support. In addition to the Child Safety Service Centre (CSSC) in your area or your local non-government foster and kinship care service, there are networks of carers who meet to share experiences and support each other.

Carers can seek support from Queensland Foster and Kinship Care, a community organisation that supports and advocates for carers and children in their care.

Specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander foster and kinship care services also provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers.

What will I need to do as a kinship carer?

As a kinship carer, you will need to provide a safe, stable and supportive environment for the child or young person in your care and meet the emotional, educational and social needs of the child.

It is important that children maintain contact with their families and retain links with their past, so they can develop a sense of personal identity. You will need to support the involvement of the child's family in their life, and respect the child's cultural heritage and family background when making decisions about their care.

More information

If you would like additional information or resources you can contact:

- the Foster Carer Recruitment Line on 1300 550 877
- your local Child Safety Service Centre
- Queensland Foster and Kinship Care (a non-government organisation for carers) on (07) 3256 6166.

Blue Cards – No Card, No Start Law

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FOR FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARERS

New Legislation changes will come into effect from the 31st August 2020 for Blue Cards No Card, No Start laws.

These changes have been made as a result of the 2017 Queensland Family and Child Commission's report – *Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: Review of the blue card system*. Although the report showed that the Queensland Working with Children Check system is one of the strongest in Australia, there is opportunity to provide a more streamlined and stronger system.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHANGES?

No Card, No Start law identifies that people cannot work with children or young people until their Blue Card application has been approved. These new rules ensure that employees will be bound by the same rules as those for volunteers and business applicants.

Expiring Cards Rule has changed, this means that people can continue to work with children and young people if they lodge their renewal application before their current blue card expires. If their blue card expires before they lodge their renewal application they will be subject to the No Card, No Start law.

Expiry date for exemption cards – Queensland police and teachers will need to renew their blue cards prior to their expiry if they still require their blue card for work purposes.

Changes to police information – No Card, No Start law incorporates a more streamlined process for applicants to advise Blue Card Services of any changes to their police information.

Stricter rules for restricted persons ensures people who are considered to be a restricted person cannot access an exception to screening by virtue of being a volunteer.

CHANGES FOR FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARERS

Do I need to child safety to sign my blue card application or renewal application

No. Child Safety are no longer responsible for verifying identification (ID) for a blue card application.

When applying for a blue card applicants will be required to verify their ID through the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). The verification process can occur either through the Blue Card online application portal or in person at TMR.

Child Safety is also no longer required to advise blue card applicants of the disqualified person rule, this will be the responsibility of the applicant when they complete their application.

I cannot access the online portal, can I still submit a paper based application?

Yes. Blue Card Services will continue to accept paper based applications. If you need to apply for your blue card via the paper based system, you are still required to follow the new No Card, No Start law and processes. If you do not have a form of photo ID with TMR, for example a driver's licence, you will need to attend TMR to prove your identity and obtain a photo and Customer Reference Number (CRN).

What role does Child Safety play in my Blue Card application?

To apply for a Blue Card as a volunteer (free of charge), you will require an online account number which will be supplied to you once you verify your identity through TMR. You must supply this online account number to Child safety as a part of your carer application form (APA) to ensure you are linked to Child Safety.

Once linked, Blue Card services will notify you and you will be able to begin your Blue Card application free of charge.

I am being considered for provisional approval (PAC), do I need a blue card?

No. Child Safety Central Screening Unit (CSU) will continue to conduct all required checks for provisional approval applicants, including personal, child protection and criminal histories.

However, once provisionally approved, you will need to have obtained a blue card before your provisional approval expires.

My blue card is due to expire, is there a time limit to lodge a renewal application?

You must complete your renewal application before your current blue card expires. A renewal application can be submitted by a carer any time prior to their current blue card expiring. Your current blue card will remain valid once you have submitted your renewal application, meaning you can continue your caring role while your renewal application is being processed.

If you are renewing an existing blue card for the first time under the new No Card No Start laws and you do not have a form of photo ID with TMR, for example a driver's licence, you will need to attend TMR or you will need to contact Blue Card Services directly.

I have a new adult household member (AHM) planning to live in our home. Does the person need to have a blue card before they can move in?

No. As long as you have correctly informed Child Safety of the change in circumstances and completed the 'Change in Carer Circumstances' form. The new AHM will need to complete the 'New Adult Household Member' form and begin the blue card application process.

Just like carers, an adult household member will need to complete the verification of ID process with TMR in order to provide their online account number to CSU to be linked to Child Safety as a volunteer.

CSU will complete the required checks such as personal, child protection and criminal history. An adult household member can remain in the carer household if CSU deem them suitable while blue card services complete their application.

My blue card has expired and I haven't yet lodged a renewal application, what happens now?

If your blue card expires before you lodge a renewal application, you will be subject to the No Card No Start laws.

Any children placed in your care will require a new care arrangement until you receive your new blue card approval.

A renewal application cannot be lodged after your current blue card has expired. A new blue card application will need to be completed starting with the verification of ID process.

A young person in my household will be turning 18 in a few months and will remain living in my household. When can they apply for their Blue Card?

A young person is able to apply for a blue card from 17 years and 9 months of age.

The young person will need to follow the No Card No Start blue card process, beginning with the verification of ID through TMR.

If no response has been received from Blue Card Services regarding the young person's application and their 18th birthday is approaching, please ensure immediate follow up with Blue Card Services occurs to ensure continuity of care for the young person.

If a young person turns 18 and Blue Card Services have not advised of an outcome of their blue card application, the new AHM process will need to be followed, pending follow up with Blue Card Services.

For further information regarding Blue Cards No Card No Start associated processes please refer to the [Blue Card Services Website](#).

Link to the [online applicant portal](#)

Link to the No Card No Start [forms](#)

Link to [Blue Card applications](#) information

Townsville NAIDOC Week

Raising Flag Ceremony: Sunday July 4th, 2021 – 9:00am

Venue: Jezzine Barracks

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Cost: Free Hot Breakfast

Townsville NAIDOC March: Friday July 9th, 2021 – 9:30am

Venue: Assemble at the roundabout of Hinchinbrook Drive and Thuringowa Drive (beside the Kirwan High School)

Time: Assemble 9:30am, March to commence at 10:00am

Let's march together, bring your family and friends, wave your flags and banners.

Don't forget to "slip, slop, slap"

Townsville NAIDOC Deadly Day Out - Friday July 9th, 2021 - 11:30am

Venue: Riverway, Pioneer Parklands

Time: 11:30am – 4:30pm

Cost: Free Event

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Performances, Children's Rides, Cultural Art and Craft, Information and Food and Drink Stalls.

Townsville NAIDOC Breakfast: Wednesday July 7th, 2021

Time and venue to be confirmed.

Townsville NAIDOC Dinner

Location and date to be confirmed.

Townsville Elder's Luncheon

Location and date to be confirmed.

Keep up to date with events by visiting: <https://www.townsvillenaidoc.com.au/events>

Happy Foster and Kinship Carer Week May 16-23

On behalf of Althea Projects Foster and Kinship Program:

We say thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Thank you for opening your hearts, homes, and arms to young people in need.

As many of you may know the Foster and Kinship Program as well as the Corporate Team are in the process of moving to Fleming Street. Which unfortunately means we will have to celebrate late.

Once we are settled in, we will invite you to a wine, cheese and nibble night, and a tour around the building to thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

Time and day to be advised.



Fortnightly Caring Allowance Rates Schedule

Base Foster Care Payments

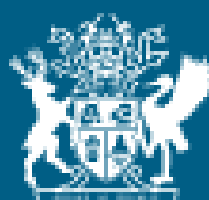
Allowance	2020 Rate	New Rate effective January 1 st 2021
Start-up allowance: Age 0-18	\$108.50	\$109.20
Establishment Payments: All Ages	\$541.66	\$545.02
Fortnightly Caring Allowance: Age 0-5	\$502.74	\$505.82
Fortnightly Caring Allowance: Age 6-10	\$541.66	\$545.02
Fortnightly Caring Allowance: Age 11 & over	\$588.70	\$592.34
Regional Remote Loading: Age 0-5	\$50.40	\$50.82
Regional Remote Loading: Age 6-10	\$54.32	\$54.74
Regional Remote Loading: Age 11 & over	\$58.94	\$59.36

High Support Needs Allowance

Allowance	2020 Rate	New Rate effective January 1 st 2021
High Support Needs Allowance: Age 0-18	\$176.81	\$177.94

Complex Support Needs Allowance

Allowance	2020 Rate	New Rate effective January 1 st 2021
Complex Support Needs Allowance level 1	\$229.04	\$230.44
Complex Support Needs Allowance level 2	\$457.80	\$460.60
Complex Support Needs Allowance level 3	\$686.84	\$691.04



Queensland Government

CAREGIVER TIP #6

Althea Projects Foster and Kinship Program are going to make it a standing page in the Carer Connect Newsletter to have a Caregiver Tip.

Effective Ways to Boost Children's Self-Esteem

- Help your children learn to do new things.
- When teaching kids how to do things, show and help them.
- Praise your child on their hard work.
- Be a good role model.
- Ban harsh criticism.
- Focus on your child's strengths.
- Let your child help and teach other children how to do things.
- Let children take healthy risks, let them make choices and take responsibility.
- Encourage them to pursue their interests.
- Give your children responsibilities.
- Encourage children to express their feelings.
- Teach them that everyone makes mistakes, the important thing is to learn from them.
- Help your child find their passion, this will help children find their sense of identity.
- Help them set-up realistic goals.
- Embrace imperfection.
- **Always show your love!!**



Join a Playgroup Today!

Calling all foster and kinship carers. Here is a playgroup just for you.

We have a new playgroup in Townsville. And it's just for carers. Whether you are a foster carer or a kinship carer join us for a weekly get-together. Come every week or whenever suits your busy schedule. All children under 6 are welcome. Our first playgroup is on the first Tuesday of Term 3 (July 13, 2021) @ [Aplins Weir Rotary Park](#). (Not our regular venue but a great place to start)

It's a time to connect with other carers and there's lots of fun for your little one while you get to make some new friends who understand the joys and challenges of fostering.

This playgroup is tailor made with information sharing, networking, and question and answer sessions according to our members needs. If you want to meet other carers but do not have a child under 6 in your care, drop us a line and we can invite you to our Carer Catch Up dinners. Little Superstars Playgroup meet's on Tuesday mornings from 9am – 11am. All playgroup members work together to set up the morning's play, to decide on activities & to build a calendar of outings and play sessions, and as we are a new group, to decide what toy and play equipment the group will most benefit from purchasing. If you have a talent for fund raising please let me know! For further info and to RSVP, contact Jo @ 0416085522 or send me an email. See you there!

SOCIAL LANE

Every Thursday

5pm to 8:30pm

Stockland Shopping Centre

Car Park (old Westpac Bank)



lots of fun activities...

Basketball

Popcorn

Table Tennis

Playstation

Music & DJ

Handball

Chalk Artistry & drawing



Proudly funded and supported by the Queensland Government

Get Ready for Work with

Townsville Intercultural Centre



Townsville Intercultural Centre is currently supporting young people between the ages of 15-25 to access opportunities and training to transition them into the workforce and obtain stable and long-lasting positions.

Please feel free to call and inquire about joining our weekly Job's Club class every **Tuesday** at **10am** where you will learn soft employability skills



TOWNSVILLE INTERCULTURAL CENTRE

155 Nathan Street, Cranbrook,
4814

Mon – Thurs 9am – 5pm

Fri 9am – 2.30pm

Call: 07 4772 4800

Email:
jordon@townsvilleic.com.au

POOL SAFETY CERTIFICATES

What is a Pool Safety Certificate?

A Pool Safety Certificate is a document that is issued by the law as an indication that the pool conforms with the safety standard. A Pool Safety Certificate needs to be supplied if there is a child in out- of-home care that will be living at the property with a pool.

What is classified as a pool?

A pool is classified as an excavation, structure or vessel that can be filled with water to a depth of more than 300 millimeters. A pool is an above or below ground structure for swimming, paddling or any other human aquatic activity.

Do you need a Pool Safety Certificate?

Yes, if you care for a child in out-of-home care and the home that you live in has access to a pool you are required to supply a Pool Safety Certificate. This is including non-shared pools on private property of shared pools in unit or apartment complexes.

Renting a property with a pool?

Owners of rented properties are required to obtain a Pool Safety Certificate before renting the property and these are valid for two (2) years from the date of issue for non-shared pools (i.e. a pool on a private property) or valid for one (1) year for shared pools (i.e. units or apartment complexes).

If you are unsure weather the house you are looking to move into already has a Pool Safety Certificate, you can find out via the Queensland Building and Construction Commission website under the Pool Register.

<https://www.qbcc.qld.gov.au/home-building-owners/pool-safety/find-pool-safety-inspector-search-property-psi-login>



Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Become a FAST rep

What is a FAST?

FAST is a team of trained specialist local Foster and Kinship Carers who have volunteered to provide advice, support and advocate on behalf of other Foster and Kinship Carers. FAST representatives are attached to one of five Regions across Queensland. They have the capacity to provide advice, support and advocacy to all carers in their Region and can also provide face to face support to carers within proximity or tele link into meetings where needed. The FAST representative provides a local avenue for Foster and Kinship Carers to receive advice, support and/or advocacy on individual matters.

How were the FAST representatives appointed?

Any carer is able to approach QFKC to become a FAST representative. Interested carers receive an application with a Selection Criteria and a Position Description. Once the application is received, QFKC seeks feedback from key stakeholders in the relevant Region. An interview panel then takes place with the applicant to explore applicant's views on the role, what they hope to offer and other relevant areas. The applicant is then invited to attend two days of induction training and then a final recommendation is made taking into account all of this information to QFKC'S Executive Director.

What else is offered?

As a FAST representative, you have a great opportunity to network in your community to build strong and productive working relationships with key stakeholders. Every year our FAST representatives are provided with regional FAST training over a 2-day period with workshops and personal development opportunities.

To learn more about becoming a FAST representative, becoming a carer, events that are happening, news and/or training, **visit www.qfkc.com.au** or speak to someone over the phone on **(07) 4779 9513**



Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Returning to Foster Caring

Are you a former foster carer considering returning to caring?

If you are a former foster carer, Queensland Foster and Kinship Care have streamlined the process to reduce the amount of time it takes to begin caring again.

Tailored advice to inform you about changes you need to be aware of since you stopped being a foster carer will be provided. It is unlikely you'll have to attend training that you have previously completed.

Queensland Foster and Kinship Care are seeking foster carers who are interested in short-term, long-term, short breaks, emergency or intensive foster care.

While coronavirus has caused some changes, one thing remains the same - we need foster carers to meet the ongoing needs of the most vulnerable children in Queensland.

Call Queensland Foster and Kinship care on 1300 550 877 to find out more.

MOREHEAD MEALS - ALTHEA PROJECTS

5 MEALS FOR \$25

HOMECOOKED MEALS DELIVERED TO YOU

0419 624 267

meals@altheaprojects.org.au

 [moreheadmealstsv](#)

46-48 Morehead Street St, South Tsv



Morehead Meals is the beginning of a multi-levelled social enterprise connecting our community through affordable, ethical, healthy and delicious pre-made frozen meals that can be collected directly from our kitchen in South Townsville or delivered by our to your home or workplace. By purchasing meals from us you are directly contributing to a healthier, resilient, and more connected Townsville.

Althea Projects knows that human connection plays a massive role in all our lives and through the Morehead Meals program we aim to connect with some of Townsville's vulnerable population through the power of good food and conversation when delivering meals. When you purchase meals wouldn't it be nice to know that you are helping someone in need? Money from each meal purchase will be reinvested back into Morehead Meals to assist us to grow the enterprise.

www.altheaprojects.org.au



NATIONAL SORRY DAY

What is National Sorry Day?

On the 26th of May 1997 the landmark Bringing them Home report was tabled in federal parliament.

What is the Bringing them home report?

Bringing them Home is the final report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families and was conducted by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (now called the Australian Human Rights Commission) between 1995 and 1997.

Bringing them home

y into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families



THE 54TH ANNIVERSARY OF

The 1967 Referendum



May 27th marks the Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum in which Australians voted overwhelmingly to amend the Constitution to allow the Commonwealth to make laws for Aboriginal people and include them in the census. The following question was put forward to the Australian people to vote on:

Do you approve the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled 'An Act to alter the Constitution so as to omit certain words relating to the people of the Aboriginal race in any state so that Aboriginals are to be counted in reckoning the population'?

This proposed law sought to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to make laws with respect to Aboriginal people wherever they lived in Australia as well as sought to make it possible to include Aboriginal people in national censuses.

Turnout for the referendum was almost 94 per cent, and the result was a strong 'Yes' vote, with a significant majority in all six states and an overall majority of almost 91 per cent.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2021



What is National Reconciliation Week?

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Torres Strait Islander Flag Launched 1992 - May 29th

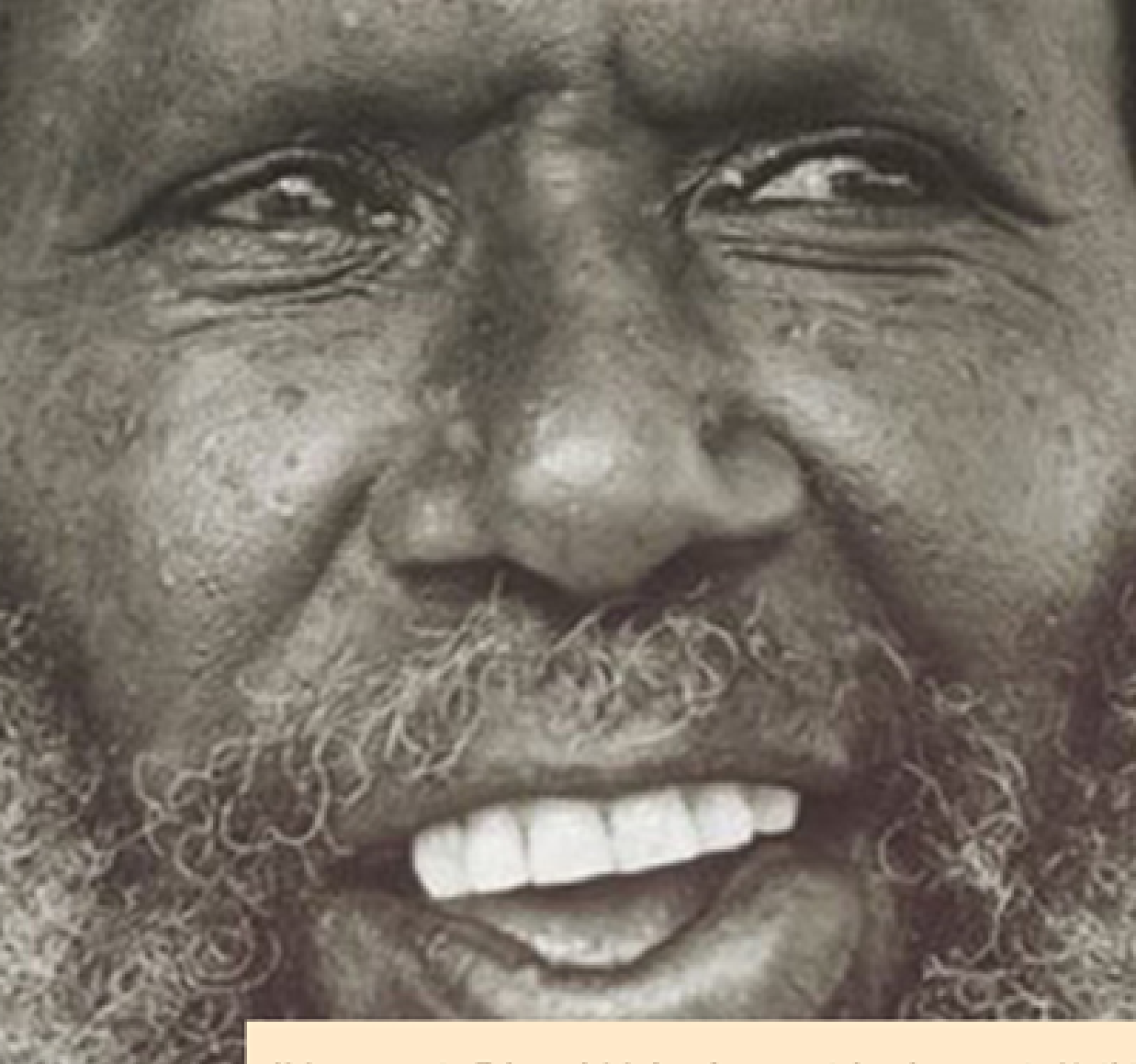


The Torres Strait Islander Flag Launch

Do you know who Designed the Torres Strait Islander Flag?
The Torres Strait Islander flag was designed by the late Bernard Namok from Thursday Island. It was the winning entry in a design competition that was held as part of a cultural revival workshop organised by the Islands Coordinating Council in January 1992.

Do you know what the colours/symbols of the Flag represent?

The green panels at the top and bottom of the flag represent the land and the central blue panel represents the sea. The black lines dividing the panels represent the Torres Strait Islander people. The centre of the flag shows a white Dhari (dancer's headdress) which represents Torres Strait Islander culture. Underneath the Dhari is a white five-pointed star. The star is an important symbol for navigating the sea. The points of the star represent the five island groups in the Torres Strait and the white symbolizes peace.



'My name is Edward Mabo, but my island name is Koiki. My family has occupied the land here for hundreds of years before Captain Cook was born. They are now trying to say I cannot own it. The present Queensland Government is a friendly enemy of the black people as they like to give you the bible and take away your land. We should stop calling them boss. We must be proud to live in our own palm leaf houses like our fathers before us.'

-Eddie quote from a 'manifesto' on Mabo Case

MABO





JUNE IS BOWEL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



June is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

Bowel Cancer is Australia's second deadliest cancer - Bowel cancer claims the lives of 103 Australians every week, but is one of the most treatable cancer if found in the early stages. The risk of Bowel Cancer increases with age but doesn't discriminate, affecting men and women, young people and the elder.

Red Apple Day is Wednesday, 16 June which is Bowel Cancer Australia's Annual Giving Day - Australians are encourage to support the essential work of the charity.

Apple logo and charity colours:

Bowel Cancer Australia's apple logo is symbolic of the charity's bowel cancer message: bowel cancer is treatable and beatable if detected early.

The outline of Bowel Cancer Australia's apple logo appears as an abstract of a human bowel. The small hole in the apple is caused by a worm. If detected early and removed, the worm is unable to continue affecting the apple or the health of the tree.

It's the same with people. If bowel cancer is detected early it can be successfully treated, which means patients and their families can continue to enjoy a healthy life.

Both red and green apples are also a nutritious source of dietary fibre.

KIDS CORNER

Ladybug Painted Rocks

Things you will need:

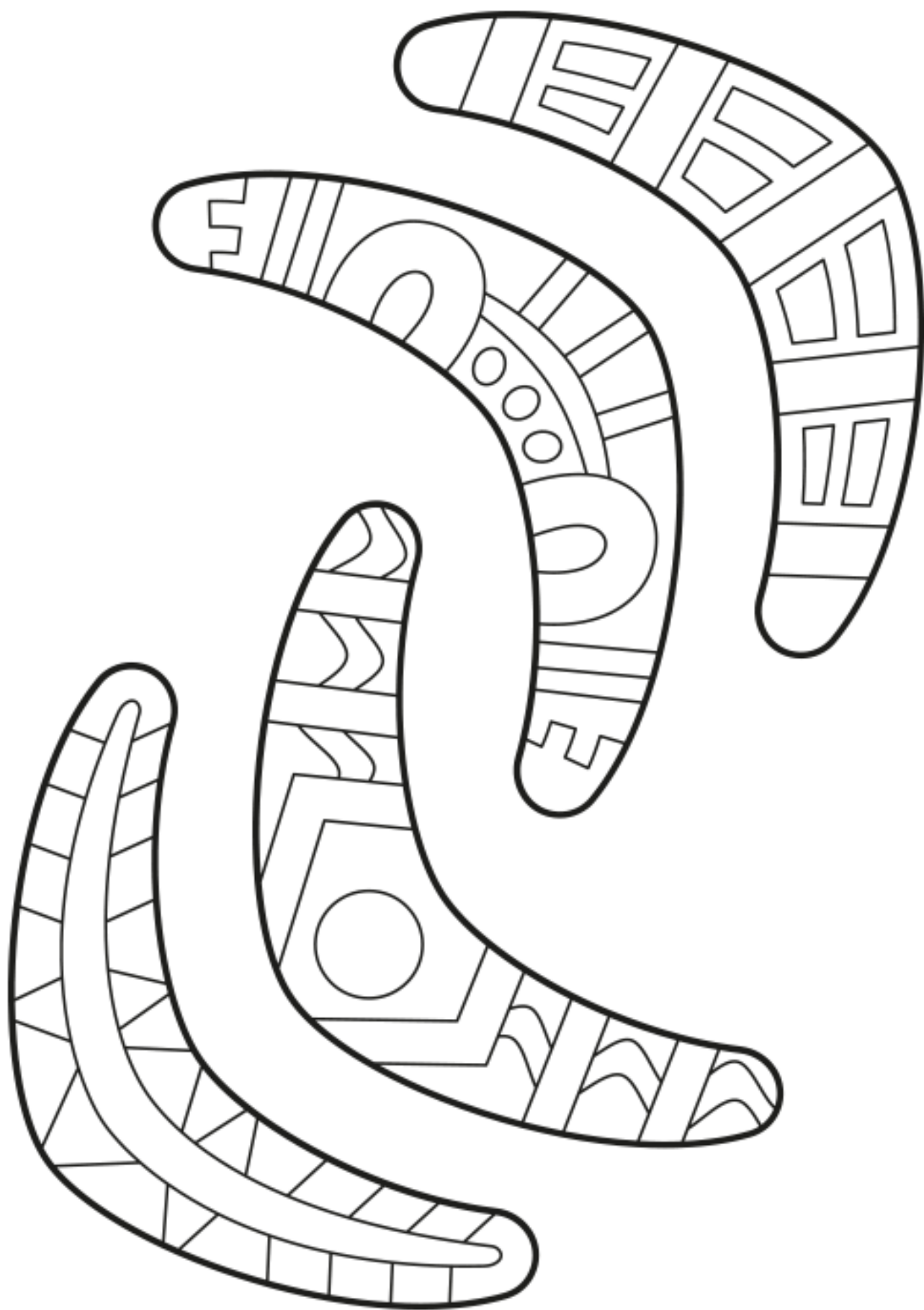
- Patio Paint in colors of your choice.
- Smooth rocks, preferably oval or round in shape
- Paintbrush
- Toothpick
- Outdoor sealer, Outdoor Mod Podge or Patio Paint Clear Coat.

Instructions

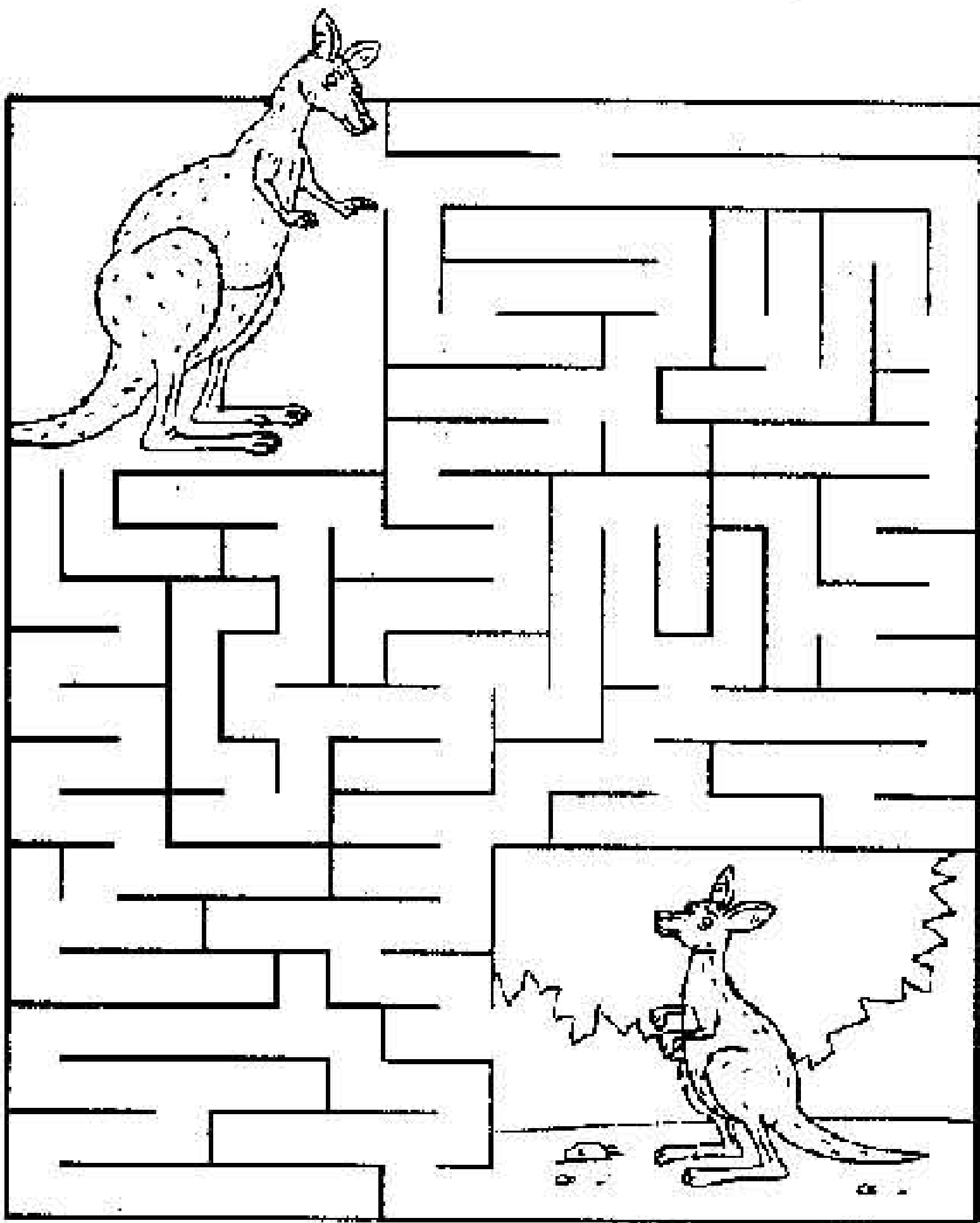
- Wash and dry your rocks.
- Paint with colorful Patio Paint, don't paint the bottoms if these will be sitting in the soil.
- Paint on a black head and let dry.
- Use the handle end of a paintbrush to dot on ladybug spots with black paint.
- Use the handle end of a paintbrush to dot on white eyes. LET DRY COMPLETELY!
- Cut the tip off of a toothpick. Dip in black paint and dot onto white eyes.
- When completely dry, paint ladybugs with a coat of Patio Paint Clear Coat or outdoor formula sealer like Mod Podge.



Colour in the Boomerangs



Help the kangaroo get to her baby.



2021

School calendar

Queensland state schools

DECEMBER 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JANUARY 2021 S M T W T F S 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
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School terms	School holidays	Public holidays	Staff development/student free days	Student free days
Part public holiday after 6pm	Student free days for some schools in regional, rural and remote areas			

There are 193 school days in 2021.

Semester 1, 2021 commences for teachers on 21 January and for students on 27 January, 2021.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Staff professional development days for teachers are 21 and 22 January, 15 and 16 April and 3 September 2021. Schools are able to decide when they undertake the required hours for professional development for the flexible days, as long as they are on the flexible days, in the school holidays or out of school hours.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Queensland public holidays are set by the Industrial Relations Minister.

Public holidays for local show days are not shown due to diversity of dates across the state.

FINAL DATES FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE

19 November is the final date for Year 12 attendance for receipt of a Senior Statement. 26 November is the final date for student attendance in Years 10 and 11.

Some schools in regional, rural and remote areas will close for the summer holidays on 3 December.

The information in this calendar was correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change.

For more information and the latest version of this calendar, visit

www.education.qld.gov.au



**Queensland
Government**

PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT



HOPE IN A SUITCASE

has put together and donated suitcases for children in care.



ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT ALHEA PROJECTS FOSTER AND KINSHIP PROGRAM, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK, SUPPORT AND DEDICATION.



REMEMBER:

**OUR NEW OFFICE LOCATION:
UNIT 1, 5-11 FLEMING STREET, AITKENVALE**

