



Principal's Message



Dear Parents, Friends and Students of St Edmund's,

Advent

We're being bombarded by the brochures, the shops are dripping with tinsel and opportunities to 'splash the

cash' assail us from all sides. Welcome to Christmas – not necessarily the true and original version but the 'eat more, drink more, get more stuff' debasement of an ancient religious celebration. It's predictable the way humans can lose the point of a beautiful festival – in the same way a baby on Christmas morning is more enthralled by the colourful wrapping than the gift inside. The gift inside – hidden away under the glitz and advertising – begins to be heralded next Sunday – the beginning of Advent; the beginning of the new year for the Church and a time of peace, reflection and preparation for the feast of Christmas – which will celebrate the birth of a baby, the Christ child, our saviour. Celebrating Years 1951-2021

Newsletter

Term 4, Week 7, 19th November 2021

A CHILD HAS BEEN BORN FOR US, BORN FOR US, A SON IS GIVEN TO US; AUTHORITY RESTS UPON HIM; AND HE IS NAMED JESUS.

With school finishing for students in a couple of weeks, hopefully there will be a little more time to begin slowing down to think about Christmas – and not just in terms of shopping lists, menus and travel arrangements – but in terms of the Christmas gift of a human baby and by extension, the gift of ourselves to each other, particularly family and loved ones over the Christmas season.

Remembrance Day

Last Thursday the College stopped to mark Remembrance Day, as a remembrance and commemoration of those who died in war – with the origin being those who died in the First World War; Australians who died in the service of their country but remembering all who have died in war. For some at St Edmund's – a remembrance of grandfathers, uncles and other relatives who have died. The consequences and memories of that being something many carry with them every day. The playing of the Last Post and the brevity of the phrases 'We will remember them' and 'Lest we forget', serving to highlight the importance of the real meaning of this occasion for us during our online Liturgy. Many thanks to Mr. Jason Scanlon for preparing this liturgy for our community. It is greatly appreciated.

Visit by Executive Director EREA

Last Wednesday, I met with Dr. Craig Wattam, Executive Director of Edmund Rice Education Australia. I had the opportunity to provide him with an update about St Edmund's as well as show him around St Gabriel's which he has never had the opportunity to visit. Dr Wattam was given a tour of St Gabriel's and had an opportunity to meet staff and students as well as participate in our morning prayer routine. Although very impressed with our new facilities, Dr. Wattam was in awe of the extraordinary work of our teaching and support staff as well as the welcoming smiles from our young people.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Jon Franzin **PRINCIPAL**



Deputy Principal's Message

Presentation Day

Once again this year, due to COVID restrictions, Presentation Day will take place on Tuesday 30th November here at the College. The Presentation Day Awards ceremony will be recorded and shared with parents and friends. Students will be preparing for this occasion as it celebrates the wonderful success of each student in their learning journeys.

A reminder that for our Presentation Day ceremony we ask all students to wear their *summer College uniform with their blazer, tie and have their shoes polished*. This emphasizes to our students that this is an important ceremony and there are occasions where formalities are celebrated. Please email Wendy Scott on scott@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au if there is any part of the College uniform that your child needs for this event.

Reminders for Year 12 students

An email was sent to all Year 12 families with the following reminders:

Year 12 Exit survey/Student references

In lieu of a Semester 2 Personalised Planning meeting, we ask that Year 12 parents complete an **Exit Survey**. The survey can be found here: <u>https://forms.gle/bVSJ5YvpW15hFdqo8</u>.

The information gathered is shared with College Executive and responses will remain confidential. The feedback and information you provide helps inform future directions of the College. There are 3 sections of the survey: information for your child's reference letter, College feedback and plans for 2022.

This information helps to contribute to your child's letter of reference which will be presented to them at the Graduation Mass. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Year 12 Graduation Mass

This event is to be held on 2nd December at 6.00 p.m. at Holy Name Parish Wahroonga. Please use the following link to register your attendance: <u>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/</u> e/1FAIpQLSdd3s-kEcd22AInPL-4Bqm7aS0qgscjYM43mczjANDNepBSUw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Rebecca Kirwan Deputy Principal

Important Dates

Term 4

Fri 19th Nov	Abbotsleigh Concert cancelled
Tue 23rd Nov	Term 4 Parent Group Meeting online - see the link in this Newsletter
Wed 24th Nov	Year 7 Immunisation on site
Tue 30th Nov	Presentation Ceremony on site and to be filmed
Thu 2nd Dec	Men's Group dinner and meeting see this Newsletter for details
Thu 2nd Dec	Year 12 Graduation Mass at Holy Name Church, Wahroonga
Fri 3rd Dec	Last day of Term 4
Wed 8th Dec	Year 12 Graduation Formal at Hornsby RSL Club

2022

Term 1Wed 2nd FebAll students return to Term 1

Please see the **2022 College Year term dates** attached to this Newsletter. Please note that the Term 2 staff day has been changed from the date appearing in our Calendar. It is now Tuesday 14th June and not Friday 10th June.



Mission and Identity

Advent, a time to prepare our hearts...

Advent, which begins the Church's liturgical year, began on Sunday, 28th November. Advent encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas.



The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life we find in Christ. Even the individual evergreens that make up the wreath have their own meanings that can be adapted to our faith. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine, holly and yew signify immortality and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolise life and resurrection. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent and one candle is lit each Sunday. The first candle, which is **purple**, symbolises hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also **purple**, represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is **pink** and symbolises joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final **purple candle** to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolises peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward All."

The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ.

Year 12 Retreat & Graduation Mass

As restrictions continue to change, we are now able to plan for retreat experiences for our Year 12 students on 2nd and 3rd December. These last days for Year 12 will include reflection times, social activities including a BBQ at Bobbin Head and also rehearsals for our Graduation Mass at Holy Name Parish. The retreat activities will focus on the theme of '*Our Journey*' where students will look back at the many experiences and friendships here at St Edmund's and also look forward with hopes for their new chapter as it unfolds next year.

End of Year Liturgy

As we come to the conclusion of a complex year, we will be sharing our final liturgy online as we cannot gather as a school community. Although we have faced many challenges this year, it is an opportunity to celebrate our agility, resilience and hopefulness as a learning community inspired and directed by faith. I will share our liturgy via Class Dojo.

Jason Scanlon Assistant Principal, Religious Identity & Mission



Relationships Matter

How wonderful to have all the students back at Eddie's, if only for another two weeks. After a challenging year, they returned at the beginning of the term, happy and full of optimism and gratitude. After observing our students connecting after an extended period at home, it is evident that St. Edmund's plays an important role in the wellbeing of the students.....and the staff!

As the holidays draw near, social safety is a very important component in the curriculum. So Safe is taught during Pastoral Care lessons and reinforced across the school day. Students discuss and role-play safe ways to be a friend – saying hi, talking, giving their friends a helping hand, shaking hands and elbow taps in COVID safe times. All students have their own People and Relationship booklets at home, helping them to understand that all relationships vary and require

different types of interactions.

Students are able to practise these skills during morning tea and lunch. For the active, there is table tennis, volleyball, basketball, music and dance whilst quieter activities of board games, card games, Lego, reading and colouring-in are offered in the library and quadrangle.

Observing the students interactions at St. Edmund's reinforces the value and importance of a special education setting and the unique role our school has in developing confidence and friendships. It is a safe place where everyone is accepted and where our students can find joy and develop genuine friendships.

As my time draws to a close at Eddie's, these relationships are what I will miss the most. Your children are amazing and I continue to be inspired and learn so much from them. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of working with you and your children over the past 11 years. I wish you and your families a peaceful, joyful Christmas and New Year.

God Bless. Goodbye and thank you.

Karen Houlcroft Head of Wellbeing



Our final Men's Group get-together for the year for a few drinks and dinner with other dads from St Edmund's College and St Lucy's School will have the theme "The Everything Celebration". We have a great deal to celebrate and so much to talk about - so many stories. Let's celebrate Christmas, end of year and freedom! One of the great benefits of these evenings is the advice that we share on topics such as NDIS, relationships, medical issues etc - an



endless list! Please see the details below and we look forward to seeing as many dads as possible on the night.

Date:	Thursday 2nd December		
Venue:	West Pymble Bowling Club, 163 Ryde Road, West Pymble		
Time:	6.30 p.m.		
RSVP:	Warren Hopley: hopleywarren@hotmail.com		
	Brendan Wingrave: brendan.wingrave@gmail.com		
	Jono Carey: Jonathonc@stlucys.nsw.edu.au		

Good luck Brendan!

The Krazy Kosci Klimb is a once in a lifetime opportunity for young people with a disability, to achieve the unbelievable and reach the highest point in Australia, the summit of Mt Kosciuszko on an 18km round trip journey.



This event is put on annually by Cerebral Palsy Alliance (CPA) and in February 2022, 14 young people will be given this opportunity and are supported all the way by family, a CPA team leader and a corporate sponsor.

Brendan from 7V will be taking part in the upcoming climb. Despite two recent major foot surgeries, Brendan is taking on this challenge head on and will be training in the coming weeks and months. Brendan, his mum Olive and their team would love your support of Brendan and to raise funds for the accessible

sports and gym program at CPA.

To donate click here: https://www.krazykosciklimb.com.au/fundraisers/olivewilliams/krazy-kosci-klimb

Your support will mean the world. Alternatively, you can go to **krazykosciklimb.com.au**, find **Team Brendan in the Leaderboard and click 'Donate'.**

2022 Calendar

We hope you enjoyed receiving your 2022 Calendar which went home with your child in their school bag. If you would like more copies (they make great Christmas presents), please contact the College office on **secretary@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au** to order more at a cost of \$5.00 each. Mrs Acret will organise for the Calendars to go home to you.





From the Parent Group

Well it is hard to believe that we are already in the final weeks of the year. With lockdown taking up half of the term we are on the downhill slopes to Christmas.

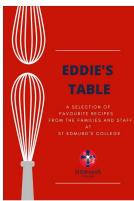
Our Parent Meeting is next Tuesday night at 7.00 p.m. It will be via Zoom. Please follow the prompts below to register for the Zoom link. At this meeting Jon will run through an update on the school build and what to expect for 2022.

This will also be our opportunity to show our appreciation to Jon and Karen Houlcroft for their time here at Eddie's. Also leaving us is Marilyn Noonan, the College Business Manager, who has worked at St Edmund's and St Gabriel's for 25 years. All three members have played such a crucial and valuable role in the development of the College and the wellbeing of its students. COVID-19 still has its way and because of that this will be the most interactive way to be able to say farewell, so please join us. There will be an opportunity to contribute to gifts for our departing staff, please look for an email about this.

An update on the **Eddie's Recipe Book** - this is in the final stages of production and it will be available in the week commencing 22nd November. An email will come home about how to obtain a copy.

I would also like to take the opportunity to say to all of our leaving students and families that we are thinking of you all as you enjoy your final weeks at Eddie's. This year has been difficult for us all but for you it must have been a bit harder. You are in our thoughts and prayers as you prepare to say goodbye and we hope that you enjoy the end of your school celebrations.

"How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard". AA Milne (Winnie-the-Pooh)



Janine Eastham Tom's Mum **Parent Group Leader**



Here is the link to RSVP for our Parent Group Meeting next Tuesday night: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkdemgpzkjGNaaXTvmHNqvf1B_Kdy4XUEE



Absentees

If your child is absent from the College for any reason:

- ⇒ Please phone Mrs Acret in the College office or email: <u>secretary@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au</u> on the first morning your child is absent so that the homeroom teacher can be advised; and
- ⇒ A written note (or email) must accompany your child when he/she returns to the College this is a legal requirement for the class roll.

Requesting Leave during College term (for any reason)

It is expected that every endeavor is made for students' leave to be taken during the College holidays. If however, this is not possible, a request should be:

⇒ Emailed to Mr Franzin on **franzin@erses.nsw.edu.au** asking for permission and giving the reason for the leave. The necessary form will be emailed back to you to be completed and returned to the College. Mr Franzin will respond to your email, copying in the Homeroom teacher and Mrs Acret. This is also a legal requirement for the class roll.



60 Burns Rd Wahroonga 2076 PO Box 582 Wahroonga 2076

ABN: 15.708.321.408

Phone: (02) 9487 1044 Fax: (02) 9489 0069 Email: <u>secretary@stedmund.nsw.edu.au</u> Web: <u>www.stedmunds.nsw.edu.au</u>

2022 School Year

TERM 1					
	Monday	31 January	Staff Day (Combined both schools)		
	Tuesday	1 February	Staff Day		
	Wednesday	2 February	Students return		
	Friday	8 April	Last day of term		
	Friday	15 April	Good Friday		
	Monday	18 April	Easter Monday		
	<u> 10 week term</u> - Autumn Holidays				
TERM 2	Monday	25 April	ANZAC Day		
	Tuesday	26 April	Staff Day		
	Wednesday	27 April	Students return		
	Wednesday	5 May	Blessed Edmund Rice Day		
	Monday	13 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday		
	Tuesday	14 June	Staff Day		
	Saturday	18 June	EBNO		
	Friday	24 June	Last day of term		
	<u>9 week term</u> - Winter Holidays				
TERM 3	Monday	18 July	Staff & Students return		
	Friday	23 September	Last day of term		
	<u>10 week term</u> - Spring Holidays				
TERM 4					
	Tuesday	11 October	Students return		
	Friday	9 December	Last day of term for students		
	1	2 200011001			

9 week term - Summer Holidays

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY MASS OF INCLUSION 2021



For more information contact: **Stephanie at events@bbcatholic.org.au**











LORIKEETS HOLIDAY CAMP

FOR 5 - 18 YEAR OLDS

Come and make some friends and join in our great excursions with our experienced staff



9.00am - 4.00pm 5 January - 28 January 2022 11 April - 22 April 2022 4 July - 15 July 2022 26 September - 7 October 2022

Holiday program activities may include:

- Ferry rides
- Taronga Zoo
- Picnic/park days
- Reptile Park
- BBQ/park days

We can support on a 1:1 or 1:2 NDIS ratio (daily price exclusive of excursion costs and resources).

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES:

P: (02) 9488 2500 E: lynn.murphy@catholiccaredbb.org.au W: catholiccaredbb.org.au



Arranounbai School 5 Aquatic Drive FRENCHS FOREST

COVID-19 safety rules apply to all our community group programs and activities

Nominations by 30th of November

SAHARA SERVICES

WE CARE WITH PASSION SUPPORT | ACCOMMODATION | COMMUNITY | GROWTH



Week 1

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Lunch and Movies

14th December 2021

Cost: \$40



Swimming at Hornsby Pool 15th December 2021 Cost: \$20

Bowling at Castle Hill 16th December 2021

Cost: \$20



SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium 17th December 2021

Cost: \$40

COVID-19 safety rules apply to all our community group programs and activities

Nominations by 30th of November

Week 2

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

SAHARA SERVICES NDIS Registered Provider

WE CARE WITH PASSION SUPPORT | ACCOMMODATION | COMMUNITY | GROWTH



Christmas Dress-up, Craft and Party

21st December 2021

Cost: \$20





Putt Putt at Thornleigh 22nd December 2021 Cost: \$25

BBQ and Paddle Boats at Crosslands

23rd December 2021

Cost: \$40



Christmas Eve No Activity

Sahara Services wishes everyone a safe and happy time with your families over the holidays



COVID-19 safety rules apply to all our community group programs and activities

Nominations by 30th of November

Week 3

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM



WE CARE WITH PASSION SUPPORT | ACCOMMODATION | COMMUNITY | GROWTH



Auburn Botanical Gardens (Lunch Included)

28th December 2021

Cost: \$20



Lunch (Fish and Chips) at the Entrance

29th December 2021

Cost: \$25

Aqua golf & Harry de Wheels Pies at Penrith

30th December 2021

Cost: \$30





Picnic at Fegan Park & New Year Artwork at Hub

31st December 2021

Cost: \$15

COVID-19 safety rules apply to all our community group programs and activities

Nominations by 30th of November

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Week 4

SAHARA SERVICES

WE CARE WITH PASSION SUPPORT | ACCOMMODATION | COMMUNITY | GROWTH



Shine Shed North West In Vineyard NSW

4th January 2022

Cost: \$35



Sailability 5th January 2022 Cost: \$20

Laser Tag and Bowling at Macquarie Centre

6th January 2022

Cost: \$30





Taronga Zoo 7th January 2022 Cost: \$45



COVID-19 safety rules apply to all our community group programs and activities

Nominations by 30th of November



WE CARE WITH PASSION SUPPORT | ACCOMMODATION | COMMUNITY | GROWTH



Week 5

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Sculptures at Q-station & play at Manly Beach

11th January 2022

Cost: \$10



Middle Dural Putt Putt 12th January 2022 Cost: \$25

Ryde Aquatic Centre 13th January 2022 Cost: \$20



14th January 2022

Cost: \$25

COVID-19 safety rules apply to all our community group programs and activities

Nominations by 30th of November



WE CARE WITH PASSION



Week 6

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Madame Tussauds Sydney Live, Feel the Music!

18th January 2022

Cost: \$40



Sailability

Jadame Tussauds

SYDNEY

19th January 2022

Cost: \$20

Hornsby Pool Swim Time 20th January 2022

Cost: \$25



Time Zone and Sport Games at Crosslands

21st January 2022

Cost: \$40

COVID-19 safety rules apply to all our community group programs and activities

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Week 7

Nominations by 30th of November



WE CARE WITH PASSION SUPPORT | ACCOMMODATION | COMMUNITY | GROWTH



Aquatopia Water Park

25th January 2022

Cost: \$40





Public Holiday No services

26th January 2022

Outdoor Paint and BBQ In Fagan Park

27th January 2022

Cost: \$25





Maritime Museum Sydney 28th January 2022 Cost: \$20

COVID-19 safety rules apply to all our community group programs and activities

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM



SUPPORT | ACCOMMODATION | COMMUNITY | GROWTH

Nominations by 30th of November

Important Information

COVID-19 safety rules apply to all our community group programs and activities

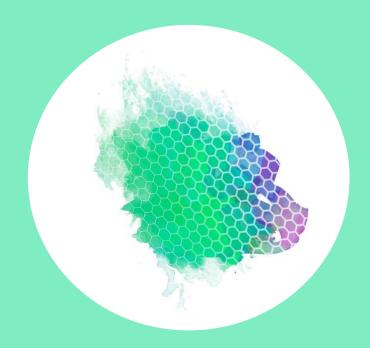
- Bring lunch, drinks and snacks on all activities unless otherwise stated. Always bring water.
- Groups will be divided into subgroups to maintain social distancing.
- Give at least 48 hours notice if you need to cancel attendance to any activity to avoid being billed for the day in accordance with NDIS guidelines.
- Bring hat and apply sunscreen for all groups, We will help to re-apply at midday on high UV days.
- Petrol/vehicle costs have been incorporated into the overall cost of activities.
- In case of wet weather, we have options to change to indoor activities (e.g Bowling).
- Will inform Families via SMS or email.
- Any future changes in activities due to Covid-19 regulations will be informed via email.

This Program only shows the cost of activity and does not include the associated NDIS cost of staffing support on the day. This additional cost will be determined by the level of support required by your participant, the numbers of participants in the group and the nature of the activity.

Once booked in if you are unable to attend any of the above activities, or if you have any queries, please contact: **v.kaur@saharaservices.com.au | 02 84060842**

We look forward to meeting with you soon.

Vinnie Kaur Sahara Services v.kaur@saharaservices.com.au



The Sociable Group Primary School Social Communication Groups

The Sociable Group

We are three paediatric speech pathologists who support social communication by helping to strengthen friendships and improve social connections. Our social communication programs rely on evidence-based research, clinical knowledge and input from autistic individuals. We run our programs all over Sydney and throughout NSW.

The Sociable Group's approach is simple:



Provide social communication programs that use evidencebased research, clinical experience and input from the autistic community.



Support specific communication styles to enhance social exchanges and reduce feelings of social isolation.



Showcase individual strengths, develop selfadvocacy skills while improving selfconfidence and selfworth.

about us



Alison Evernden – a certified practising Paediatric Speech Pathologist with over 20 years' experience working with children and adolescents aged 12 months to 18 years.

Alison has worked extensively, both in Australia and overseas, providing assessment, diagnosis, individual and group therapy for children with a diverse range of speech, language, literacy and social communication difficulties.

Alison is the Director of Sound Waves Speech Pathology in Sydney and is passionate about supporting children and adolescents reach their social communication goals in a fun and inclusive environment.



Renee Petherbridge - a certified practising Paediatric Speech Pathologist with over 15 years' experience working with children and adolescents in the disability community.

Renee has a passion for working with individuals with Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and Fragile X. She particularly loves working on Augmentative Communication and Social Communication, working towards her students interacting with their community in fulfilling ways.

Renee is the Director of Bridge The Gap Speech Pathology.



Fiona Wallis – has worked as a certified practising Speech Pathologist with children and teens, for over 20 years. She is the Director of Interact Speech Therapy. She has a solid understanding of a range of social communication programs.

She loves her job because of the lasting impact her support can have on a diverse range of people and families. She never sets limits on what an individual can achieve, regardless of their challenges or diagnoses.

She is passionate about helping kids to become successful communicators.

Building Bonds struction Based Grou

Building Bonds is our Construction, Play-Based Social Communication Groups. They are designed for children of all ages who have social challenges.

This setting provides a safe opportunity to practice a wide range of language, social and problem-solving skills. Using principles from LEGO Based Therapy, these groups offer a range of building materials to support our participant's wide interests while also supporting their varying motor abilities. Types of materials include LEGO, Duplo, magnetic blocks, wooden blocks and recycled materials.

WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN?

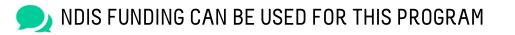
- Self-Advocacy skills
- Language skills
- How to give and receive instructions
- \circ Turn taking
- o Negotiating

- o Sharing
- Collaborative problem solving
- Self-reflection and giving constructive feedback to peers
- Confidence in social situations

WHERE AND WHEN WILL THE GROUP RUN?

We are currently taking enrolments for our Term 1-2 Groups which will be run in Lane Cove. Groups run for 14 weeks (excluding school holidays). Each session runs for 90mins with four concurrent parent sessions spaced throughout the program.

Building Bonds for Primary School – Saturdays, 8:30am – 10:00am



How to get started

• Visit our website to read more about The Sociable Group

- Contact The Sociable Group to express your interest, we will organise an intake interview and discuss the suitability of our programs for your child
- Places are limited as we are currently taking enrolments for our Term 1-2, 2022 groups, so call now to secure a place.

Contact Information

- **2** 0414 686 054
- thesociablegroupaus@gmail.com
- 🔯 thesociablegroupaus
- www.sociablegroup.com.au

We look forward to working with you, Alison, Fiona & Renee