



RATHMINES PUBLIC SCHOOL

RATHFINDER

Term 1, Week 11, 2025



Every Day Matters....



Rathmines overall
attendance for weeks
9 & 10
was 92%

From the Principal,

Dear Parents and Carers,

*I commend all our students for the maturity, respect and sense of reverence they displayed during the special **ANZAC Day Assembly** conducted on Monday morning in our school hall. It is always very pleasing to witness the ability of students at Rathmines Public to*

*rise to the occasion and make a positive contribution to significant school events through their standard of behaviour. This gathering of our school community was a very meaningful and thought-provoking celebration of thanks to those who have made sacrifices in order to preserve the freedoms we enjoy in Australia today. The enthusiastic and passionate singing by all students from Kinder to Year 6, the very mature manner in which our school leaders conducted the assembly, and the flower laying by student representatives from all classes, were highlights of a very moving ceremony. Special thanks must also be extended to **Helen Bristow** for her efforts in coordinating the assembly preparation, **James Fisher** for presenting the audio visuals, **Flight Lieutenant Isaac Dunne** for delivering the ANZAC address and **Isabella Smith** for playing the Last Post and Reveille.*

*All students are encouraged to build on this display of respect for the ANZAC heritage through participating in the **ANZAC Day Marches** at Wangi Wangi and Rathmines on **Friday 25th April**. Our school has an excellent tradition of involvement in these community celebrations. The march at Wangi Wangi will commence at 9:30am from Kent Place (behind the service station). Children who are marching at Wangi are asked to meet Mr Fisher and Mr Garbett at 9.15am. Mrs Bristow and I will meet the students at*

Vision Statement

Rathmines Public School's vision is to pursue and celebrate excellence in all areas and to ensure everyone has the opportunity to experience success within a supportive, safe, personalised and engaging learning environment which embraces the creative and productive use of technology and is free from all forms of discrimination.

Our vision is to educate students for life, to enable them to act with moral and ethical integrity, by fostering their sense of wellbeing and developing their personal values of honesty, resilience, empathy, respect and responsibility.

From the Principal cont'd

12:30pm next to the Rathmines Bowling Club, to assemble for the Rathmines march which will start at 12:45pm. Students are asked to wear their summer uniforms, including their school hats. I am mindful that the involvement of children in these events places extra demands on parents and I thank you in advance for your readiness to make this commitment.



From the Principal cont'd

Parent Teacher Interviews

I trust that the parent teacher interviews held on Monday and Tuesday of last week proved to be a valuable opportunity, not only for feedback from class teachers regarding the progress of students during this term, but also for discussions focused on individual goals for the 2025 academic year. I thank all class teachers for the time and effort they have contributed to this process. Educating the students in our school is a shared role between parents and teachers and there is no doubt that the positive educational outcomes for students are greatly enhanced when we work together to achieve that goal. While the interviews held last week are an important step in this process, I encourage all parents and carers not to hesitate to request additional meetings as the year progresses, if you have any concerns in relation to your child's education.

STAR STRUCK 2025

Our school has a long tradition of involvement in Star Struck and this year students from Yr 4, Yr 5 and Yr 6 have been given an opportunity to be selected in two Star Struck teams and to be involved in the 2025 production of **"REMIXED"**. This is an amazing opportunity to combine with many schools from the Central Coast and Hunter regions to perform an extravaganza of dance, drama and music at The Newcastle Entertainment Centre. We are indebted to **Miss Poole** and **Miss Crawford** for giving freely of their time to coordinate our school's involvement in Star Struck. I take this opportunity to also congratulate the following members of the school's two teams on being selected to perform the dance item "Living on a Prayer" during this year's Star Struck production:

Ivy Casey-Villis, Nevaeh Drew, Hunter Frappell, Avalin Hudsdon, Lacey Palmer, Sonny Sabic, Lexie Boyd, Poppy Bradley, Chelsea Brown, Indiana Claassen, Joy Galbraith, Mattea Garde, Leyah-Rose Gould-Goldsworthy, Matilda Hinchliffe, Chloe Peacock. India Quigley, Sienna Quigley, Sahara Sabic, Kaiden Sherry, Nisa Svay, Daisy Veitch, Indie Walker, Chevhie Wellard, Sophie Wilkinson, Zara Wright, Aida Conicella, Ellie Francis, Annabelle Greener, Makylah Richardson, Stacey Ring, Meaghan Stanley, and Monique Svay.

Indie, Stacey, Annabelle and Lacy are also to be congratulated on their selection in the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance Group**, which will perform during Star struck 2025. I wish all the girls the best for what I am sure will be a rewarding and enjoyable journey towards their Star struck performances in June.

Autism Awareness Day

The interaction between the students in our three special education support classes and students in the mainstream classes, is one of the most positive and important elements within our school culture. Each and every day the teachers and staff within the unit highlight the aspect of our school vision statement, which refers to **"pursuing and celebrating excellence in all areas and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to experience success within a supportive, safe and engaging learning environment."** The Special Education staff raise our students' awareness and understanding of the additional challenges and opportunities encountered by our special education students. They also play a leading role in the coordination of school wide celebrations, such as Autism Awareness Day. The following report by Mr Wild and the accompanying photos highlight the impact of the most recent celebration:

"The 2nd of April was World Autism Awareness Day and in true Rathmines PS style it was celebrated with enthusiasm and respect. School wide, students and teachers wore blue to show support for people with Autism. In class, students watched some videos and took part in lessons which focussed in on how our community can show acceptance towards people with Autism.

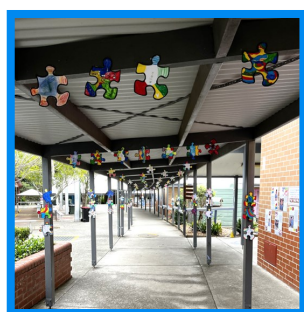
The whole school gathered for an assembly after lunch where the school entered to the music of Alex the Astronaut, a musician who has Autism and has been open about how she manages her flourishing musical career and living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

From the Principal cont'd



Four brave Gems were then interviewed on stage; William, Leo, Chelsea and Mikayleigh shared with everyone the parts of school they love, parts of school that they find challenging, how their community could help them and what they'd like to be when they grow up.

I asked if the audience agreed with the answers on stage, hands went up everywhere. We all have successes and challenges in our lives. With the support of a school community, our celebrations are louder and our challenges smoother. On behalf of the 12% of Rathmines PS students who have Autism, I would like to thank the Rathmines PS community for their support on this special day and their acceptance, every day".



Easter Hat Parade and Raffle

Many thanks to all families for the wonderful support given to the Easter Raffle which was organised by the school's P & C Association. The generous donation of Easter eggs and the purchase of raffle tickets resulted in **\$2,500** being raised for the purchase of teaching and learning resources. Thanks also to **Emma Gray, Nikki Greener** and the wonderful team of canteen volunteers who kindly assisted with preparing the special Easter lunches, not just for the students, but also for the many parents, carers and grandparents who came along to watch the hat parade. Students in all classes clearly enjoyed showing off their creations during the Parade. I would like to thank **Miss Crawford** and **Miss Poole** for coordinating today's celebrations and offer special thanks to the kindergarten children for bringing a lot of joy to the school community by singing "Eggbert the Easter Egg", and our Yr 6 leaders for sharing the Master of Ceremonies roles in such a humorous and entertaining manner.

2026 Kinder Enrolments

The enrolment process for the kinder class of 2026 commences at the start of next term. As in past years there will be an opportunity for children to participate in our kinder transition program which includes the "**Rathmines Rascals**" program which will run on Fridays over the last five weeks of Term 2, the "**Catalina Kids**" program which will take place each Friday morning during Term 3 and two **Kindergarten Orientation Days** and **Parent Information Evening** which are held during Term 4.

Parents who have a child starting school in 2026 are asked to contact the office at their earliest convenience. If you know of families who do not have children already enrolled at RPS, but are intending to enrol a child in kinder for next year, please advise them to contact the school office and complete an **Expression of Interest** form. Enrolment interviews for new families will be conducted early next term.

From the Principal cont'd

Sports News

Unfortunately, the running of our school cross country carnival was impacted by wet weather for the third year in a row and as a result we had to use the cross-country track at school again rather than the traditional course through beautiful Rathmines Park. As it turned out the sun was shining on the day of the carnival, and the children were able to give of their best as they represented their respective sports houses while vying for selection in our school cross country team. I congratulate all of the children on their efforts and especially commend the following students who went on to represent RPS at the Westlakes Zone carnival last Friday: Indy Garde, Anna Hopkins, Sylvia Koto, Oliver O'Shea, Poppy Tebbenhoff, Callan Francis, Casey Street, Tobias Alexander, Parks Doherty, Levi Fairweather, Ollie Holland, Zara Hopkins, Tauniva Keno, Poppy Bradley, Chelsea Brown, Indiana Claassen, Ngariki Keno, Ryan Larsen, Harry Poelaert, Sienna Quigley, Jaxon Sampson, Nisa Svay, Sophie Wilkinson, Zara Wright, Hamish Austin, Hayden Brown, Aida Conicella, Max Linnan, Ella Mills, Makylah Richardson, Monique Svay, Finnegan Taylor and Bosten Ward. **Mr Garbett**, our team manager, was super impressed with the manner in which our students handled the challenging course around Avondale College. At the end of the carnival, **Poppy Bradley, Sophie Wilkinson, Indiana Claassen and Ollie Holland** were named in the Westlakes PSSA Cross Country team to participate in the **Hunter Cross Country Carnival** on 23rd May. I congratulate all of our zone representatives and wish them the best for their participation in the next stage of the NSW PSSA cross country selection process.



Poppy Bradley



Indiana Claassen



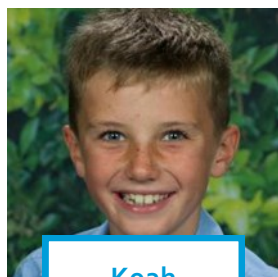
Sophie Wilkinson



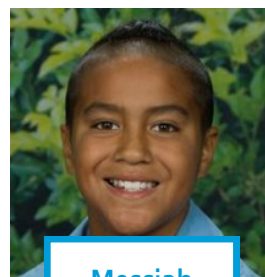
Ollie Holland

I congratulate the children in stage two and three who represented our school at the **Soccer Gala Day**, conducted by the Northern NSW Football Association at the Speers Point Complex on Wednesday. The teachers and support staff who accompanied our teams were full of praise for the manner in which the girls and boys conducted themselves on and off the field, and when I called in at the Gala Day it was great to observe how much the children were enjoying having the opportunity to play against teams from a range of schools in the Lake Macquarie and Newcastle areas.

I also take this opportunity to extend best wishes to **Koah Ward** who represented Hunter PSSA at the **NSW PSSA Swimming Championships** in Sydney yesterday, and to congratulate **Messiah Mata'utia** on his selection in the **Hunter PSSA Under 12's Rugby League** team which will represent our region at the **NSW PSSA Rugby League Championships** next term.



Koah



Messiah

From the Principal cont'd

Staffing Update

I am very pleased to be able to share the news that **Mrs. Clare Cawley** will be returning from leave and will teach Yr 1/2B every Friday from the start of term two. Mrs Bowron will continue to teach the class on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I am sure all members of our school community join with me in welcoming back Clare. **Mrs Gagg** has asked me to share the happy news that she is looking forward to the birth of her third child towards the end of this year. Brooke will be taking maternity leave from midway through term three.

Parents and carers will be aware that there was an unexpected change to our 2025 staffing structure at the end of the Christmas holidays. **Mrs Tanner** and **Mrs Thorley** accepted responsibility for teaching one of our stage one classes on a casual basis for term one to cover the vacancy arising from Miss Emily Burns taking up a teaching opportunity at a remote school in the Northern Territory. I take this opportunity to offer sincere thanks to Sally and Kristen for fulfilling this role at very short notice and for giving the year one children a positive and supportive start to their second year of schooling. All members of our casual teaching staff were recently advised that this teaching vacancy was now able to be filled on a temporary contract basis for the remainder of the 2025 school year. I can confirm that **Miss Malia Feeney** was the successful applicant for the position after the completion of an Expression of Interest internal selection process. Malia will take up her appointment at the start of term two. **Miss Anna Mitchell** joined our staff this term in a joint intervention and RFF role while Mrs Susan Burns was on leave. Susan has made the decision to extend her leave and Anna has kindly accepted a temporary contract to continue in this role.

Easter Vacation

School will close for the autumn vacation tomorrow and will reopen on **Wednesday 30th April**. Best wishes to students, their families and members of staff for a relaxing and enjoyable break.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Walker

Principal



Student Voice Fundraiser

Our 'Out of Uniform' fundraiser day held recently, raised an amazing **\$413** for GIVIT.org.au, and cyclone Alfred affected areas. A big **Thank You!** to our school community and the Student Voice Team for organising it.



Newcastle Museum Excursion with the Gems

Last Thursday, The Gems went on an excursion to Newcastle to visit the Museum and have a sausage sizzle and a play on the beautiful Honeysuckle Foreshore.

Mr. Walker was our chaperone for the day, and he was faithfully co-piloted by Logan Byrne, who provided support and direction when our captain needed it. It was in the Newcastle Museum demonstration of the BHP steel mill that we learned a young Mr. Walker was very keen on a job moving the big cauldrons of molten steel around, only to be told he wasn't suitable, something which the group was able to help him come to terms with.



The best part of our Newcastle Museum excursion was the "Supernova Hands-on Science" exhibition. Students lifted up cars and created electricity with their bare hands. They tested engineering theories, optical illusions and created amazing artworks with intriguing machines. They represented their school and families admirably in a public space where there was a high expectation of their behaviour, which they exceeded.

After a sausage sandwich (or two) and a play on the pirate ship at Honeysuckle Park it was time to board the bus and head for home. It was a quiet bus ride home in the afternoon as we all downloaded the information of the day. Upon reflection, all of the teaching staff were unanimous in their appreciation of the behaviour of the students. At times there was waiting around, speaking softly, sharing spaces with the public, all of which the

students did with the utmost integrity.

We are all looking forward to our next excursion early next term to watch *The Princess and the Pea* and *the Brave Escapee* at the Wyong Art House.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 11th April

- 10.30am Easter Parade Picnic
- 11.30am Easter Hat Parade
- Last Day of Term 1



Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th April

- Staff Development Days (Non Student Days)

Wednesday 30th April

- First Day of Term 2 for Students

Thursday 1st May

- No Infants Assembly

Thursday 8th May

- Harmony Day (Out of Uniform)
- 2.25pm Infants Assembly

UNWELL STUDENTS

If your child shows any signs of being unwell please keep them home. If they have any of the following symptoms they must also have a COVID test—

- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Temperature above 37.4
- Diarrhoea/Nausea/Vomiting
- Conjunctivitis



If they have a negative result and their symptoms have resolved, they are free to return to school.

If they test **Positive** they must **stay home** until symptoms have gone.

If your child has **diarrhoea or vomiting**, they must **wait 24 hours** after the last episode before returning to school, **provided they have received a negative Covid test result.**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO ADVISE THE SCHOOL VIA THE APP OF YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE.

Head Lice

Please check your children's hair regularly and treat immediately if you suspect an unwelcome visitor.

ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS

If your child is absent from school, you can notify the school three ways -

- Use the Sentral for Parents app to lodge an absence
- Respond to the SMS that is sent by the school on the day, and give a reason for the absence
- Write a note to the class teacher giving the absence date and reason.

All absence notifications must be in writing, therefore please **DO NOT RING THE SCHOOL** as verbal notifications cannot be accepted.

ROAD SAFETY AROUND OUR SCHOOL

Please keep our children safe and do not drop them off directly outside the school gates before 9.30am.
Please use the kiss and ride area just past the front gate or walk them in. Thank you for your assistance.



Park safe, stay safe
Parking rules around schools





YOU CAN PARK HERE FOR TWO MINUTES
You can drop off or pick up passengers here, but you must stay in or within three metres of your vehicle
Mobility Parking Permit holders are allowed to park for up to five minutes



YOU CANNOT STOP HERE
You cannot drop off or pick up passengers here



YOU CANNOT STOP HERE UNLESS DRIVING A BUS
You cannot drop off or pick up passengers here



Community News



Share Our Space is holding a **FREE** activity in your local area during the upcoming school holidays.

Participation: Maximum 30 students per session, for children aged 8 to 12 of all skills and abilities.

Event details and registration link: [AusBike School Holiday Programs Happening Near You | AusBike](#)

What Students Will Learn:

- **Helmet Checks:** Understanding the importance of proper helmet fit and safety.
- **Bike Equipment Safety Checks:** Ensuring bikes are in good working condition before every ride.
- **Core4Skills™ Fundamental Bike Riding Skills:** Developing balance, control, and coordination through evidence-based methods and activities.
- **Bike Safety Tips, Tricks & Skills:** Practical techniques to navigate various bike riding environments through gamified learning activities.

Road Safety Awareness: Introducing the basics of road safety to keep young riders aware and prepared.

GEAR UP FOR LIFE ON TWO WHEELS

Start their cycling journey with AusBike. Whether they're just off training wheels or more confident riders, AusBike is designed to improve kids' skills and confidence in a fun and active way.

AusBike School Holiday Program
Teralba Public School
Date: 16 April 2025
Time: 10am - 11:30am (Beginner) & 12pm - 1:30pm (Advanced)

Let's get pedalling
ausbike.au

NSW AusBike AusCycling Australian Government

GEAR UP FOR LIFE ON TWO WHEELS

Start their cycling journey with AusBike. Whether they're just off training wheels or more confident riders, AusBike is designed to improve kids' skills and confidence in a fun and active way.

AusBike School Holiday Program
Swansea Public School
Date: 12 April 2025
Time: 10am - 11:30am (Beginner) & 12pm - 1:30pm (Advanced)

Let's get pedalling
ausbike.au

NSW AusBike AusCycling Australian Government

Community News



Hunter Wetlands Centre SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

Nocturnal Wildlife Walk

Everyday of School Holidays

Follow our interactive Nocturnal Wildlife Walk around the Wetlands and learn how to find and identify nocturnal animals in your backyard! **Cost: FREE with Entry**

After Dark Guided Tour

April 11 & 24 at 6.00pm

When the sun goes down the wetlands animals come out! Join our EXPERT GUIDE on this very special after-dark tour of the wetlands spotting all our nighttime wildlife!

Cost: \$5 kids \$10 adults

Get Tickets Online : wetlands.org.au/upcoming-events

Reptile Encounters

EVERY Wed, Sat & Sun at 11am

We've added EXTRA Reptile Encounters shows in the school holidays! Meet and learn about our reptile residents! **Cost: \$5pp plus Entry**

Easter Fun Day

Sat 19 April 9.30am-1.00pm

Our BIGGEST Family Fun Day of the year is back with Jumping Castle, Face Painting, Games, Craft, Kids activities and of course the EASTER BUNNY! Get your tickets online & SAVE!

1 Wetlands Pl
Shortland
wetlands.org.au/upcoming-events



WIN

Visit Hunter Wetlands & Hunter Botanic Gardens for your chance to WIN! Pick Up Your Special Passport!

Disclaimer: Rathmines Public School does not necessarily endorse the services or products which may be included in or attached to this newsletter and is in no way responsible for any issues arising from use of the services or products offered. No responsibility is accepted for errors or omissions.



Community Pantry Service

\$10 Grocery Hampers

\$5 Snack Hampers

FREE Open Pantry*



Typical hamper contents**

3/6 The Boulevard, Toronto
(Behind LJ Hooker)

Open from 10am to 3pm on
Thursday and Friday

Find out more at nourished.org.au/services/the-pantry

"Empowering communities through food and education"

1800 37 11 66
info@nourished.org.au
www.nourished.org.au
nourishedaustralia
@nourished_aus



* Open Pantry limits apply
** Hampers may include fresh fruit and veg. Hamper contents will vary.

LAKE MAC FAMILY Life MAGAZINE
AUTUMN 2023
FREE MAGAZINE
14th EDITION
lakemacfamilylife.com.au

MEGA CREATURES | HARVEST FESTIVAL | ANIMALS | LIVE SHOWS

School Holidays
REGIONAL EVENTS
INSPIRATION
Family fun
TAKE A WALK on the wild side

ALMOST \$2000 IN GIVEAWAYS
14 prizes up for grabs!

EVENT CALENDAR WITH 60+ EVENTS THIS SEASON

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS & TERM 2 GUIDE
Workshops, Classes, Fitness & Fun.

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YOUR AUTUMN ADVENTURE GUIDE

Community News

Supporting Families: Accessing Additional Support

The following information discusses abuse, neglect, and family violence. If these topics are distressing for you, please take care while reading.

Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) provides extra help with the cost of approved childcare. ACCS is available for children who are considered to be at risk of serious abuse or neglect or have already been assessed as being at risk under state or territory law. This can be a result of being subject to, or exposed to, one or more of the following:

- serious physical, emotional or psychological abuse
- sexual abuse
- domestic or family violence
- neglect

ACCS is also available for children who are considered to be at risk due to their living arrangements. A child is also considered to be at risk if they are:

- in formal foster care
- in a formal kinship agreement
- on a long-term protection order

Active OOSH is dedicated to providing assistance to ensure that every child has a safe and nurturing environment. If you need support or would like to learn more about ACCS, please don't hesitate to reach out to us confidentially.

Together, we can create a strong, caring community where every child and family feels safe, supported, and valued. ❤️

For more information, please contact support@activeooshnsw.com



Lifeline - 13 11 14 | Kids Helpline - 1800 55 1800 | 1800RESPECT - 1800 732 732

ACTIVE OOSH Rathmines

APRIL VACATION CARE 0438 224 914



Hours
6:30am - 6:00pm

Fees
All inclusive fee of \$78 per day. This will change based on your individual CCS entitlement, see examples below.

CCS %	YOU PAY
100%	\$0
75%	\$19.50
50%	\$39.00
25%	\$58.50

Additional Activities

Cooking
STEM
Science
Sensory Play
Messy Play
Arts & Craft
Construction
Group Games
Performing Arts

Cancelling bookings

Active OOSH offers a generous 24hr cancellation policy on all bookings.

Hats

If a child attends without a hat, an Active OOSH Hat will be provided and \$10 charged to the family's account.

BOOKING FORM!



MON 14TH

Oakvale Wildlife
EXCURSION

The Big Playoff



Sunsafe swim wear and a towel

TUES 15TH

Flip Out
EXCURSION

Eco Explorers



Flip Out Grip socks



External waiver

WED 16TH

Mega Creatures
EXCURSION

The Trend Lab



Fully enclosed shoes

THUR 17TH

Springloaded
EXCURSION

The Adventure Track



Socks



BYO Bike or Scooter

FRI 18TH

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

MON 21ST

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

TUES 22ND

Ninja Parc
EXCURSION

The Maker's Studio



Fully enclosed shoes



External waiver

WED 23RD

Laser Tag
EXCURSION

The Athlete's Quest



External waiver

THUR 24TH

Movies: "Dog Man"
EXCURSION

The Great Showdown



Popcorn and a drink will be provided!

FRI 25TH

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

MON 28TH

iPlay
EXCURSION

Survivor Kids Camp



Fully enclosed shoes

TUES 29TH

Dullboy's
EXCURSION

Wonder Lab



Socks

VACATION CARE REMINDERS

WHAT TO PACK

- ☐ Recess, lunch and snacks (please be allergy aware)
- ☐ Reusable drink bottle
- ☐ Spare clothes and underwear
- ☐ Weather appropriate accessories e.g. jumper, raincoat
- ☐ Any items specific to the day's program e.g. socks

WHAT TO WEAR

- ☐ Clothes suitable for active movement and messy play
- ☐ Sun-Safe clothing (shoulders and midriff covered)
- ☐ Sun-safe hat
- ☐ Enclosed shoes

WHAT WE PROVIDE

- ☐ Breakfast and afternoon tea
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Safe transportation

TAGS

Please remember to label all belongings brought to the service. This includes clothes your child is wearing!

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

All valuables should be left at home. Active OOSH does not take any responsibility for loss or damage to personal items.

HOW TO BOOK

1. If your child/children are not already enrolled at our service, please complete an enrolment form at least 3 business days before you intend for them to start. Enrolment forms are available on our website.
2. Complete our Vacation Care Booking Request and Authorisation Form.
3. Check your XPLOR Home App for booking confirmation.

www.activeooshnsw.com

admin@activeooshnsw.com