Our Place Quarterly Wrap

October 2025











Department of Education



Families, Fairness and Housing



Families connecting with Badminton Geelong Inc at the Sport and Active Recreation Expo.

Welcome to the Our Place Northern Bay Quarterly Wrap of Term 3, 2025

Term 3 Highlights and What's Ahead in Term 4.

Term 3 was another busy and exciting term, filled with a wide range of programs and activities for our community.

Some of the recent highlights included:

- A Sports Expo run by Leisure Networks in collaboration with NBC student leaders.
- A Toilet Training Session, facilitated by the City of Greater Geelong Child and Family Support Officer
- The Our Place Parent/Carer Survey, with 46 parents and carers sharing their thoughts and feedback.
- A special Father's Day Coffee Van, supported by Meli Early Help, giving dads and male carers the chance to enjoy a cuppa while sharing ideas about activities they'd like to see onsite.
- The commencement of Community Voice Sessions, led by Foundation House, creating a space for refugee and asylum seeker parents to share experiences and provide feedback around early years and school.

Onsite Services at Our Place in Term 4 include:

- Barwon Community Legal every second Tuesday
- Parent Pathways 28th October and 25th November,
- NDIS Drop In 9th October, 6th November and 4th December

Looking ahead, we're excited to be hosting renowned Early Years expert Ted Melhuish in November – you can read more in this issue.

To stay updated on site progress, programs, activities and events at Northern Bay, we encourage you to follow our Facebook page (@OurPlaceNorthernBay) or visit ourplace.org.au/our-sites/northern-bay.

Feel free to drop by and say hello to Bec, Tanya and Karen at the Korayn Birralee Family Centre or contact Bec directly at rebecca@ourplace.org.au

Our Place Northern Bay team



Rebecca HickeyPartnership Manager



Karen Butterworth Community Facilitator



Tanya KaneCommunity Facilitator

INFORMATION SESSION:

HOME LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2025

Strengthening learning starts at home

Discover the latest evidence-based insights and practical tools to better support children and families. Learn how the home learning environment shapes development to make the biggest difference in your work.

Topics covered in this session include:

- How the home learning environment shapes continuity of learning
- Strategies for engaging parents in building positive home learning habits
- The role of self-regulation in learning and wellbeing.
- Supporting oral language development in multilingual communities.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR TED MELHUISH

Professor of Human Development University of Oxford Birkbeck, University of London

Professor Edward Melhuish is an international expert in early childhood education and development. His research has shaped social policy for children and families in the UK and globally. With studies across 12 countries, he has shown how home, school and community environments affect learning. As a trusted advisor to governments and global organisations, his work continues to guide best practice in children's development.

WHEN

Thursday 6th November 2025 12:30pm – 1pm: Networking Lunch 1:00pm – 2:30pm Information Session

WHERE

Korayn Biralee Family Centre 146 Purnell Road, Corio

RSVP to secure your attendance

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with colleagues and explore how together we can give children the best start in life.

Contact: Karen Butterworth
0422202633 or northernbay@ourplace.org.au

ourplace
education is the key to the door

Please advise of any dietary requirements when registering.



A visit from Minister for Children and Disability - Lizzie Blandthorne

Minister for Children and Disability - Lizzie Blanthorne chatting with a playgroup family.



The team at Korayn Birralee Child and Family Centre were thrilled when it was announced that Lizzie Blandthorne, The Minister for Children and Disability had planned a visit to the centre to attend the Meli Supported Playgroup. She had asked to come to "to see for herself, the impact that the Early Help program was having on the local community." And what we delivered.

It was business as usual, the parents/carers and the children were busy playing when she arrived and came into the room to be amongst the families and children in action. The children played happily around her and were very relaxed with the new visitors standing in their play space. I reassured her that they will be comfortable, they all know it is "their space – where they belong".

I was delighted to be able to speak with her one on one to describe how the families have regular access to a safe, secure space to play, to connect and learn. I was able to speak to her about the vital connections that have been made within the playgroup and the additional support that has been offered and delivered to families in need.

She was particularly interested in learning that the playgroup participants were not only supported with learning to play and connect with their children but also connecting to vital services beyond the playgroup sessions. These include Maternal and Child Health, kindergarten, childcare, school, health and family services and local social support agencies. She learnt that playgroup is a safe place for families to enquire about services and ask for help if they needed it.

Lizzie shared that these were the stories she loves to hear for her to go back to her colleagues in parliament to be able to confidently advocate for these amazing services to be funded and secured for communities in need.

Article by - Meli Family Services Early Help Worker Marlies and Cultura Bilingual support Corina



Sport and Active Recreation Expo 2025

Regal Drill Dance and Corio Little Athletics participating in the Expo



Getting a community active starts with making sport accessible, fun, and welcoming — and that's exactly what the Sport & Active Recreation Expo at Northern Bay College achieved in Term 3 with over 80 young people and their families attending.

In line with the @Vichealth 2023-2033 strategy the event brought together local clubs, families, and young people to explore new activities, build confidence, and connect with their local sporting community. It was a celebration of inclusion and community-led design.

Co-designed with Year 7–8 students from Northern Bay College, the event reflected the voices of young people and their families. Promotional materials were translated into Arabic, Farsi and Karen— a small but powerful step toward ensuring everyone felt welcomed.

With support from Our Place and VicHealth, the expo created a space where families could try something new, discover local clubs, and feel part of a vibrant, active neighbourhood.

Nat - Leisure Networks



Our Place would like to thank and acknowledge the eight clubs who generously volunteered their time to showcasing activities and connecting with families:

- Badminton Geelong Inc.
- Corio Little Athletics Centre
- Northern Stars Junior Football Club
- Lara Swimming Club
- North Geelong Cricket Club
- Regal Dance Drill Geelong
- The Y Geelong
- City of Greater Geelong Northern ARC



Parent/Carer Art Workshop

Parents & Carers participating in Art Workshop

In Term 3, Our Place Northern Bay undertook our annual Parent/Carer survey. This is an opportunity to gain valuable feedback and insight from families about their experience with transitions across the site, connections to community, engagement with services and parent confidence.

Forty-Five surveys were completed which provided valuable feedback to inform site planning.

Our Place wanted to feedback the results to families in a meaningful way as well as acknowledge and thank them for their participation. Our Place engaged Firefly Wellbeing to design and facilitate an interactive Art Workshop to deliver the results of the survey.

Charlotte from Firefly Wellbeing offered her reflections of the session.

'Firefly Wellbeing' was delighted to deliver a mindful art workshop with parents and carers from the Our Place Northern Bay site, responding to key findings from the recent Parents & Carers Survey. The session explored two central themes: 'What supporting your child's learning and development looks and feels like, and what makes it challenging'

As parents and carers, ourselves, we understand that sharing these experiences—especially the difficult ones—can be confronting. Creative processes like art and design offer a gentle, inclusive way to surface these stories, making space for reflection, conversation, and emotional insight.

Over 90 minutes, participants engaged in collaborative design activities, visual storytelling, and guided reflection.



Through words, images, and shared dialogue, they expressed the joys, pressures, and complexities of caregiving. The session created a safe and supportive environment where participants could explore their lived experiences and connect with others in similar roles.

The final product—a collated accordion book—captures these insights and will be utilised to further plan for the site, informing future engagement and support strategies. It offers a textured, human portrait of what support means, where it's found, and what barriers persist.'

Thank you to the Northern Bay community for welcoming us so warmly and for sharing your stories with such honesty and care. It was a privilege to be part of this valuable experience.



Thread Together Mobile Wardrobe

Families accessing the Thread Together Van

Our Place partnered with the Thread Together Mobile Wardrobe in Term 3 to provide a valuable service to Playgroup families on site. Thread Together delivers essential clothing directly to communities in need, giving individuals the dignity and choice of selecting items that reflect their own personal style.

What we didn't expect was just how many families would join us on the day! Between 9:30am and 11:00am, Georgie and Sasha from Thread Together assisted more than 100 parents and children in choosing clothing and accessories from the van. Georgie shared afterwards, "It was our biggest activation to date, so first prize goes to your beautiful community."

Families appreciated the warm, patient guidance offered by the Thread Together team, who made the experience personal and meaningful.

Our Place will work with Thread Together again in 2026 to bring the mobile wardrobe back to Korayn Birralee Family Centre.



What's on in Term 4, 2025

Programs and services operating from Korayn Birralee Family Centre.

To keep up to date with programs and events go to: www.ourplace.org.au/events/#northern-bay www.facebook.com/OurPlaceNorthernBay

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
High-quality Early Learning and Schooling	Long Day Care, Kindergarten and School All day, on-site				
		Toy Library 9.00am - 10:30am		Toy Library 9.00am - 10:30am	
		Parent Pathways 9.00am - 10.00am Foyer (28 Oct & 25 Nov)		Storytime 9:10am - 9:30am Community Lounge	Toy Library 10:15am - 11:45am
		Meli Playgroup - Dari Bicultural Support 9:30am - 11:30am Multipurpose Room		Meli Playgroup - Karen Bicultural Support 9:30am - 11:30am Multipurpose Room	Meli Babies Playgroup 9:30am - 11:30am Multipurpose Room
Adult Engagement and Learning	Chat with Corina & Mana - Group and Individual Karen Support 9.00am - 12.00pm Community Lounge	Barwon Community Legal Service Consulting Room 1	My Time Parent and Carers Group 9.00am - 11.00am Community Lounge (15 Oct -10 Dec)		Coffee and Chat 9:00am - 9:30am Community Lounge (Fortnightly)
		Give it a Go - Social Connection 9:00am - 10:00am Multipurpose Room			Carers Connect 9:15am - 10:15am Community Lounge (Fortnightly)
Wrap-around Health and Wellbeing	Early Help Family Support Consulting Rooms				
	Maternal and Child Health				
	8:30am - 4:30pm Consulting Rooms				
			Barwon Health Immunisation Clinic 9:30am - 11:30am Multipurpose Room	Meli NDIS Drop - In Support 9:00am - 10:30am Foyer (9 Oct, 6 Nov, 4 Dec)	











