



Christmas is fast approaching and 2021 is just around the corner. As we head into the Christmas period, it's a time for reflection and most importantly time to look to the future. I'm sure everyone is ready to see the end of 2020 for many reasons and especially those that have been affected by COVID-19. With 2021 in sight, we are all still uncertain of what the year ahead will hold. It is important to continue to look after yourselves and your loved ones. I hope that this festive season allows you to connect or re-connect to those important to you. With a year like this one, we have all learnt the value of the importance of keeping in touch and telling people how we feel about them, so please remember that this is even more important this Christmas.

I am extremely proud of our locally owned family business this year. We have been able to continue to engage and support our families as we all endured the past year together as a community. To our valued families, we sincerely thank you for your continued support of our service and we look forward to moving ahead together and continuing sharing those precious learning moments our children offer us together.

The past week for our team has been one of the toughest as we are a very close knit team and the love and support they have showed my family with the passing of my dear father Jim, who was a large part of my business when our family initially purchased this building 24 years ago. I am very grateful for their care and support to allow my family time to grieve over these last few days while holding the fort.

Sadly Melissa & Michelle also had a sad farewell in their family today so once again my amazing team came together and a huge thank you to the families who have offered their condolences and support to us all at this devastating time.

Our annual Christmas celebration at the park was a short evening this year due to the charming weather but thank you to those who attended; it was lovely to see so many families having a relaxing evening at the park.

**Just a reminder we will be closed on the following public holidays..**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Dec, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

To those families who are leaving us this year we wish you well and look forward to seeing the next stage of your child's journey as they commence the next stage of learning "Kindergarten." Thank you all again for sharing your children with us and we all look forward to 2021.

Kind Regards, Mel Reid,  
Glen Dhu Children's Services Owner/Manager



## STRAWBERRY SWIRL ICY 'NORTH' POLES



PREP 15 min | FREEZE 4 hrs. | SERVES 10

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 punnet fresh strawberries
- 2 teaspoons maple syrup
- 2 cups vanilla or Greek yoghurt
- 10 x 80ml icy pole moulds

## METHOD:

1. Place the strawberries in a blender or food processor with the maple syrup and process until smooth.
2. Spoon a small amount of the strawberry puree into the moulds, follow with a small amount of the yoghurt. Continue to layer the strawberry puree and the yoghurt until you have almost filled each of the moulds. -
3. Place a skewer into the mould and gently mix to create the swirls, alternatively you can leave as layers. -
4. Place the sticks, using food grade paddle pop sticks if your moulds don't contain sticks, gently into the centre of each of the icy poles then place into the freezer for 4 hours, or until completely frozen. -

The second half of 2020 has produced some special books written by some of Australia's best authors, here are a few we like!



## THE BUSHFIRE BOOK

Polly Marsden, Chris Nixon | [Start a conversation](#)

*An accessible and reassuring picture book that teaches children what they need to know about bushfires so they can understand what's happening and be smart and prepared, not scared. This book will help you understand what causes bushfires, introduce you to all the clever people who are keeping an eye on them, and teach you how to be prepared and not scared.*

## SING ME THE SUMMER

Jane Godwin, Alison Lester | [AGE 3-7](#)

*The seasons have also always been a comforting, reassuring aspect of life. When so much is changing and uncertain, the return of each season - the buds in springtime, the wattle at the end of winter, the different sporting codes starting up again, the changing colour of the beautiful autumn leaves, even the position of the sun at dawn at dusk - reassures us all that there are some things in life that we can rely on, that are steady and predictable.*



## Hide and Sweat!

The adults in the family write down 20 physical activities on separate small pieces of paper. These are then put in coloured envelopes or small containers and hid around the house. Kids are then tasked to find the hidden items. When found, they are opened, and the entire family performs the activity for the reps or amount of time given.

Putting a time limit on finding all of the items and doing all of the exercises makes it more interesting!

Reminder that 2021  
Enrolment Forms  
need to be returned  
by January 4th



## FOCUS: Summer Staycation



*Have your usual summer holiday plans changed? Wondering what to do over the break? Perhaps 2020 is the year of the Staycation?*

**Did you know:** Most people who decide to staycation are happy they did. Think about it this way: When is everyone home without somewhere obligatory to rush off to? Almost never! Staycations let families enjoy time off without packing suitcases. They usually involve day trips to local places, attending events, or even just doing some fun and creative activities right at home. This summer, make an effort to try some new things together as a family. Pretend to be a tourist in your home state. Or even just unplug and enjoy one another's company for a couple of days.

✦ **Have a beach day** - Families fortunate enough to live near an ocean or lake can make the most out of it and have a few beach days! If not, there are also local pools. So, grab some snacks, water and make a day out of it.

✦ **Go on a Bike Ride** - Take the whole family on a bike ride, either through the neighbourhood or a park or on a trail. Bike riding is not only good exercise, but it's also a fun activity to do together.

✦ **Hold a Movie Night** - Make some popcorn and pick out a good family movie. Movie nights are perfect for a relaxing night in the house and cuddling up on the couch is comfier than sitting in the theatre.

✦ **Put On a 'Live Show'** The kids will absolutely adore this challenge. Have each family member work on a talent and host a family talent show. Parents can surprise kids with their secret abilities (anyone know that mom could peel a whole apple in one long curl?) and encourage the kids to try something new, like a magic trick!

✦ **Take a Hike** - A fun way to get outdoors during a staycation is to go for a hike. Look up a trail close to home, put on some sneakers or hiking boots (and bug spray!), and explore the woods together!

✦ **Camp in the Backyard** - Camping doesn't have to be done far from home. In fact, it can be done *at* home! Pitch a tent in the backyard and sleep under the stars. The kids will *love* it.

✦ **Visit a Local Landmark** - Sometimes cool landmarks and sights are right in our own city, but we don't take the time to go see them. After all, we're locals! A fun family activity can be exploring a nearby historical building, learning about a cool bridge, or checking out a nearby monument. There's nothing wrong with being tourists in our own towns.

✦ **Have a Sports Tournament** - If the family is into basketball, football, soccer, or pretty much any sport, then get outside and have a tournament! Boys vs. girls? Parents vs. kids?

✦ **Go Fruit Picking** - If there is a local farm or orchard to go fruit picking nearby — berries in the summer, depending on the region — then get out there and collect some fresh fruit. It can also be fun to try new recipes (pies! cobblers!) as a family with the fruits that get collected.

✦ **Have a Home Spa Day** - Looking for some relaxation at home during a staycation? Make it a spa day! Do some face masks complete with sliced cucumbers for the eyes, give each other mani-pedis, and just lounge around.

✦ **Have a Scavenger Hunt** - Make the kids a scavenger hunt that takes them searching for items around the house, yard, and/or neighbourhood! They'll have a blast following clues and searching for things, and it's bound to keep them busy for a while.

✦ **Attend a Local Festival** - During the summer, many areas have different cultural festivals, food festivals, and state fairs that take place. Make it a family affair and go taste, play, and ride together! As long as it is outdoors, it should be a safe and good time for all.

Boyd, Kayla. (2020). *40 Fun Staycation Ideas for Families*. Retrieved from <https://cafemom.com/lifestyle/212164-staycation-ideas-for-families-kids>



### WASTE FREE GIFT-WRAPPING TIPS

Most wrapping paper isn't recyclable and during the festive season, Australians use 150,000km of it... here's how you can keep it waste-free under your tree.

Let's start with how you secure your wrapping because sticky tape isn't reusable. Try ribbon, twine or a peg.

To the right are a few options you can easily try at home. Firstly, wrapping in newspaper and twine is surprisingly sophisticated. Fabric wraps and tea-towels create beautiful reusable wrapping. Why not simply use some of the totes/reusable bags you almost certainly have lying around at home. And finally, one of my favourites, bits and pieces you have at home or better yet children's artwork they're happy to part with or give to family and friends.





## 2021 Our Education Team

We are very excited to share with families our teams for 2021, some big changes for our teams and we are looking forward to commencing the year. We were sad that Mel Hall wasn't returning to her position as an Early Childhood Teacher and have placed an add this week to seek an additional ECT to join our team and support Summer as we believe this element complements our existing team and will offer all children extended opportunities for learning.

### Management Team



### Cubs



### Marines



### Explorers



*On behalf of the entire team at Glen Dhu, we would like to wish you and your families a safe and joyous Christmas and a prosperous and healthy 2021. Our special thoughts go out to those who are still unable to be with their loved ones through this festive season. We know the resilience and compassion you have will drive you to connect through other means with those still far away*