MPS Matters Newsletter

TERM 1 WEEK 6 2026

Marrickville PS
Cadigal Country
116 Chapel Street
Marrickville 2204
02 9560 2208

marrickvil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
marrickvil-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
facebook.com/marrickvillepublicschool

We acknowledge the Cadigal People of the Eora Nation, who are the traditional custodians of the land on which our school is built.

Term 1 Upcoming Events

Week 6	
Thursday 5 March	Social Media Parent Workshop 5.30pm @ Dulwich Hill PS
Friday 6 March	School Tour for new families - meet 9.30am at the office
Week 7	
Monday 9 March	GATEWAYS Science Enrichment Program - Years 1-3
Tuesday 10 March	School Cross Country Carnival 12.00 - 1.55pm
Wednesday 11 March	NAPLAN Writing Assessment (Years 3 & 5)
Thursday 12 March	NAPLAN Reading Assessment (Years 3 & 5)
Thursday 12 March	K-6 Assembly in the hall 2.45pm - hosted by Student Leaders
Week 8	
Monday 16 March	GATEWAYS Science Enrichment Program - Years 4-6
Monday 16 March	NAPLAN Conventions of Language Assessment (Years 3 & 5)
Tuesday 17 March	NAPLAN Numeracy Assessment (Years 3 & 5)
Wednesday 18 March	Pulse Alive First Nations Dance - Sydney Olympic Park
Thursday 19 & Friday 20 March	NAPLAN Catch-up Assessments

From the Principal

This week our Stage 3 students embarked on an adventure to the Great Aussie Bush Camp. This involved 3 days filled with team-building activities that pushed their comfort zones and fostered invaluable connections. The experience was a catalyst for personal growth, as they emerged more confident and resilient. I'd especially like to thank Mr Crawley, Mr Harding, Ms Mann and Ms Hyman for volunteering their time and leaving their families to allow excursions such as this to take place. Teachers do not get paid overtime for attending camps and they are extremely tiring experiences.

CHECKED
ON BELAY
CLIMBING
OKAY

PUMA

In staffing news Mr Papas will not be returning to school this year. I appreciate the impact this has on our Stage 2 team and the fabulous students in 3/4P. We are actively recruiting a suitable teacher for 3/4P and hope to be in a position to provide you with further information soon. We are fortunate that Ms Bassam will be the Relieving Assistant Principal for the remainder of 2026.

This week we have been notified that demolition work on 37-47 Farr St will commence on Monday 9 March. Work will take place Monday- Friday from 7.00am -6.00pm and on Saturdays from 8.00am - 3.00pm.

The Sydney University Reading Program began at MPS yesterday with 33 students working with individual tutors to focus on developing reading skills. The program runs three days per week over a five week period. Special thanks to Ms Hyman for coordinating this program.

Staff Car Park

The Department of Education recommends that Principals do not permit access to school car parks for parents and carers to drop off and/or collect children as they are deemed as being dangerous and unsafe areas. While I appreciate this may be an inconvenience to many families I am obligated to minimise risk at our school. Therefore I am asking you to support us by entering the school via the Thompson St or Chapel St gates when bringing your children to school or collecting them in the afternoon.

Week 7 K-6 Assembly

Next week on Thursday we will be holding our K-6 assembly. The assembly will begin in the hall from 2:45pm. The 2026 student leaders will be hosting the assembly and we welcome all parents and carers to attend. During this assembly class awards will be presented to the following students:

Class	Student First Name and Initial		Teacher Comment
KB	Lyra C	for	always displaying positive and kind behaviour to peers and teachers.
KB	Julian D	for	giving his best during learning activities even when something is tricky.
KR	Ayomi B	for	always making positive choices and being a respectful role model in our classroom.
KR	Zane D	for	showing resilience and striving to improve each day.
1/2K	Aarohi.F	for	for using expressive words that bring her stories to life.
1/2K	Lu. F	for	embracing every maths challenge with enthusiasm and sharing his brilliant smile with everyone.
1/2S	Emily O	for	being a role model to her peers and pushing herself to complete challenges.
1/2S	Henry P	for	his respectful attitude and using feedback to achieve learning goals.
1/2W	Hannah E	for	consistently completing tasks and applying feedback to improve.
1/2W	Isabella K	for	displaying role model behaviour and her thoughtful contributions to discussions.
3/4J	Annabel S	for	always demonstrating a positive attitude to learning.
3/4J	Danish T	for	setting an example for his peers to follow.
3/4P	Jed P	for	always listening to instructions attentively and ready to learn.
3/4P	Kiran K	for	actively participating in class discussions and staying focused during independent tasks.
3/4B	Elliot W	for	making positive choices in the classroom that reflect his eagerness to learn and growing respect towards his learning.
3/4B	Felicity S	for	writing an exceptionally engaging orientation that demonstrated remarkable creativity and a true writer's skill.
5/6C	Amelie A	for	being the first person to tackle the Giant Swing.
5/6C	Joel D	for	being a good sport and taking on the many challenges of camp.
5/6H	Emily B	for	fearlessly attacking the mud run at camp.
5/6H	Maxim B	for	rising to meet the challenge of each activity at camp.
ICT/ STEM	Zahra M	5/6C	for acting as a responsible and engaged peer mentor to assist younger students in the STEM Lab.
ICT /STEM	May May V	1/2W	for working hard to learn new tech skills and explore the features of the Canva app.
Library	Coral M	1/2S	for always being an engaged and respectful learner in library.
Library	Frank D	3/4B	for his regular borrowing and contributions to discussions about exploration and mapping.
CLOTE	Mercy LN	3/4B	for good listening skills and great participation during Vietnamese lessons.

Term 1 Three-Way Interviews

Three-way interviews (parent-teacher-student) will be held in **Week 10 on Tuesday, 31 March, and Wednesday, 1 April**. Booking times will open next week.

This year, interviews will take place at school from 3:30pm–7:30pm on Tuesday and 3:30pm–6:30pm on Wednesday. Parents and carers can choose between a face-to-face meeting (preferred) or a phone/virtual meeting.

During the interview, students will set three learning goals—one for literacy, one for numeracy, and one personal goal. These goals will be included in the Semester One reports, which will be sent home later in Term 2.

Please note that supervision will not be available during the interviews. If you need to bring siblings along, they will need to sit outside the classroom, so please ensure they have something to keep them occupied.

Please ensure you have registered to the Parents Portal on School Bytes as soon as possible so you can book your interview time. Interview bookings will open on Friday 13th March.

Here's how parents can set up their account:

- Visit the parent portal link: https://portal.schoolbytes.education/auth/login
- Click on the "Create a new account" link
- Enter your first and last name as they appear on your student's school profile
- Use the email address you use for school communication
- Create and confirm a password
- Click "Create account"

You'll then receive a verification email to confirm your email address. Once verified, log in to link your account to your children.

Respectful Communication at School

At school, we are focusing on using respectful communication and simple manners in our daily interactions. For example, when someone asks, "How are you?", a polite response would be to share how you're feeling, followed by "Thank you, how are you?"

We are also encouraging students to greet staff when visiting the office by starting with, "Hello [person's name]," and making their request using please and thank you.

We'd love your support in modelling these small but meaningful habits both at home and at school. Thank you for helping us create a kind and respectful environment!

MPS NAPLAN Schedule

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills. Each year students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in tests for writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

In 2026 NAPLAN will take place from **Wednesday 11 March** to **Monday 23 March**. All schools in NSW undertake NAPLAN online. However, Year 3 students do the writing test on paper. See last week's newsletter for more information or visit the NESA NAPLAN website

MPS Schedule

<table>
<tr><th>Wed 11/3</th><th>Thurs 12/3</th><th>Fri 13/3</th><th>Mon 16/3</th><th>Tue 17/3</th><th>Thurs 19/3</th><th>Fri 20/3</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Writing</td><td rowspan="2">Reading</td><td rowspan="2">Reading catch up</td><td rowspan="2">Language Conventions</td><td rowspan="2">Numeracy</td><td colspan="2">Language Catch up</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Numeracy Catch up</td></tr>
</table>

2026 Library Borrowing Days (Term 1)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
5/6H	5/6C	KR	KB
3/4B	1/2W	1/2K	1/2S
3/4J	3/4P		

Extra-Curricular Activities

Did you know that we have the following activities happening at MPS? Email the office or click on the links if you would like to enrol your child.

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Monday</th><th>Tuesday</th><th colspan="2">Wednesday</th><th>Thursday</th><th>Friday</th></tr>
<tr><td>Before School</td><td>Junior Strings
in music room</td><td>Senior Recorder
8am in Music Room
with Ms Hutchinson</td><td>School Band
In the hall</td><td>Primary Proms In LST Hub</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Lunch Time</td><td>Chess Club
In EALD room</td><td rowspan="3">First Nations Pulse Alive Dance
with Ms Wiggins in the hall</td><td colspan="2">Junior Choir with Ms Mann</td><td rowspan="3">Rock Band
with Mr Duker</td><td>SRC Meetings
with Ms Hutchinson</td></tr>
<tr><td>Stage 3 Book Club
With Ms Mann</td><td colspan="2" rowspan="2">Senior Choir with Ms Cai</td><td rowspan="2">Rookie Recorders
with Mr Harding</td></tr>
<tr><td>Senior Strings
in music room</td></tr>
<tr><td>After School</td><td>Band Tuition
In the hall</td><td>Minecraft Engineers
3.30-4.45pm</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>Inner West Drama
3.15pm-5.15pm
In the hall</td><td>Gemini Dance
(starting soon in the Hall)</td></tr>
</table>

High School Enrolment in 2027

Dear Year 6 Families,

The department has digitised the Year 6 to Year 7 transition process.

If you would like your child to attend a government high school in 2027, you will need to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) for Year 6 to 7 transition. The expression of interest lets you indicate which school(s) you would like your child to attend in Year 7. After you submit this expression of interest and it has been assessed, your child will be offered a place at a government high school.

It is assumed that students will attend their local high school. You can find your local high school by entering your address on the following page:
https://schoolfinder.education.nsw.gov.au/

Should you wish to apply for an Out of Area placement, you will need to add further information in your expression of interest. We suggest contacting your preferred school/s and asking for their enrolment policy, to ensure you meet the Out of Area criteria when submitting your application.

Windows open for digital Expressions of Interest (EOI) forms on 3 March 2026. You will submit the expression of interest via the Marrickville PS website:

https://marrickvil-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/ and selecting the 'ENROLMENT' tab in the top right hand corner and scrolling down to the heading, 'Moving to High School'. Here you will also find additional information regarding enrolment in selective high schools and non-government high schools.

Digital Expression of Interest (EOI) or Placement Not Required (PNR) forms are due by 27 March 2026.

Contact us:
E: secretary@mpspandc.org **F:/marrickvillepublicschoolpandc**
Instagram

P&C Meeting: The next P&C Meeting Monday 16 March will be held on line.

Second hand uniforms- We continue to accept good quality second hand uniforms - drop them in the basket in the office. Please no yellow t-shirts.

The P&C uniform room will be open on Monday afternoons while Gardening Club is on each week. The room will also be open on Tuesday 10 March from 8:15 - 9:15.

Gardening Club - MONDAY afternoons at 3:15 for an hour or so. Join Naomi and Kara to help look after some special parts of our school playground.

Bennelong Music

Bennelong Music are now taking enrolments for 2026. If you would like your child/ren to begin music lessons and /or band next term please forward the attached enrolment form to info@bennelongmusic.com.au before the end of December or check out our website at www.bennelongmusic.com.au for more information on what we offer.

Celebrating Hearing Awareness Week 2026

Did you know that 1 in 6 Australians are living with hearing loss?

MARRICKVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO TEACH ETHICS !

Primary ETHICS

"I get as much out of it as the children do – it's so rewarding!"

Giving a lesson every Wednesday at 2:15pm or at 2:45pm is all it takes from you to help develop a future generation with strong ethical decision-making skills.

No previous teaching experience needed • Full, free training, provided • Ongoing support from Primary Ethics.

If you want to help our students access this valuable program, contact Feyza at feyza.tuncay@primaryethics.com.au or: **primaryethics.com.au/volunteer**

Art Therapy for Children in Earlwood

STRENGTHENING CHILDREN'S COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND SELF CONFIDENCE

Art Therapy supports children to express themselves through art making. This develops their awareness of their thoughts and feelings and their confidence in communicating them.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO PROCESS DIFFICULT EXPERIENCES AND BIG CHANGES

Some children need support during periods of transition (e.g. starting primary or high school, following parent separation or a new baby joining the family). Others may have experienced challenging or traumatic life events (e.g. loss of a loved one, domestic violence, family member being unwell) and need support to express their feelings and make sense of these experiences.

DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING OF FEELINGS AND MANAGING FEELINGS BETTER

Parents may feel concerned about a change in their child. Their child may not be able to communicate what is troubling them. Art Therapy provides a way for the child's fears, worries and upsets to be expressed, better understood and ultimately feel more manageable.

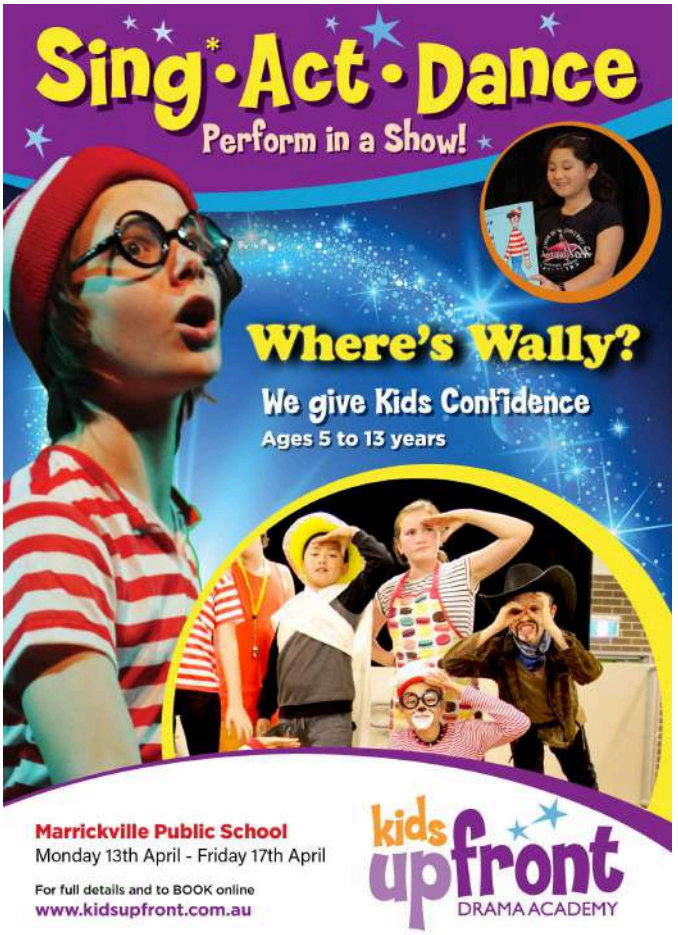
SUPPORTING NEURODIVERSE CHILDREN

Making art and playing in art therapy are engaging and non-threatening ways to strengthen social and communication skills and support anxiety management in children with Autism.

Kerrie Webb is available for referrals of children 4-13years. Kerrie is a Professionally Registered Art Therapist with ANZACATA. She has over 15 years of experience supporting children and families in community, health and education settings.

m) 0424149999	www.childarttherapysydney.com.au

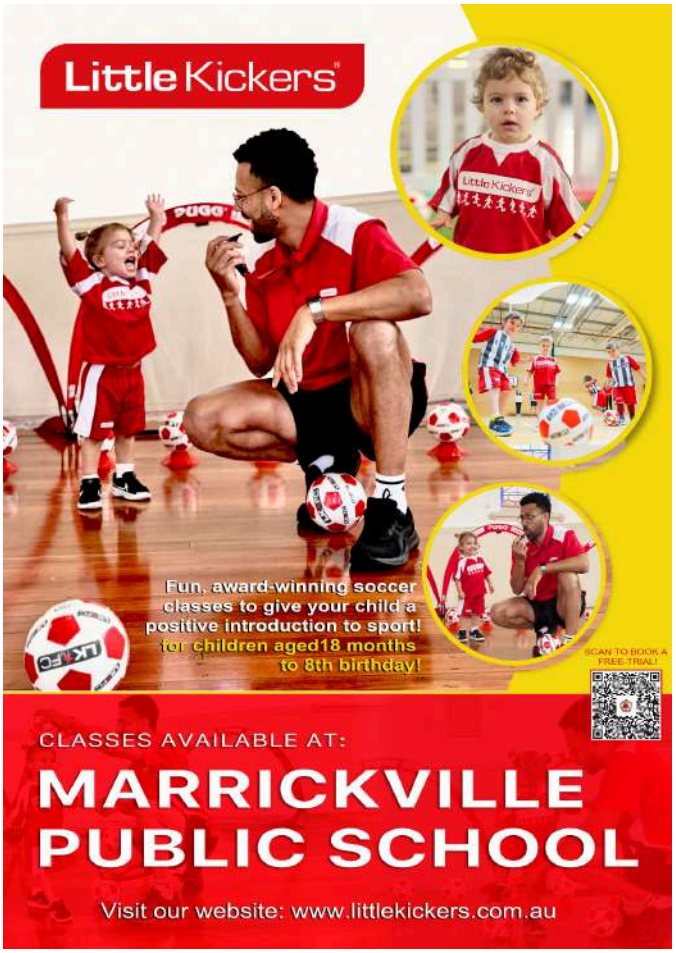
MPS
STRINGS
ARE YOU KEEN ON MUSIC IN 2026?
JUNIOR STRINGS IS ENROLLING FOR 2026. JOIN US AS WE PLAY, LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER
MPS strings ensemble is a safe, creative space, that provides kids who love music with the opportunity to play, develop, and be part of a friendly group.
Ensemble of violin/viola/cello for beginners on Monday mornings before school led by tutor Juliet Lochrin. As kids in Junior Strings progress they will have the opportunity to move into the Senior Strings ensemble depending on their confidence and ability.
The Programme also has string instruments available for hire.
The aims of the program for each student are:
To learn to read music: notation, rhythm, dynamics
To experience a sense of joy from creating music
To build a sense of musical teamwork
To build reward for persistence and enthusiasm
For more information contact:
mpsstrings@gmail.com


Sing*Act*Dance
Perform in a Show!
Where's Wally?
We give Kids Confidence
Ages 5 to 13 years
Marrickville Public School
Monday 13th April - Friday 17th April
For full details and to BOOK online
www.kidsupfront.com.au
kids upfront
DRAMA ACADEMY

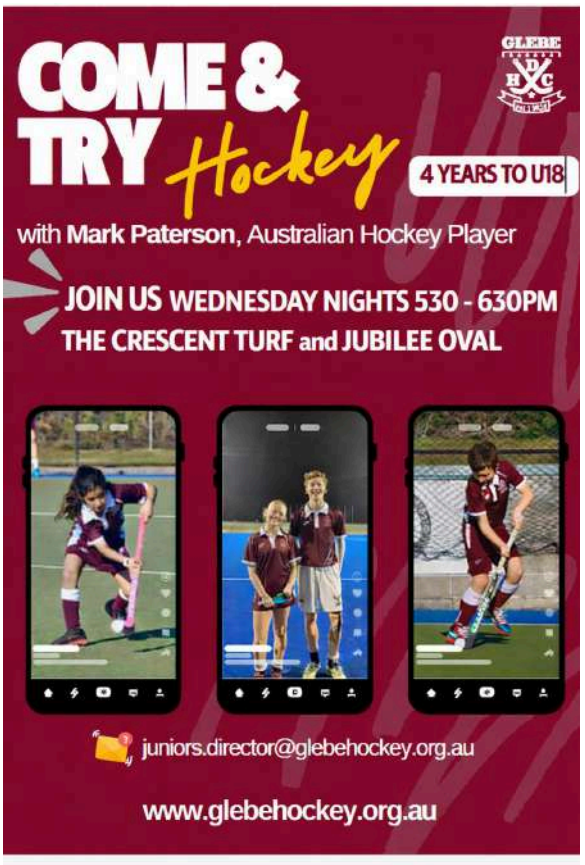
Kids First
THERAPY HUB
APRIL 2026 HOLIDAY GROUPS
Life Skills Lab - Teen
Thursday 9th April
1:00-5:00pm
For teens aged 12-18 years, this group builds confidence, independence, and real-world life skills including shopping, cooking, and social connection.
Handwriting Hub
Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th April
8:30-12:30pm
For children in Kindy to Year 6, this group builds confident handwriting and strong fine motor skills through fun, creative, hands-on learning.
Social Sensory Science
Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th April
1:00-5:00pm
For children aged 5-12 years, this group explores sight, sound, touch, movement, and more through fun sensory activities designed to support regulation, confidence, and social skills.
REGISTER NOW
1300 850 418
info@kidsfirstot.com.au

Kids First
THERAPY HUB
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY & SPEECH PATHOLOGY
SUPPORT THAT FITS YOUR FAMILY
We offer a range of flexible therapy options designed to support kids at every stage of their development.
Clinic, school, and home-based therapy for kids aged 0-18 years
Client-centred approach, working closely with families, educators, and health professionals
Supporting families across Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, Inner West, and Lower North Shore
Certified practising Occupational Therapists and Speech Pathologists
OUR VALUES
KINDNESS
FAIRNESS
OPTIMISM
TRUST
NDIS registered, with Medicare rebates and Mental Health Care Plan options available
CONTACT US
www.kidsfirstot.com.au
info@kidsfirstot.com.au
1300 850 418
ABOUT US
We offer both Occupational Therapy and Speech Pathology services, tailored to each child's unique strengths, challenges, and goals.
Our experienced team assists kids with a wide range of developmental, learning, and communication needs, including:
Neurodevelopment and behavioural differences such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Global Developmental Delay, ADHD, emotional regulation, and behavioural challenges.
Learning and cognitive areas including dyslexia, literacy and comprehension challenges, and difficulties with attention, memory, and specific learning needs
Motor and sensory development including fine and gross motor skills, coordination, balance, sensory processing, handwriting, pencil grip, and motor planning
Speech and communication skills such as articulation, lisps, stuttering, following instructions, and expressive language development
Daily living skills and wellbeing including self-care (e.g. dressing self, using utensils), reduced endurance or low muscle tone, and mental health (including anxiety)
Other areas such as genetic or neurological conditions impacting development

CITY OF SYDNEY
Free swim level assessment. No guessing.
Learn to swim where champions train at Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre
From first splash to freestyle. Build water confidence, technique and safety skills at one of Australia's most iconic pools, right in Ultimo.
Enquire here
cityofsydneyleisure.com.au


Little Kickers
Fun, award-winning soccer classes to give your child a positive introduction to sport! for children aged18 months to 8th birthday!
SCAN TO BOOK A FREE TRIAL!
CLASSES AVAILABLE AT:
MARRICKVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL
Visit our website: www.littlekickers.com.au

ACO FAMILIES
ACO FOUNDATIONS: BEGINNER STRINGS INTENSIVE
13–17 April
The Neilson, ACO On The Pier
Discover the joy of making music these April school holidays with a five-day beginner violin and cello intensive. The perfect introduction to string instruments for 7–10 year olds.
ACO.COM.AU
Enrol online
Australian Chamber Orchestra


COME & TRY Hockey
4 YEARS TO U18
with Mark Paterson, Australian Hockey Player
JOIN US WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 530 - 630PM
THE CRESCENT TURF and JUBILEE OVAL
juniors.director@glebehockey.org.au
www.glebehockey.org.au

At sunset, Grey-headed Flying-foxes stream out from their Wolli camp in their thousands to spend the night looking for food. Come learn about these fascinating long-distance pollinators, vital for our native forests.
BAT WATCH PICNIC
FRIDAY MARCH 6
Australasian Bat Month
TURRELLA RESERVE
EARLWOOD, 6PM
Near new playground
Celebrate our amazing city wildlife
Bring a picnic and something bat-themed
Crafty batty activities for young and old
For more info email info@wollicreek.org.au
Organised by The Wolli Creek Preservation Society with support from The National Parks & Wildlife Service, Canterbury-Bankstown Council, and the Australasian Bat Society
Bat Girl

WWW.FFMARKET.COM.AU
SHOP LOCAL, EAT LOCAL, LOVE EARLWOOD – DISCOVER YOUR NEW COMMUNITY MARKET!". PRESENT THIS VOUCHER- FREE JUMPING CASTLE 1-8 YEAR OLDS BRING YOUR GRANDCHILD AND RECEIVE 1 FREE COFFEE
EARLWOOD FOODIES COMMUNITY MARKET
FORTIGHTLY FROM MARCH 7
8AM- 2PM
GOUGH WHITLAM PARK EARLWOOD