

# MCA Summer 2024 Newsletter

[www.microclasses.com.au](http://www.microclasses.com.au)



Small classes tailor made.  
Practical application of  
knowledge/skills.  
Life skills focus. Home tasks.

Other services: Home School Plans  
for Registration: \$75 p/h.

Roughly 3 hours.

Free half hour catch up with  
Rachel each term for parents at  
the close of the term to discuss  
your child's achievements.



## Lessons:

Literacy  
Creative Writing  
Drama  
Mathematics  
First Nations  
Gardening  
World History  
Geography  
Cooking  
Science

Class fees: \$75.  
\$60 for second class  
for the same child.  
3rd child half price.







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Welcome to 2024. I hope it has started out wonderfully well for you and your family. This year MCA has 4 classes per week plus the holiday program has kicked off for Summer. I will continue the holiday program each of the school holidays.

I have proposed some excursions and camps for us for this year. Please have a read of these on pages 19-20 and let me know your thoughts. Important note: we can book in to the Cascade Environmental Education Centre, week 1 of term 2 if we're keen. This week is likely to get booked out soon they say. I'll send an email with details. Great program they offer. We went several years ago.

To make life easy for us all I have created a re-enrolment form. I will send in a separate email.





Some student work samples are included in this edition plus more can be found on the website:

<https://www.microclasses.com.au/portfolio>

I hope you enjoy the photos of the children as they immerse themselves in their class work, the gardening project at The Community Gardens, games, play, and cooking.

Fiona and Jade will continue to be our wonderful aides helping and supporting myself and the children. Here's to another fantastic year of learning, play and fun. Thank you parents/carers for your support and trust. I truly am honoured to be teaching homeschoolers and love my job.





### **Testimonial from Kim, Bellingham**

We are very happy to have found Rachel and micro-classes as an alternative option to regular school. Micro classes are perfect for children who prefer smaller and more quiet learning and support. Earlier this year I received the two year home schooling registration period, much to my relief. Rachel met with me and completed a checklist which outlined my son's subjects, interests and goals. I provided a list of resources we use. Rachel then turned this into a comprehensive home school Plan covering all the subjects and the outcomes. I would highly recommend MCA services for your child's home school rego as I was put at ease with Rachel's confidence. And my 14 year old son finds Rachel's classes a lot less anxiety-provoking than more traditional school settings. Moreover, Rachel has kindly offered very sage and supportive advice in supporting my older son's educational journey so that I am working to support his needs and hopes rather than pushing him to work towards competitive and unfulfilling goals that are not true to his wishes and happiness. Gaining advice and insight from someone competent in both traditional and home school modalities and finding a middle-path was enriching.





A short clip for teachers

I invite you to have a look at a short film we have made to let teachers know about MCA. Thank you hubby Dustin and Jessica Gale for your technical support. I have spent over 2 years creating training and templates for teachers to come on board but I now need help to get this out there.

Feel free to share the film with your teacher friends.

[Link](#)



# *Scheudle of classes & fees*

## ***Monday class 13-15 year olds: 10.15-3pm***

Shared morning tea. Lunch from town.

### **Week A:**

Applied Math and times tables

Spelling

Touch typing

Creative Writing

English text

### **Week B:**

World History text

Science text

My Wellbeing Journal

Gardening & Cooking (weeks 5 and 10)

Text book fees: \$75

Cooking fee per term: \$16

Gardening fee per term: \$16 (plus plot fee if we continue)

## ***Tuesday class 10-13 year olds: 10.15-3pm***

Shared morning tea. Town lunch fortnightly.

Applied Math & Text plus times tables

Spelling text & touch typing

Grammar and Punctuation text

Fist Nations History & geography

Fortnightly luncheon and library visit

Fortnightly badminton

Text book fees: \$68.80





***Wednesday class 10-13 year olds 10.15-3pm***

Shared morning tea. Own lunch.

Science text

Drama: skits, stories, scenes

Creative Writing

Wellbeing journal

Cooking and introduction to gardening (weeks 5 and 10)

Text book fees: \$30.90

Cooking fee per term: \$8

gardening fee per term: \$8

***Friday class 7-10 year olds: 10.15-3pm***

Shared morning tea. Own lunch.

Math text and Times table

Spelling, punctuation and grammar

Reading for meaning

Multi sensory activities

Drama

Outdoor play

Lunch in town: week 10.

Text book fees: \$68.80



# ***Term Dates and Holidays***

## ***Term 1: Spring/Autumn***

*Begins on Monday 5 February.*

*10 week term.*

*Holidays from 13 April.*

*Note: Good Friday March 29th.  
Let's discuss if class is on.*

## ***Term 2: Autumn/Winter***

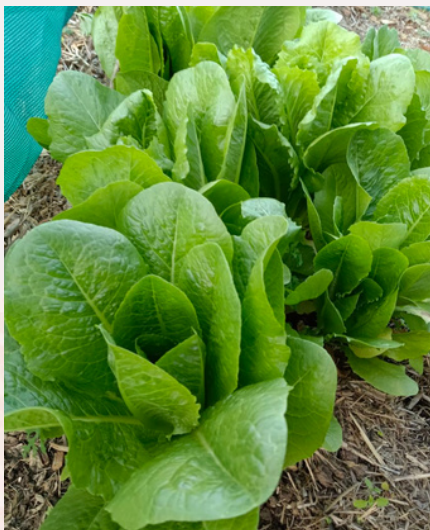
*Begins on Monday 29 April.*

*10 week term.*

*Holidays from 6 July.*



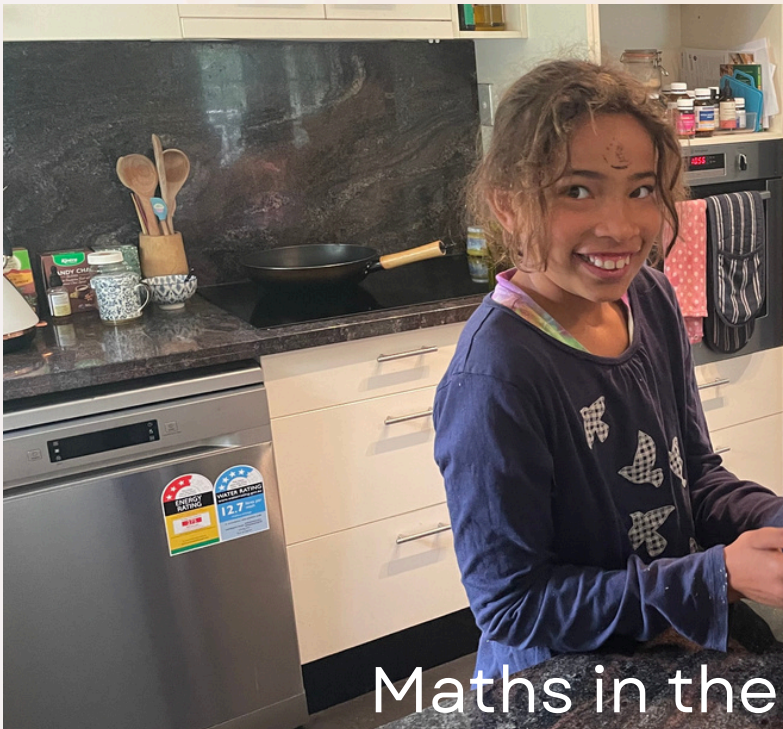
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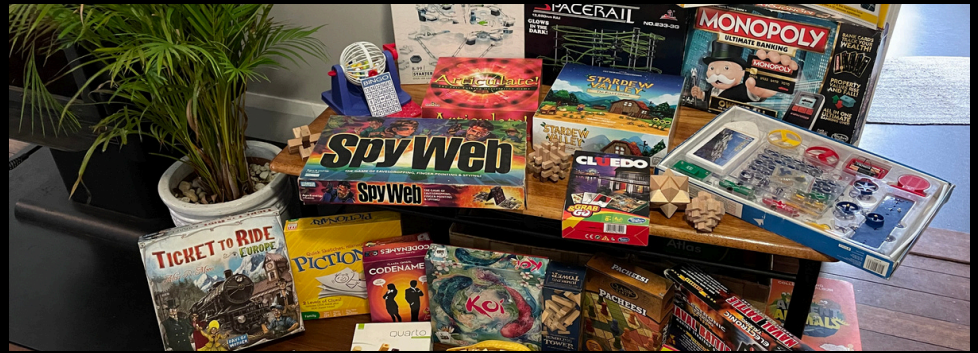




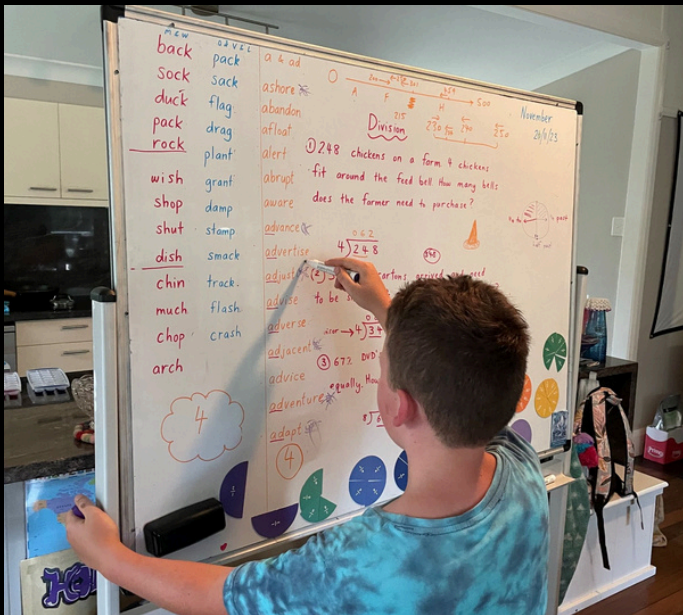
Maths in the kitchen.







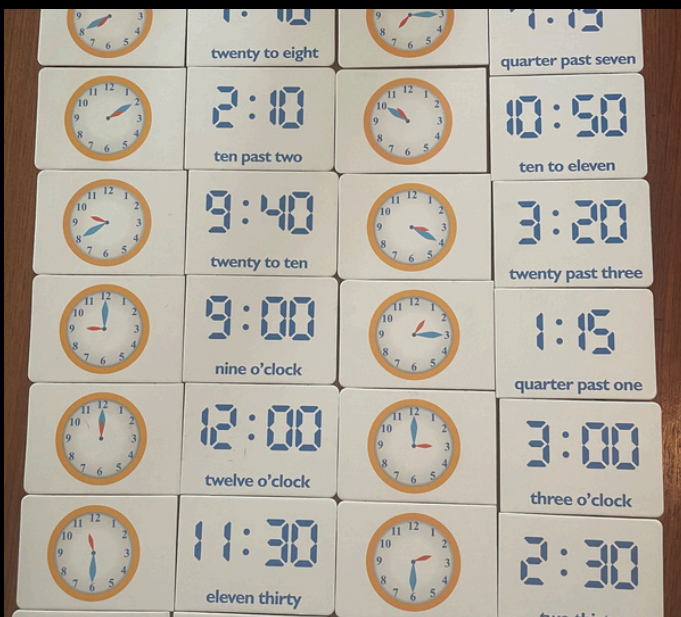
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hands on  
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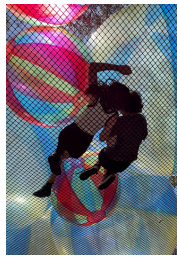




Christmas  
time







On December 8th we began our excursion in idyllic Port Macquarie staying overnight in a range of accommodation in town and along the river.

First up was fun at Planet Skate Port Macquarie. For most of us parents and grandparents it had been some time since we'd been on wheels. By some time, I mean roughly three or more decades. But we gave it a go. Ayana, our host, looked after us by fitting us in either skates or blades then offering some trick elements out on the ring. Some took up the challenge while others skirted those cones for dear life. Young Malkia and Vida had a go at everything while Isla looked like she was born with wheels. I found the blades much easier than skates even though having been raised on roller skates and Tali glided along on her own skates looking the part. Hats off to nana Carol for your elegance as you lapped most of us out there.

Next up was dinner at The Maharaja, my go-to in Port Mac for fine authentic Indian cuisine. New interesting dishes were tried with some tongues blazing from previously unexplored curries. Can't go past the malai kofta. Delicious!







We then settled in for The Bangarra Dance Theatre group at the stately Glasshouse Theatre. We lined the back rows and took in the sights and sounds of Sandsong, the desert story. Most of the teen's comments remarked on being bedazzled by unparalleled strength and stamina. (Well, not exactly in those words). And teen, Uli, couldn't help but analyse the musical score as he spends many a spare hour himself creating tech-music. Was that huge prop a shell? Some proposed it represented bark, others unsure. All in all - a show to remember.

We finished up on Saturday morning heading Wauchope way for Wild Nets as young and middle-aged hit the heights, walked the net bridges, and bounced along with balls bigger than some of the kids. The pop-up reptile talk a bonus treat. But the sauntering heat of the day an unwelcomed surprise.

Thanks everyone who helped in the planning and executions of our trip. And thanks to all of you who came along to join in the fun.



## **Shows At The Glasshouse 2024**

**Is there are parent who would like to keep us informed of new shows that come up at The Glasshouse?**

**See the link below and let me know if this suits you. I'd appreciate the help. A few suggestions below.**

**<https://www.glasshouse.org.au/Whats-on/Education-Glasshouse-2024-Launch#panel-1-2>**

**The Sleeping Beauty By Dance Mid North Coast  
featuring artists from Victoria State Bella**

**<https://www.glasshouse.org.au/Whats-on/The-Sleeping-Beauty-by-Dance-Mid-North-Coast-April-2024>**

**Choir audition for 9 – 14 year olds**

**<https://www.glasshouse.org.au/Whats-on/Opera-Australia-Childrens-Choir-EDU-2024>**

**Something for the adults  
Ahn Do: The Happiest Refugee**

**<https://www.glasshouse.org.au/Whats-on/Anh-Do-The-Happiest-Refugee-Live-March-2024>**



## **Proposed Day trips, excursions and camps 2024**

### **Term 1**

- **Yarrila Place Library, Museum and Art Gallery, Coffs Harbour. Guided tour followed by a tour at The Botanic Gardens and lunch.**

**Exhibitions at the Art Gallery space:**

***Fluttering On The Surface* and *Ok! Motherhood*.**

**This excursion needs to be on a Thursday. Parents to join.**

- **Families camp: Stoney Aqua Park, Telegraph Point (just north of Port Mac).**

**Activities proposed: The Aqua Park; Centre of Gravity; North Brother Lookout; Old Bottlebutt tree; The Bago Maze. Plus some relaxation at the park. Bring bikes.**

**Idea for a date: March 28th (while it's still warm to swim). Open to ideas for activities and the date. This date lands us in week 8.**

**Variety of accommodation options to suit budgets.**

- **Film nights at the Video Shop Bello:  
Mon and Tues groups: *Rabbit Proof Fence*.  
Friday group: *Hugo*.**



## **Proposed Day trips, excursions and camps 2024**

### **Term 2**

- **Cascade Environmental Education Centre. See link:  
<https://cascade-e.schools.nsw.gov.au/>  
We've had a great excursion out there previously. Science, team work, nature immersion, 2 night stay.**
- **Ice Skating at The Big Banana.**
- **Film nights at the Video Shop Bello:  
Mon group: *The Peaceful Warrior*.  
Tues group: *Matilda*.  
Fri group: *Encanto***

### **Terms 3 & 4**

- **Nature immersion camp (possibly) at The Never Never. Walk to the boulders, fire building, cooking, activities/games to connect with nature.**
- **Canberra trip. I'm taking EOI's for this. Questacon, Art galleries, museums and more. Science and History focus. Ideas please and I'd appreciate some help to organise this one.**
- **Film nights at the Video Shop Bello: based on texts studied.**



**Monday group information report**

Research use of plastics as waste in Australia. Edit the wording.

Use Canva to add design elements.

Save the file. Email file to Rachel.

GOOD IS BETTER THAN NEW

# THE INDUSTRIES NEED FOR USELESS PACKAGING

There is so much useless plastic wrapping.

Washing machines come in plastic, mattresses as well, mini icecreams come in a cardboard box then individually wrapped, almost everything in Kmart.

They all have ridiculously easy solutions to this useless packaging. The plastic cover on mattresses could be reused after being delivered, the items in Kmart like dolls, toiletries, and lego could all have cardboard and some string instead of plastic wire and packaging.

Why not ban all useless plastic packaging instead of some measly little straws that people still use and sell?

I don't know about you, but I'd rather not live on Mars. And I can tell you that neither would our animals. This is their planet, not just ours. It's our job to fix what we've broken. It's all of our problems, not just some random companies. (And yes, they're pretty much 70% of the damage.)

Just be a bit more vigilant of your intake. Go to op-shops, second hand shops, garage sales, give and receive from friends, gum tree and many more options. It's a group effort and we can't do it without you.





Poem  
*Headland*

It has an arching name,  
the crown of the head

I thrum a little more,  
the dense chocolate-brown  
of these ocean stones  
and the white water  
sifting over and through them,  
pounds with my heart

Wind,  
cool on the surface of the eyes;  
grasps and flickers  
the edges and sails of a shirt,  
and cloth clings to the pillar of a thigh  
revealing its shape

Mammals are reminded here  
of their soft impermanence

By the deep blue, a steady line  
of brute grace,  
of liquid limbs  
pounding at thousand-year-old granite

And you stand on the quarter line,  
halfway across the page in my right iris  
the centre of your own, eventual spiral  
unknowingly,  
and quickly,  
becoming prey to a certain calibre of poem.



## Monday group camp recount

Write the recount. Edit the wording. Use Canva to add design elements. Save the file.  
Email file to Rachel.

# South West Rocks

30/9/23

On 30th of August we travelled to South West Rocks. Tali was our carer for the week. Uli, Kris, Kesh and I attended.

We stayed in a 2-bedroom cabin at Horse Shoe Bay Caravan Park, right on the beach.

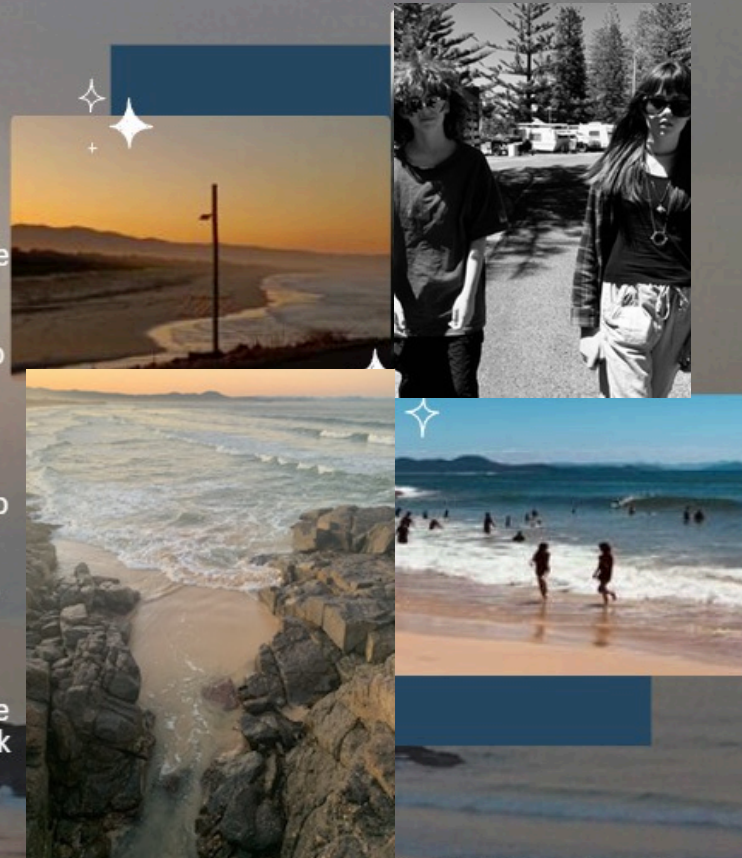
Every morning we would leave our phones at the cabin (a great idea from Tali and the parents which pushed us to be more creative, socialise and detox), Tali and a few family members would go to the beach while us teens would either stay there for a couple hours or split up to either go to town, explore, or swim at different areas. Every arvo after dinner, we would go for a walk to the park and play there for around an hour.

On Monday, we shopped at a couple op-shops and went to a small supermarket where we bought a cake for Tali's mother's birthday. At Tali's parent's house we had dinner, played games and ran around for a few hours.

We teens did lots of food prep and cooking, cleaning, tidying up, garbage disposal. The responsibility to keep the cabin clean made me feel more mature and helped us work together as a group.

I have two favourite parts of the camp 1- when Tali, Kris and I went up on the big rocks behind the prison. It was so exhilarating with the strong wind whipping at our hair, and pushing us back, away from the sea which was spraying us with salty water. And 2- when Kris, Kesh and I were on the big swing spinning round, the world blurring into black, purple and white streaks as we listened to our favourite music on the last afternoon, chatting, singing and laughing.

Tali did an amazing job of keeping us teens in check, making sure we were cared for, and giving us heaps of fun times. I think we all had an awesome experience on this camp, creating beautiful memories to look back on.



To read more samples:

[Link](#)





## Student work samples

**Ancient Egypt Assignment Outline (instructions)**

**[Link](#)**

**Assignment Example:**

**[Link](#)**

**MCA Website samples:**

**<https://www.microclasses.com.au/portfolio>**



# THANK YOU



A very special thank you to two efficient, thoughtful and kind teacher's aides, Fiona and Jade.

Love your work!

Also I'd like to thank the parents of the Monday class who have been so present, helpful and hands on for the gardening project at The Community Gardens.

MCA website design by Jess Gale. Couldn't do it without you Jess. Thank you so much.

<https://www.typewriterdesign.com.au/about>

Beautiful photographic artwork on pages 2-5, and 24-5 by Kia Osterloh @groundedwillow.

And a huge thank you to my family for being cool for me to have classes at home. Thank you Dustin for your tech support, fixing things and all the love.

And thank you to Stellar, of course, our adorable labragroodle, for just being you. What? She can't read? Oh gosh! She's starting my classes. Pronto!