



# PIGEON POST

Learn ~ Live ~ Lead

## MARCH

- Thurs 15 ~ Selective High School Placement Test
- Tues 20 ~ Regional Swimming Carnival
- Wed 21 ~ **HARMONY DAY**
- Tues 27 & Wed 28 ~ School Photos
- Thurs 29 ~ EASTER HAT PARADE
- Fri 30 ~ GOOD FRIDAY ~ no school

## APRIL

- Mon 2 ~ EASTER MONDAY ~ no school
- Wed 4 ~ P&C Meeting
- Wed 11 & Thurs 12 ~ State Swimming Carnival
- Fri 13 Last day of Term One

## MAY

- Mon 1 ~ Staff Development Day



## Celebrating collaborating...

**Designing and creating** a 'beyblade stadium' was the task at hand for these young gents, with the day's official reporter and photographer close at hand to record it all...

Stage One investigations for these boys consisted of a collaborative effort, with an amazing result!

The beaming pride and excitement was so evident, when they arrived at my door, eager to show me and explain what they'd achieved...

**CONGRATS** to all involved!!!!

*Maria Lambos* ~ Principal

# LEARN LIVE LEAD

# YOU CAN DO IT!

## Awards



## Awards

### K Crabs

Oscar L - his dedication to learning in all areas

### K Dugong

Finley T - reading most of a more challenging book

### K Pufferfish

Joshua M - excellent work in reading groups

### 1/2 Clams

Lucy O - always having a go and having a positive attitude when completing set tasks

### 1/2 Galapagos

Toby M - being an awesome sentence superhero!

### 1/2 Megaladon

Natasha G - showing maturity and making positive choices

### 1/2 Seahorse

Patrick F -his enthusiastic approach to his work and trying his best

### 3/4 Flameback

Sebastien G - your dedication to improving your strategies during maths

### 3/4 Krill

Lucas Y - showing excellent focus and effort when using the Split Strategy for adding 4 digit numbers

### 3/4 Turtles

Mirabelle F - her consistent focus and great work ethics across all Key Learning Areas and always helping others with a smile on her face

### 5/6 Coelacanth

Freya P - her constant outstanding work ethic and a commitment to self-improvement

### 5/6 Lasseter's

Zoe V - consistently maintaining an excellent standard in bookwork

### 5/6 Spoggiá

Anahita D - helping out in class with an upbeat attitude and a smile

### 5/6 Wahoo

Bethan M - offering great ideas with regards to Project Based Learning (in science)

### 5/6 Yabby

Emily M - her focus and productivity during literacy groups

### K Crabs

Zoe P - savvy photography of KC students "getting along"

### K Dugong

Yasmin H - Being a kind and considerate class member who always 'gets along' with others

### K Pufferfish

Millie O - being friends with everyone

### 1/2 Clams

Amelia W - for being a socially responsible classmate by always volunteering to help her classmates or the teacher

### 1/2 Galapagos

Rose F - getting along with others with her beautiful manners and always sharing equipment

### 1/2 Megaladon

Amelia H - being a kind and helpful friend

### 1/2 Seahorse

Jackson N - being a respectful, caring friend always listening to the opinions of others

### 3/4 Flameback

Kaito S - for always being a kind and respectful student of 3/4 F

### 3/4 Krill

Joseph M - for always including others and being an awesome friend

### 3/4 Turtles

Johnny H - being a helpful, friendly and reliable member of 3/4Turtles

### 5/6 Coelacanth

Lucius S - his care and compassion when helping an injured friend

### 5/6 Lasseter's

Harrison M - being a friendly and conscientious Kindy buddy

### 5/6 Spoggiá

Cooper D - For fair and considerate behaviour in class and on the sports field

### 5/6 Wahoo

Ned L - being a kind and friendly member of 5/6W

### 5/6 Yabby

Aiman C - his smooth transition into a new school and confidently establishing friendships

# Everyone belongs...



## HARMONY DAY

### @ BPS

On **Wednesday 21st March**, Balmain Public School will celebrate **Harmony Day**.

This is the day when we celebrate Australia's cultural diversity and share what we have in common. The central message for **Harmony Day** is that 'everyone belongs'.

Students across the school are invited to **dress in clothes that represent their cultural background**, or to **wear something orange**, which is the colour representing **Harmony Day**.

We will have a **song at lines** to celebrate the day also.

In class, students will participate in a range of activities to reflect this wonderful **cultural celebration**.

## HARMONY DAY

### 21 MARCH





# Get Up and Boogie

Ooh what a night...the disco-themed **Parent Welcome Drinks evening** was a great success, with strains of Madonna, Cyndi Lauper, and the like, playing into the wee hours of the morning – yes, there was still music playing at midnight!

We were welcomed at the 'door' by Kate, Monique and Candy...It was great to see the effort that our community went to, dressing in their finest disco glam gear...patent-leather platforms, sequins, lycra, glitter and disco balls of all shapes and sizes!

The gents in fluoro headbands and glowing t-shirts kept the crowd hydrated, whilst a couple of lovely young gentlemen offered canapés throughout the evening.

A highlight of the evening was Doug T's presentation of the **Belle Property Balmain Fun Run** cheque from the annual major fundraising event, on behalf of the crew – a massive **\$51,116!** Also, over \$4,000 had been raised for Batten Disease, through the sale of special Fun Run t-shirts!

The Silent Auction was very successful, with over 60 vouchers being snapped up and some competition between bidders! THANKS again to all the businesses for their donations!

A **SPECIAL SHOUT OUT** to the 3 groups of people behind the big ticket items offered for the silent auction – the **Luxury Boat Charter, Byron Bay Beach House** and **Ski Chalet in Bormio, Italy** – your generosity is astounding and so much appreciated! **THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!!**

Finally, Friday night would not be possible without the support, organisation and execution of the amazing, successful event – **Rob and Sue Taubman!!** A **HUMUNGOUS THANKS** goes to you both!!!!

**THANKS SO MUCH** to all the people that assisted to make the evening the huge success that it was!

**THANKS** to all parents, carers and staff who attended and supported in so many ways!



A **HUGE THANKS** goes to everyone involved in the **Belle Property Balmain Fun Run** – the event is major, with over 120 volunteers on the day – it has certainly gone from strength to strength and would not be possible without the dedication and commitment from so many!

**THANKS** to each and every person that has made this donation to our kids' education possible!



# K PUFFERFISH



K Pufferfish have had an amazing start to the year. We are curious and fun just like the little fish we are named for!

We have been learning about PATTERNS in Maths.



## SMILING MINDS



Smiling minds is our daily relaxation time. We relax our bodies and our minds to get ready for learning!

## Investigating Together





# Representative Sport ~ Balmain District Swimming

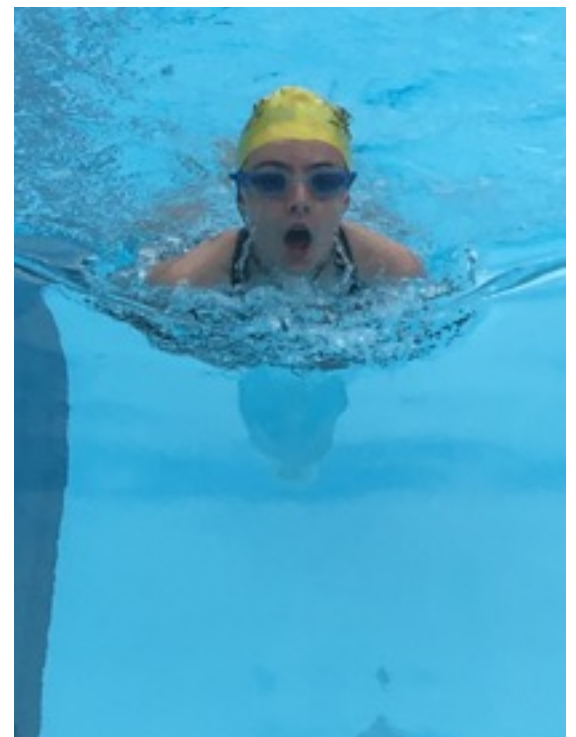
On Tuesday 6 March, a team of 19 students, represented Balmain Public School at the Balmain District Swimming Carnival, held at Ashfield Aquatic Centre.

Students from Year 2 through to Year 6 demonstrated a high level of sportsmanship and teamwork, as they cheered on their school and recognised their own achievements. Many students gained a place in their heats and successfully beat their time from the school swimming carnival.

**Big congratulations to all students for your enthusiasm and your efforts on the day.**

I would like to thank all the parents who came to support Balmain Public School, as well as to Miss Smith for assisting in the running of the day.

Miss Sarah Weston ~ Sports Coordinator





# Playground

## Upgrade...



We are absolutely **LOVING** our new space outside!!!!  
Thank you to the **P&C** and **ESC** for making this happen!



# Investigations history

In July 2011, I was asked, by a School Education Director, to partake in a 2-day Study Tour in Melbourne, of the (Kathy) Walker Learning Approach - play-based learning. This was fully funded by the Department of Education's Sydney Region. On the tour, were other colleagues from both government and non-government Sydney, Adelaide and Hobart schools. )For more information on Kathy Walker: <http://www.kathywalker.com.au>)

*'Walker Learning is a holistic approach to teaching to the whole of a child and committed to developing children who can think for themselves and for others, can create and imagine, who are strong in their literacy and numeracy, and who can navigate the challenges of the world with intrinsic motivation and a strength of character made of a strong sense of self and resilience.*

*Walker Learning is a pedagogy NOT a program, NOT a tool - it is a teaching and learning approach that personalises learning (Babies to Year 8) and is developmentally and culturally appropriate.'*

(For more information on WLA: <https://www.earlylife.com.au/walker-learning>)

Listen to Kathy Walker: [Kathy Walker speaks...](#)

Walker Learning Approach on Channel 10: [WLA on Channel 10](#)

Upon returning from Melbourne, Arncliffe West Infants School decided to incorporate facets of the approach into their learning. Many schools, School Education Directors, the Regional Director, as well as various DEC advisors visited AWIS to experience **Investigative Learning**. I also was invited to present AWIS' model at a Sydney Region Conference. The benefits observed at AWIS included: a decrease in absenteeism, improved oracy, literacy and numeracy skills, as well as improved behaviour and ability to work with others.

At Balmain Public School, in 2015, Ariana Davis, Angela Curry, Lynda Lovett and I travelled to Melbourne for a 2-day study tour of schools using the approach. Again, there were teachers from all around the country, including Queensland and Perth, as well as colleagues from New Zealand. Ariana and Angela presented to the P&C, with funds being given to set up the Kindergarten classrooms to be able to enable investigations from the start of 2016. Lynda used ideas from the tour to use within her Year 5 OC class in 2016.

In 2016, Ariana and Angela presented at our CoLAS (Community of Leichhardt Area Schools) conference. Teachers from a variety of schools have come to observe investigations in action, with Birchgrove PS later sending their own staff to Melbourne on the tour. Marco Ianni, Principal of FJT, has also been involved in a study tour in the past. Ariana has also presented for a variety of Port Jackson Network schools at the Innovations Unit, as well as at UNSW with Lynda Lovett, as part of an Innovative Differentiation Conference.

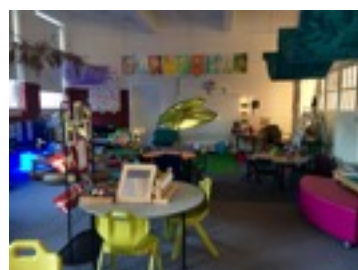
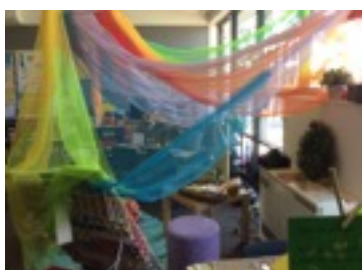
Angela Curry presented to the P&C to extend investigations into Year One for 2017, as these children were used to having investigations as part of their school week. Later in 2017, Angela presented to the P&C again, so that investigations could potentially flow on to Year 2. Funding for Investigative Learning was approved in both instances.

In 2017, Kindergarten came second and won a 'go pro' in a Department of Education's **Filmpod** competition on Investigative Learning at Balmain Public School. Recently, this term, Ms Sophie Parsons has been approached to write an article for a DoE publication, highlighting Investigative Learning at Balmain PS.

All Balmain PS staff have had [opportunities to learn about the approach](#) during Professional Learning meetings, as well as observations of Investigative Learning in action. New staff in 2018, as well as to Stage One, have also had opportunities for professional learning and observations.

Data and anecdotal records are consistently collected - confidence levels to take risks, initiate their own learning, writing ability, reading levels, as well as applying maths concepts in real-life learning - have been observed and recorded. As mentioned in previous newsletters, **literacy and numeracy learning happens explicitly**, as well as being woven through investigations. The learning continues...

Our school's website: <http://www.balmain-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/years/kindergarten/investigations>





# AFL PAUL KELLY CUP

FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS, A HARDWORKING GROUP OF **GIRLS IN YEARS 5 AND 6** HAVE BEEN TRAINING DURING THEIR LUNCH TIME, IN THE LEAD UP TO THE **AFL PAUL KELLY CUP**.

THIS PAST **TUESDAY**, THE GIRLS PLAYED THEIR HEARTS OUT IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL COMPETITION. THEY PLAYED SKILFULLY IN ALL THREE GAMES, **WORKING TOGETHER AS A TEAM** AND SHOWING **EXEMPLARY SPORTSMANSHIP**.

**OUTSTANDING EFFORT, GIRLS!!**

**THANK YOU** AGAIN TO THE PARENTS WHO WERE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE GIRLS ON THE DAY, BY DRIVING THEM TO AND FROM THE OVAL. THE DAY COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT YOUR EFFORTS.

**MS MILA MORRIS**~COORDINATOR



# Would you like to learn about yabbies?

Read these poems and raps by 5/6Y...

## Rap by Emily M, Frances R & Matilde L

Yabbies are a crayfish with a different name.  
They come in many colours and are certainly not lame.

They eat aquatic plants, dead or dying fish.  
They can also be served up on a pretty silver dish.

They live in quite warm waters where boats are sailing past.  
They might seem slow but they are really, really fast.

Yabbies, yabbies, they are so cool.  
You can find them in the ocean and maybe at school.

You can keep them in a tank.  
What's the name? Maybe Frank.

You can feed them peas and potato skin.  
Just don't put the yabby... in the bin!

Beware of the length, they might be long.  
Now we're going to sing the rest of this song.

Yabbies, yabbies, they are so cool.  
You can find them in the ocean and maybe at school.

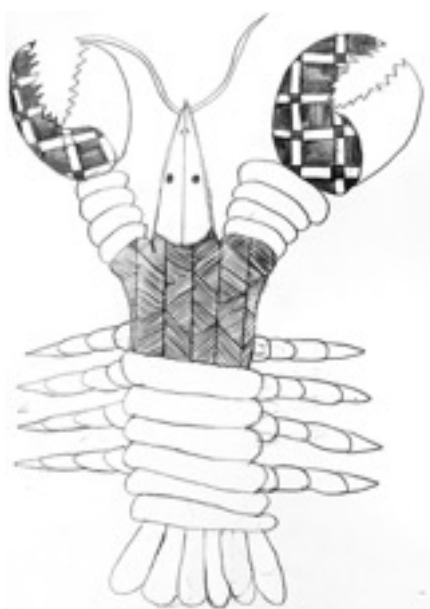
And that's the yabby rap!



## Poem by Alex T-F

Yabby  
crawly, nippy  
swimming, hiding, eating.  
Served in pasta with sauces,  
Crayfish.





### Rap by Charlie H

It's my last year of primary,  
It's gonna be extraordinary.

Cause Ms Yau's my teacher,  
And a yabby is a water creature.

You'll find yabbies in the WA,  
Rivers, streams and dams is where they like to play.

Yabbies come in blue, black, green or red,  
Carrots and peas is what they're fed.

Semi-aquatic that's what they are,  
Which means land and water is never far.

People can eat them that's what i've been told,  
They can live in water both hot and cold.

The biggest yabby found was as long as a ruler,  
And this is my last rap as a primary schooler.



### Poem by Joe F

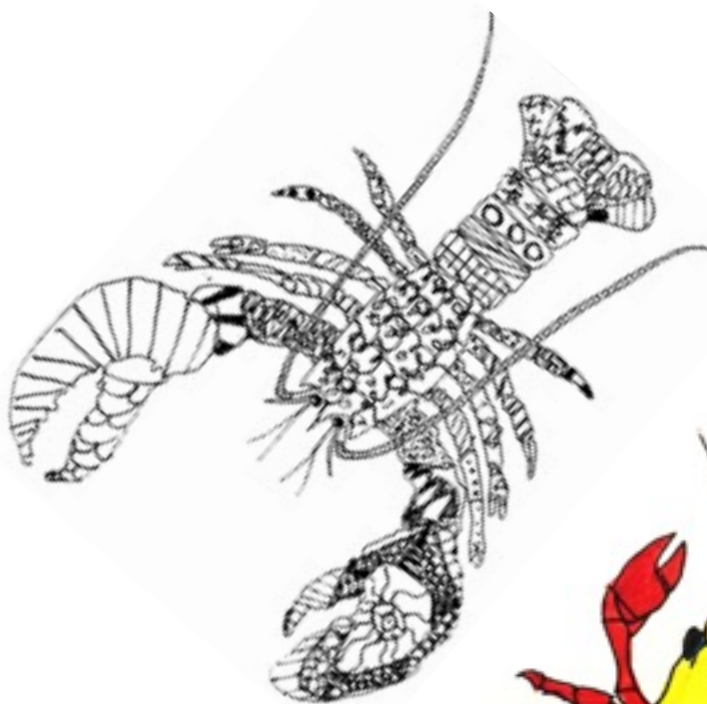
The yabbies they are  
semi-aquatic crayfish.

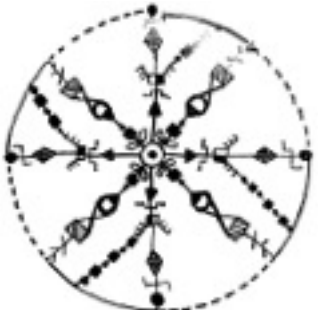
They come blue or black.

The yabbies are found  
all over Australia.

They yabbies they live  
in the hot or cold weather.

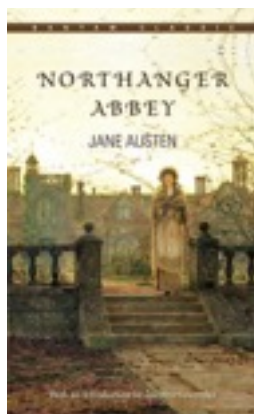
Streams, rivers and dams.







# Book Reviews by 5/6 Yabby



## **Northanger Abbey by Jane Austin**

Review by Daphne M

I highly recommend this novel. It doesn't have a complicated plot line and it doesn't have too many characters or names to remember, so it's not hard to follow along with the story. It's an easy read in general. It's a wonderful story, full of adventure, struggle, feelings and most importantly, comedy. It also contains amazingly well developed characters and beautiful olden day language. It's set in the 1800's and it's like being teleported two decades back. This book is truly marvellous and you must read it! I guarantee you'll enjoy it very much.

## **Grandpa's Great Escape by David Walliams**

Review by Nicholas G



I think you should read Grandpa's Great Escape because it's a pretty funny book. There are two very idiotic detectives from Scotland Yard - Bone and Beef. The book has a lot of illustrations. It's also got a lot of definitions for younger kids. It has lots of different thrilling adventures but it has a bit of a slow start.

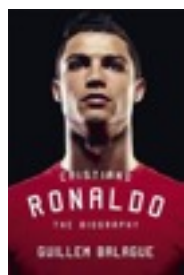
## **Alex Rider**

### **Stormbreaker: The Graphic Novel by Anthony Horwitz**

Review by Joshua W



You should read Alex Rider Stormbreaker: The Graphic Novel if you like graphic novels. This book introduces the origin of Alex Rider and his first mission. This book is the story that will convince you to read the rest of the Alex Rider books.



## **Cristiano Ronaldo: The Biography by Guillem Balague**

Review by Matthew T

I highly recommend this book to people who like soccer. It's about Cristiano Ronaldo, the best soccer player in the world. It's about his lifestyle, growing up as a kid and going from being poor to famous.

## **Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney**

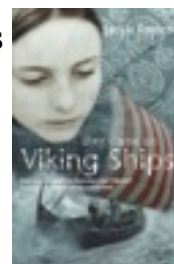
Review by Ethan M



This is my favourite book and I think you should read it. The book is sometimes challenging but that's something I like. This book is good for learning new words which you are probably going to need later on. There are funny pictures and jokes too, which is why I think you should read this book.

## **They Came On Viking Ships by Jackie French**

Review by Alex T-F



I strongly recommend reading this book because it's an amazing story of love and courage. It shows how bonds can form between old enemies and that time is essential for a strong bond to form. I loved reading this book because it tells a story of the way it used to be.



**EATON STREET CENTRE INC.**  
**PLAY. DISCOVER. GROW**

**These parents are thrilled there is a Before and After School Care (Eaton St. Centre) for Balmain Public Kids!**



*The London Hotel in the 1970s*

**Calling for a  
VOLUNTEER  
Human  
Resources  
Manager for  
EATON ST.  
CENTRE**

Eaton Street Centre Before and After School Care is a Not For Profit Parent Committee Run Organisation.

If you want to contribute to the school email Katrina Johnston (President) on [k\\_aked@yahoo.com.au](mailto:k_aked@yahoo.com.au) or call her on 0412 938 727 or Isabelle Kim (Centre Manager) on [isabellek@eatonstreetcentre.com.au](mailto:isabellek@eatonstreetcentre.com.au)

Responsibilities include 2 meetings a term.



# KCrabs (in action!)



"Investigations  
are fun because we  
get to learn in the  
places we like."

-Rosalind



INVESTIGATIONS



"I love dancing  
and having fun  
in Footsteps."

-Elisya

KC have learned four whole  
dances in Footsteps so far,  
we have definitely got our  
dancing shoes on!







"I like maths  
because we get to  
learn about  
numbers!"

-Tristan

After becoming pattern  
wizards, KC have begun to  
delve deep into mass and  
measurement.

We have settled into our  
routine and are flourishing  
in numeracy and literacy!

"I love  
kindergarten!"

-Shalina







# BPS CANTEEN

BPS Parents & Citizens Association



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

**DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR ORDERS IN  
BY THURSDAY 9AM!**

## TERM 1 MENU

Feb 9	Dumplings		Mar 9	Pork & Rice	
Feb 16	Butter Chicken & Rice		Mar 16	Penne Napoletana	
Feb 23	Beef & Rice		Mar 23	Butter Chicken	
Mar 2	Spaghetti Meatballs		Apr 6	Dumplings	

# 2nd Chance Uniform Stall

The second chance uniform stall will be running every **FRIDAY** morning from **8:30-9am**.





# *Creative Writing and Storytelling*

## **HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS**

.....

### **OUR INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS :**

- Will get imaginations firing
  - Create crazy characters, fantastical worlds and heart-pounding plots
  - Include games, craft & more – all in the name of bringing your story to life.
- .....

**FIND OUT MORE**

## **JOIN THE SQUAD**

## **STORYSQUAD.COM.AU**

Enquiries: **0414 414 268**  
**tiffany@storysquad.com.au**





*Children's  
party specialist  
of the Inner West*

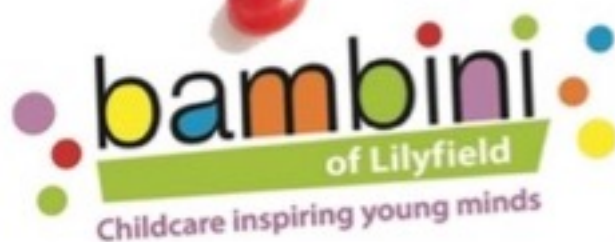
 [www.phoneafairy.com](http://www.phoneafairy.com)

 [hello@phoneafairy.com](mailto:hello@phoneafairy.com)

 0422058269

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Bambini presents:

# The Conscious Parent Educational Series

Delivered by: Semann and Slattery  
Topic: **Nurturing Resilience in Children**  
Sponsored by: Bambini of Lilyfield



## Outcomes:

- Informing families about how to build the resilience levels in children
- Outlining parenting strategies to support children to deal with challenges
- Opportunity to Network

**Date: 22 March 2018**  
**Time: 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm**

Address: Bambini of Lilyfield, 284 Balmain Road, Lilyfield, NSW 2040

Phone: 02 9810 7780

RSVP: [info@bambinioflilyfield.com.au](mailto:info@bambinioflilyfield.com.au)

Light Snacks provided | Free admission

