



# Abacus News

Term 4 2020

## End-of-term update

Term 4 has flown by after a year of COVID disruption!

At Abacus, staff and students alike have managed this interrupted and difficult year extremely well, and more than ever deserve the upcoming Christmas/New Year holiday break.

Thank you to all our clients for your faith in our service, your adherence to the ever-changing rules and regulations to be COVID-safe, and the flexibility you have shown that has enabled us to continue to provide our services this year.

Special thanks to those clients who were chosen to participate in our NDIS Quality and Safeguarding audit and contributed in such a meaningful way. We look forward to sharing the final results of the audit as soon as we are able.

During the upcoming three-week holiday break, none of the team will be on-site or on-call, however the Abacus mobile phone will be monitored weekly for any urgent matter that needs to be dealt with prior to the Monday 11 January 2021. The mobile number is 0407 759 253.

On behalf of the entire Team at Abacus, we wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season.

Lauren Wicks  
Executive Director – Finance & Development

## 2021 TERM DATES

### Term 1 (12 weeks)

Monday 11 January -  
Thursday 1 April

Public holidays: Tue 26 Jan,  
Mon 8 Mar and Fri 2 Apr

### Term 2 (11 weeks)

Monday 12 April -  
Friday 25 June

Public holidays: Mon 14 Jun

### Term 3 (12 weeks)

Monday 5 July -  
Thursday 23 September

Public holidays: Fri 24 Sep

### Term 4 (11 weeks)

Monday 4 October -  
Friday 17 December

Public holidays: Tue 2 Nov

## Outline of COVID-normal 2021 at Abacus



**Student drop-off will continue at the:  
Front Gate (Site 1 - High Street) and  
Front Door (Site 2 - Church Street)**



**No temperature check unless student appears unwell**



**Masks to be worn for collection of students:  
Outdoor Playground/Under Cover Area at Site 1 and  
Front Door at Site 2**



**Visitors and external professionals allowed on-site with  
mask and hygiene protocols to be followed**



**Parents/Carers allowed on-site for Clinical meetings, but  
must wear a mask**



**School transition assistance by Abacus staff will resume**



**One of the most important things we can do to slow the  
spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to  
stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the  
mildest of symptoms.**



## Staff old and new...

You will have noticed some new faces in our therapy team over the past six months as we have transitioned back into therapy sessions on-site. One or more of these therapists may already be working with your child so you have met them, but for those who haven't, here is a quick e-introduction.

In early July we welcomed Erin Farmer, Jade DeValle, Bridgid Tei and Katherine Plummer.

And then in late October we were joined by Bianca Sway and Chloe Scanlan.

Most recently, in early November, Tyla Mayne and Vanessa Fikiert joined the team. Vanessa got married a couple of weeks ago and we will soon know her as Vanessa Hanlon!

We also have three new staff who started their induction this week and will be on-site from the start of Term 1, so you will be introduced to them if they work with your child and/or in the next newsletter.



Bianca Sway



Bridgid Tei



Chloe Scanlan



Jade DeValle



Katherine Plummer



Tyla Mayne



Vanessa Hanlon

We also have a couple of returning staff:



Senior Therapist and Trainer, Jade O'Donahoo will return from Parental Leave.



Senior Therapist and now Scheduling Co-ordinator, Jody Griggstone, will return on-site after working from home since April this year.

Just prior to the end of this term we said goodbye to Erin who has had to return to full-time work. We also said a very sad goodbye to Mehtab who has been with us since early 2019 and is now moving into an exciting new full-time role.



### ABACUS SCHOOL

Students transitioning into school in 2021 will attend Abacus School for the first two weeks of Term 1 2021. This program would typically have run one day a week across 10 weeks in Term 4, but due to COVID restrictions it was moved to a more intensive 2 weeks (8 days) in Term 1. We look forward to seeing all these students in their Abacus School uniforms and assisting them with their transition from Abacus School to their chosen Primary School.

## Save The Date



Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions, our biennial Achieving with Autism Gala was cancelled in 2020.

We have everything crossed in hope that next year we have the opportunity to hold our signature event.

The evening is always a fun night of celebration with terrific auctions, raffles and heartfelt personal accounts.

At the moment we have rescheduled the event for:



**Saturday 28 August 2021**  
**6:30pm - 11:30pm at the**  
**Southern Golf Club**

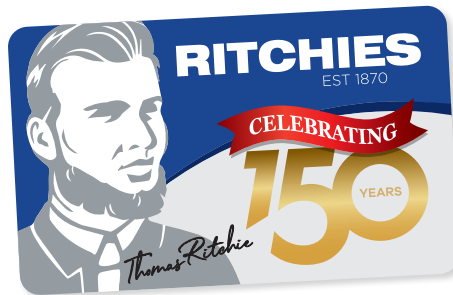
Further details will be released next year.

## The All New Ritchies Card

Ritchies IGA, recently launched their new Ritchies Card, incorporating the original Community Benefit Program.

The program now has an App for both IOS and Android smart devices. For those members who don't have a smart phone, or would like a physical card, this option is also available and can be linked to the App.

Every month, our organisation will receive 0.5%\* of our members' spend in Ritchies Stores PLUS members will receive special offers and member only specials via the App.



- **Download the Ritchies Loyalty App**



- **Nominate our organisation**
- **Shop at Ritchies**
- **You will benefit and we will benefit**

**CONDITIONS APPLY**

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