

# QLD Playwork gathering 2026

Moogerah Lakeside Bush Retreat  
170 Ski Zone Road, Moogerah QLD 4309

Sat/Sun 23/24 May 2026



Marc Armitage presents a Malarkey Event

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# QLD Playwork gathering 2026

Lake Moogerah QLD 23/24 May 2026

Will you be joining us at the QLD Playwork Gathering in 2026? You should be! This brochure has all the basic information for you to attend this gig.

## What is it:

A residential gathering in communal huts for those from the OSHC/OOSH and the Primary School sectors to be immersed in the practice and theory of play and Playwork; and for a chance to learn and network with other playworkers.

## Where is it:

It will take place at the Moogerah Lakeside Bush Retreat in QLD (see map attached).

## When is it:

Saturday 23/Sunday 24 May 2026. Participants are able to join us on Friday evening for an early start, or arrive no later than 9am on Saturday

## What you will need to bring:

You need to bring bedding/sleeping bags and a change of clothing in case of wet weather. All meals and refreshments for Saturday and Sunday are provided.

## The Wicker Man

Saturday evening will feature evening dinner and an appointment to meet The Wicker Man for music and fireside chatting.

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## Why should you come to the Playwork Gathering?

Modern Playwork practice has its origins in the late 1940s but its inception goes much further back into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Playwork is a very specific way of working with children and young people, and for the last decade, this approach has been promoted as a way of working within the OSHC/OOSH sectors by a number of key individuals and organisations within Australia and from overseas.

Playwork has also now been recognised as a valid approach to working in OSHC/OOSH in the MTOP Framework. But there is more - Playwork is an approach that children themselves value and want to see more of.

This weekend residential Gathering will show us how we can move towards making a Playwork Approach more available in our centres and schools with a series of practical and theory sessions provided by some of those that are leading the new wave of Playwork in Australia. Discussion around the campfire will also be important.

All of this will be framed with the Playwork Principals, the ethical framework for Playwork, and within current best practice.

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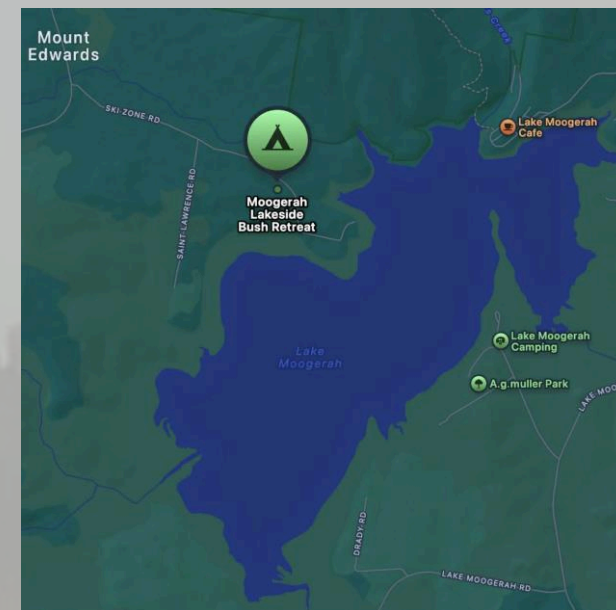
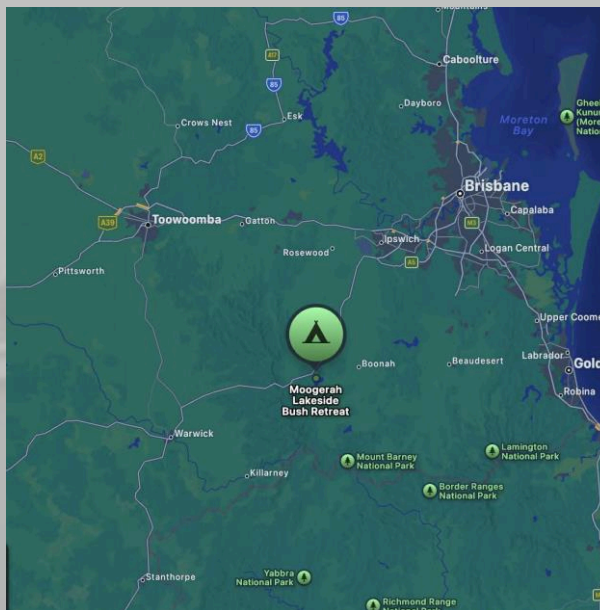
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## Where is it?

The gig will take place at the Moogerah Lakeside Bush Retreat, 170 Ski Zone Road, Moogerah QLD 4309.

Please arrive at the venue not later than 9am on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> OR the campsite will be available for you stay over on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> from about 3pm onwards. You will need to bring bedding with you.

The gig will end between 12/12:30pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> and please try and make sure you can stay right up to the end.



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# What is at the heart of Playwork?

Kylie Keene – Keen About

Everyone has their own version of Playwork practice informed by countless concepts, various theories both from within and on the outskirts of Playwork itself. Some Playworkers default to theory and academics others to intuition; and then there are those who balance a very healthy dose of each. Is one right or wrong? Potentially... though probably not, so long as reflective practice lies at the heart of it all!

This is a session that protects time for exactly this, a good old dose of reflective practice. Time, space and permission to ponder the possibilities and to ask... 'What if?' and 'But why?'

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## On the Table: little games, big concepts

Angus Gorrie – The Outsiders

Dating back (at least) 5000 years, table-top and board games have been a staple form of play across many cultures. This type of play is evidenced not only by children but also adults and, despite their many differences and playful manifestations, are often symbolic representations of quite serious affairs.

Join Angus as he discusses the history and detail of several such gaming systems from the distant past to the present, and discuss how despite being ages old, table-top and board game systems have never been more popular (something to consider in order to meet the intrinsic motivations of children in your settings).

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# Autism from a Playwork Perspective

Marc Armitage - Malarkey

It is often said that autistic children seem to be incapable of playing, especially with their peers yet research and observation seems to suggest that this is not correct. Autistic children may play 'differently' to others but in that respect, they are similar to most other children who all have their own interests, preferences and idiosyncrasies and so all 'play differently'.

The starting point to working with autistic children in a Playwork context is not that much different from working with any other child – it's about learning their preferences and working on that. Where the difference really lays is within Playwork practice compared to other some approaches. It is these latter differences that this session will highlight asking, how do playworkers do this differently.

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## Exiled Playwork: how much is too much

Jordon Hill – Independent & Angie Casella – Curious Me

This session explores practical experience and therapeutic Playwork, discussing where it fits into the Playwork principles and the play cycle - some of those most universal play concepts known to playworkers. Does this more intentional type of play still have a place in our purist world of 'hands off' Playwork?

Basically, how can we support kids who need a bit more help to enter play frames/cycles and why is it our responsibility to do it. How do we validate the importance of a more hands on approach with those kids who are likely to need a more intentional playwork approach (even if it's only for a short amount of time). This talk will be relevant for adults working with children experiencing high degrees of trauma and/or seeking a neuroaffirming approach.

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## Risky ≠ Reckless: Defending Play

Angie Cassella – Curious Me

Audit pressure can trigger fear-based decisions that dilute play. This workshop supports educators and leaders to hold the line: when strong systems are in place, play doesn't need to be stripped back.

Learn how to align loose parts and risk-rich play with WHS legislation and audit expectations using practical language, clear strategies and defensible documentation. Play can stay brave, compliant and protected.

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## There Not There: being the adult in a child's space

### Hannah Powell – Norman Park Kindergarten

When tackling one of the most challenging aspects of playwork - navigating the role of the adult when advocating for play, where do we step in or stay back? How can we stay hidden in plain sight? How can we facilitate play without destroying the play with our mere presence?

Together we will dive into exploring these themes and, ideally, we'll emerge with a whole lot of new shiny things to add to our playworker toolbelt.

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\$399 pp inc all accommodation,  
meals, and training sessions

Book at the QR Code or  
<https://www.trybooking.com/DIHQV>



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