

JUNE 2022



Early Childhood
Australia

New South Wales Branch

Newsletter

Conversation EVENINGS

When? June 23rd – 07:00 pm

Thank you to all who attend or listen to the Conversations Evening. We try to present diverse speakers from a wide range of topics to provoke conversations, questions and provide a unique way to network with others.

The next Conversations evening will be with Julie Gaul and Deb Watson formerly from the Early Childhood Environment Education Network, (ECEEN).

This organisation has been running in NSW for over a decade and it has recently been merged with ECA National.

The well-known Sprouts Awards will continue.

To hear more about environmental sustainability in Early Childhood settings, register for the Conversations Evening, listen on the night or have the recording sent to you, register in advance for this meeting at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlc--rqTwoH9Uupk3FNacQnc85P7GGddns>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Queen's Birthday

Honours

Well deserved congratulations to Deb Brennan, Leslie Loble and Robyn Munro Millar for receiving the honour of OAM in the Queens Birthday honours.

They have been awarded the Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

Professor Emerita Deborah Jane BRENNAN

For significant service to social policy research, to gender equality, and to tertiary education.

.....
Ms Leslie LOBLE

For significant service to public administration, and to education.

.....
Ms Robyn MONRO MILLER

For significant service to the community through children's organisations.



Early Childhood Australia

New South Wales Branch

ECA NSW COMMITTEE

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Regional Facilitators

Central Coast: Melissa Wicks

Far North Coast: Lauren Maguire

Hunter: Lyn Connors

Illawarra/South Coast:

Linda Windley

New England: Tracey Dooner

Riverina: Tracey Snow

Sydney Metro: Laura Sportelli

Western Region: Katherine Wilson

ECA NSW BRANCH

0429 779 039

earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au

office@nsw.earlychildhood.org.au

ABN 92 495 446 647

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022

EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022

PASSION TO POWER our future profession

Early Bird Rates end 29th July, 2022.

For all conference details and information and to book your tickets, go to :

<https://www.ecaconference.com.au/2022>

5 - 8 October 2022 – Canberra

ECA NSW SCHOLARSHIPS

ECA NSW have 14 scholarships for ECA Members working in Early Childhood Education and Care settings.

There are 7 scholarships to attend in person, covering full registration, Hesta dinner, accommodation and travel, up to \$2,000.

There are an additional 7 virtual scholarships covering the registration and \$200 a day to cover a staff member.

Please contact office@nsw.earlychildhood.org.au for the criteria and application form.

NESA

ECA NSW Executive Committee includes Merise Bickley, Lead, Early Childhood from the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).

Merise informs the work of the Executive Committee in supporting early childhood teachers to grow their knowledge about teacher accreditation.



ACROSS THE REGIONS

Central Coast

The Central Coast Group of ECA held their first-ever conference on Thursday 26 May. Initial plans were for 80 participants, but the day was attended by over 120 and the feedback has been very positive. Professor Sandie Wong delivered the keynote presenting her research on what it takes to be an exceptional educator.

Break out workshops were then offered with the choices of:

- Risky Play and Nature Pedagogy (Inspired EC)
- Intentional teaching that supports educator excellence (Dr Nicole Leggett)

- Play for gifted children in early learning settings (Dr Kerry Hodge)
- Authentic Inclusion of Aboriginal and TSI voices (Sharon Buck)
- Gender Identity - Creating inclusive play spaces (Valenty Mai).

There were 11 stallholders that provoked interest and created a market buzz during break times.

Lunch was followed by a heart-pumping drumming session and then a panel discussion that included workshop presenters as well as some local politicians.

There were lucky door prizes and an inspiringly positive and optimistic atmosphere prevailed.

Below is early feedback from one of the participants.

"You and your team put on a wonderful day today! So inspiring and despite the challenges our profession is facing managed to put positivity back out there. Please pass on to each person involved how wonderful today was, the vibe was upbeat, connected and I think united in what and why we do what we do. Also - the food was next level!!!!!"



South Coast

After many years of strong advocating, Linda Windley is handing over the facilitation role to Melissa Wicks. Our thanks to Linda for driving the Illawarra South Coast regional group.

Hunter

Back to Basics Series was held at the Glendale TAFE Campus.

Our first event in the series was "Music and Movement Pedagogy", presented by Erin Mathieson, an experienced practitioner. Erin provided lots of take-home ideas and inspiration to embed a music and movement session into the day. Song, rhymes and movement to inspire connection without the use of the iPad or Youtube, to develop a truly authentic music program.

We reconnected to the theory of musical experiences and its place in the Early Years Learning Framework with some hands-on fun and joy.

As one of the participants said:

"I loved last night's session! Erin really gave me that nostalgic feel of how we can and should be engaging children like we used to do. I loved her and I think centres would greatly benefit from a PD session!"

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to mind, flight to the imagination and life into everything"
(Plato)

Our next in the series is Thursday 30th June when we highlight the visual arts with Dr Gai Lindsay from the University of Wollongong. Booking through Eventbrite.



Presenter Erin Mathieson (R) with participants

Riverina

ECA NSW Riverina is bringing Dr Red Ruby Scarlet and Louise Dorrat to Wagga for a day of fun and learning.

These wonderful pedagogues will give a keynote address, workshop and Q&A during the day before returning to perform the fun, entertaining and educational National Quality Framework the Musical.

Red and Louise will then be our guest presenters at our Annual ECA Riverina Award ceremony.

We are currently seeking funding to keep ticket prices as low as we can, so for now we are taking expressions of interest for the day and evening.

Email traceys@amyhurd.com.au so I can add you to the list and email you booking information when it is finalised.

ECA members will get a reduced ticket price and we will be looking into group bookings for services for the evening. You can become an ECA member at www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/become-a-member/

Let's celebrate our wonderful EC professionals and the end of the year with this awesome show.

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 3rd November

See the full day event details on our Facebook page by clicking [HERE!](#)

Far North Coast

ECA Far North Coast hosted a Wellbeing evening on Thursday, 16th June at Wollongbar TAFE, to provide support to members after a challenging start to the year.

40 Far North Coast members attended the event in person, which was a wonderful way to network and re-connect.

Fiona McQueen, from Wollongbar TAFE, presented on an internship model for students and Early Childhood Services and updates from TAFE.

Chris Phoenix, presented **The Phoenix Cups**, on *“discovering your personal needs of fulfilment; because you can’t pour from an empty cup”*.

Chris was very engaging and interesting, and the evening was enjoyable and meaningful. A great evening together!



ECA NSW Planning Day

Recently ECA NSW held a planning day to develop a State action plan to help deliver on the National ECA Strategic Plan (2021-24).

Regional groups across NSW have been asked to contribute to this State plan by creating their own regional action plans linked to the National Strategic Plan Priorities.

To find out more about the National Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024 and prompt ideas for our future plans click [HERE!](#)...

- **Priority 1:**
Speak up for young children
- **Priority 2:**
Collaborate for impact
- **Priority 3:**
Champion 'beyond quality' in early education
- **Priority 4:**
Lead and inspire professional learning
- **Priority 5:**
Be sustainable and effective

ECA NSW
is delighted to learn
of the joint funding
decision of the
NSW and Victorian
Government
supporting
Early Childhood
Education.

**We look forward
to seeing positive
ramifications for
generations.**