

Newsletter

KAMBARANG OCTOBER — NOVEMBER

For local Noongar people in Perth / Boorloo, the orchids are one sign that Kambarang has arrived. Also referred to as 'Wildflower Season' it's a time when nature explodes into life and marks fewer cold fronts and warmer temperatures. The landscape is carpeted with a rainbow of wildflowers, including the vibrant flowering of the Kangaroo Paw and Banksia. It's the season of plenty with an abundance of food available, including fruit, yams and gilgie (freshwater crayfish). As the weather warms up you may also come across reptiles, including snakes, as they awaken from hibernation. Many other forms of wildlife become active during this month with families of birds appearing in nests, as baby Magpies (Koolbardies) and other native species sing for food.

Wow, I can not believe the end of the year is upon us, apparently only 7 more Fridays till 2025! Can you believe it? We have had a wonderfully busy year with some amazing professional learning opportunities. I must take the time to thank our outgoing members of the committee, Sally Whittaker (life member), Olivia Long and Linda Santagelli. We thank you for your service, advocacy and friendship as members on the ECAWA committee. We do hope that you continue your involvement in our sub committees and the sector. Your work is vital to our continued improvement.

As we glance to the future, we will welcome our new committee members after the AGM, which is looming fast ahead, if you would like to join online please reach out to Jo who can reforward you the link if you have lost it in your emails.

Now on to next year. Our planning day is mid January and with some already great ideas on the horizon, I am asking you our members what is it you would like us to see focus on for next year?

I will leave you with thinking time but please reach out when you have had that time to think about what you and your staff may need. We are happy to arrange some in-house professional development or use your venue as the hub for one of our events.

Boordawan
Tanya

ECA WA COMMITTEE

Chair: Tanya Steers

Admin: Jo Kapica

Committee Members

Rosina Smith
Jayne Kaiko
Sally Whittaker
Amelia Ruscoe
Amie Fabry
Olivia Long
Dimity Franks
Sally Griffiths
Linda Santangeli
Danielle Arrigoni
Wendy Gorman

Membership/Executive

- Tanya Steers (Chair)
- Amie Fabry
- Dani Arrigoni

Conference

- Dimity Franks
- Amelia Ruscoe
- Linda Santangeli
- Amie Fabry
- Tanya Steers

Pedagogy

- Sally Griffiths
- Jayne Kaiko
- Rosina Smith
- Marcelle Saratsis
- Lauren Ferguson

Reconciliation (RAG)

- Wendy Gorman
- Sally Whittaker
- Olivia Long
- Denise Clarke
- Leonie Cottam
- Pamela Chatfield
- Sandy Clarke

 Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

2025 ECA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

UNIVERSAL
NOT UNIFORM

Leading change, strengthening unity
and honouring individuality

1-4 OCT
PERTH

It's with enormous excitement we announce the **37th ECA National Conference**, 'Universal not Uniform: Leading change, strengthening unity and honouring individuality', will take place at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre (PCEC), Western Australia, from **Wednesday 1 October to Saturday 4 October 2025**.

Stay up to date with latest events and conference information from ECA by signing up for our **Events Newsletter**.

Play Picnic 2024: Celebrating Children's Week with a Day of Play, Connection and Joy



What a fantastic day we had at the ECWA Play Picnic for Children's Week 2024! This event, facilitated by an incredible group of early childhood play advocates, was a true celebration of the power of play. Hundreds of children, parents, and carers gathered for a morning full of play-based activities, laughter, and community spirit. Even a little rain couldn't stop the fun—'nature's glitter' only added to the magic of the day! It was a perfect reminder that, no matter the weather, children will always find joy in play.

A huge thank you to the **Department of Communities** and **Department of Education WA** for making this event possible. We were also thrilled to have **Hon. Sabine Winton MLA, Steve Watson, Deputy Director General Schools** and **Patrick Gorman MP** join us, demonstrating their strong commitment to early childhood education. We were lucky to have **Binar Futures** provide a powerful Welcome to Country and show their deadly dance moves while leading the children in an interactive dance experience, adding even more playfulness to the day.



Special thanks must go to our event partners: **AISWA, Goodstart Early Learning, MercyCare Early Learning, Village Early Learning** and **Playgroup WA** for helping to create fun and engaging play activities for everyone and **The City of Vincent** for their support in making the event accessible to all. We also appreciate **Nature Play WA, Made to be Messy, Play in the Past** and **Cath Fitz OT** for adding their expertise and creativity to the day.

This event underscores the importance of supporting children and families on their journey to play, learn, and grow together. We celebrate Children's Week by reaffirming our commitment to the ECA vision of **ensuring that every young child is thriving and learning**. Together, we're building a stronger, more connected community that supports children and families in every step of their early years. We are already looking forward to next year's Play Picnic—we plan to make it even bigger and better, so we hope to see you there in 2025!



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Application To Present in Perth is NOW OPEN!

Applicants wishing to present need to select from one of the five areas of inquiry, and indicate their preferred presentation format, selecting between an oral presentation, flash presentation or a traditional poster presentation. Applicants must submit an abstract of 300 words online and will be asked to identify the target audience for their presentation.

1. Multiple literacies for children's learning
2. One workforce for young children
3. Children at the centre of their own education journey
4. Leadership: national initiatives, local solutions
5. Supporting inclusion for regional, rural and remote

The closing date for submission is Monday 20 January 2025.



Fostering Growth Mindsets In The Early Years

You're invited to register for the upcoming Be You In Focus webinar: [Fostering growth mindsets in the early years](#). Join panellists Fiona Boylan (Edith Cowan University) and Tess Herring (Tumut Community Preschool) to explore mindset theory, research and practice.

In the Early Years Learning Framework children developing a growth mindset is a key component of becoming a confident and involved learner. A growth mindset may also be a powerful protective factor for children's wellbeing now and later in life.

An educator's own growth mindset can be a positive disposition for their learning and wellbeing. Fostering a growth mindset in your early learning service can support educator teams to navigate change and embrace continuous improvement.



be you **Beyond Blue**

Fostering growth mindsets in the early years

When: Wednesday, 13 November 2024
Time: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM AEDT
Learn: Panellists discuss mindset theory, research and practice and how you can harness a growth mindset to promote children's and educators' positive mental health.

[Register today](#)

The Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Staff Survey 2024

is being conducted by ORIMA Research on behalf of the **Australian Government Department of Education**. This important survey helps the Australian Government Department of Education:

- *develop policies to better attract and keep people working in the ECEC sector, and*
- *monitor progress of the National Children's Education and Care Workforce Strategy – a ten-year strategy that aims to ensure a sustainable, high-quality children's education and care workforce.*

The ECEC Staff Survey 2024 is being conducted 4 November – 16 December 2024. It is open to directors, managers, coordinators, educational leaders, teachers and educators working in: centre based day care, family day care, outside school hours care, and preschool/kindergartens.

[Find out more](#)

The Royal Life Saving Society WA

recently released new [downloadable resources](#) with key water safety tips for parents of young children, which are intended for early childhood services to copy and insert into their newsletters or social media. [Read more here.](#)

They are also offering **Heart Beat Club** grants, which support parents and caregivers of children aged five and under to learn life-saving CPR and basic first aid skills. The grants are an initiative of the 'Keep Watch' toddler drowning prevention program.

[Find out more.](#)

Upcoming Calendar Days:

to consider acknowledging in your service.

Click on the link

for more details.

[Outdoor Classroom Day](#) (7 November);

[Remembrance Day](#) (11 November);

[National Recycling Week](#) (11–17 November);

[World Kindness Day](#) (13 November).

