



PO Box 95
5 Hill Street URALLA, 2358
02 67784510
urallapreschool@bigpond.com
ABN 97 889 930 322

Director: Anne Percy

20th February, 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

What a great start it's been to the year. Welcome to our new and returning families to Uralla Preschool. We look forward to a busy and fun filled year as we get to know you and your family.

Uralla Preschool Celebrates 50 Years

It is 50 years since the doors of Uralla Preschool opened. Uralla Preschool was first established in 1974 in the Uralla RSL Memorial Hall. The preschool operated five days per week between 9.00 – 12.00. In 1976, after much community fundraising and receiving a government grant, the purpose-built preschool building in which we occupy today, was built and ready to move into. Uralla Preschool first opened with only two educators. We now employ 7 permanent educators. In 1984, the preschool began to offer and outreach preschool to Kingstown, offering a program every Monday.

Over the years, Uralla Preschool has welcomed hundreds (if not thousands) of children and their families through the doors.

Our buildings and gardens have been through many transformations to what it is today featuring a large log cabin, sandpit and digging patch, a vegetable patch with apple trees and so much more. We look forward to converting the hen house later this year, into an outdoor classroom to explore environmental concepts and so much more, and welcome the addition of two new climbing structures before the end of term.

We look forward to celebrating 50 years of growth in the Uralla community and continue to support the children, their families and the community in years to come.

Health and Hygiene

Nut allergy

A child with a severe nut allergy attends Uralla Preschool on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

- Please do not send any nuts to school on those days, including nutella, peanut butter or anything else that contains nuts such as some muesli bars.
- All children attending these days will be requested to wash their hands upon arrival.

COVID update

As you are all well aware, people who test positive to Covid are no longer required to isolate. Uralla Preschool will continue to follow the guidance issued by NSW Health to support the safety and wellbeing of our preschool community.

Staff and Students with Covid Symptoms

If a student or staff member is unwell and has any symptoms, they should always test for COVID - 19 and not attend school until they are **SYMPTOM FREE** (even if their test returned a negative result – your child needs to be symptom free).

Positive COVID-19 Cases

If a student or staff member receives a positive result on a RAT or PCR test, they

- Can record the positive test to Services NSW (website or App)
- Should notify Uralla Preschool as soon as possible (so that we are able to put measures in place to support vulnerable persons).
- Uralla Preschool will continue to notify the preschool community of a positive case. This is a strategy to minimise cross infection so that families can be more alert of possible symptoms early if their child has been in contact with the positive case.

Other Illness

Starting preschool is a time when your child's health is vulnerable as it is often the first time your child has the opportunity to socialise in large groups. This is how your child builds resilience in health. Unfortunately, poor health at various times is inevitable.

However, it is important that you, as parents have the mindset that **if your child is displaying any symptoms that they should stay at home.** (lethargy, temperature, rash etc). The spread of infection is exasperated in early childhood settings as children find it difficult to control their germs and in turn, spread them all over the toys and equipment. It also impacts on staffing as we have very strict policies in place for educators not coming to work if they are unwell.

In addition, it can be more difficult to identify when your child is unwell because children often have periods of energy before they feel lethargic again.

If you're in doubt as to whether to send your child to preschool due to health concerns, it is probably best to have a rest day. Often one rest day will set them right and it means that you can get back to work quicker.

If your child has been **vomiting or has diarrhoea, you must keep them isolated at home for at least 24 hours after their last episode of vomiting and/or bowel motion.**

Affordable Fee Relief for all families

Many families have been delighted to accept the offer of fee relief meaning that they do not have any fees due at Uralla Preschool for the whole year. Please come to speak to me if you are still confused so that I can discuss how your family can best benefit from the Fee Relief offered by the state government.

Welcome Barbecue

Please join us on Thursday 22nd February for a sausage sizzle at Alma Park. This is a great opportunity to meet some other children, their families and the educators while enjoying a bite to eat.

When: Thursday 22nd February 2024

Time: 5.30 – 7.00pm

Where: Alma Park

What to bring: Chairs, picnic rug and anything else to make the evening comfortable for your family.

Preschool will provide a sausage sizzle, bread and coleslaw.

In the event of poor weather, the picnic will be postponed. An announcement will be made at 3.00 pm and advertised on our Facebook page. You are also welcome to call the preschool after 3.00pm to check.

General Meeting/Annual General Meeting

The Uralla Preschool Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th February. There will be a short General Meeting prior to the AGM. All families are invited to this meeting.

General meetings discuss the business operations of the preschool and are a great way to connect with other parents. We meet four times per year – once per term.

The committee consists of 5 or 7 members. President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and General Member (with the option of two additional members). All seats will be vacated at the meeting and open to all. I encourage you to contact our current committee or speak to Anne if you would like to learn more about the roles. These positions have been designed not to be arduous and rarely require attention outside of these meetings.

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| • Rose Perrott | President | Mother of Florence – Tues/Thurs/Fri
Mother of Ruby Mon/Wed/Fri |
| • Melissa Hanson | Vice President | Mother of Joseph – Tues/Thurs/Fri |
| • Matt McKean | Secretary | Father of Maggie – Kindergarten |
| • Matt Borg | Treasurer | Father of Wendy – Tues/Thurs
Father of Olive – Mon/Wed |
| • Jaylene Goodwin | Member | Mother of Harlow – Kindergarten |
| • Liz Bashford | Member | Mother of Alfie – Tues, Thurs, Fri |
| • Tiff Jeffers | Member | Mother of Maisey – Tues/Thurs/Fri |

Operating hours

Uralla Preschool is open

- Monday to Thursday. 8.00 – 3.30
- Friday 8.00 – 12.30

Late collection charges will be applied at a rate of

- 10 minutes late - \$20.00
- 11 minutes late \$40.00 and \$5.00 for every minute thereafter.

Please note that people collecting your child must be over 18 years of age and authorised on the enrolment form. Proof of ID maybe requested.

What to bring to preschool everyday.

Please ensure that your child brings

- A **labelled** broad brimmed hat (or legionnaires hat)
- **Labelled** bedding
- A **labelled** water bottle (water only please)
- A piece of fruit for a shared morning tea
- A **labelled** lunch box with ice brick (lunch with 2-3 snacks is sufficient)
- A change of clothes (water play, toileting accident, jumper)

You will be required to put sunscreen on your child before entering the preschool. Thank you

Preschool Makeover

Preschool has had a makeover during the Christmas holidays. You may have noticed that the preschool was painted on the inside and outside. In addition, new carpet was laid leaving the preschool feeling fresh and calm.

We are very excited to have two fixed play structures erected later this month/early March. These play structures were carefully chosen to be inclusive, yet challenging optimising gross motor development and social skills. They will be a great addition to our outdoor play spaces.

We thank you for your cooperation as we prepare for your child/ren at Uralla Preschool. It is an incredibly busy time that is often filled with many emotions. Your preparations are key to a smooth and successful transition to preschool.

We are so excited to welcome back our returning children and families and to build strong relationships with our new children and their families.

Anne Percy
Director

On behalf of Lisa-Marie, Jodie, Deb, Kristy, Tara and Briena

Our partnership with the Seniors and Elders at Tableland's Community Services (TCS) resulted in the production of these two wonderful collaborative art pieces.

Jade (TCS) entered them into the show for all to see and celebrate. We are so proud and happy, not only for the art but also the stories and connections we have made. We look forward to reconnecting again later this year.

