

ECA NSW BRANCH

Newsletter

MAY 2018

ECA – FAR NORTH COAST REGION

Early Childhood Conference

A very successful conference with lots of hands-on experiences from the field featuring the natural environment and Marte Meo.

- a very successful weekend with positive evaluations
- 55 for the masterclasses – very well received by those attending from Maria Aarts and Sarah Moore
- 80 for the reception at Mantra with a highlight the appearance of the 'Headliners Chorus' featuring two local ECA members/local preschool Directors
- 170 for the Saturday conference. While numbers down on previous years, all speakers were well received in the evaluations. An excellent keynote from Maria Aarts – The Marte Meo program
- Other speakers included Collette O'Donovan (second attachments) Mark Carthew (joyful language and literacy play), Sarah Moore (Leadership), Joce Nutall (developing people and practices), Caroline Jordan (sensory processing), Merise Bickley (NESA teacher accreditation), Rochelle Wright and Felicity Clifton (Music and movement), Emma Pierce (NDIS Working Together Agreement), Fasha Steen and Kim Tait (weaving with botanicals), Annette Sax (possum skin necklace and yarning circle) plus presentation from local practitioners of their everyday service practices.

For details on how to be involved with ECA NSW Far North Coast contact Jannette Leonard – netty6335@gmail.com



Early Childhood Australia

New South Wales Branch

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Susan Stuart-Watt

Marina Pasic

ECA NSW BRANCH

 0429 779 039

 earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au

 office@nsw.earlychildhood.org.au

ABN 92 495 446 647

Stories FROM the field

at the FAR NORTH COAST Early Childhood Conference

Educators had an opportunity to get together and share information and knowledge with a group of like minded early childhood teachers and educators, to hear their stories and experiences on their personal journeys (with their colleagues and services) around connecting with community. Our speakers at this year's seminar have unique understandings and perspectives about working with projects that include bush tucker and regeneration collaborations, building cultural and community connections and making 'special places' for children and families.

Session speakers included:

Mandala Diehl: Director of Federal Community Children's Centre and Manager of the Bush Tucker Living Classroom, situated in the hinterland of Byron Bay NSW. The bush tucker garden is situated on Widjabul land and created with local community members and representatives from the Widjabul tribe. Included in Mandala's session was information around the creation of the garden, as well as the development of their *Local Bush Food in Northern NSW & South East Qld* book and info on how to 'get started' yourself.

Kate Maclean Director Coraki Preschool, **Cath Gillespie** ECT Evans Head Preschool, **Maurita Cavanaugh** Director Jarjum Centre Preschool Lismore and **Belinda McElligot** Indigenous Advancement Strategy Officer at Coraki Preschool, EC educator and Bundajlung woman, and mother of 6: This session component offered the story of building cultural and community connections within local preschool areas – the challenges and joys of true collaboration.

Paulina Beerling: Director of Gumnuts Community Preschool in Burringbar. Paulina's session component focussed on the journey of 'Planning and making special places' and her individual story of moving forward and focusing on quality practice.

ECA NSW AGM

GUEST SPEAKER



It is with great pleasure we announce that Megan Mitchell, National Children's Commissioner is our guest speaker for the ECA NSW AGM.

Thursday 17 May 6.30-8.30pm
Club York 95-99 York St, Sydney.

Light supper will be served from 6pm.

RSVP: office@nsw.earlychildhood.org.au

Attendance is free.

NOTE: People wishing to nominate for a position on the executive committee must complete a nomination form.

Contact: office@nsw.earlychildhood.org.au

NATIONAL CONFERENCE Scholarships available!

Members will be well aware of the National Conference to be held in Sydney in September.

ECA NSW will be making available scholarships to the conference. Full registration plus part travel and accommodation is available.

6 scholarships will be offered...

- 1 x Regional or Remote
- 1 x CERT III
- 1 x Diploma
- 1 x Bachelor of Education (EC)
- 2 x Indigenous

For full details and an application form contact : office@nsw.earlychildhood.org.au



Early Childhood Australia | Celebrating 80 years
A voice for young children

EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2018

BE THE DIFFERENCE
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

19-22 SEPTEMBER 2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE SYDNEY

MID NORTH COAST

Regional Symposium

Celebrate Collaborate & Innovate

The Symposium focussed on bringing together 60 early education professionals to facilitate discussions focussed on fostering children's emotional wellbeing and resilience, supporting the health and well-being of educators and building network within the region.

We had the privilege of having **Nikki Buchan** and **Thea O'Connor** as keynote speakers to initiate thought provoking discussions. Attendees had the opportunity to discuss and share their own experiences of practice and collaboratively discuss ideas for future practice and pedagogy. Participants gained valuable connections with others within the region and are excited by continuing these connections via our regional ECA network.



For details on how to be involved with ECA NSW Mid North Coast branch contact:

Rebecca Minter – director@kempseychildrenserservice.com.au



KU Annual Conference SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2018

The 2018 KU Annual Conference 'New Frontiers from Strong Foundations' will focus on igniting a level of excitement for teaching and learning that will propel educators toward 'New Frontiers' of education with a sense of anticipation, courage and enthusiasm.

Keynote speakers include technology reporter for the ABC and futurist for 3AW Steve Sammartino, and renowned adolescent and child psychologist Dr Michael Carr-Gregg.

The conference streams will offer opportunities for reflection on foundational practice whilst exploring educator's preparedness to embrace early education through a more contemporary lens.

The aim is to inspire and challenge participants to consider a landscape of possibilities, so that educators can begin to consider the new frontiers of education with confidence. Educators will be encouraged to rethink and reshape teaching and learning that is congruent with the changing demographic of modern society, inclusive of the promise and challenge of digital literacy and technologies, issues of social justice and social competence.

The conference will feature an exciting and engaging marketplace with high quality suppliers, interactive booths and breakout areas with new and unique offerings.

NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships

put yourself in the picture



Premier's Early Childhood Education Scholarship
\$10,000
For study related to early childhood education.

We are proud supporters of the 2019 Premier's Teacher Scholarships! These scholarships are a career changing experience for teachers, with benefits from the program felt throughout NSW. If you're a teacher in Early Childhood Education, we would encourage you to apply for our 2019 Premier's Early Childhood Education Scholarship. Applications open 19 March 2018 and close 11 May 2018. Put yourself in the picture!



FOR MORE INFORMATION
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/jobs-and-opportunities/scholarships/premiers-teacher-scholarships/early-childhood-scholarship>



Early Childhood Australia - HUNTER BRANCH

TRIVIA NIGHT

Tuesday 8 May

Charlestown Bowling Club, Lincoln Street, Charlestown

Time: 6pm-9pm

Cost: \$10 for members / \$15 for non-members

Bookings: www.huntereca.eventbrite.com.au

 A light supper will be provided

SPECIAL GUEST

Kate Washington MP

Shadow Minister for
Early Childhood Education

Shadow Minister for the Hunter

Member for Port Stephens



For details about ECA NSW Hunter branch contact Amanda Holt – amanda.holt@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au