



Waubra
PreSchool

Waubra Preschool 2022 Information Booklet

Proudly managed by



Leaders in Early Childhood Education

Contact Us

Waubra Preschool

2091 Sunraysia Highway, Waubra 3352

Phone: 5343 5058

Kindergarten mobile: 0437 789130

Email: Waubra.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Educators

Claire McGuinness and Lesley Middleton

Sessions

First year of kindergarten – Three-year-old

Tuesday 9.00am – 3.00pm (1 x 6-hour session)

Second year of kindergarten - Four-year-old

Rotating Fortnight

Week 1: 9:00am – 3:00pm Tuesday & Wednesday (2 x 6-hour sessions)

Week 2: 9:00am – 3:00pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday (3 x 6-hour sessions)

Term Dates – 2022

Term 1: Monday 31st January – Friday 8th April

Term 2: Tuesday 26th April – Friday 24th June

Term 3: Monday 11th July – Friday 16th September

Term 4: Monday 3rd October – Tuesday 20th December

Public Holidays

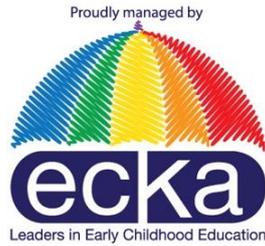
Melbourne Cup Day – Tuesday 1st November, 2022 – **KINDERGARTEN CLOSED**

Fees

You will be provided with a fee invoice when you attend kindergarten on your child's interview day in 2022.

The Eureka Community Kindergarten Association (ECKA) office manage all fee payments and queries. If you wish to make contact with the ECKA office, their contact details can be found on the following page.

**Waubra Preschool is proudly managed by the Eureka Community
Kindergarten Association.**



The Eureka Community Kindergarten Association (ECKA) is a not-for-profit community based Early Years Management Service for kindergartens and early childhood care services in Ballarat and district, proudly managing 29 services. While all kindergartens operate within Legislative guidelines, each kindergarten provides an individual program to meet the needs of the children and families attending their service. ECKA values the role the kindergarten plays in building local support networks with families, often contributing to life-long friendships between the families and children who have shared their kinder years together.

Our Purpose

Enriching children's lives through learning.

Our Values

Respect – Courage – Collaboration – Compassion

Our Guiding Principle

In order to deliver on 'Our Purpose', ECKA is committed to being a sustainable organisation that maximises its impact on the lives of children.

We commit to:

- Provision of high-quality education and care services that enhance the learning and development of all children
- Advocating for children and the early education and care sector – being an influential voice for high quality early years services
- Planning and partnering for effective, sustainable and supported early years services both now and in the future.

Contact ECKA

ECKA Office

11 Grandview Grove, Wendouree VIC 3355

P: 5339 5055

E: admin@ecka.org.au

Welcome to Waubra Preschool

The Educators of Waubra Preschool and Eureka Community Kindergarten Association (ECKA) would like to welcome you and your child to Waubra Preschool. We hope that your time with us will be a valuable and rewarding beginning to your child's educational journey.

Waubra Preschool is a small rural kindergarten situated twenty minutes Northwest of Ballarat. The kindergarten has been operating in the Waubra Community for well over thirty years and the educators value collaboration and valuable involvement with the local community.

Here at Waubra Pre-school, we work in partnership with children, families and the community to enable children to develop and learn to their full potential. We acknowledge families as the child's first teacher. Children have rights and are respected. Educators hold a strong image of the child, knowing that they are capable, competent, curious and full of potential. We value children as unique individuals who are powerful contributors to their own learning. We acknowledge the importance of developing independence and also being a successful contributor to our group.

We encourage children to explore, create, problem solve, investigate, collaborate and imagine when they play. Our environment provides a safe place for children to foster a life-long love of learning.



Waubra Preschool Philosophy

We recognise and respect the Dja Dja Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we learn. We value their knowledge and culture, which is reflected in our practices.

Our centre is committed to providing a warm, caring, positive environment for everyone involved with the service. The National Quality Framework, and the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF) are embedded within our program, which is active play based.

Play is essential in the development of children, and we celebrate the abundant learning that comes with it. Play is meaningful when interests are acknowledged and children are involved and contribute to decision-making. We embrace children's ability to explore, create, problem solve, collaborate and imagine when they play. We incorporate intentional teaching and child-led learning into our practice, to allow opportunities for all learning styles and recognise special and additional needs.

We acknowledge families as the child's first teacher. Families are invited and encouraged to contribute to the program, bringing diverse skills into our learning community and group identity. We acknowledge and celebrate diversity in beliefs, culture and tradition. We embrace and support the forging of connections between the kinder and families, families with one another, and the friendships that develop to enrich the kinder community.

The local community within and around Waubra is important to Waubra Preschool and we work strongly to maintain and establish relationships with many local groups.

We acknowledge that the safety and wellbeing of each child is paramount. Child safe standards guide our practices. We strive to foster self-worth in each child, and for them to become a positive, effective member of the kinder, and wider community.

We believe that all children, staff, and families have the right to be treated with respect in a positive and accepting environment, where the rights of all individuals are acknowledged. We are a community within a community... and we welcome you all to it.

Educational Program

Waubra Preschool's educational program is developed and written by the educator team. We use a clearly defined planning cycle to observe, listen, record and reflect on the children's learning and development, in order to provide a high-quality curriculum. The program is written to reflect the interests and ideas which the children provide and we welcome any contribution to our program from families and the wider community.

Children's learning will be documented on Storypark and in their individual 'Learning Portfolios'. These portfolios are available for you to view at any time throughout the year and the children generally love sharing their work with others.

Our curriculum is underpinned by the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF), Developmental Milestones and a range of teaching and learning theories (Please see below).

Our play-based program is designed to provide rich learning opportunities for the children to engage in which align with their interests and ideas. We see the children as being capable, confident and involved learners who can guide their own learning and independently explore, create, problem solve, investigate, collaborate and imagine when they play.

VEYLDF Practice Principles	VEYLDF Learning Outcomes	Developmental Milestones Domains
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflective practice• Partnerships with families• High expectations for every child• Respectful relationships and responsive engagement• Equity and diversity• Assessment for learning and development• Integrated teaching and learning approaches• Partnerships with professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcome One: <i>Children have a strong sense of identity</i>• Outcome Two: <i>Children are connected to and contribute to their world</i>• Outcome Three: <i>Children have a strong sense of wellbeing</i>• Outcome Four: <i>Children are confident and involved learners</i>• Outcome Five: <i>Children are effective communicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emotional• Social• Physical• Cognitive• Language

Storypark

Storypark is an online platform used to communicate with families and to share children's experiences at kindergarten. Storypark is an easy-to-use, private online service that helps teachers, parents and families work together to record, share and extend children's learning.



Storypark provides an avenue for you to follow and be involved in your child's learning and development throughout their kindergarten year. We value and welcome input from families via Storypark and we appreciate your contributions to our program. Please do not hesitate to comment or provide stories which you think will be of value to our program. We have found that the children value and respond to input from families via Storypark and we can see the benefits that this type of engagement brings to the children. We have found that children really enjoy standing in front of the group to share their photos or stories from home.

We will often post important information and newsletters on Storypark for you to read. In the coming month we will begin sharing information about orientation, to support your child's transition in to their new learning environment, please ensure that you check Storypark and keep up-to-date.

Orientation and supporting your child settle into kindergarten

Please do not hesitate to discuss with educators if you think your child may need a little additional support to settle in to the new environment. We understand that children are exposed to a variety of social experiences prior to commencing kindergarten and cope with new experiences differently. For some children, starting in a new environment with new teachers, children, routines and expectations may be overwhelming.

We have uploaded a video onto our website which you might like to share with your child. This video shows much of the kindergarten and what we have to offer. You might like to talk with your child about some of the things that are different from home, like the toilets and playground. Let your child know that educators are there to help them. You might like to help your child to practice opening lunch boxes and containers and to practice packing their kindergarten bag.

There are some great story books about children starting kindergarten which you might find beneficial. Some of these are:

I Love You All Day Long by Francesca Rusackas

Maisy Goes to Preschool by Lucy Cousins

What to Expect at Preschool by Heidi Murkoff

MEALS AND DRINKS – Healthy Eating

Waubra Preschool participates in the 'Smiles4Miles' dental health program and the 'Healthy Early Childhood Services Achievement Program' which lists Healthy Eating and Oral Health as one of its main components. We also follow a centre Nutrition Policy and as such we encourage families and children to make healthy choices. We discourage snacks or lunches which are high in sugar, fat or salt.

During a kinder session children will need:

- Fruit for morning snack
- A healthy snack
- Lunch
- A drink bottle of water



Drink well – tap water is the preferred drink, limit sugary drinks (especially between meals), choose plain milk over flavoured.



Eat well – enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods every day from the five food groups, limit foods containing added sugar, healthy meals and snacks are important for healthy teeth.



Clean well – brush teeth and along the gum line twice a day.

Some suggestions are as follows:

A sandwich, wrap, roll with healthy fillings such as meat, salads, vegetables, vegemite and cheese.

A salad or small meal.

Healthy snack such as; fruit, dried fruit, rice crackers, cheese slices, yoghurt, dry biscuits, plain popcorn.



Clothing

WARNING: Clothes worn to kindergarten will get dirty!

We encourage children to engage in a range of activities when they are at kindergarten. Some of these activities involve water, dirt, mud, paint and many other very messy play experiences. We do have smocks to wear for messy experiences, however, we seem to always manage to get dirty! Please send your child in clothes you don't mind getting dirty or marked.

Children need to wear solid, enclosed, non-slip footwear that enables them to run, climb and balance outdoors. Shoes such as slip-ons, sandals and thongs are not suitable.



Our Sun Protection Policy requires all children and educators to wear a sun hat from September to the end of April, even if the weather is overcast and cool (and whenever the UV index is greater than 3). Please ensure that your child wears clothing with a sleeve, covering their shoulders. No singlet tops or sleeveless dresses please.

Please ensure your child has had sunscreen applied before arriving at kindergarten. Children will be assisted to re-apply their own sunscreen if required.

Parent & Friends Group

We welcome any involvement from parents and the wider community and one way you can become involved and meet other parents is by joining in with the parents and friends' group. How this group looks will be entirely up to the parents who are involved. Everyone is welcome to attend and we appreciate everyone's ideas and contributions.

The Parents and Friends Group may be involved in, or conduct various fundraising opportunities and the kindergarten will certainly appreciate any funds which are raised. All funds raised will go towards the kindergarten to purchase new resources and equipment or to maintain and improve our yard and building. If you have any great ideas for fundraising and you would like to be involved, please let us know.

General Information

Arrival and Departures - Please ensure that you read the arrivals and departure form which you will be asked to sign at the beginning of the year. We ask that you supervise your child during arrival and while departing the kindergarten. On arrival, you will be greeted by a member of your child's teaching team. Please use this time to pass on any important information regarding your child and who will be collecting them from kindergarten. At departure time your child will be asked to remain seated on the mat until their name is called. Please ensure that you leave the service and make your way to your car safely, holding your child's hand. Educators will endeavour to keep arrivals and departures as orderly as possible to ensure the safety of each child. Once the majority of children have arrived at kindergarten the entry door will be locked and the session will commence. Please ring the doorbell if you need to enter during session times.

Please ensure that you collect your child at the correct time at the end of each session and if you are running late, please phone to let us know. Children can become anxious or upset when they are left and everyone else has gone home so if we know that you are on your way this is very reassuring for the children.

Please do not hold doors and gates ajar or let unaccompanied children out of the service.

Asthma, Anaphylaxis and Medical Conditions - If your child has been diagnosed with Asthma, Anaphylaxis and/or a medical condition please ensure that this is listed on your child's enrolment form. Educators may arrange a meeting with you to develop a 'Risk Minimisation and Communication Plan' prior to your child commencing kindergarten. Action Plans/Management Plans signed by a doctor and medications needed, must be provided to the kindergarten for those children who require them and these will be required before your child is able to begin kindergarten. Please alert staff if your child is diagnosed with an illness or allergy at any time throughout the kindergarten year.

If your child requires medication whilst at kindergarten, a medication authorisation sheet must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian. Staff can only administer medications that have been prescribed by a doctor, are clearly labelled with the child's name, are in the original container, have a prescribed dose and are in-date. All medications must be handed to educators at the beginning the day. Please do not leave medicines in your child's bag.

Any accidents or injuries that involve your child while at the kindergarten will be recorded in the 'Accident & Illness' Book. Parents will be notified either at the time of the accident/illness or at the end of the session, depending on the severity of the injury. Parents will be asked to sight and sign the written record.

Authority to collect – Children can only be dismissed to adults who are listed on your child's enrolment form with 'Authority to collect' and who are written in the sign-in book, at the beginning of the day. If an adult arrives at the kindergarten and isn't written down as the person collecting, we will have to make contact with you to confirm that the person who has arrived to collect the child, has authority to collect. If for some reason the person collecting may change during the day, please contact the kindergarten to inform us of the change of person. If we don't answer the phone,

please leave a message. You may add people at any time during the year. Please inform any person who will be collecting your child that we will ask to see their Photo ID on arrival.

Bushfire Season - Waubra Preschool has been identified as being in a very high-risk fire area. We will be closed on Code Red and Extreme Fire Danger Rating days. This decision has been made by the ECKA Board of Management in the interests of the safety and wellbeing of all the children, families and staff attending the Waubra Preschool. Please see the letter enclosed in your information pack for further details.

Birthdays – Birthdays are very special and we love to celebrate these with the children by singing and making the day special. Children are invited to bring in cupcakes or other alternatives such as bubbles, pencils or stamps to share with the other children on their birthday. Please check with staff to see if there are any allergies if you plan to bring cupcakes. We ask that parents attend fifteen minutes before the end of our session so that we can then sing Happy Birthday and you can assist your child to hand out their special birthday treat as the children leave.

Meetings – While we welcome a chat with parents at the beginning and end of each day, please let us know if you require more than a brief chat at the door. We can easily make a time that suits you to have more in depth discussions if required.

Policies – All kindergarten's policies are available to view on the ECKA website.

Kindergarten Bag – Your child's kindergarten bag needs to be big enough to hold their drink bottle, fruit, snack, lunch, artwork, a spare change of clothes and a hat.

Please keep this information booklet in a safe place to enable you to refer to it at any time during the year. We look forward to meeting all new families and children at the beginning of next year. Please contact us at any time if you have any queries.