

YECCA Newsletter

Term 1 February 2026

WELCOME EVERYONE!

A big welcome to all our families, both old and new. We hope you had an enjoyable break. If you would like to share your holiday experiences with any photos or mementos, please feel free to do so. We look forward to getting to know our new families.

We also value your contribution to our educational program; please feel free to share ideas, experiences, talents or interests with us. See your child's Room Leader for more information.

Each child/family has a folder in the foyer. This is where you will find receipts, artwork, left behind items, etc. Please check this regularly.

Hopefully, you are all aware of our hours of operation. Children can attend from 8:30 am till 4:00pm if you so wish. Please note that a late fee may be incurred after 4pm, as we are not licensed to have children beyond this time. Please also be mindful that the staff do need time for administration and cleaning once all the children have gone home.

The fees for this year are set out below. **3yr and 4yr preschool** will be subsidised by the State Government, as outlined. If you attend more than one Centre, you are required to nominate which Centre you wish to receive fee relief. The fee relief declaration form has been uploaded to OWNA for eligible children. Please complete asap...you need to sign this form even if you have nominated to claim relief from another Centre.

A consent form has also been uploaded to OWNA, to be completed for ALL children.

An invoice will be sent via email in the coming weeks. If you wish to receive a hard copy, please see Simone. Fees will need to be paid promptly or a fortnightly payment plan put in place to ensure your child's enrolment is secure.



Contact Us

YECCA

Banjo Paterson Park
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6226 1560

admin@yecca.net.au

director@yecca.net.au

www.yecca.net.au

Like us on YECCA's
Facebook page



"If children feel safe, they can take risks, ask questions, make mistakes, learn to trust, share their feelings, and grow." - Alfie Kohn

Birthday Celebrations

We are more than happy for you to bring cake for your child's birthday. Please ensure it is nut free and you supply a list of ingredients. Cupcakes work well, however we are also able to cut up a full cake.



OWNA

Returning families have the same login details and PIN. For new families, an app invite has been sent to each parent via email, that includes your username and PIN. Julie or Simone are able to reset your PIN if you would like something that you will easily remember. Each person will need a PIN to electronically sign your child in or out of the Centre, as well as inform us of any absences. Feel free to add other info such as address, etc. Authorised collection people have been assigned their own PIN and granted sign in/out access only. If you would like them to have full access to your child's profile, this can be changed. Please DO NOT share your PIN with anyone as it is unique to you. We have a list and can help you with forgotten or unknown PINs.

Fees 2026

Fees for 2026 will be as follows:

0-2 years Daycare = \$52 per day

2-3 years Daycare = \$47 per day

3+ years Daycare = \$44 per day

3-5 years Preschool = If you have 'opted in' for the affordable preschool subsidy from YECCA you will receive a fee relief subsidy. Up to 2 days will be free, subsequent days (or non-subsidised days) = \$47 per day

3-5 years Preschool casual day = \$49

"Equity" children = \$25 per day (equity children are children from low income or Indigenous families)

Enrolment fee (one -off) = \$40

YECCA Association joining fee (one-off) = \$3

YECCA Association membership fee (annual) = \$5

IF CHILDREN ATTEND MORE THAN ONE CENTRE, THE FEE RELIF CAN ONLY BE CLAIMED FROM ONE CENTRE.

Please be aware, we are not eligible for childcare rebates from Centrelink.

OUR STAFF THIS YEAR...

We have had a few staffing changes within the rooms, and we welcome to the team Tiffany Sturgess, who was a prac. student with us last year.

Julie Hearne – BTch, Director and Educational Leader, Tuesday – Friday 8.15am – 4.15pm

Simone Rampton – Diploma, Admin Manager, Monday -Thursday 8:30am – 4.15pm

Kristy Platt – BEd, ECT, 4yr preschool Monday – Friday.

Claudina McPhillips – Diploma, Educator, 4yr preschool Monday, Tuesday & Friday
3yr preschool Wednesday & Thursday

Tiffany Sturgess – Cert III, Educator, 4yr preschool Tuesday – Thursday

Cassie Hardy – Diploma, Educator, Daycare Monday, Tuesday & Friday
4yr preschool Wednesday & Thursday.

Tamara Richardson – Diploma, Room Leader, 3yr preschool Wednesday & Thursday.
Programme relief Tuesday.

Lucy Perkins – Diploma, Educator, Daycare Monday & Tuesday
3yr preschool Wednesday & Thursday.

Yolande Cross – Associate Diploma, Room Leader, Daycare Monday, Tuesday & Friday.

Janice Smith – Cert III, Educator, Daycare Monday, Tuesday & Friday.

Leanne Wilcox – Diploma, Educator, Daycare Friday. Breaks cover Monday & Tuesday.

Bella White – School-based trainee Educator on Tuesday.

Allisha Carney – Cert III, casual Educator, breaks cover Thursday & Friday.

Caitlin Gailer – Cert III, casual Educator, breaks cover Wednesday.

Lynne Beecroft – Diploma, casual Educator.

Elane Johnston – Diploma, casual Educator.

Play is the happiest form of learning

- Albert Einstein

A little history...

For our new families, you may be interested to know that YECCA has been in operation since the 1953. We are a Community Based Not-For-Profit centre that relies on funding from the NSW State Govt. Community Based Preschools employ professional teachers and educators who run the programs and manage the Preschool in collaboration with volunteer parents who make up a management committee. Over the past few years our funding has been reduced and therefore we rely heavily on fundraising to enable us to continue to keep our fees low and affordable, as well as purchase equipment for the children.

Older siblings in the Centre

We absolutely love to see older siblings come into the Centre during drop off and pick up. Could you please ensure that when they come, they are accompanied by an adult when entering the room to prevent younger siblings running out the door in excitement. Please also ensure that an authorised person over the age of 16 is signing the children in and out.

It is also the responsibility of the parent to supervise older siblings during this time. We do request that they stay off the outdoor equipment, so that we can maximise our supervision to the children in our care.

Toys from home

We know that children become attached to toys and sometimes find comfort in them, however we are noticing that an increasing number of toys are being brought into the Centre (particularly in the 4yr preschool room) which can cause distress if they get broken, misplaced or dirty. If your child needs a particular comfort toy for rest time, please put it in with their sheets, otherwise please encourage toys to stay at home. This is quite important in the 4yr preschool room, in the year leading up to big school.

Allergies/medical conditions

If your child has a medical condition or allergies, please ensure that we are aware of the most up to date information regarding management of these conditions. Any medications that are required will need to be in date and labelled, with a pharmacy label, with the child's name, medication name and dosage.

We are unable to administer paracetamol/ibuprofen or the like. If your child is needing these types of medication, they are best to stay at home. If you would like a copy of our administration of medication policy, please let Julie know.

If there are special dietary requirements, we encourage you to bring in some cupcakes for the freezer, so that your child can join in with birthday celebrations throughout the year.

Water play

During Term 1, when the weather is warm, we often engage in water play. Could you please ensure that your child has a complete change of clothes so that they can participate in these activities freely.

Sunscreen

We use Cancer Council 'Everyday' sunscreen at YECCA. If your child requires a special sunscreen, could you please provide us with one (labelled with your child's name) that could be left at the Centre.

Insect repellent

Unfortunately, the mozzies are out and about in our yard and tend to target some children. If you think your child is susceptible to mozzie bites, please apply insect repellent to them before coming to YECCA, which is located in the front foyer.

Car park safety

Please be very mindful when using the car park adjacent to YECCA. This car park is a shared, public car park, and we are aware that many drivers do not look out for young children and travel too quickly. It is vitally important that you hold your child's hand whenever you are walking through the car park and teach children the importance of road safety.

News from the Board

Board of Management is the Approved Provider of YECCA. It is made up of volunteer parents who work closely with the Director, to oversee the running of the Centre, including governance, policies, staffing and fundraising. This management extends to our out-of-scope service, Binalong Mobile Preschool.

The YECCA AGM will be held in March and we are putting the call out now for new parents to join the board! We urge you to consider putting your hand up to serve as a board member for 2026. There can be no YECCA without the Board. If you are interested or would like to know more, please speak to Julie or Simone in the office or contact our President Melissa Broers (contact number on request)

Important Dates

- Saturday 21st March – Yass Show (we will have entries in)
- Last day Term 1 Thursday 2nd April
- Term 2 resumes Monday 20th April
- ANZAC day – Saturday 25th April (YECCA will be laying a wreath)

Some reminders

- Please note only children who are fully immunised for their age OR have a medical reason not to be immunised OR are on a catch-up schedule can be enrolled in childcare. See the last page for more information.
- YECCA is a nut free Centre. We currently have children enrolled who are allergic to nuts. Please ensure all nut products are kept at home. We also have a child who has an allergy to eggs (baked in goods is ok), so we request that you don't send eggs such as hard boiled, scrambled or egg sandwiches.
- Please ensure your child always brings a broad brimmed hat (caps are not suitable) and a complete change of clothing. Children attending the Daycare and 3yr Preschool rooms will require sheets for rest/quiet time. A fitted cot sheet + a top sheet in a separate bag work well (no pillows).
- **Please label everything!** That includes clothing, hats, shoes, lunchboxes, food containers, baby bottles etc. Many of the children are not yet aware of their own belongings, particularly at the beginning of the year, and with many children in the room, it is difficult for the educators to know what belongs to who

all the time. Any unclaimed clothing is either placed in our 'spares' box or donated to a local charity at the end of each term.

- Please provide a water bottle labelled with your child's name that he/she can independently manage. We can refill them using our Neverfail water station inside or our new 'Genny' Watergen water station outside. Please note that juice/cordial can attract bees outdoors (we have a casual staff member who is anaphylactic to bees) so water is always best. Please note: **to allow the children full access to their water throughout the day, their drink bottles will still be on the trolley at the end of the day. Please check the trolley before leaving.**
- We promote the 6 key Munch & Move messages. Go to www.getthehealthynsw.com.au
We request that you don't pack lollies.
- Please ensure all details on your child's enrolment form are up to date, particularly contact details and allergy/illness information. Do you have a preferred Dentist for your child? Please add this to your enrolment form. We must also have a current Immunisation History Statement (not the Blue Book) and a copy of their birth certificate.
- Please feel free to talk to your child's Educators or Julie or Simone in the Office if you have any concerns or questions.
- All our policies are available on OWNA.

Tips for saying goodbye...

Despite your best preparations, your child might still find it difficult to separate from you. Your child might get upset and start crying. You can help by acknowledging your child's feelings, giving them words to help express themselves and comforting them. You could also try the following tips:

- Talk about an activity you and your child will do together when you get back home, such as playing in the garden or reading a story.
- Establish a goodbye routine, such as three kisses and a bear hug, high-fives or some other special gesture meaningful to your child.
- Let your child know that you or another familiar grown-up will be back to pick them up at a particular time, or after an event that your child understands, such as sleep or snack time.
- Keep the goodbye brief. After your goodbye routine, gently but firmly say goodbye to your child. Staying around to comfort your upset child can sometimes prolong distress and even make it worse.
- Allow your child's Educator to gently lead them away to do something they enjoy, such as feeding the fish or watering the garden.

If you're feeling distressed after seeing your child upset, call the Centre about half an hour after you leave to see how your child is. Most children stop crying shortly after mum or dad goes.

If your child's distracted when it's time for you to leave, you might feel tempted to sneak out without them noticing. This can make children more upset. They realise you've gone and haven't had a chance to say goodbye. It's best to let your child know you're going and say that you'll be back later. (www.raisingchildren.net.au, the Australian Parenting website)

- When collecting your child, whether it be at the end of the day from the classroom/playground, or earlier during the day, please ensure that you speak to a staff member to confirm your child's departure.



With grape season here, please ensure you send grapes that are cut in half **lengthways**, as they are a big choking risk when left whole.

If the parents of the **4yr preschool** group could please bring in **ONE** piece of fruit per week, that would be greatly appreciated. We are having a shared fruit break, in preparation for big school. (The children will still need morning tea).

New playground equipment...

It has been a long time coming, but we have been so excited to see our new playground equipment going up during the week. A huge thank you to one of our board members Laura French, for working tirelessly to get this project from an idea to reality. The Playground People have supplied and are installing the new fixed equipment and have worked with us to ensure we retain the flying fox & monkey bars. Hopefully it will be up and operational by the end of the week.

We have also had the sandpit repaired and refilled. A big thank you to Mel Broers, Elkie & Ben Serafin, Banjo, Penny & Judith Scown, Teanne & Charlie Fairfield-Smith, Sanae Carey and children, for helping to empty the sandpit ready for these repairs. Nick Pollack carried out the works for us and Ant & Mel Broers assisted in refilling it.

*If your child is susceptible to mosquito bites,
could you please apply insect repellent before
coming to YECCA.*

(insect repellent is available in the front foyer)



Important facts

- To enrol your child in childcare, an up to date Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement (for a child that is up to date or can't be immunised for medical reasons) OR an AIR Immunisation History Form (for a child on a catch-up schedule) must be provided.
- Immunisations are most effective if given on their due date (see your 'Save the Date to Vaccinate' phone app or baby's Blue Book for immunisation dates).
- Not immunising your child on time puts them at risk of catching a disease and becoming very sick.
- Children with a minor illness such as a runny nose or slight cold can still be safely immunised.
- Immunising many people in a community also protects those who are unvaccinated and helps control serious preventable diseases.

More information

Australian Immunisation Register

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register>

NSW Health

www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation

NSW Health 'Save the Date to Vaccinate'

www.immunisation.health.nsw.gov.au

Australian Government Department of Health Immunise Australia Program

www.immunise.health.gov.au



Download the handy SAVE THE DATE phone app or print a personalised schedule at **immunisation.health.nsw.gov.au**



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SAVE THE DATE
TO VACCINATE

Childcare and pre-school entry & immunisation

Parent information



From 1 January 2018, only children who are fully immunised for their age OR have a medical reason not to be immunised OR are on a catch-up schedule can be enrolled in childcare. Children who have not been immunised due to their parent's vaccine conscientious objection cannot be enrolled in childcare.

All parents need to provide childcare staff with appropriate immunisation documentation to enrol their child. This includes long day care, family day care, occasional care and pre-school.

Why immunisation is important

Immunisation is the best way to protect your child from serious diseases. By immunising your child, you are protecting them and the broader community, especially those who are too young to be immunised or those that are not able to be immunised for medical reasons. The more people that immunise their children, the more we can control serious preventable diseases.

AIR Immunisation History Statement

Parents must provide an Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) History Statement (that shows a child is up to date or can't be immunised for medical reasons) OR an AIR Immunisation History Form (that shows a child is on a recognised catch-up schedule), when enrolling a child in childcare.

Parents can request a copy of their child's AIR Immunisation History Statement at any time (up to their child being 14 years of age).

- using their Medicare online account through myGov <https://mygov.au/>
- using the Medicare Express Plus App www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/subjects/express-plus-mobile-apps
- calling the AIR General Enquiries Line on 1800 653 809

'Up To Date' children

Children who have had all the immunisations for their age will have the words 'Up to date' on the top left hand side of their AIR Immunisation History Statement. The due date of the next immunisation will be recorded in the bottom section of the Statement.

Children who cannot be immunised for medical reasons, or who have natural immunity, will still be recorded as 'Up to date' if an AIR Medical Exemption Form has been filled out by a GP/nurse and sent to the AIR. The medical exemption or natural immunity will be listed near the bottom of the updated AIR Immunisation History Statement.

For older children who have had all of their immunisations, their Statement will include the words 'This child has received all vaccines required by 5 years of age' at the bottom of the page.

Updated Immunisation History Statement

After each immunisation, parents should provide their child's updated AIR Immunisation History Statement to their childcare centre.

Inaccurate AIR Immunisation History Statement

If some of the immunisations which have been given to your child are missing from their AIR Immunisation History Statement, parents need to contact the GP/nurse who administered the vaccine to check that the records were sent to the AIR. Once the record has been corrected, request an updated AIR Immunisation History Statement.

'Not Up To Date' children

Children who have not had all the recommended immunisations for their age can still be enrolled in childcare once they start on a catch-up schedule. Your GP/nurse needs to fill out an AIR Immunisation History Form, send it to the AIR and give you a copy so that it can be provided to the childcare centre.

Please be aware that children who have not had all the recommended immunisations for their age may need to stay at home during a disease outbreak. This is to protect the child and stop the spread of disease.

Children vaccinated overseas

Overseas immunisation schedules may be different from the Australian schedule. If your child was immunised overseas, their immunisation record will need to be checked by a GP/nurse who will transfer the information to the AIR. Parents should then request an updated AIR Immunisation History Statement to give to the childcare centre.