

ooranga

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Ooranga turned 40!

In November 1979, the inaugural Ooranga Management Committee was formed with the aim to provide essential supports to families in small rural communities. Forty years later, Ooranga Family Mobile Resource Unit Association Incorporated continues to provide high quality, mobile early childhood services, preschool, play-group and toy library across three local government areas.

Two events were held to celebrate

Ooranga's 40th Birthday, a Teddy Bears Picnic and a High Tea. What a delightful way to end the year!

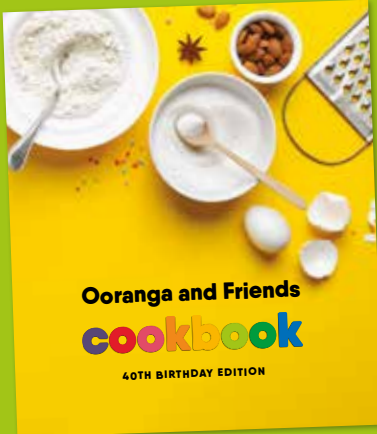
The Teddy Bears Picnic was a wonderful collaboration with many other organisations, held at Wolseley Oval in Gunnedah on Thursday the 28th of November, 2019.

Over 200 children attended the event which was reminiscent of the Teddy Bears Picnics held by Ooranga in the early days of operation.

A more grown-up High Tea, was conducted on the same date of the first management committee meeting, the 29th of November, forty years later in 2019.

Ooranga royalty, also known as previous Presidents and members, were joined by current members and staff along with representatives from valued supporting organisations.

CONTINUED PAGE 2



Celebrating 40 years of Ooranga

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As part of the commemoration, a second edition of the distinctive and impressive Ooranga and Friends cookbook, originally published in 1984, was created.

The second edition maintained many of the original recipes from celebrities, both local and international, members and staff, in addition to new creations from current supporters of the organisation. Peppered throughout are nostalgic homages to the journey of the organisation.

The cookbook was officially launched at the High Tea by recipe contributor and NSW Minister for Early Childhood Education, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC.

Copies of the cookbook have been spread far and wide by past and present members and are still available from the Ooranga office.

From the management team

The implementation in 2019 of new regulations for mobile early childhood education services in NSW outlines new requirements for compliance and inclusion in the National Assessment and Rating process. Although these changes will not significantly change our preschool operation, it will enable Ooranga to be assessed according to the National Quality Framework and provide feedback for continuous improvement of our preschool services. Preparation for Assessment and Rating will be a major focus for 2020.

The development of a place-based early childhood network has been initiated by Ooranga, with support from the Gunnedah Shire Council through a 356 Small Grant. This work will continue into 2020 in collaboration with local organisations with similar philosophies to

ours, to support improved early childhood outcomes in the local community.

Funding from the NSW Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate (ECECD) will continue at current levels into 2020 in accordance with ongoing contracts. Ooranga was pleased to be awarded a number of Grants from the NSW ECECD to purchase a new vehicle in addition to a number of new playground resources to be used across preschool venues. Our Management team will continue to lobby for improved resourcing for essential early childhood services.

Due to changes in the community profile at Walhallow, Ooranga discontinued the playgroup service in December 2019 which was funded by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice.



Ooranga's 2019 committee. Megan Dyer, Camille Wannan with Claire, Veronica Filby with Marcus, Jane McIntosh, Jemma Martin, Lyndal Percy, Morgan Hokin and Ashley Byron. Absent: Caroline Stone.

o o r a n g a



Our partnerships

Sponsorship from BHP for the Books in Homes program continued in 2019 with books provided by the charity to all children attending Ooranga preschools and playgroups in Terms 1, 2 and 4. The Books in Homes program aims to develop the love of books and reading for children in rural and remote communities.

Ooranga partnered with the Active Rural Kids program delivered through Centacare by the team at Fun Fitness 4 Littles. Active Rural Kids provided a holistic physical activity program, designed to teach children fundamental

sporting skills, at a number of Ooranga's preschool venues. Feedback from children and families was very positive and provided lots of ideas for our educators to include in preschool programs in future.

Local parent committees are fabulous supporters for Ooranga preschools. In 2019, the Spring Ridge parents coordinated a fundraiser, a Country Halls performance by Fanny Lumsden from which the whole community was invited. Money raised by the parents supported our Spring Ridge Preschool venue.



Ongoing drought support



With Drought Relief funding that was announced at the end of 2018, Ooranga continued to support all families by providing fee relief across all preschool venues. The fee relief was gratefully received by families, easing financial burdens for those directly affected by the drought, but also across the wider community by facilitating spending in local businesses. Ooranga also used some of the Drought Relief funding to equip all Ooranga staff with the knowledge and skills to assist people who may be thinking of sui-



Country Women's Association
of New South Wales

cide through a workshop with Fiona Livingstone from Find Hope.

In addition, Ooranga partnered with the Gunnedah Branch of the Country Women's Association to deliver drought relief packages to rural families across three local government areas.

By the numbers

208

families and services accessing Ooranga Preschool, Playgroup and Toy Library

2399

toys and resources borrowed by

102

families and service providers

96

children enrolled across

8

preschool venues

86

families accessing supported playgroup in

11

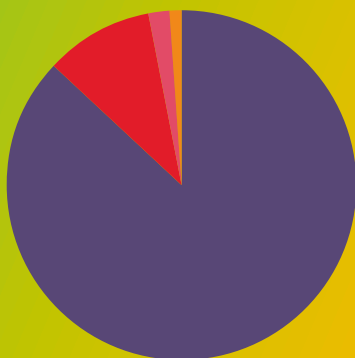
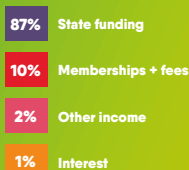
locations across 3 local government areas

Financials

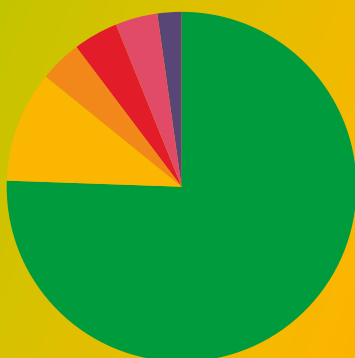
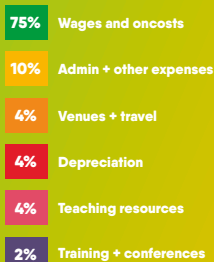
Ooranga gratefully acknowledges the support and participation from the locations in which we operate, including local parent committees, Councils, schools and other community partners.

The majority of funding for Ooranga services is provided by the NSW Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate. Grant funding for the supported playgroup in Walhallow was provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice.

Operating revenue



Cost of services



What's next in 2020?

- Participate in National Assessment and Rating of preschools
- Develop a collaborative Early Childhood community network in Gunnedah
- Continue to support isolated families seeking early childhood education in their local area

Our philosophy

VISION

Young children flourish within their local community.

MISSION

To support individual child development through the provision of high quality, mobile early childhood services to rural communities.

VALUES

- Child directed programs
- Inclusion of all children and families
- Respect in our interaction with others
- Commitment to local communities
- Learn through play
- Excellence through continuous improvement

