

ooranga

ooranga family mobile resource unit assoc inc

2018 annual report

# 2018 Annual Report

Ooranga has been delivering toy library and playgroup sessions for over 35 years, the last 6 years funded through the NSW Department of Education as an Early Childhood Project after funding was transitioned in 2012 from the NSW Department of Family and Community Services.

In 2017, the Department of Education announced a new scheme, Start Strong Pathways, that would be open for applications to support continued delivery of legacy funded Early Childhood Projects. As part of the application process, Ooranga put a call out to our members and communities to provide letters of support for the continuation of the toy library and playgroups across the region.



Ooranga was swamped with over 20 letters from parents, community organisations, allied health professionals and Shire councils to support our application. The letters provided strong evidence of the value of the Ooranga toy library and playgroup sessions to not only individuals and their families, but also in facilitating community networks in rural areas and providing an opportunity for other services to connect with isolated families. Ooranga is very grateful to be part of such vibrant and supportive rural communities who value our services as much as we enjoy providing them.



# 2018 Achievements

## Supporting communities during drought.

The drought in 2018 was unrelenting in its severity across the region where Ooranga operates. There were many conversations with children, their families and the Ooranga staff throughout the year linking what could be seen in the paddocks with the lack of rain and the extra workload and stress for farmers. As much as the drought was devastating, it also brought out the best in our community and across Australia with assistance and donations for those doing it tough.

Ooranga was contacted in August by staff at the Bangalow Community Children's Centre, located near Byron Bay. The preschool children at Bangalow had seen and heard about how communities out west were under stress and they wanted to help, particularly after they had seen photos provided by Ooranga families who were experiencing the drought firsthand.



Farmer for a day at Bangalow

The Children's Centre raised money and purchased gift cards and sent them to Ooranga, along with some lovely artwork, to be distributed to families in need. Ooranga also assisted the Gunnedah Country Women's Association to distribute hampers, vouchers and gift packs to families across the region.

In September, Sarah Mitchell MLC, NSW Minister for Early Childhood Education, announced Drought Relief funding that would be provided to community preschools to assist in supporting rural communities through the drought. Ooranga used the Drought Relief funding to reduce preschool fees for all families using our preschools. The fee relief was greatly appreciated by all families.



## Carroll Preschool Opens

Ooranga opened its eighth preschool venue in Term 1, 2018 at the Carroll Public School. The new venue was made possible through a new funding initiative from the NSW Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate, an initiative that Ooranga was integral in instigating through consultation with Sarah Mitchell MLC in 2017.

The preschool was established in the Carroll school library building. The children and staff were regularly involved with school activities which supported the transition of children to primary school in 2019.

## BHP and Books in Homes

In September 2018, Ooranga was sponsored by BHP to receive the Books in Homes program in Term 4. The Books in Homes program is delivered by a national charity to provide age appropriate books to children living in isolated areas to support the development and love of reading, between parents and their children.

Every child using Ooranga services were presented with three beautiful books, selected by them and their parents, at the end of term 4. The book presentations were a great celebration with families, with the delight evident on the faces of the children.



**BOOKS  
IN HOMES**  
EMPOWERING KIDS, LITERALLY





# From the Management Team...

2018 was a fabulous year for Ooranga with a new preschool venue opening and successful funding applications for ongoing service delivery and new resources. The service saw the attraction of some new preschool educators to add to our team along with 12 dedicated Ooranga members elected to the Management Committee at the Annual General Meeting in September.

With no movement in base funding for Ooranga's preschool services since 2014, Ooranga relies on fee income and small grants as they become available to upgrade and update resources. In 2018, Ooranga was fortunate to be awarded grant funds of over \$25,000 specifically for the purchase of two new smart boards and a range of play equipment to be used across the preschool venues.

Continuous improvement remains a major focus for Ooranga. In September 2018, the NSW Parliament passed legislation to align the regulation of mobile services, like Ooranga, with the National Law under which centre-based services operate. This change will mean that Ooranga will participate in National Assessment and Rating of our preschool service in future. The assessment and rating process evaluates how well preschool services are delivered according to the National Quality Standards and the Early Years Learning Framework.

## our locations

\* Playgroup & Preschool

- Blackville Playgroup
- Boggabri PG+PS \*
- Carroll Preschool
- Curlewis Preschool
- Currabubula Preschool
- Duri Playgroup
- Emerald Hill Playgroup
- Gunnedah Toy Library
- Kelvin Playgroup
- Maules Creek Playgroup
- Mullaley Preschool
- Pine Ridge Playgroup
- Premier PG + PS\*
- Spring Ridge PG+PS \*
- Walhallow PG+PS \*
- Wallabadah Playgroup
- Willow Tree Playgroup



## By the numbers

**228** families and services accessing Ooranga Preschool, Playgroup and Toy Library

with **2320** resources borrowed by 90 families and service providers

**75** children enrolled across 8 preschool venues

**102** families accessing supported playgroup in 11 locations across three local government areas





## What's next in 2019?

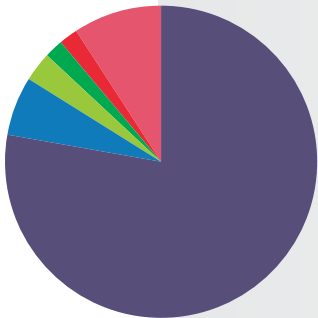
- 40th Birthday celebration for Ooranga FMRU in November
- Prepare for and participate in National Assessment and Rating
- Continue to support isolated families seeking early childhood education in their local area.

## Financials

Ooranga gratefully acknowledges the support and participation from the communities in which we operate, including the 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. Support for the supported playgroup in Walhallow is provided by NSW Family and Community Services. The Australian Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet provided funding to support a third day of preschool at Walhallow in 2018.

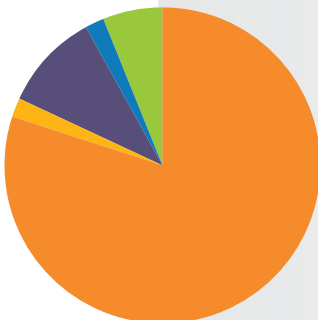
Complete audited financial statements for Ooranga FMRU Assoc. Inc. can be found at the ACNC website, [www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au).



### Cost of Services

includes depreciation

- 78%** Wages and oncosts
- 6%** Venue and travel
- 3%** Depreciation
- 2%** Training and conferences
- 2%** Teaching resources
- 9%** Other expenses



### Operating Revenue

- 80%** State funding
- 2%** Federal funding
- 10%** Memberships and fees
- 2%** Interest
- 6%** Other income



## ooranga's 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

- C**hild directed programs
- I**nclusion of all children and families
- R**espect in our interaction with others
- C**ommitment to local communities
- L**earn through play
- E**xcellence through continuous improvement



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