

Childcare centre wins UN Award

KU Ourimbah Preschool and Children's Centre on the NSW Central Coast has won the Environmental Education category at the 2016 United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards.

"We are grateful to the UNAA World Environment Day panel of judges for their attention and endorsement of our work in this area," said KU Ourimbah Director, Rosanne Pugh.

"The sustainability of our planet has most serious consequences for all children and future generations. Receiving an award that recognises early childhood education as integral to developing understandings of global citizenship and ecological stewardship is insightful and apt," said Ms Pugh.

The prestigious UNAA World Environment Day Awards recognise outstanding environmental programs and initiatives from across Australia, and the positive steps they are taking towards sustainability and environmental excellence in their homes, schools, communities and workplaces.

"There is wide agreement that excellent experience in the earliest phase of life supports children in the present and improves life chances for the future. If we begin in infancy to cultivate a love for nature, a concern for biodiversity and a model of social responsibility, we give children skills to take with them into their future."

"We believe we are building on the strength of our business in fostering an innovative approach that nurtures children as citizens with responsibilities. The centre's unique location nestled amongst beautiful natural forest surroundings and cultivated university grounds extend opportunities to feed imagination and wonder. KU Ourimbah is a place where children connect and care for one another and the natural world," said Ms Pugh.

Winning the award against some of Australia's leading organisations is a complement to the centre's ongoing commitment to embed sustainable practices into their daily program and is reflective of the hard work and dedication of the KU Ourimbah families, children and educators who have contributed to reducing the carbon footprint and making positive steps towards a cleaner future.

The centre was previously the recipient of the 'Excellence in Sustainability' Award at 2015 Central Coast Business Excellence Awards and has been rated as 'Exceeding' the early childhood National Quality Standards, positioning it as one of the best childcare centres in the country.

For more information on the UNAA World Environment Day Awards, visit:

www.unaavictoria.org.au/awards-programs/world-environment-day-awards/



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