

Press Release

6 October 2025

Nathalia and District Preschool

Goulburn Region Preschool Association (GRPSA) is a not for profit, Early Years approved provider for rural and regional early childhood services across Moira, Strathbogie, Greater Shepparton and Campaspe Shires. GRPSA has been serving the community since 1988, with the goal of creating a safe, exciting, engaging environment for children, families and educators.

GRPSA are excited to share that Nathalia and District Preschool are a finalist in the Victorian Early Years Awards. The awards celebrate the remarkable work that early childhood professionals do every day to improve learning outcomes of children across Victoria.

The team at Nathalia have been recognised for their Road Safety and Bike Riding Program. This falls under Promoting Children's Health and Wellbeing category.

This award recognises one or more early childhood services and/or organisations that are taking action to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for young children.

For more information and all about the other finalists, before winners are announced 6 November 2025. [Finalists for 2025 VEYA | vic.gov.au](https://www.vic.gov.au/early-years-awards)

Nathalia's Early Childhood Teacher Andrea Sutton shares "During 2022, we participated in Early Learning Association Australia's (ELAA) Starting Out Safely Road Safety Education Enquiry Project which provided support and guidance from not only Early Childhood Professionals but also from TAC, Royal Children's Hospital and Victoria Police. Introducing the children to practice listening, following directions before we venture out into our local community to look at all the various road signs, the vehicles that move through our town and practice walking together as a group following the road rules.

The 4yr preschoolers practice their bike riding skills at the Nathalia Recreation Reserve where there are open spaces which provide opportunities to practice riding in their caterpillar formation. From here we then venture out into our community, riding along the levy banks and on the footpaths.

Every year we complete the program where we travel to a planned destination and go for an extended bike ride. We have visited the Elmore Field Days where we caught up with Zora Marko (Manager- RSE Project) who was utterly amazed at the children's

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*Play, laugh...
...learn, grow!*

skills (along with many of the public) and last year a ride over the old Echuca Moama Bridge.

Zora also acknowledges our initiative with this project was applauded by the early childhood sector's peak body – ACECQA, the TAC and ELAA. Encouraging children's participation in road safety education and this road safety initiative has led to many wonderful outcomes for the children and the Nathalia community as a whole.

Early Childhood Manager, Lauren Lazarevski said "GRPSA and the Board are absolutely impressed with the initiative and dedication of the Nathalia team. The time and effort that goes into planning and executing these excursions is extensive. The team at Nathalia constantly go above and beyond for their community and little learners.

GRPSA and Nathalia would like to thank the Department of Education, the Nathalia community and educators for their continued support.

If you would like your child to experience the quality education and care at Nathalia and District Preschool, we offer free 3 and 4 year old kindergarten for 15 hours per week. Visit our website for more information: [ENROLMENTS | Goulburn Region Preschool Association \(grpsa.com.au\)](#)

For more information on GRPSA and Nathalia, please contact Lauren Lazarevski, Early Childhood Manager, 5826 2780 or email lauren@grpsa.com.au.