



Mawarra Independent School

Prospectus

2023

967 Old Bruce Highway
KYBONG QLD 4570

www.mawarraindependentschool.org.au

Table of Contents

Who are we?	3
Our Beliefs	4
Our Vision	4
Our Mission.....	4
Our Values	4
Our Setting and Facilities	5
Our Staff	5
Our Approach to Learning	6
Child-centered	6
Multi-age classes	6
Integrated Inquiry/Project-based learning.....	6
Creativity and innovation	7
Outdoor learning and play.....	7
Skills for life	7
The Role of Families and Community	8
Uniforms	8
Food, lunches and cooking	9
School Policies	9
School Hours	9
Behaviour at Mawarra	9
Fees	10
Other Charges	10
Application for Enrolment Process	11
2023 Fees, Levies and Other Charges Schedule	12
Request to attend School Tour form	13

Wondering if Mawarra Independent School is right for your family?

This Prospectus contains general information about our school and will hopefully answer some of your questions. If after reading all information, you believe we may be the school for you, please complete the *Expression of Interest Form* and return to the school via email on: admin@mawarraindependentschool.org.au. You will receive an email response from us within five working days, acknowledging receipt of your completed form and we will be in contact to discuss any further questions you may have and how to proceed.



WHO ARE WE?

Mawarra Independent School is a not for profit, incorporated association located in Kybong – part of the beautiful rural area of Gympie. We are an intentionally small, child-centred school offering an integrated curriculum in a multi-age, inclusive learning environment. We are accredited to deliver the Australian Curriculum from Foundation Year (Prep) to Year 10. We are non-sectarian and are not affiliated with any other educational institution. The school is governed by a voluntary Management Committee and includes members of the school and local community working together with the principal in areas of governance and compliance.



If a child can't **learn**
the way *we* teach,
maybe we should
teach the way *they*
learn.

- Ignacio Estrada

OUR BELIEFS

At Mawarra Independent School we believe that each child is unique, naturally curious with an innate desire to learn.

We believe that each child has varied abilities, interests, needs, and learning styles and provide a multi-age, integrated, inclusive curriculum to support them.

We believe in taking responsibility for your actions and encourage and support students to develop strategies for problem solving and to apply self-discipline to everyday situations to become responsible decision-makers.

We believe in encouraging compassion, kindness, tolerance and cooperation rather than competition.

OUR VISION

To create well rounded, compassionate, and capable learners of the future.

OUR MISSION

To provide a supportive, flexible and inclusive learning environment that fosters mutual respect and a passion for learning, while developing the whole child.

OUR VALUES

We are Respectful

We are Responsible

We are Resilient

OUR SETTING AND FACILITIES

Situated on 5 acres of beautiful green space, Mawarra is set high on a hill overlooking open farm and grazing land of the magnificent Kybong community. With two dams and ample space to explore, students and staff spend time in nature each day finding gratitude and appreciation in the solace and beauty of their surrounds.



Our classrooms provide an area where students base themselves, ready for the day. Lessons take place both indoors and out, with staff and students enjoying the

freedom of choice with lesson delivery. Our library and chillout area provide students with a 'quiet space' they can access at any time. Our indoor spaces reflect the beauty of the surrounds with students taking pride in their areas and valuing the things within it.



Our gardens are currently being developed using principles of Permaculture Practice, in connection with the Living Classroom Project, whose aim it is to provide an accessible living classroom to every student in Australia. Students play an important role in planning, preparing, and maintaining gardens as well as harvesting and eating produce grown at school.

OUR STAFF

Our highly trained staff have sought out Mawarra for our philosophy and approach to learning and are enthusiastic about engaging with students as individuals and assisting them on their learning journey. Our teachers are committed to identifying learning needs of the children and providing one to one (personal) attention to each child ensure that all children make progress and reach their fullest potential.

Our staff value the relationship between home and school and communicate frequently with students and families about both personal and academic development. We encourage our staff to utilise their personal interests and skills such as gardening, juggling, sewing, indigenous cultures, art and music to broaden our children's exposure to new interests and skills.

OUR APPROACH TO LEARNING

One of the fundamental principles of the school, is the focus on educating the 'whole child'. Academics are important, however so are qualities such as empathy, kindness, tolerance, resilience, respect and responsibility. These qualities are modelled by all adults within the school, and they form the basis of our daily interactions with each other and with the wider community.

Child-centred

We offer a child centred, integrated curriculum recognising children's varied abilities, interests and needs, focusing on nurturing and supporting the growth of the child on their learning journey.

We recognise that highly-effective teachers use children's natural curiosity as the spark to plan and implement engaging learning opportunities. Our students' interests, ideas and questions will guide the development of a balanced curriculum, that values structured learning, explicit teaching, and planned, purposeful play.

Multi-age classes

Our multi-age approach encourages and empowers children to become independent learners with wider social experience whilst also working in groups and being challenged according to their ability rather than their age. A multi-age setting is also more akin to real life situations.

Multi-age classes are not composite classes. Multi-age classes are composed of children with a mix of abilities and ages. Children are not grouped based solely on academic performance or age. Multi-age classrooms reflect the natural groupings found in our neighbourhoods and communities and provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas, modelling of behaviours, practice of responsibility and nurturance, and development of leadership and social skills.

Our class sizes are kept small to allow individuals to grow confidently whilst interacting with their peers.

Integrated Inquiry/Project-based learning

A key focus of our curriculum design at Mawarra is to create a love of learning through varied and stimulating learning experiences. These experiences should interest and engage students, helping them to relate new content to previous knowledge and make connections between school experience and the real world.

An explicit expectation is that successful inquiry will lead to action, initiated by the student as a result of the learning process. This action may extend the student's own learning, or it may have a wider social impact, and will clearly look different within each age range; and from one age range to the next.

Underpinning all aspects of our curriculum is the school's commitment to the skills of literacy, numeracy and social cooperation, and towards the integration of knowledge, skills and values across all learning areas. Whilst we do explicitly teach core subjects of English and Mathematics, we endeavour to provide integrated units rather than focusing on stand-alone subject areas.



We believe it is this philosophy that assists the children at Mawarra on the path to becoming capable lifelong learners.

Personal Interest Projects (PIPs) and *Learning Pathways* offer students in Years 3-10 the opportunity to lead their own learning journey focusing on their own interests and building their confidence and love of learning. Students choose an area they'd like to learn about and generate a product or solution to showcase to an audience of their choice.

Creativity and innovation

Students are encouraged to 'think outside the box' with their learning - De Bono's Six Thinking Hats are used to teach students how to separate thinking into six clear functions and roles. Each thinking role is identified with a coloured symbolic "thinking hat." By mentally wearing and switching "hats," students can easily focus or redirect their thoughts, the conversation, or a meeting. This opens them up to other ways of thinking which often differ from their natural way of thinking.



Each year students in middle and high school classes participate in the OptiMinds Creative Sustainability Challenge - an inclusive team challenge which EMPOWERS participants to THINK, CREATE & COMMUNICATE. They are required to solve demanding, open-ended Challenges from one of the following categories: | Language Literature | Media Communication | Science Engineering | Social Sciences |. The Opti-MINDS process mirrors what successful businesses practise.

Outdoor learning and play

At Mawarra we have a focus on being outdoors and participating in the natural environment. Outdoor learning environments are important for encouraging healthy behaviours and improving the physical, educational and mental wellbeing of children and young people. They also connect children and young people to the natural world creating a sense of responsibility for the environment.

Students at Mawarra sometimes engage in activities often deemed 'risky' - they learn to assess risks and become more confident and sensible community members. Risk assessments are completed by staff on all activities prior to commencement. This may include climbing trees, riding bikes, using hand tools and racing billy carts down the hill.

Skills for life

We believe in teaching life skills to all children including responsibility, self-care, cleaning, cooking and budgeting to name a few. As such all students of the school are expected to be involved in daily routines and activities around the School, such as: maintaining the vegetable garden, using vacuum cleaners etc. Students are also encouraged to make community connections and foster relationships with external organisations to further build skills for the real world.

THE ROLE OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

We believe in creating relationships between all stakeholders of the school as we see strong relationships as the heart of the learning process. When there are strong, healthy relationships, trust flourishes, understanding is obtained, and pathways are opened.

Family, particularly parent participation is encouraged at Mawarra, as it builds a school in which children and parents take pride. We have a Parents and Friends committee which is responsible for organising fundraising and school community events.

Parents can help the school and P&F as required by assisting with:

1. fundraising and community events
2. on school excursions / incursions
3. general classroom tasks
4. building and grounds maintenance
5. working bees

We strive to develop connections with local community groups and participate in community events and gatherings. We have connections with the local Landcare group, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, landscape suppliers, and local Council. We strive to support local business in our everyday workings as much as possible and value the contribution we make in society.

We hold a celebration of learning each term, inviting families to come in and share in acknowledging and celebrating student achievements.

Students access local facilities throughout the year including the local swimming pool, library, art gallery, gymnastics centre, and local businesses.

All volunteers to the school, including parents must be approved by the Principal, and hold a current working with children blue card.

UNIFORM

The school has a uniform which is a unisex collared sports polo shirt and navy bottoms. The uniform is not compulsory for regular school days. When we leave the school grounds however, we ask that students wear the school shirt for ease of identification in community settings. If students are not wearing the school shirt, we do request that clothing is as close to school colours as possible.

Whilst on a regular school day, students have free choice of clothing at school, please ensure that outfits are sun safe, sensible and respectful, i.e. shoulders are covered, no mid-drift tops, no inappropriate logos or slogans.

We support children removing their shoes at school and playing barefoot, however students often go on adventure walks during the day and need to be prepared for all occasions. There are also a health and safety requirement in some activities so enclosed footwear must always be available to wear if needed.

FOOD, LUNCHES AND COOKING

We promote a healthy and balanced diet at Mawarra Independent School. Please pack your child enough healthy food for two eating breaks and a water bottle. We have fridges available to store if required.

The school provides a range of fresh local fruits and vegetables for students at a daily fruit break. Students are also involved in a kitchen garden program harvesting fresh foods from our gardens and developing their cooking skills.

We discourage students from bringing lollies, soft drinks, chewing gum or chocolates to school so please be mindful of this when packing lunches. We do understand that there may be occasions where treats are acceptable, and we welcome those celebrations with you. If your child has specific dietary requirements, please inform staff.

We take our environmental responsibility seriously at school and encourage parents to use minimal packaging in their child's lunchbox. We also provide a waste centre, which has availability for recycling and composting to reduce our waste impact.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Policies are available on the school website or upon request at the office. All families and students are expected to comply with the policies of the school.

SCHOOL HOURS

Drop off between 8:15 – 8:50am

Pick up between 3:00 – 3:30pm

Special arrangements can be made on an individual basis if these times prove difficult for families.

BEHAVIOUR

Children's behaviour expresses who they are and how they feel. We keep this in mind when addressing behavioural issues.

We have quiet areas available around the school for all children to go to 'chillout' or regroup. These are located indoors and outdoors and are negotiated between staff and students.

We promote restorative justice practices and support students to solve problems in a respectful manner, where all parties and their opinions are acknowledged.

In the case of ongoing behavioural issues, families are involved as part of a collaborative approach to problem solving. Please refer to the school *Behaviour Policy* for further information.

Mawarra has both a *Parent and Student Code of Conduct* that all parties will be required to read and agree to prior to acceptance of enrolment.

FEES

As an accredited independent school we receive income from both State and Federal Government funding as well as fundraising and grants through our P and F association. In addition, we charge tuition fees to assist in providing our quality educational programs. As a community focused school, we will however, endeavor to keep fees as low as possible.

Tuition Fees are all inclusive, with the exception of the items listed below (Other Charges). Tuition Fees are payable in full per term or if this is not financially suitable to your family Fee Payment Agreements can be requested.

The school relies on the prompt payment of fees and levies by parents. A fee schedule is attached at the end of this booklet. Fees are updated each calendar year.

OTHER CHARGES

ENROLMENT BOND

This fee will be requested upon a place being offered to your child. Payment of the fee is required to accept your child's place.

The bond will be refunded when your child has finished at the school, providing all outstanding fees have been paid and the required notice has been given.

EXCURSIONS, INCURSIONS AND SPORT

Excursions, incursions, camps and some sports are separate to annual fees and are to be paid for by parents prior to the event.

ADDITIONAL SUBJECT OR COURSE FEES

Some year levels or courses may attract additional fees to participate in or for additional required resources e.g. first aid courses, certificate courses, distance education subjects, textbooks dependent on the individual students learning pathway.

COMMUNITY LEVY

At Mawarra, we understand that it's not always possible to support every volunteer or fundraising activity. There are many ways in which you can support the school including: working bees, Bunnings sausage sizzles, assistance with the P&F fundraising and events.

For those who would prefer not to or are unable to be involved in our volunteer and fundraising events, a *Community Levy* will be charged, invoiced on a term by term basis. A fundraising and event calendar will be released at the beginning of each year to inform families of available opportunities to contribute.

APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT PROCESS

Starting a new school can be overwhelming to both parents and their children.

We have an application for enrolment process in place to ensure that parents understand and support the philosophy of the school before committing to enrolling, and to identify if Mawarra will align with you and your child/rens learning journey.

The application process involves:

- **Lodgement of *Request to Attend Tour*** form – this enables us to contact you with date and invitation to next school tour.
- **Attend school tour/Information session-** have a look around the school, meet the Principal and Staff, ask any questions.
- **Lodgement of *Expression of Interest*** form to School Administration. Expressions of Interest should be submitted by a parent or guardian after attending a School Tour/Information Session. Applications are placed on our records and if a suitable placement becomes available, families are contacted to continue the application process.

Applications can be made at any time during the year for any year level (Prep to Year 10).

Relevant forms can be found on our website www.mawarraindependentschool.org.au

or by contacting administration at: admin@mawarraindependentschool.org.au

We hope you have enjoyed discovering more about our wonderful school. If you feel that Mawarra is the school for your family, please complete the *Request to Attend Tour* (at the back of this booklet or on our website) and return to the school via email on: admin@mawarraindependentschool.org.au. You will receive an email response from us within five working days, acknowledging receipt of your completed form and we will be in contact to discuss any further questions you may have and how to proceed.

Kind regards

Chandelle Duthie

Principal

Mawarra Independent School

Respectful, Responsible, Resilient

2023 FEES, LEVIES & CHARGES SCHEDULE

TUTION FEES: annual fee amount for each year level which includes essential stationary resource items	
Primary School (Prep–6)	\$3,500 / year
High School (Years 7–10)	\$3,500 / year *may be additional charges for some electives
Senior School (Years 11–12)	Not currently available
Sibling discounts:	
Family discount for families with 2 or more children attending	\$500 annual discount per family (not per child) for 2 nd and consequent children in attendance at the school
OTHER CHARGES:	
Enrolment Bond	\$375 one-time payment per child, payable upon acceptance of enrolment (refundable when student leaves, all outstanding fees are up to date and required notice is given)
Excursions, incursions, camps, sport	Fees vary dependent upon the event
Additional subject or course fees	Some year levels or courses may attract additional fees to participate in or for additional required resources e.g. first aid courses, certificate courses, distance education subjects, textbooks dependent on the individual students learning pathway
Community Levy	\$75 per term / family- <i>For those families who are unable to volunteer 5hours throughout the term</i>
Booklist	All general resources and stationery items are provided by the school – included in the tuition fee

Request to Attend School Tour



This form places your child on the Mawarra Independent School interested families list. Lodgement of this form provides us with your contact details, so we can contact you with an invitation to attend a school tour, information session, where you can have a look around the school, meet the principal and ask questions.

If after attending a school tour, you are still interested in registering your interest for enrolment, you will be provided with an Expression of Interest Form, this will place you on our records and you will be contacted if a suitable placement becomes available.

Once completed, please return via email to admin@mawarraindependentschool.org.au or post to: Mawarra Independent School, 967 Old Bruce Highway, Kybong 4570.

STUDENT DETAILS

Full name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Gender: female male non-binary

Address: _____

Current grade: _____ Current school: _____

Proposed entry grade: _____ Proposed start date: _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONTACT DETAILS You will be considered the primary contact

Name: _____

Mobile number: _____ Email address: _____

Residential Address: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Parent / Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____