

Directors Report 2022

The start of 2022 was unusual to say the least. During the December/January holidays many families spent their holidays with Covid or in isolation due to household contacts and we soon learnt that a covid case was very common.

Our long running director Melanie Leever decided to move interstate after 19 long years of service at the Pre-school to be closer to her family. I was given the opportunity to take on this new role which I gladly accepted.

Our 2022 AGM was held via zoom. Something we were all very familiar with now after the last 2 years of covid restrictions, hopefully this was the last time this would happen.

Term 1

The pre-school started quietly with pick ups and drop offs still being made in the driveway where possible with parents unable to enter the building and everyone having to observe strict health and hygiene practices and social distancing rules. The children adapted incredibly well to our kiss and drop morning routine and our valet pick ups in the afternoon. Luckily by week 7 some restrictions had eased and we were able to welcome families back into the Pre-school in the afternoons. If only Covid was all we had to worry about in Term 1.

Term 1 welcomed a lot of rain to say the least. This caused some issues with our drains which I won't get into. It resulted in closing the pre-school for 1.5 days. The first time we have had to close the pre-school in a very long time. Council were able to repair the drains and we welcomed everyone back into the Pre-school the next week.

Our welcome to Handley disco was postponed yet again due to Covid, however luckily we were able to reschedule this later for in the year as a farewell disco.

By Term 2 we were able to welcome families back into the Pre-school in the mornings as well as the afternoons, it was great to have our families back in the building and start to build the Handley community again. Our annual fete organisation was well underway as well as other community events. We also implemented the new Storypark manage software. This was a slow process starting with enrolments for 2023 and waitlist, then fees and now we are all using ipads to digitally sign in. We are officially digital.

By Term 3, it finally felt like we were through the worst of covid. The social committee did such a great job with our annual fete and we managed to raise just over \$10000 for the Pre-school which contributed to our new pavers and bench seat. We welcomed 3 new residents to Pre-school our chickens. Brownie, Stripes and Nugget and the children soon got used to the chickens roaming the playground. They would casually walk into the craft room or help themselves to a snack from a lunch box.

Our precious and much loved Bunya pine was removed in Term 3 which used to hang over the native garden. The children had the opportunity to watch as it was slowly cut down to the trunk. We will miss the shade it used to give us and the bunya nuts we all learnt so much about.

We made it to Term 4, and what a busy term it was. We had orientation for the new children, eye screening, hearing test and we finished off the year with our Handley disco and end of year celebrations.

Of the 90 children enrolled in 2022, we only had 3 children move on from Handley, and these positions were quickly filled up again. I am very proud to say that 61 children went off to kindergarten at the start of this year. They were well prepared, resilient and ready to face the challenges of school. Children from Handley filtered into 20 different schools.

Our highly qualified staff, their experience, maturity and their ability to provide an above ratio learning environment meant that we were able to deliver an exceptional educational program that prepared children for school.

We welcomed 5 staff members to our team this year. 2 new staff members and 3 returning staff members who had been on leave.

In conclusion 2022 was a very busy year for all involved with the Pre-school. I would like to thank the retiring Board of Management members. Some who have been involved with the board for many years: Nick Richardson, Michael Sullivan, Tiffany Corregia, Kate Bearfield, Jacqui Wilson.

Angus Dockrill our president for 2022 has also nominated himself for another year on the board so Thank you Angus.

I would also like to thank the Class Parents under the direction of Jacqui Wilson. The tremendous efforts and organisation with the fundraising activities is greatly appreciated. The wonderful events organised by the Social Committee not only helped to keep the Pre-school well-resourced but also provided opportunities for families to meet and build community spirit.

Finally, a huge thank you to the staff of Pymble Turramurra Pre-school, for their dedication and positive attitude each day. You all work so incredibly hard to ensure that the children and families at Handley get the absolute best, and I thank you for everything that you do.

As we look at 2023, I encourage you all to get involved, support and connect with each other over this coming year.

On behalf of the staff, may I say we are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning and friendship.

Thank you

Tori Dyson