



Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



January Committee Newsletter 2021

Presidents Report

Hello and a big warm welcome to you and your family to Balnarring Kinder for 2021.

Hoping you had a great time over the Christmas / New Year period with your loved ones. Wishing you all the best for the year ahead which will include your child(ren) and your whole family being part of our community here at Balnarring.

Firstly, I would just like to introduce myself, I'm Valeska, this year's President of the Kinder Committee. I am a Mum to my beautiful twin boys, Lars & Otis, who are in Djeembana 4yo group this year. My husband, Glen and I love being active with our boys and we soak up every minute of our family time. I'm a working mum, I help run a concreting business I have been part of for the last 18 years, I'm not afraid of hard work or getting my hands dirty and jumping in.

I was the minutes secretary in last year's committee and I really enjoyed being part of the team with 12 other mum's who dedicated their time to ensuring our kinder ran smoothly along side our teaching team who go above and beyond on a daily basis, and by daily, I mean literally daily (weekends, nights, early mornings, during school holidays). I decided to take on the Presidents role for 2021 at the Kinder after seeing my beautiful twin boys, Otis and Lars, grow so much throughout the last year attending (mostly and even remotely) the 3year old class with Jill, Lisa and Kim. I thought if I could help with the running of this service with such a great team it was enough to me to take the plunge and take on the role. We have an amazing committee this year to support the kinder with every member already contributing in so many ways. Thank you to everyone who put their hands up.

I am following in the footsteps of Fiona and last year's steadfast and dedicated committee, who did such a wonderful job last year during a world wide pandemic. Foundations were built by Fiona, the committee and the teaching team so if we need to we can adopt and action procedures and strategies that worked so well last year during Covid. Let's hope it doesn't come to that but if it does we're ready and prepared - thanks to the tireless work carried out last year.

We are so fortunate for our children to have access to this wonderful service with the opportunity to grow and learn through the world class educational program provided here during their formative years.

We had our first committee meeting on Wednesday 27th January and I would like to thank the whole team for your work throughout the break as well as at our first meeting.



Acknowledgement: Balnarring Preschool acknowledges that our children and families play and learn on Boon Wurrung Country. We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation as the First Peoples of this land. We thank them for caring for the land and the waterways and value the sharing of their knowledge and stories. We pay our respects to their Elders: past and present.



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We were able to ratify decisions made over the break as well as discuss and decide on some important dates/events for our upcoming year at the kinder.

We have had some changes to our teaching team and committee over the break.

Cath who was part of the Weelam Group teaching team resigned, we are so sad to see Cath leave as she has been much loved member of the team and an amazing support to the families over the years and especially during remote learning last year. We wish Cath well in her pursuits this year and beyond and we thank Cath so much for all of her hard work and dedication and amazing contribution to the kinder over the years. Fortunately we are able to welcome back Beth and Sarah will be taking on more hours to complete the Weelam teaching team for 2021.

We also have had some committee members circumstances change over the break so we farewell and thank Bec, our newsletter Co-ordinator and welcome Celia into this role. We also farewell and thank Miranda, our Enrollment Officer and welcome Katherine into this role. Thank you Bec and Miranda for taking the time in handing over your roles and.

It has been a great first week back at the kinder with the start of the phase in period allowing children to settle into their new classes and environment. It's been lovely for families to be back and involved during the meet and greet sessions and parent information nights this week.

It's definitely an exciting and also can be an overwhelming time for all our children and families to navigate the start of the new year. As Karen pointed out in our first meet and greet, enjoy and allow the special moments.

Kind Regards,

Valeska Noeske-Smith

Dates for the diary

Saturday 13th March 2021 – Womin Djeka Festival (more information to follow)

Sunday 21st March 2021 - Bunnings BBQ fundraiser (more information to follow early 2021)



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2021 Working Bee Dates

DJEEMBANA: 21st February

MANAMEET: 6th June

GAREEAL: 29th August

WEELAM: 14th November

Working bees run from 10-1pm. The whole family is invited to help around kinder and join us for a BBQ lunch.

Next meeting:

January 2021 committee meeting – Tuesday 16th February 2021



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