

Hello and a big warm welcome to you and your family to Balnarring Kinder for 2022.

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.

I'm Valeska, President of the Kinder Committee for the second year as my twins are lucky enough to be attending for another year of 4yo. I am a Mum to my beautiful twin boys, Lars & Otis, who are in Djeembana 4yo group again this year. My husband and I learned so much from not only the amazing teaching team but also from our children over the last two years, especially in regards to First People learning, looking forward to another great year this year.

I want to take this time to thank last year's 2021 committee who pulled through another challenging Covid year as well as the teaching team who made it work and made the program inclusive for all circumstances in 2021. They juggled on site and remote learning whilst still running the nature program.

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.

I also want to welcome our 2022 committee where we had such a great response to role nominations. It shows we have such a willing and inclusive community who put their hand up and jump in ready to help and who have done so much already. There are photos of the committee members displayed on the notice board so please reach out to any of us if you need anything at all.

Our fundraising committee have met, led by Sienna and have put together an exciting schedule for fundraising events so look out for those coming up throughout the year.

Our grants Officer, Vanessa, has also been busy putting funds to good use from the shade and climate grants.

Our Treasurer, Ash, is moving interstate in May - we will miss you so much Ash. Ash has been the treasurer both last year and this year and she has tirelessly worked in this role. Maeve has kindly offered to step into the treasurer role meaning we are now in need of an assistant Treasurer so please put your hand up if you'd like to join.

We have had two committee meetings already this year. We are in the interview process to fill an educator position in the Djeembana team and a maternity leave position in the Weelam team as Sarah's baby will arrive soon, such an exciting time ahead.

We have already had events for families to get together and experience our wonderful culture, like our Welcome to Country held on the Balnarring common land. The parent info nights were also a good opportunity to meet and greet and learn more about the program. The annual Womindjeka Festival is being held on 19/3 and 20/3, so much work has gone into this led by Karen and the festival committee.

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. Enjoy these special moments.

Xx

Kind Regards,

Valeska Noeske-Smith