

A Note From Our Chairperson

Caring for Children. Not for Profit

Start of year message from our new Chairperson, Rebecca

Dear Families,

My name is Rebecca Reeves and I am the new Chair of the Blue Gum Committee for 2021. It is my privilege to lead the Committee during a tremendously exciting chapter for Blue Gum. I would like to say a heartfelt thanks to Sara Doig for her leadership in the role during the past 9 months and to Dr Prue Howson prior to that during an incredibly difficult period for the Centre as we sought to navigate the complexities of COVID-19.

I would also like to acknowledge the great work that Jane Brenzi, Lesley Els, Maria Mischok and all our fabulous Educators have done over the last 14 months to continue to provide the highest level of education and care to our children during a very uncertain time.

The Blue Gum Committee has been hard at work behind the scenes to deliver on the Strategic Vision of the Centre and I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce the current Committee Members and update you on some of our current projects.

The Committee for 2021:

- **Rebecca Reeves – Chair**
- **Amanda Wylde – Secretary**
- **Miriam Ritchie – Treasurer**
- **Sara Doig - Committee member**
- **Prue Howson – Committee member**
- **Katja Levy – Committee Member**
- **Kendell Terrell – Committee Member**
- **Lauren Lenz – Committee Member**
- **Clayton Cargill – Committee Member**
- **Jodie Stenberg – Committee Member**

Our major role as the Committee is in supporting our wonderful staff, who provide such amazing education and care for our children. Blue Gum is lucky to have so many staff who've been with us for many years, and provide experienced, high quality education above and beyond many day care centres. To ensure our staff are looked after just as well, we seek active feedback and regularly review ways in which we can nurture skills within the centre through professional development opportunities and staff support programs.

You will already be familiar with the Curriculum Room upgrade which is one of the projects that has been delivered in 2021 and which I am sure you will agree looks fabulous. Well done to Lesley and Rachel for your hard work in bringing that project to life.

This year one of our key priorities will be updating the Centre's 5 year Strategic Plan. In May all stakeholders will receive a survey to assist the Committee in developing the Plan, the implementation of which is led by Jane Brenzi in her role as Director. Please take the time to contribute as your feedback is valuable and it will be used to shape the future direction of the Centre.

We are progressing with our gardens project, the plans many of you will have seen during the Christmas Party where they were posted in the foyer. Look for more progress on these throughout Q2 and Q3.

Lastly, the Centre will commence with the 2021/2022 Budget preparation process in May with Jane, Maria and Miriam working hard on a proposed Budget for Committee review. The Centre is in strong financial shape and the budget guidance continues to be around fostering a position that supports our values and minimises any fee increases to parents whilst balancing the books. I look forward to sharing the outcome of that process with you in June.

To close we have a fantastic and diverse team of enthusiastic parents, who have volunteered to share their skills, helping to maintain and improve our Centre. If you'd like to contribute, please get in touch, it's a great way to get involved and meet parents within the Centre.

Warm Regards

Rebecca

