

President's Report

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2023 has been another big year for Golden Square Kindergarten and our Committee of Management: 25 dedicated parents and members of our Community nominated to support a range of initiatives throughout the year.

It was a big year for our staff, as we welcomed our new Centre Manager Kylie Kelly. She has effectively led our team as we readjusted after Carol and Jennifer's retirements after phenomenal lengths of service at the end of 2022. Of course, neither have been able to stay away this year, and it's been great to have them both back with us to support our transition.

We spent our first full year in our new three-year-old building, the Carol O'Bree Centre. It's a beautiful facility, and has accommodated the increase from five to 15 hours of kinder for our three year olds superbly. The shift to deliver such a big increase in hours of kinder has appeared absolutely seamless, thank you to everyone who has supported such a big change.

In July we were absolutely delighted to receive confirmation of the quality of our service, as we were awarded 'Exceeding' from our Quality Assessment against the National Quality Framework (NQF). This is an excellent testament to and confirmation of the exceptional service we provide for our children and their families every day.

Our Committee ran a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle and a Mango Fundraiser as our key fundraisers, but also contributed to the Scholastic Book Club and other initiatives throughout the year. It was great for us to be able to respond to our four years olds' request for a reinstated bike track, after the last one was demolished to make way for our new building. It's great to see such leadership and action by our children, and such willing support and encouragement from our Educators.

Thank you to all the families who choose our service. I attended a forum for Independent Early Learning facilities recently, and data shows that independent services like ours pay our staff better, staff our facilities higher than ratios, our staff stay with us longer, we have lower rates of enforcement actions and we are more likely to be meeting the NQF. I see examples of all of these in action every time I attend the Kinder or a meeting, it really is a very special community and service to be a part of.

Thank you to all of our Committee of Management for all your efforts throughout a huge year. Attending Committee Meetings, supporting fundraisers, popping up at Working Bees are all incredibly meaningful ways to support our Kinder and the work of our educators. It's been wonderful to witness and be a part of discussions about some of the policies which effect the way our service is delivered, and your varied perspectives are our strength.

A special thank you to our outgoing Executive – Megan Kowalski (President until August), Jess Jones, Jonatan Astrand-Ferris and Ebony Kronk. You have all delivered your important work with professionalism, heart and ethics, and have provided many more than usual unseen hours to making sure our Committee, and our Kinder, runs effectively. It has been a learning process for us all, but it's been wonderful to learn side by side with such a brilliant and committed group.

But most of all, the biggest of thanks must go to our exceptional staff. Your dedication to our Kinder and all of our children is second to none, and each of you conduct yourselves with passion, thoughtfulness and warmth. You create a safe environment for our children to express themselves, and create interesting and unique opportunities for them to learn. Our Kinder is the Kinder it is thanks to you all, and we couldn't be more grateful for everything you do – day in, day out; visible and not so visible.

I wish the Committee of Management for 2024 all the very best.