

## President's Report 2022

Looking back on this year, especially at all the photos and the fun that has been had this year honestly makes it hard for me not to tear up. We have done such a good thing for our community and the membership and financial reports, I think, reflect how far we've come in a short amount of time. Some of that is due to everyone just wanting to get out and about again after covid but mostly it's because of the great community we're building through our dedication and hard work to create great activities and a fun environment for the kids to thrive in.

I'd like to take a moment to run through some of our major achievements this year which include some pretty epic fundraising - our 2 successful grant applications, 3 increasingly successful raffles, a grill'd jar and a toy sale. We also have another toy sale and our Bunnings BBQ to look forward to in a couple of weeks. All of this sets us up for an exciting 2023 where I can see us being able to have a few fun incursions as well as build on our session themes.

A huge amount of time at the beginning of the year was spent on cleaning up our storage spaces. This took a heap of time and effort but our sessions are able to run a whole lot more efficiently now and we clearly know what we have and are able to plan sessions to actually use it which has been really great.



In Term 3 we introduced our baby zone which has no doubt helped more of the community feel included and welcome at Playgroup. I hope we can keep improving that space and plan some baby specific activities for next year.

Our Messy Play Day was so well received by not only our members, but a heap of other Leopold families as well which is so great and a credit to the reputation that we're building. It was a huge learning curve for us all and I'm excited for what we'll be able to offer the community next year. And just quietly, as a group of people who haven't thrown a big event like that before, I think we smashed it!

Another huge highlight of the year has been the support from our members - Kira's Dad donating a huge amount of supplies for raffles, Messy Play Day and bunnings, Kira's brother donating a whole

box full of costumes, Elyse showing up on Messy Play Day with Maccas in hand and letting us send her on errands, Seema cooking for the whole Monday group not once but twice, members willing to show up and help us run the bunnings BBQ, members reaching out to offer help and signing onto the committee. All of this doesn't just happen, it's a testament to us building something that people want to be a part of, they want to come together and that is what Playgroup is about – building those connections so that we can lean on each other as our kids grow up. I want to thank each and every one of you for being a part of that.

Our committee has changed and grown over the year and I'd like to thank the people who have volunteered their time to playgroup but aren't on the committee anymore:

Hayley was the president of Playgroup throughout such a tough time over the last two years through lockdowns and frustrating rules. She was diligent in keeping the community updated and connected and running sessions when they could.

Nicole was our membership officer for the first half of the year and did a great job encouraging people to come back to playgroup when things were still so uncertain due to covid.

Stef has been our treasurer for most of the year and has been amazing at keeping us accountable and making sure everyone was able to enjoy playgroup on a very tight budget.

Bec, who has been in the purchasing officer role for a few years now, will be staying on as a general member next year and has quietly gone about getting all the morning tea supplies each week so the kids can fuel up for all the playgroup fun, and gosh knows they do!! Thanks Bec.

So, other than more epic fun and friendships, what else can we look forward for 2023? Well, we're hoping to start a Wednesday or Tuesday afternoon session which will hopefully be a better timeframe for the babies and toddlers who still need a morning nap. And we're also planning to build a Leopold Playgroup website over the summer holidays which will be very cool platform to connect with more people.

We have the majority of our committee continuing in their positions to next year and I just want to take a moment to thank them all;

To start with, the person who has truly made such an unbelievable difference since she came on board. Brooke works incredibly hard behind the scenes and goes so far above and beyond the scope of membership officer and session leader it's not even funny. She picked up every bit of slack and more that I left when I had to go back to work and is the reason I haven't completely lost my head in all of this. She has absolutely crushed the membership officer role, and is one of the biggest reasons for our Playgroup growing. Getting back to all our enquiries and keeping on top of following everyone up is a huge huge job and she does it so well.

Renee has done a fantastic job at running our committee meetings and keeping us all on track and even offering more help where she could and I'm so glad she's able continue with us into 2023.

Bec Williams has been an incredible support to me since we started coming to Playgroup at the start of the year and she absolutely smashes set up and pack up and I think she needs the nickname fruit

ninja because she can prep morning tea like no one I've ever seen! Bec has kindly offered to take up the Purchasing Officer role next year in addition to the Friday session Leader role.

Sharen has came through with invaluable advice and experiences before even signing onto the committee this year. Thank you for taking on the treasurer role and consistently staying behind to help pack up and do things that no one else wants to do. We're very lucky to have you on board.

Kira has worked hard to keep our playgroup family up to date with everything that's going on. Her work is another massive reason why this year has been so great. Kira's help with the week to week activities is so appreciated and some weeks the only reason the activities come together at all! The support her family has extended to Playgroup is absolutely insane and has been the foundation of a lot of our success this year.

Mel has jumped in whole heartedly to our playgroup fam and put together some truly incredible projects. Thank you so much for your time and creativity. Messy Play day would not have come together without her and I'm so excited to explore more of her amazing ideas next year!

Deejay brings her knowledge and ideas to our group and gives such great advice. Her input into sessions and help with set up and pack up are so appreciated. Deejay and Eva have been so much fun to get to know and I'm so glad you want to stick around next year.

Laura always sticks around to help with pack up and for was the first one to offer our small committee help at the beginning of the year. She really was the first inspiration for us to start asking people to join the committee and look at us now!!

Here's to a great 2023!

Jess Conway - November 2022































































































