



DECEMBER 2021 ❖ ISSUE #4 ❖

HERITAGE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

WHERE EVERY CHILD IS AN INDIVIDUAL

Director's Report

Despite the unusual and challenging year we have had I can see many positives with our achievements in 2021. One recent achievement was our successful Graduation and Christmas celebration. Congratulations to our Graduating Preschoolers (and the preschool team!), it is wonderful to see that despite having to stay at home during lockdown, they are still so ready for the next step in their schooling journey. We know that you will go off to be kind, curious and resilient people and take a love of nature and fond memories of Heritage with you.

Although we were apart during lockdown, I feel our community has never been stronger. This strong support has helped to keep us all safe, but this is not the time to get too comfortable. Please remember to update your contact information with us and don't forget hygiene procedures on arrival and departure. Rest assured that all the educators miss having the families inside the centre and the casual chit chats at the end of the day, however, while childcare remains in the high-risk category, we will continue our practise of drop off and pick up at the front entrance and limit access to the building.

HERITAGE WILL BE



Last Day: 22nd December
Re-opens: 10th January

In this issue

- Report from: Vicki, Katie, Bluebells, Wattle/Grevillea & Banksia Rooms.
- Offer us feedback with our Yearly Heritage Survey.
- Order your copy of the 2021 Yearbook.

Director's Report cont.

A big thank you goes to all our dedicated educators who, despite the many challenges thrown their way this year, have tackled many tasks that normally childcare workers wouldn't do e.g. painting, fence building, shelving construction, keeping the Environmental Centre garden going and not to forget the many hours of book processing for the Heritage library. The childcare sector has lost many educators over the covid-19 pandemic and Heritage staffing was also affected with the loss of 3 educators (Wei, Ria and Lisa). In saying that, the Heritage team remains strong and motivated, and eager to face the fun and challenges of 2022.

As we continue to better our Heritage community, with more opportunities for growing children's programs, operate with above required ratios in all rooms, ensuring a workplace environment that allows professional growth and that continues to pay their educators well, we will be needing to implement our annual fee increase as of the 1st of February 2022, this amount is normally around the \$6.00 mark and will be confirmed by our committee ASAP.

I am sure many of you are looking forward to holidays, just a quick reminder that our last day of operation is on Wednesday the 22nd December and we re-open on Monday the 10th January. If you are planning on taking any additional days off please don't forget to let us know. This sometimes means that additional staffing isn't required or families requesting additional days can be offered these.

To those who are travelling, stay safe and remember to take your driver breaks.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Holiday Season.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Vicki



2021 Christmas dinner at Pinalo Estate

Educational Leaders Report



I know it's a bit of a cliché, but I can't believe it's the end of the year already. When this time of the year comes around, it is usually a good time to think about our goals for the future and also look back, and reflect on what we have achieved for this year. 2021 was another crazy year, with lots of ups and downs.

Throughout the year our teams have organised Educational Programs, created inspiring learning environments and worked on children's individual goals. Earlier in the year we were thrilled to achieve exceeding for our accreditation. During lockdown our educators switched efficiently to online learning and even turned into delivery drivers with our Gulumbany packs. During lockdown, we also did a huge amount of work on our indoor and outdoor environments. Our library was also fully re-scanned and re-organised. After the families extended period at home, the educators have successfully re-settled children back into Heritage. Many of these things (and so much more) will be captured in our Year Book for 2021, which you can order now, it is a wonderful keepsake for the first step in your child's learning journey.

I would like to extend a huge thankyou to all of our educators and their amazing energy and dedication. All of our great achievements could not have been done without their team work and tireless commitment to making Heritage such a wonderful place for children to learn and also, a wonderful place for us to work. 2021 was another year full of challenges. I would also like to extend a big thankyou to our families, your support during lockdown and working in partnership with us throughout the year is one of the very special things about Heritage.

We have lots of big plans for next year to make Heritage an even better place for our children and families. It would also be great to get some feedback from you, so don't forget to fill in our online, yearly survey which can help us create new goals.

A big thankyou again to all of our Educators and congratulations to our 2021 graduates! Don't forget to come back and visit us!!! Also I wish everyone a happy Holiday and a safe and happy new year 2021.



Bluebell's Room Report



Welcome to bluebell's final newsletter for this year! 2021 has been a fantastic and very challenging year. It's wonderful to see all our bluebells children have grown up so much as they have demonstrated confidence in all areas and are more expressive in showing their bonds and connections towards educators and peers.

Throughout the months educators were focusing on settling children back into our Heritage environment. Our play days went really well and children seemed very happy to see their educators and peers. We received positive feedback from our families, appreciating our pre settling program.

We enjoyed extending the children's interests through activities and new adventures. The children have been busy exploring their environment, following interests and enjoying our intentional teaching/programming ideas. Dancing and using percussion instruments through music sessions. Construction play has also gone off with a blast, most of our Bluebell's children love spending their time in loading and pushing the trucks. We continued our 'out and about' program, planning weekly walks to the old Canberra house.

Our older groups of children already started their transition to the toddler room. It has been wonderful to see them begin to make trusted relationships with the toddler educators and have built adorable friendships with toddler peers.

We would also like to give a warm welcome to our new child in the Bluebell's room, Emily as she joined us in the Bluebells last month. It is great to see Emily settled well into the environment and has formed trusting relationships with all the educators.

We have been blessed with having wonderful children and families throughout the year and thank you to all our families for their continued support during 2021. Christmas is fast approaching and we wish all our families a happy Christmas and New year. Have a wonderful and safe holiday break!

Bluebells team



Wattle & Grevillea Room Report



Hi Everyone,

What a year 2021 was for all of us but even with many challenges, we managed to get through it stronger and it brought our community much closer than ever before. It has been so great to see that our toddlers have resettled back at Heritage so well, confidently exploring their physical environments, happily reconnecting with their peers and educators and forming new connections and relationships. Our Belonging Program has supported this very well with many intentional and spontaneous interest-based activities happening daily based on children's ideas and needs. This program has been supported by partnerships with our families, with discussions over the phone and as educators applied their own knowledge of children. These partnerships helped us to create a welcoming environment for every individual child and fostered a sense of belonging as their individual needs and routines are met throughout the day. Communication with families, the program and individual documentation has helped us to form future goals for every child which we will be working on until March next year.

We would like to welcome our new toddlers Jonathan, Noah, Reuben and Alicia and their families into Toddler room and how happy we all are to see them adjusting to their new environment so well. We are also working collaboratively with our Nursery and Preschool rooms, supporting our transitioning Nursery and Toddler children getting comfortable and familiar with their new rooms/educators/peers before fully transitioning in February.

We want to say a big thank you for your ongoing support, and to wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Banksia Room Report



Since returning to Heritage, the preschoolers have had a major focus on strengthening social skills post lockdown. Reconnecting with peers through common interests has formed new bonds and engaged children in new and exciting hobbies. Preschool educators have incorporated this into walks and had a focus on outdoor activities throughout this time.

In addition to this, the preschoolers have put in many hours practicing (and nailing!) their wonderful graduation routine. This became a daily happening as we worked on our dance moves and singing, as well as confidence in the gowns and in front of the crowd. As many of you saw on Saturday, the preschoolers performed beautifully, and we are so proud of each and every one of them! Thank you for the lovely feedback we have received, we are stoked with how the day turned out and very thankful for the community we have here at Heritage.

With 20 of our preschoolers graduating and finishing up between now and February, creating a fun and memorable last few weeks at Heritage is something we aim to achieve, particularly considering the rollercoaster couple of years it's been. We are looking forward to some special days out and about in the community over January where we can explore new adventures and connect in new ways.

We wish the graduating preschoolers all the best on their new educational journey's and know they are so ready for new challenges and ventures! We're looking forward to another great year with our returning preschoolers!

Have a safe and Merry Christmas!



THE HERITAGE YEARLY SURVEY



**Great
Gift
Idea!**



Heritage Keep Cup

Heritage Fundraising Account:
BSB: 062 903 Account: 10370080

\$25



Thankyou
To our families



Your mango purchase helped us
to make \$744 for our
fundraising





HERITAGE EARLY
CHILDHOOD CENTRE

Order your
copy of our
2021 Yearbook