

## Social Committee Report 2023

This year marked the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of our Hills Community Kindergarten. The social committee decided to prioritize celebrating the achievements of the last 50 years with one large birthday fete, as opposed to multiple fundraising events for the year. The fete was held on the 10th of September at Alfred Henry Whaling Reserve, adjacent to the preschool itself. A separate Fete Organization Committee was formed consisting of Allison McCartney, Kate Krahe, Melanie Elliot, Paddy Jessing, Keren Thomas, Wendy Du, Nicole Burrows and myself. The committee planned every detail of this event based on the preschool's values: the importance of relationships, connection to country and community, inclusivity, and play.

Relationships were fostered by current and previous parents and staff coming together to donate books, prizes for the chocolate wheel, plants or their time on the day.

Connection to country and our wider community was celebrated with a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony from Uncle Colin Locke. We were recipients of a council grant to include this special experience as part of the event. The local community was also included with local businesses attending with stalls, food trucks or sponsoring the event. The committee prioritized inclusivity by ensuring many of the offerings were free including the drumming circle and the petting zoo.

Play is always at the heart of what we do at preschool. There were fair rides to enjoy, pony rides and face painting. The preschool itself was also open for past and present families to walk through and experience first-hand what sets us apart.

Whilst we all agree it was a very successful day, we did not raise any funds from the day itself.

In other news, last year's fundraising for a native stingless beehive came to fruition this year and the beehive has been installed at the preschool and is providing lots of discussion and learning opportunities for the children. The Picture Product fundraiser raised \$253.50. Other parent financial donations were used to purchase new specially made wooden outdoor seating and resources to enhance the program.

We continue to be grateful for the support of our community to ensure that preschool remains an enriching environment for the children.



Catherine Kizana,

Vice President