



OUR SCHOOL

Strategic Plan:

2016 -2020



HELENA RIVER STEINER SCHOOL

39 Spring Park Road, Midland, Western Australia

2016

BACKGROUND

The dedicated core teaching and board members of River Blossom Education Association (formed 2 years earlier) have spent the previous months working on our new premises at 39 Spring Park Road, Midland. They have been fixing, painting and preparing the inside of the Kindy House and building and creating garden beds and a play area outside, ready to receive our first kindy children.

REGISTRATION

At the beginning of 2016 we have just received our Education and Care licence, enabling us to operate as an education facility under the name River Blossom Steiner Kindergarten. We shall also begin at this time the (18 month minimum) application process to become a registered non-government school under the School Education Act 1999. Our families understand that until we receive that registration, children over 5 must be registered as a home-schooler to attend our school.

CLASSES AND TEACHING

In February 2016 we begin our first mixed-age kindergarten class (3-6 years).

In Steiner schools, children start Class 1 and formal academic learning the year they are turning 7 (any time within the year). The three years of schooling before then we all call "Kindergarten" (Kindy 4, Kindy 5 and Kindy 6).

We have gathered a community of committed Steiner teachers and look forward to embarking on an exciting year of educating the children in our care with love.

PREMISES

We shall spend the year further developing the outside play area and during the year we shall build a purpose-designed playgroup room at the back of the property to run our playgroups.

COMMUNITY

By the end of this year we hope to have formed various groups with the aim of strengthening our family community and local community. We hope to have developed a P & F (Parents and Friends committee), a weekly craft group and an Anthroposophical study group.

2016



2017

REGISTRATION

We now expect to change our Education and Care Service name from “River Blossom Steiner Kindergarten” to “Helena River Steiner School”.

CLASSES AND TEACHING

We will continue to operate our mixed-age (3-6 years) kindy class from Monday to Friday in our Kindy House building. We will also have a 3 year old pre-kindy program one morning a week for children who have turned 3. Our playgroups will run several mornings per week from the playgroup room.

We shall start taking expressions of interest for primary aged students. Should we have enough interest for enrolment of primary aged children, we shall begin a small mixed-year Primary class in 2017. This will operate as part of our Education and Care Service and children will need to register as a homeschooler in order to attend.

PREMISES

From the beginning of 2017 we will begin leasing the property next door at 35 Spring Park Road. This building will now house the administration offices, and also our first Primary class when it is ready to be established.

The kindy outside play area will be fenced off to create a cosier, more contained environment and we will continue to plant and improve the area, as well as erect more outside play equipment.

Our new playgroup room will have been built in 2016 and the playgroup outside area will now be fenced off from the kindy garden. It will have a sand pit, play equipment, shade sails and garden etc by the start of 2017.

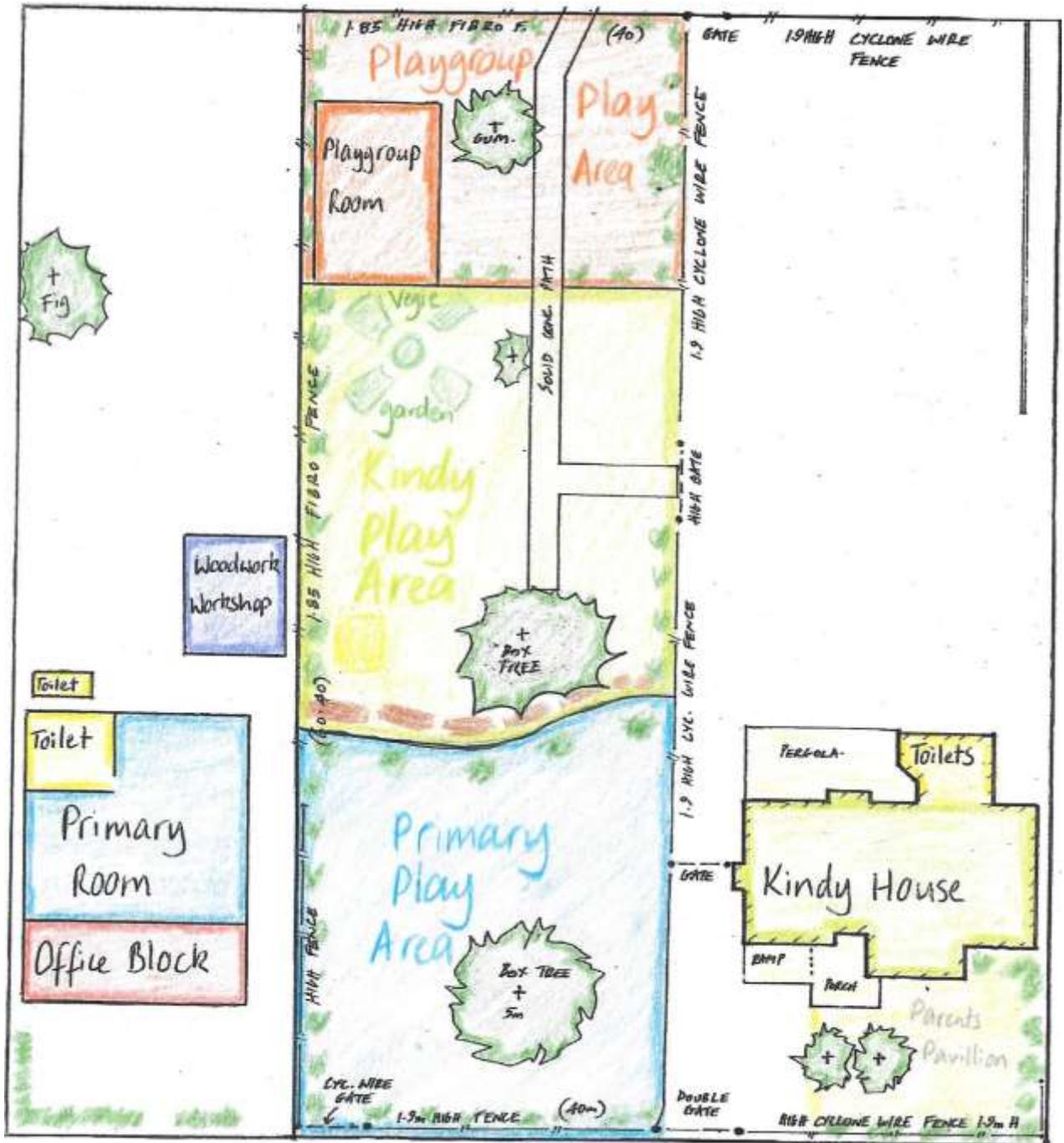
During this year, we shall also apply for a building grant and conduct fundraising projects in order to build a new Primary classroom ready for the following year.

2017 will also see the development of the Primary playground area at the front of the property. It will be built with natural and recycled materials, of a one-off design, to encourage nature play, imaginative play and physical development.

COMMUNITY

Further ideas for community development this year are an adult choir and a food co-op or market day where parents and local families can buy local and bulk organic produce.

2017



2018

REGISTRATION

We aim to be a fully registered non-government primary school by the start of 2018. This will not only give us funding to help us operate, but will allow us to start planning our permanent school site. If we have not yet become accredited, we shall continue to operate under our Education and Care Service.

CLASSES AND TEACHING

Those of our children who were in Kindy 6 last year will now be ready for the important and magical journey of Class 1.

They will move over to the Primary classroom behind the administration offices. If a Primary class already formed in 2017, and depending on numbers, these new Class 1 children may join the existing class. If no Primary class already formed, they will be the inaugural Class 1.

In Steiner schools, teachers stay with their students from Class 1 – Class 6. Therefore, the beginning of Class 1 marks the precious gateway to the shared journey of the rich Steiner primary curriculum, and is the beginning of a significant bond. Our teacher will be chosen wisely for this considerable task.

We expect this year to be able to send our teachers to the best Professional Development courses and seminars to help facilitate their perpetual self-growth and to invigorate their teaching.

PREMISES

If we have more kindy children now than we can accommodate in the one classroom, we may have the Kindy 4s the playgroup room (at times playgroup isn't running).

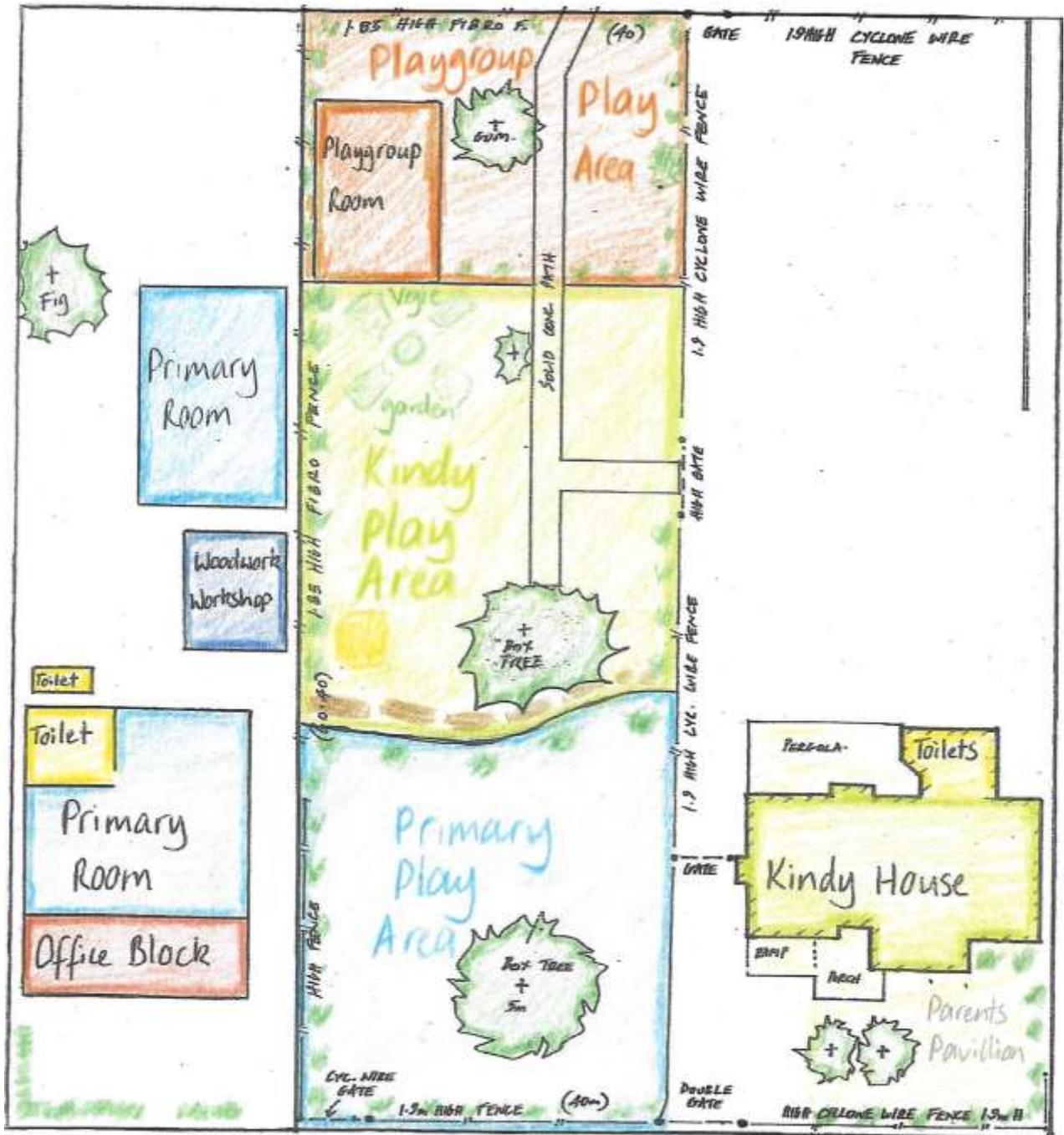
We will most likely begin building a new kindergarten room behind the Kindy House to accommodate the increase of kindy enrolments for the following year.

COMMUNITY

By now, our P & F will be managing several important aspects of our school -in particular: identifying areas of need, fundraising for playground and building development, organising busy bees and social and informative events.

We aim to have guest speakers giving public talks on various aspects of child development, education and health on average once a term to give our parents the best chance of supporting the healthy unfolding of their child's capacities.

2018



2019

CLASSES AND TEACHING

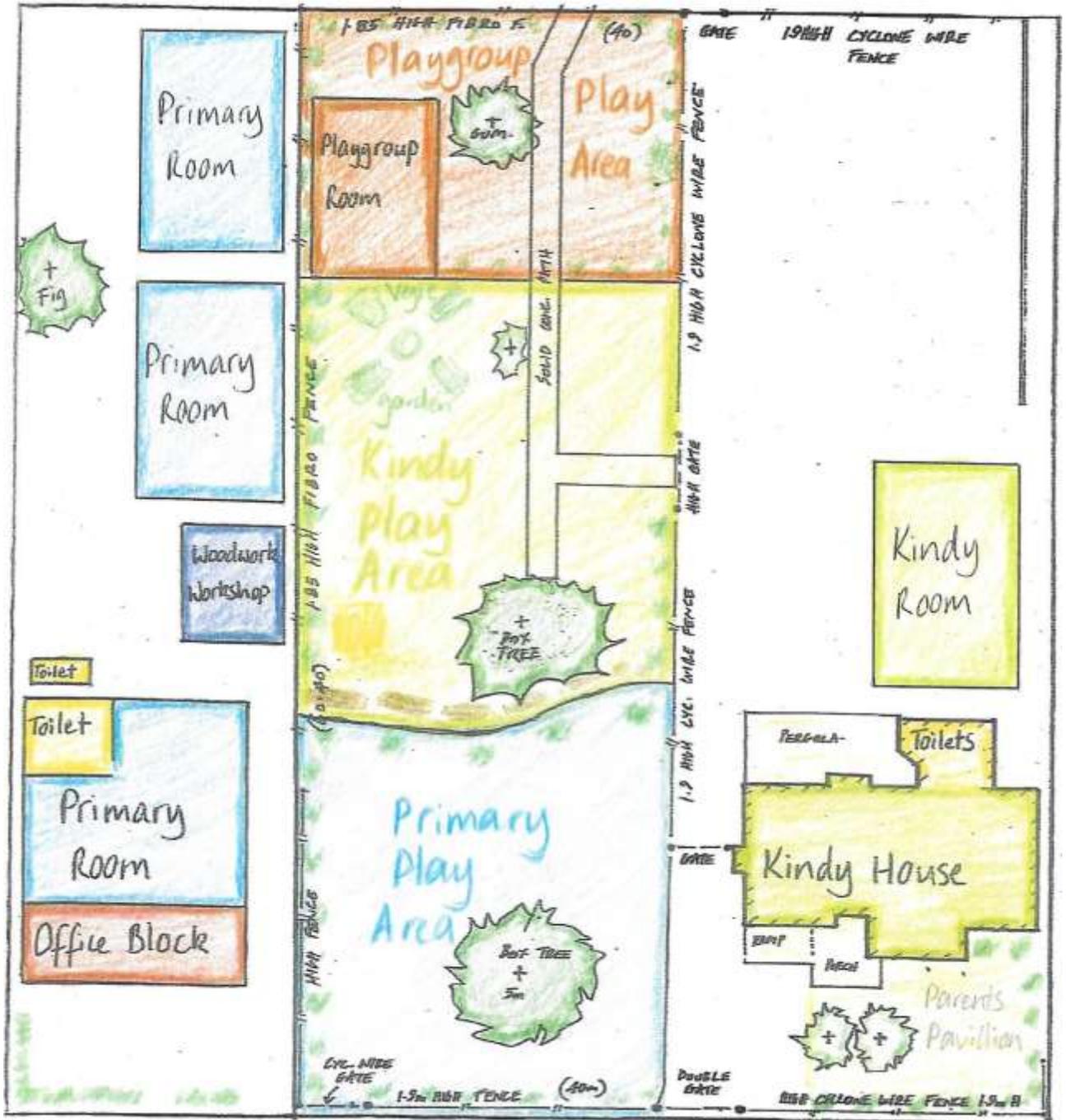
This year we will now have a Class 1 and a Class 2 and possibly higher years. Numbers will dictate whether they are single stream classes or composite age classes. We do anticipate that in the first few years of operation, our classes will be small and mixed-age.

If our previous year's kindy enrolments have substantiated a new kindy classroom being built behind the Kindy House, we will now have 2 kindy classes.

PREMISES

We will know by now whether we will be staying in our current premises and expanding further or moving to a new location. If we move, it will close by (possibly Hazelmere or Woodbridge). Whether we stay and expand or move location, from here we will grow into a full, single stream primary school, and in due course a high school as well. There is only one Steiner high school in Perth and this is at the Perth Waldorf School at Bibra Lake. We are ideally situated to become the second Steiner high school due to our central position between the other metropolitan Steiner schools. We are considering offering an International Baccalaureate in conjunction with the Steiner high school curriculum framework.

2019



2020

WATCH THIS SPACE!

(And if you would like to help in the exciting growth process of our school, please let us know. There are many jobs to be done. Blessings on our school.)