



Community Outdoor Classroom, Bush Tucker Garden and Nature Play Area Project

As part of Little Grove Primary School's Business Plan 2016-2018 in the focus area of Sustainable Learning Environment, we are planning to construct in stages an outdoor classroom / cultural learning centre, nature play area and bush tucker garden.

This will be located on the northern side of our basketball courts/play cave, adjacent to the school oval. Thanks to one of our parents, Dana Neumann, who is a landscape Architect, we have preliminary designs for this project. Using P&C fundraising and future grant money, we plan on constructing this in stages over the next 3 to 5 years. This space is intended to be a multipurpose school and community space where families can access it freely after school or on weekends for play, picnics, cultural learning and community or family events. It will be used in school time for outdoor learning in Science, Maths, Aboriginal Education, nature play and integrated into our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program.



This project is divided into three main stages. The first stage closest to the school will be a nature play area based on a rocky creek bed, where you use hand pumps and levers to control the flow of water along a rocky creek bed. Some rocks have already been sourced and are waiting near this area for placement. A timber decked path with bridge over this area to the outdoor learning space/classroom. This water course play area will be paved from river rocks, fallen logs and quarry cut rock mountains. This area will have two playground pumps situated at each end of the water course and a number of retaining weirs placed at intervals along the water course for children to manipulate the water flow. This area will also include mud play zones and native plantings with paperbark trees. Water play is an important play opportunity, it encourages team building and communication as well as helps children to learn about science and innovation.



The second stage or area will be an outdoor learning space / cultural learning centre. This will consist of a new shelter and raised deck area and will be an integral part of the bush tucker garden. This structure will enable teachers and educators to hold classes outdoors, covered in 3 sides by a simple structure and pergola over. This area will be used by the school for outdoor learning classes with information boards, whiteboard and bench seating for students. The information boards will provide information on native flora and fauna, aboriginal history and links to Princess Royal Harbour. This structure will overlook a Sandalwood, Quandong and Desert Lime tree orchard with seating and a lawn area linking into the school oval.



On the most northern side of this area, will be the third stage or area, a bush tucker garden with a series of beds at different heights for the propagation of bush tucker plants. Surrounding these beds will be paved paths and sculptures or bush cubbies. This area will also link into existing or new earth or crushed limestone paths through the nature reserve adjoining the school where children and adults can wander along the paths to identify local/indigenous plants and animals using interpretive signage. The interpretive signs will have QR codes that people can use their mobile devices to scan and find out further information linked to the school's website.



This project is very much designed to be a combined P&C/community/school project over a number of years utilising local businesses, community groups and the local area residents. The area will help promote and encourage indigenous culture, traditions and heritage along with opportunities for students to cultivate common bush foods to be used in the school's existing Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program.

This new area is very much designed to be used all year round, in school time and after hours by the whole community. It will foster and encourage respect for our natural environment, preserving our indigenous flora and fauna, educating the community on using bush tucker foods, building respect and resilience through nature play and fostering community spirit with this high utilised area.

Mr Darryn Martin
Principal

Ms Julianne Dwyer
P&C President

