

# Nature Playground Committee Minutes

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Meeting Minutes #01 – 17 October 2018

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**Mount Lawley Primary School**

92 Second Avenue, Mount Lawley

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## 1. Welcome/ Introductions

On 17 October 2018 Mount Lawley Primary School (**MLPS**) conducted a Committee Meeting for the Nature Playground, and interested parties attended. The Meeting Agenda framework is set out below and will be elaborated on in further sections.

- Present/ Apologies
  - Purpose of Committee
  - Selection of Committee Chair & Minute Taker
  - Walk the proposed spaces
  - Look at photos from other public school nature playgrounds
  - Discussion & Brainsorm
  - Action Items
  - Next Meeting
- 

## 2. Present/Apologies

| Present                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Apologies |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jennifer Gordon</li><li>• Nathanael Howard</li><li>• Bryan Tolmie</li><li>• Adam Grazia</li><li>• Hapreet Kaler</li><li>• Danielle Adam</li><li>• Sophia Woodrow</li><li>• Derek Watt</li><li>• Cavelle Monck</li><li>• Sharnie Stuart</li></ul> | TBC       |

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### 3. Purpose of Committee

To improve play areas within MLPS School to contribute to children’s wellbeing, creativity, development in independence, diverse range of experiences, experimentation, learning in a safe and fun way that also eliminates risk.

*(Extracted from Quality Area 3 Physical Environment)*

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### 4. Committee Chair & Minute Taker

**Committee Chair** – Derek Watt

**Minute Taker** – Sharnie Stuart

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### 5. Walk the Proposed Spaces

Six main spaces were identified, refer below. There could potentially be more, although, these areas were identified as the most suitable.

| Potential Locations                                                    | Discussion Points                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Potential veggie garden adjacent to basket ball courts/ staircase   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Veggie garden</li><li>b. Children don’t utilise this area too often apart from recess/ lunch</li><li>c. Shade from trees once grow larger</li><li>d. One option for nature play</li></ul>                                                                                                 |
| 2. Flagged off area adjacent to classrooms                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Underutilised and would be perfect for nature play area</li><li>b. Could be noisy, however, most classrooms will about potential nature play areas</li><li>c. Could be larger, but try not to encroach on oval areas</li><li>d. Many different nature play options, be creative</li></ul> |
| 3. Play equipment area adjacent to long jump pit/or long jump pit area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Could be a mound</li><li>b. Install a higher platform</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 4. Play equipment area adjacent to cubby house                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Integrate existing play equipment with nature play areas to make use of what’s already there</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| Potential Locations                                                       | Discussion Points                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Need to replace play surface, a huge expense</li> <li>c. Cubby house stores school equipment in there, could use this cubby house</li> <li>d. Difference in levels of play surface vs grass</li> </ul> |
| 5. Pre-primary area surrounding large tree & underutilised play equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Creatively use the tree</li> <li>b. Play equipment is currently underutilised</li> <li>c. Children seem to divert from woodchips</li> <li>d. Frog bog area</li> </ul>                                  |
| 6. Grassed area                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Would like to see a nature play area in this location</li> <li>b. Sloping site, utilise gradient for water play</li> </ul>                                                                             |

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## 6. Photos of Other Public School Nature Playgrounds

Several school nature play areas were viewed via Powerpoint and via hard copy, including:

- Lake Gwellup – Cavelle’s favourite
- Landsdale
- Karinyup
- Duncraig

Others that were mentioned included Applecross and Coolbinia.

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## 7. Discussion & Brainstorm

The following points in **bold** are based on the Agenda, and this formed the basis for the Committee’s brainstorming, plus the key points/ nature play elements that people would like to see.

- **Vision for the playground**
- **What do we want to see?**
- **What age groups will access each space?**
- **Awareness of: National Quality Standards/ Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework/ Cultural Diversity/ Walker Learning for nature playground/ Department requirements**

## 7.1 Costs

Neil (P&C Treasurer) indicated that **MLPS** had fundraised **\$16,250**. In addition MLPS P&C could potentially provide \$20,000 - \$30,000. Therefore, \$40,000 at the bottom end is approximately the figure this Committee should aim for. Although, ultimately \$16,250 if donations are sought from the community.

The Committee delved into costs of other primary school nature play facilities including Applecross, Coolbinia and Lake Gwellup, all figures varied. It was noted that one primary school sourced products from verge collections and free collection areas, plus construction was undertaken by volunteers and the community which = a huge cost saver.

## 7.2 Key Features

The following nature play features were flagged as the most desirable from Committee representatives.

|                                     |                                                                     |                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Teepee                            | • Frog bog/ biology                                                 | • Trees, rocks & logs – keep natural                               |
| • Water Play                        | • Bush tucker                                                       | • Kitchen table & seat                                             |
| • Stepping stones/ timber           | • Herb/ vegie garden                                                | • No woodchips                                                     |
| • Pully's & bucket                  | • Sensory                                                           | • Growing plants, e.g. Banskia                                     |
| • Logs                              | • Engagement, i.e. create a journey of each zone (Q tags)           | • Keep it simple                                                   |
| • Mud Kitchen                       | • Accessibility                                                     | • Tinkering area                                                   |
| • Ropes/ upper body strength        | • Recycling (wine barrels, cable/ wooden reels, pallets, platforms) | • Multi-use spaces, e.g. replace with different elements each term |
| • Climbing                          | • Vertical Garden, native garden, succulents                        | • Aboriginal culture (six seasons)                                 |
| • Zones, i.e. cater for 1 – 7 years | • Pots and pans                                                     | • No tyres                                                         |

## 7.3 Actions

### Actions

#### 1. **Cavelle to distribute key documents to Committee members, e.g.**

- National Quality Standards

- Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework/ Cultural Diversity
  - Walker Learning for nature playground
  - Department Requirements
2. **Cavelle to distribute Site Plan**
    - Reps can then use this plan to draw/ write/ formulate their ideas
  3. **Nathanael to provide photos of Coolbinia**
  4. **HOMEWORK – each Committee Representative review key documents / prepare their ideal Nature Playground on the Site Plan (and provide supplementary doc if needed).**
  5. **Request teachers re: - what works, what doesn't work from their experience?**
  6. **Request teachers to ask children what their ideal Nature Playground would look like.**

### Key Elements

- Timing = Construction early Term 1, 2019
- Phase development = could be a possibility depending on overall Nature Play outlook

## **7.4 Next Meeting**

### **Week 5**

7 November 2019 @ 5PM

*(3 weeks after 17 October 2019 Committee Meeting)*

NB: may need Committee Meetings closer together afterwards to create momentum to get the project done.

## **7.5 Meeting Minute Review**

Please feel free to email Minute Taker regarding any omissions that have been made or additions that need to be entered.