

Submission for the construction of a Fairy Garden for Broulee Public School presented to the SLSC on 19/2/15.

This submission for the construction of a Fairy garden is prepared by Karen Ryan and Clare Fenning, on a voluntary basis, for the benefit of the children of Broulee Public School.

The garden is to be constructed on a section of the school grounds south of the administration block.

The area of the proposed garden is approximately 108 square meters (originally 28 square meters) consisting of a flat piece of land with black sandy soil covered in various trees and shrubs.

Our project is to build a fairy garden that is child friendly, safe and easily maintained. A garden that will provide an innovative and imaginative environment that will stimulate children's play in a passive way. A garden that will provide children with some quiet time.

We have been allocated a shared budget of \$800 between the Fairy garden and the Dinosaur garden.

Please find below the following suggestions offered for your consideration and approval:

1. It has been suggested lattice fence be placed on the corners on the western end of the garden to stop students running through the area as this will be a passive play area.
 - a K Ryan to ask Nigel to organize quotes for fencing.
- 2 Skeletal caves – These will be made from black poly tubing and will be anchored into the ground. They will be flexible and easily replaceable for little cost. The children will be visible within these structures. In time it is anticipated that the spines of these structures could be covered in climbing plants which would add to the garden effect. Please see attached construction details and anchoring suggestions.
- 3 The garden layout as attached contains:
 - a) An archway. Entry will be through an archway. This structure would have to be of sturdy construction to withstand misuse while plants grow over the structure. We are looking to have this built voluntarily. The structure would have to be cemented into the ground for safety.
 - b) The gardens will also contain a large tree stump which needs be secured in the ground by steel 'U' sections to ensure the safety of the students. Once secure, the stump and root system will make wonderful play area for the fairies.
 - c) The garden will contain a wishing well that will stand on a small rise. This too will have to be cemented into place.
 - d) There will be various free standing mini gardens which will allow small groups of students to congregate in various areas within the garden.
 - e) It is suggested the cement beds be fixed by using angle iron driven into the soil to help stabilise the structures then a bed of cement be poured around the

angle iron to bind the cement in place on this sandy soil. However, as this is not our area of expertise we will leave this to people with more expert knowledge than ourselves.

- f) We would suggest the aboriginal community be invited to contribute some aspect of their culture into the garden. Perhaps some images of their dreaming time. E.g. dream time serpent or totem poles
- 4 Pathways – as the soil is black sand it is suggested that the pathways through the garden be constructed of cement with decomposed aggregate on top. Other options include stepping stones, hardwood pathways or deconstructed aggregate (?). Crusher dust has been suggested as a preferable option over the other materials for both price and durability. Quotes are being sought to present to the meeting.
 - 5 Plants – it is anticipated suitable plants will be needed to establish and create this play area. We have sought and will be seeking assistance from Mr Martin Jones and Cheryl for advice on the garden – plants, paving etc.
 - 6 Purchases – various plants and equipment will need to be purchased to create the atmosphere of the garden. How will we go about purchasing these goods?
 - 7 Maintenance – while it is anticipated that maintenance will be minimal the gardens will however need some watering and checking to ensure the safety of students. Do you have any suggestions regarding this?

Possibilities are:

- the GA does routine inspections
- a committee is set up to inspect the gardens once a term
- a student group is organized to look after the gardens
- each class takes ownership of one area of the garden and looks after that area.
- K Ryan will keep an eye the garden during the establishment period.

Thank you

Clare Fenning & Karen Ryan

19/2/2015

Phone: Karen Ryan 4472 6633

Clare Fenning 4472 4011

Quotes

Estimate of path is approximately 30 meters x 40cm wide

The path will be winding through the garden to give it interest and to lead the children from one garden feature to another and to provide quiet areas for small groups of children to play while still being visible to the teacher on playground duty.

Cost of concrete only .

Peter from Boral – 4472 2153

40cm wide x .075 x 30 meters = **\$341**

+

Flexible forming = 75m h x 30m x 2 = **\$160**

Stakes to hold forming in place **\$ 40**

Colour to sprinkle on top of concrete \$

Working bee to form footpath

Working bee to lay concrete – 4 people with wheel barrows plus two screaning concrete

Hardwood

Strongly advised not to use hardwood because of termites. Tripping hazards caused by the movement of the sand exposing edges is a concern.

Looked at using recycled hardwood fencing.

Need 140 palings

Wire to hold them together

Cement powder to sprinkle under palings to help stabilize the ground

Volunteers to wire walkway together and lay the pathway.

I have checked the tip, fencers and the recycled timber places in the area and not hardwood fencing is available at present.

Stepping stones

Pavers 30 x 30cm concrete pavers \$3.30 each Bunnings (may get them a little cheaper if we ask for discount for school).

2 per meter x 30 meters = \$204.60 plus cost of mud to hold pavers firm in sand.

Decomposed Aggregate

The school already has path in the school using this product. However, when I spoke to Dave Fleming, from Batemans Bay Sand and Gravel (he sells this product), he suggested as this product has a clay base, when it rains the clay will get walked into the carpets. He suggested, what he considered a better alternative, Crusher Dust.

Crusher Dust

This product is similar in the way it is used for the construction of pathways as decomposed aggregate. Should be laid at 100mm thick.

The product is rammed together to form a solid base and the surface is at least as smooth as that of decomposed aggregate with no sharp edges.

Cost: Dave suggested he would probably **deliver it free and donate the material**. I would suggest if you decided to use the decomposed aggregate he would probably make the same suggestion.

Volunteers would still need to form the pathway – cost – not sure if using flexible ply would be strong enough to withstand the pounding. Need to investigate further.

Need to hire Wacker Packer (?) - \$95 per day from Custom hire 4472 3555 small size.

Need volunteers to wheelbarrow the material from dump site to garden and then pound the path into existence.

Fencing

I don't have the quotes for the fencing to date. However we are hoping to have this cost covered outside of the P&C.

Things we need to have happen:

- Note to parents/caregivers about the garden asking for goods and volunteers.
- We need to get the existing plants cleared and replanted. This will allow a barrier to be formed around the perimeter. Our idea is to stop children from using multiple entry points into the garden. The idea being that this is a passive play area. Running in this garden could cause problems.

We have constructed two entry points that are not opposite each other to deter the impulse to run through the garden. There is a through pathway in the other end on the garden where the boat will be.

- Fence – I would like to request the lattice fence be replaced by metal fencing. On consideration I don't think the lattice will stand up the treatment by students and the colour of the metal fence would blend into the garden better and would provide easier viewing for the playground duty teacher.
- The quotes are to be given to Karen Ryan. It is hoped the cost will be met outside the P&C. I would like to request an additional piece of fencing be installed (approx. 2 meters) behind the fairy cave. This is to help deter students from using the area as a direct pathway through the fairy garden.
- The stump needs to be installed into position and made secure. Tristan Bradshaw said he would do this. However, Tristan will need assistance and money to buy concrete or steel 'U' sections to secure the stump into the ground.
- We need a working bee to clean up the site. Trim the plants left in place, stake the tree, and cement the stumps into the ground.
- Once the material for the path is decided on a working bee needs to be organized to build the form work for the path.
- Working bee to be organized to make the pathway.
- Working bee to place the various fairy garden items into place. The entry into the garden also needs to be installed. Some discussion needs to take place about this.
- I would like bunting put around the garden area once we start.
- Plants will have to be purchased. I have looked on the internet. Some suggestions are: Correa 'Dusky Bells', Leptospermium 'Pink Cascade', Alyogyne heuglii 'Aust. Blue Hibiscus'. This is not my area so expert help should be sought. We would like to see some native colour brought into the garden. See web sight www.wariapendi.com.au for suggestions.

I will be away for six weeks from Easter so I will be unavailable from that date.

Example of letter to parents only.

BROULEE PUBLIC SCHOOL LETTER HEAD OR NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent, Caregiver, Grandparent or Friends of the Fairies

A committee has been formed to establish a Fairy Garden for the delight of our student at Broulee Public School.

As the planning is complete, we are now looking for volunteers to help make this little piece of magic come alive.

We need help with some concreting, a small amount of fencing and some gardening. We also are looking for donations of items that can be used in the garden such as a bird bath, statues, fairies and plants that will tolerate hot dry conditions.

If you can help with any of these requests please contact Karen Ryan or 4472 6633 or Clare Fenning on 4472 4011 (or the school or the P&C if that is preferable).

May the fairy dust always be with you.

Principal or P&C

Skeletal Cave construction.

Five lengths of poly pipe fixed at the apex at no more than 220 degrees leaving an opening of 140 degrees.

The apex will be held up by a solid upright pole (such as a tent pole) that will be cemented into the ground.

The five legs of the structure will also be cemented into the ground as follows:

The piping will be attached to a snap lock. This lock will be clipped onto a ring attached to a dyna bold cemented into the ground. This will make replacing any part which is damaged easy and the cost is only for the length of black PVC piping.