



MEDIA RELEASE

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A NATURE-BASED PLACE TO PLAY

Lunch time is soon going to be a lot more fun for primary school students at the local Lorne-Aireys Inlet P-12 College, thanks to a financial grant by waste and recycling company SITA Australia.

At the moment, the school has no suitable playground for the 80 young primary school students attending the Lorne campus. With the \$5,000 SITA Community Grant they are now well on their way to developing a new nature-based playground which will embrace the community's local surroundings and turn currently under-utilised space into something both visually appealing and exciting to play on.

Lorne Parent & Friends Club (LP&FC) President, Nicola Muxworthy, said the school will put the \$5,000 grant towards the construction of the planned \$58,000 playground. The central focus of the innovative play space will be a jetty, to which a donated boat will be 'moored'. The jetty will wrap around a sand pit, spill out to a cluster of rocks and over a dry creek bed, encouraging students to develop positive attitudes to the environment as well as physical fitness and health.

"The project to provide a new addition to the school grounds was identified by the parents and has united the school and wider community to work together towards something that will have a significant social impact," explained Ms Muxworthy.

"The SITA Community Grant has helped us invest in a play space that will cater for over 300 primary school students over the next decade."

SITA Geelong Branch Manager, Stephen James, presented the grant to the LP&FC at the school's 135th anniversary celebrations on Saturday, 25 October. He said the company was delighted to be able to support such an essential and fun community initiative in this region.

"The playground will be a great asset to the school and the local community. It will encourage children to play outside, get physical and enjoy the natural surroundings for many years to come," he said.

The nature-based playground project aims to encourage community involvement, develop environmental awareness and inspire participation through education and play. Throughout the playground construction the school hopes to support and encourage recreation and community building.

"The SITA Community Grant's program is all about supporting projects that encourage community involvement and have a positive impact on local communities and their environment," Mr James added.

For more information on the Lorne Aireys Inlet P-12 College and the Lorne Parent and Friend Club, visit their website at <http://www.lornep12.vic.edu.au/>

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Image: Stephen James, SITA Geelong Branch Manager presents SITA Community Grant to Nicola Muxworthy, Lorne-Aireys Inlet College P&F Club President and Geoff Couper, Assistant Principal.