



Grovedale West Primary School Outdoor Learning & Gathering Space

Client: VSBA, Select Architects
Location: Grovedale West, Victoria
Date: Construction completed 2024
Budget: \$180k
Role: Design & Documentation



Kindergarten playspace



Our Approach

In early 2021 Select Architects invited us to join their submission to the VSBA for a \$6.6M upgrade of this school in Geelong.

As the site will eventually be surrounded by buildings, we proposed an Outdoor Learning Area Gathering Space featuring natural, loose and living materials to encourage interaction with nature, utilising the sheltered microclimates afforded by buildings to create a variety of spaces suitable for passive play, and a shaded outdoor teaching area.

Our Design Principles talked about introducing earthworks to create mounds and a rain garden to integrate water sensitive design treatments into otherwise flat surroundings, integrating the play elements with trees, landform, and rocks.

We suggested setting aside part of the budget for artworks or sculpture, preferably by local artists or community, and proposed a timber boardwalk to create a distinctive and clearly identifiable arrival experience.

The landscaping includes work by local Wadawurrung artist Gerard Black, and nesting boxes on bush timber poles to improve habitat values.



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