

OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT



Wesley Vale Primary School, east of Devonport recently completed an outdoor gym area, the first of its kind for a primary school in Australia, just beating Maleny Primary School in Queensland! Simon Payton (AST) initiated the project. We interviewed Simon to find out how things were going after the first 6 weeks of operation.

1. Why did you decide to install outdoor gym equipment?

The school needed fitness equipment and the Principal had seen the outdoor gym equipment at Bellerive Beach Park and I had seen it at Mooloolaba , Qld.

2. Where did the money come from?

The School Association raised \$16,500 at the school fair and the school paid for the softfall.

3. Has the project been a success or a fizzer?

The project has been a great success. We imagined it would be used by grade 5 and 6 mostly but we have found that all children can use at least some of the equipment. We have noticed that it has become more popular with girls than boys at recess and lunchtimes.

4. How is the equipment used?

All classes use the equipment during 15 mins of fitness each day and some of the older classes use the equipment for PE.

5. Is the equipment used after hours by the community?

Some parents collecting their children after school will take their children to use the equipment on their way home.

6. Is the equipment enclosed or locked after hours?

The equipment is not enclosed and is 50 metres from the play equipment. The school is open after hours.

7. What age children use the equipment?

All ages. It was expected mainly older children would use the equipment, but we are finding the younger children are being helped by the older children.

8. Is any item of equipment more popular than others?

The surf boarder and the air walker get most use.

9. Are there enough items of equipment to use for class groups?

Yes.

10. Have there been any accidents due to misuse, supervision issues, a lack of training in its use etc?

There have been two minor accidents and these were due to misuse.

11. Is assistance needed in the maintenance of the equipment?

Not yet.

12. Have any other schools visited or shown an interest in the equipment?

They probably don't know we have it.

13. Do you think the equipment is suitable for use in Primary Schools?

Yes.

LOCATION OF OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT

SOUTH

Abbotsfield Primary School.
Emmanuel Christian School, Rokeby
Hobart PCYC.
Bellerive Beach Park.
Midway Point Park.
Dunalley Park.
Primrose Sands.
Orana Guide Camp, Roches Beach.

NORTH

Brooks High School, Rocherlea.
Newstead College, Newstead.
Port Dalrymple DHS, George Town.
Prospect High School, Prospect.
Riverside High School, Riverside.

NORTH WEST

Parklands High School, Burnie.
Wesley Vale Primary School.
Ashley Detention Centre, Deloraine.

EAST

Duck Park, Swansea.
Triabunna District High School.

PENDING

Adventure Bay Community Group.
Somerset Community Group



**SPECIALS
NEXT MONTH**

Watch out for Play Equipment specials next month.