

Coatesville School Playground Proposal

May 2016

Presented to the BOT by Polly Joseph

Vision

- Allow the kids to have creative play alongside physical movement and cognitive stimulation
- Age appropriate spaces
- Complete by centennial celebrations Oct 2016

The journey

- Opened up consultation with parents of the school soliciting help – zero response
- Surveyed every child of the school in 2015 to establish their wishlist – effective.
- Met with multiple (6) PG consultants onsite to generate ideas and provide quotes.
- Met with qualified PG auditors who provided us with guidance re compliance
- Visited multiple PGs and schools, talked with principals and staff regarding successes of their current equipment.
- “Bang for buck” - equipment needs to be cost effective, many children per piece is desirable.
- Lots of playgrounds are plasticky and bright garish colours which would not work in our environment.

Survey setup

- Section one: What do you do now
- Section two: What are your three fav schemas?
- Section three: wishlist (whatever you've seen in PGs, other peoples houses etc, that you would love to do, what do you like to do at the weekend)
- Section four: comments
- Aim – to discover exactly what the kids wanted and also come up with defensible data for our decisions.

What do you do at lunch?



Totara syndicate



Walking and talking



Soccer



Monkey bars



Playing on field



Play on court/assembly area



Tag/Marco Polo/Octopus



Rugby



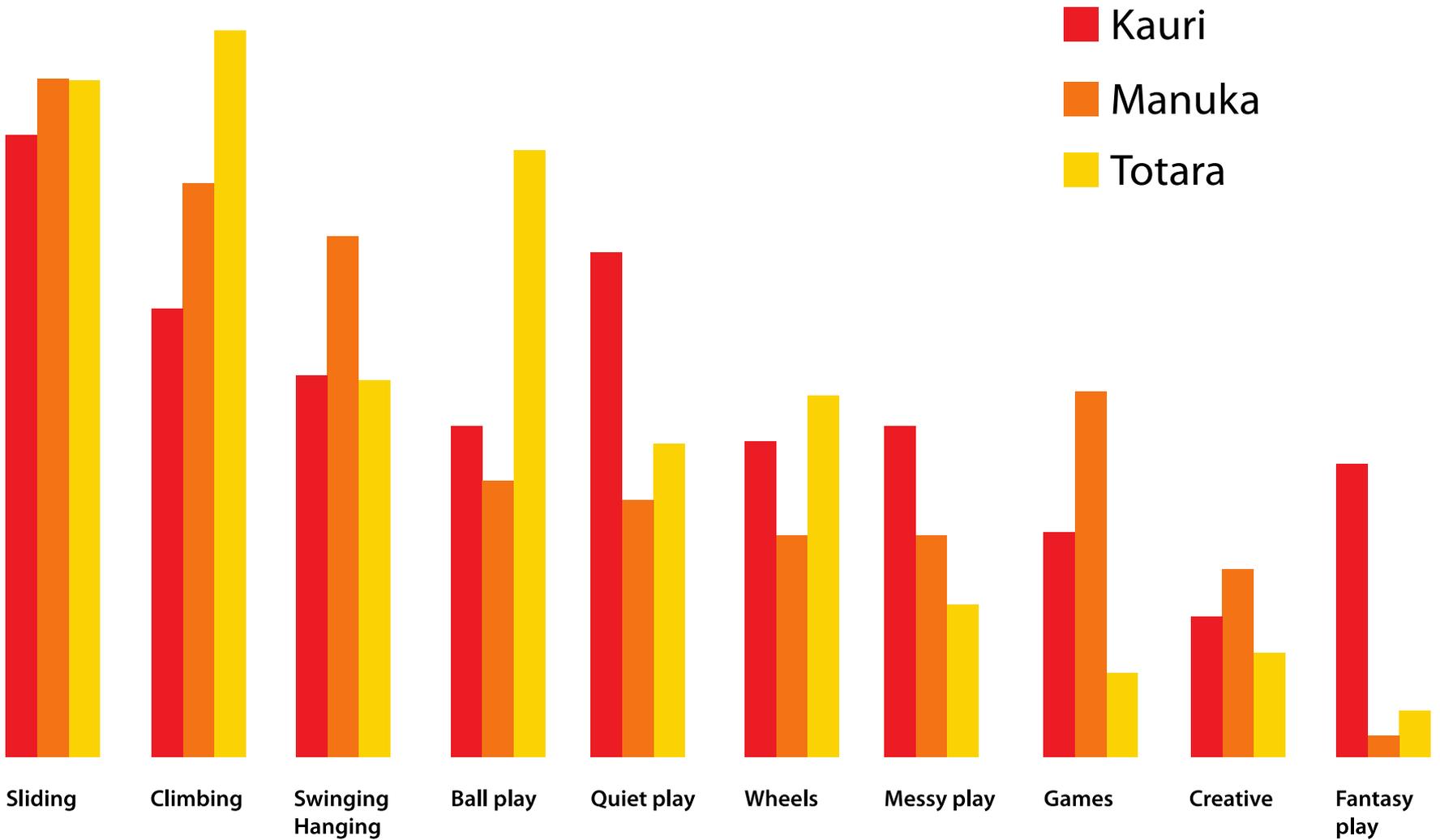
Gymnastics



Ball games on court

Drawing , netball, library, Bey Blades, make comics, monkey bars

Rate your three favourite schemas



amazing-colours astroturf beyblade-stadium bikes
carpentry climbing climbing-trees cool-playground creative-art dance
flying-fox frame go-karts gym-to-practice-on
gymnastics-space jungle-gym monkey-bars obstacle-course octopus parkour-
course pogo-sticks potions **quiet-area** skate-park
slides soccer-turf spinning-circle spring-board
swings technology **trampoline**
treehouse-in-forest tunnels tyre-swing
waterslide

Findings from survey

- Year 5-6 kids totally understimulated and very much wanted a “senior space”.
- Need for a “rite of passage” piece of equipment – seriously challenging – for year 5-6 kids.
- Kinetic activities (swinging, sliding, movement) were very highly valued. The current PG doesn’t offer many of these.
- Older kids withdrew from playing on equipment or in the sandpit when younger kids were present because they deemed it immature – “it’s for babies”.
- Creative play (potions, sand, dressups, mud) was moderately popular but only within age groups. Fantasy play got popular again in older age groups as kids start doing drama, bands etc
- Kids were passionate about the school environment and very excited about change and appreciated having input into decisions.
- The year 6 kids were unhappy that they wouldn’t be able to enjoy changes, year 5 kids were worried that it wouldn’t go ahead fast enough for them either.
- Kids really valued the forest as an “escape area”. Lots of them have a very strong attachment to it.

Reality

- Budget capped at \$75k does not cater for modern equipment with safe installation.
- With the field drainage and septic system in limbo, larger areas are not available for PG use.
- Time frame is very tight.
- Need to provide different experiences for the kids – other than the status quo.
- Masterplan showed:
 - need to spread population of the school over a wider area during recreational times
 - Areas that we originally wanted to utilise for the playground have already been designated ie whole field is needed for various sports, entrance to school may be changing.
- Rec Centre is a few years away so exact replacement is not necessary.
- Other schools have been spending money on PGs for years and have accumulated multiple exciting pieces. EVERY school we went to visit had a Space Net. Coatesville looks depressingly under-equipped when compared to the resources other schools have.

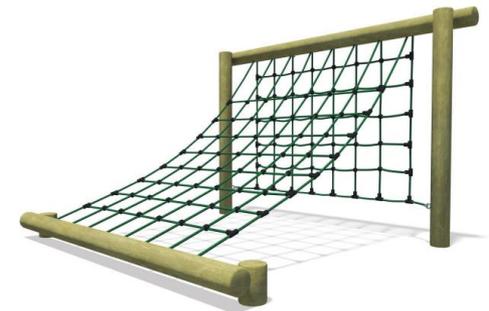
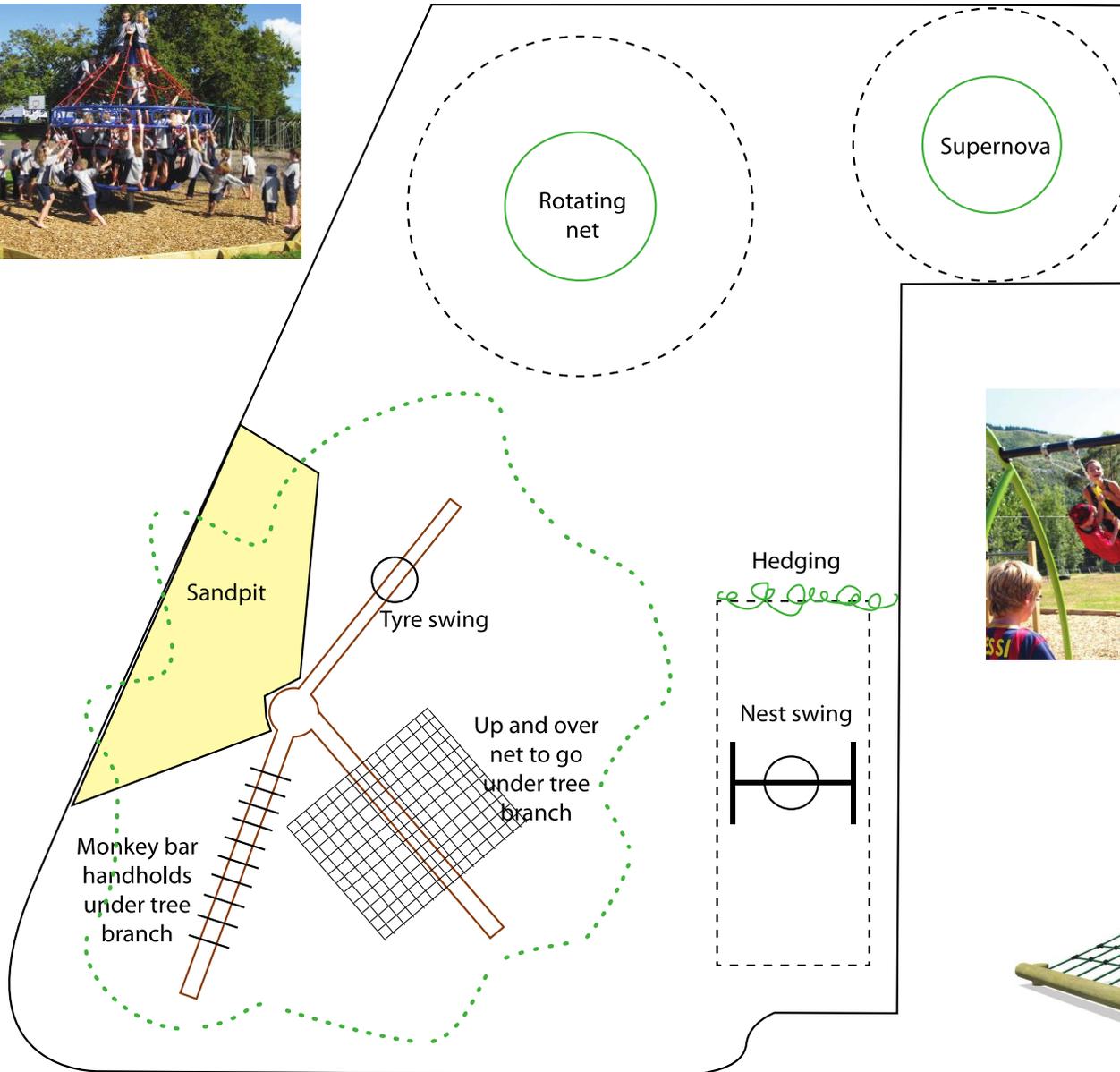
View of school showing available spaces according to masterplan



- Very limited space for playground areas.
- Field almost completely off limits.
- Two areas that have been identified on the masterplan are actually not available in the long term because of development of rec centre and new entrance.
- Not all spaces are able to be utilised in both summer and winter due to lack of weather/sun protection

Oak tree playground

- Heart of the school.
- Currently dank and underused.
- A showpiece for visitors.
- Huge potential to use the tree as a feature of the playground.
- Natural shade sail.
- Central to both senior and junior classrooms.



Rotating net

- Able to be coloured to match new school colours
- Great bang for buck – licensed for 25 kids at a time
- Kinetic as well as climbing
- Challenging in different ways for different ages
- [View video](#)
- [Video two](#)



Basket swing

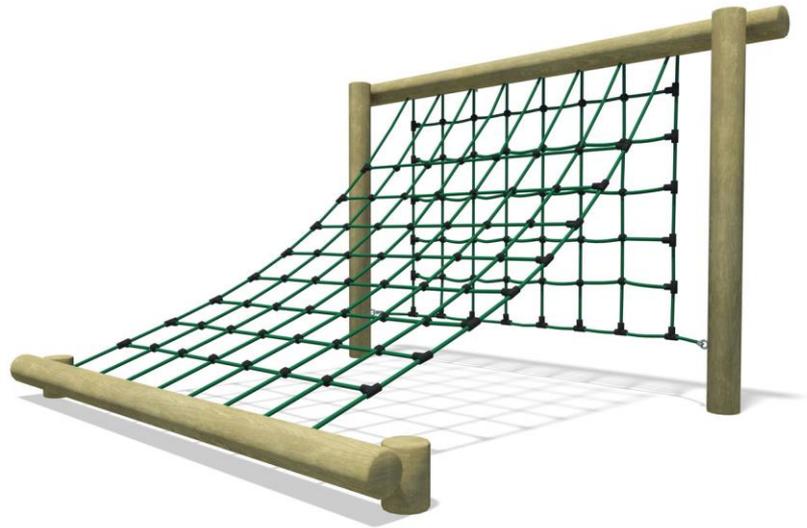
- Massive amounts of movement.
- Seven kids at a time.
- Extremely popular at other schools.
- Can be colour coordinated with other gear.
- Needs some supervision and rules.

Basket swing



Play equipment around tree

- Scramble net under a branch.
- Monkey bar holds suspended from branch
- Tyre swing on separate branch
- Needs arborist consult (Supercity)



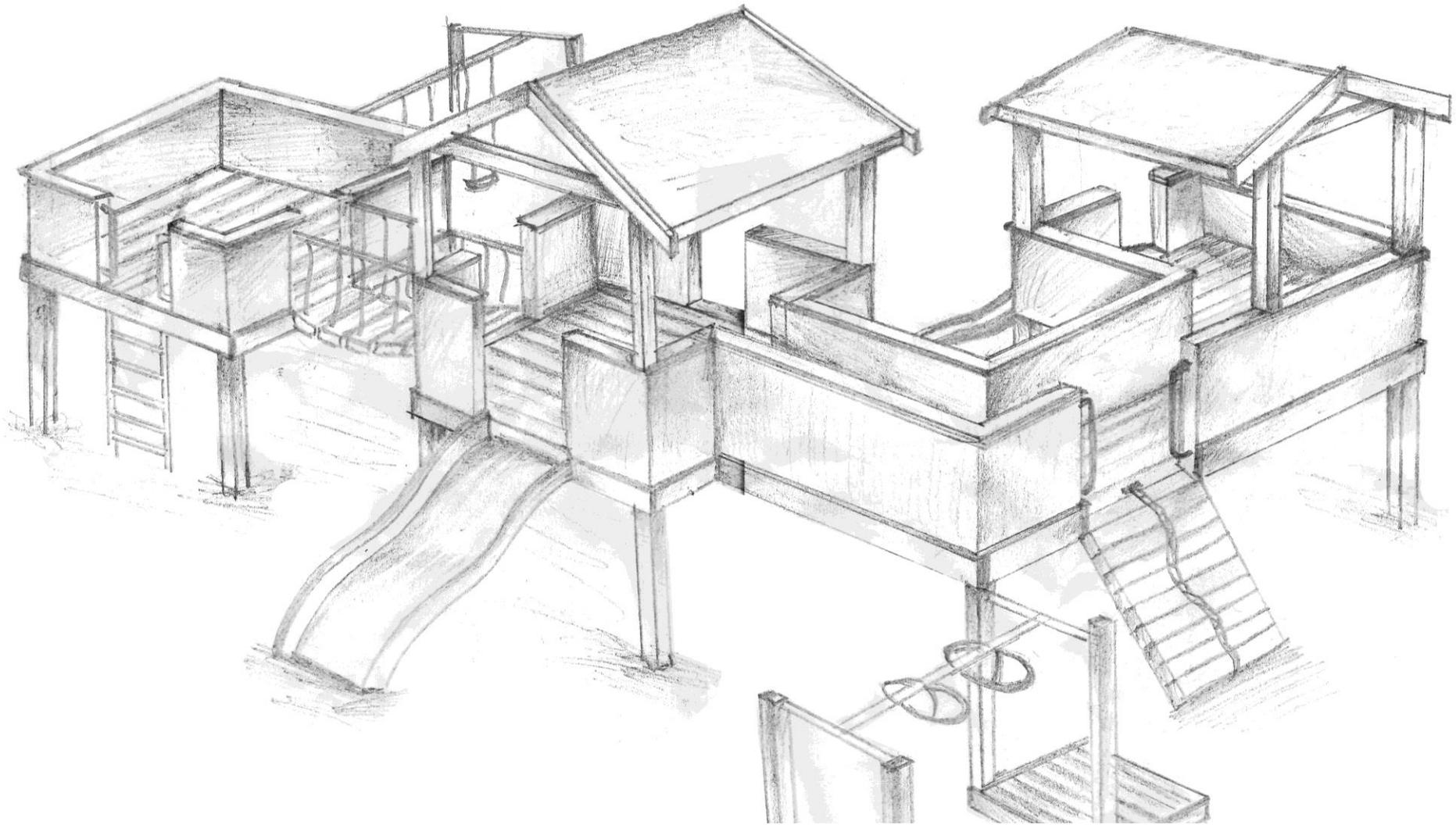
Supernova

- Hugely popular item – their best seller.
- Offers different experiences for different age groups.
- Either stand up and try to ‘surf’ it or sit and enjoy the ride.
- Available in a grey/green option.



Forest development

- A place to escape to – quiet spaces.
- Allows for creative play.
- Protected from sun and weather.
- Sensory enrichment.
- Able to incorporate the environment without encroaching on it.
- Potential outdoor class learning space for teachers.



Proposed customised fort design through trees –
as shown around \$20k

Tree fort play area

- Caters to a wide range of ages. Allows for diverse playing spaces. Incorporates movement such as swinging (monkey bars) sliding, rock climbing etc.
- As per the survey there is a huge need for more monkey bars. The revised design will include these, probably as a method of getting from platform to platform. Higher monkey bars will designate senior areas – the smaller kids won't be able to reach them to get across.
- Safe location – low traffic area
- Area under the fort becomes as important as above. Potential for hammocks, sandpits etc if we can get the platforms high enough.
- Potential for seating on the ground uphill from the fort to be used as an outdoor teaching/chill out area.
- Potential for fort to be customised by kids with spaces for art on panels and barge boards – totem poles.
- Potential for wheel chair access to areas of the fort.
- Rustic, chunky look in line with rural setting.
- Supercity to design and build.
- Time frame 6 weeks.
- Fully customisable as needed.
- All heights will be compliant – audited by Level 4 PG auditor.
- Low impact construction – load bearing on small concrete foundations to minimise disruption to the tree roots in the area.

Flying fox design



Flying fox

- Ideally we would like to spec two of them parallel – racing foxes – but start with one.
- Designed and built by Supercity to standard.
- Pommel system with non returning trolley (needs downward pressure to move)
- Timber based style of flying fox so it blends in better with the tree lined surroundings.
- We have also opted for the heavier gauge flying fox equipment and a 10mm cable. The main launch pad height would be set at not more than 900mm above ground level which keeps us under the maximum 950mm before one is required to install handrails etc.
- Matting only needs to be 1m wide – mainly for grass protection. Ingrid has sourced a good product @\$50 per 900x900 sq.
- Situated at the bottom of the driveway, pending a services survey, Karl happy to have septic revamp go around it, or it would be relatively easy to relocate if need be.
- Single flying fox pricing: \$6500 for equipment and installation
- Matting by the metre 30m: \$1650
- Total \$8150 (or two for \$16,300)

Wishlist

- Slides \$32.7
- Musical instruments \$5k each
- Fitness trails \$50k
- Spacenet \$50k
- Bikes
- Trampolines
- Another court - astroturf
- Year 5-6 boys. They need something really challenging like a space net or fitness trail (\$50k each) and we simply don't have room at the moment to implement these.
- Started applying for grants but progress slow and disheartening.