



Wadestown School

Board of Trustees

Sally Barrett
Mark Crofskey
Huia Forbes
Genevieve Hancock
Fazleen Ismail
Amy Maddock
Neil Paviour-Smith

News from the Board – September 2019

Kia ora koutou

This newsletter updates the school community on progress regarding the school's grounds and playgrounds and follows on from the detailed update provided in June (available [here](#)).

We invite you to share thoughts with the Board in relation to the following three specific projects:

1. Greenwall
2. Nature play
3. Amphitheatre

We would be grateful if you could send your comments to office@wadestown.school.nz by Friday 18 October.

Master Concept Plan

Our June newsletter detailed the specific projects the Board has resolved to undertake from the master plan produced by architect Mark Newdick of the Local Landscape Architecture Collective (a copy of which is on the fence at the main entrance to Rose Street).

The architect has been progressing three of these projects through developed design in preparation for tendering. We are aiming for the work on these three projects to be undertaken as soon as possible and in particular utilising the Christmas holiday / year end break.

Copies of the designs for the three projects being progressed now are presented on the pages which follow.

A larger version of the designs will be placed on display at the main entrance of the school.

Current projects

The three projects being advanced presently are:

1. Greenwall
2. Nature Play
3. Amphitheatre

In terms of timeframes, it is intended that work on the Greenwall can commence in the coming few weeks and be completed by year-end or during the year-end holidays.

Work on the Nature Play project is expected to commence over the year-end school holidays and be substantially complete early in term one, other than planting which will commence in April/May when weather conditions are more suitable.

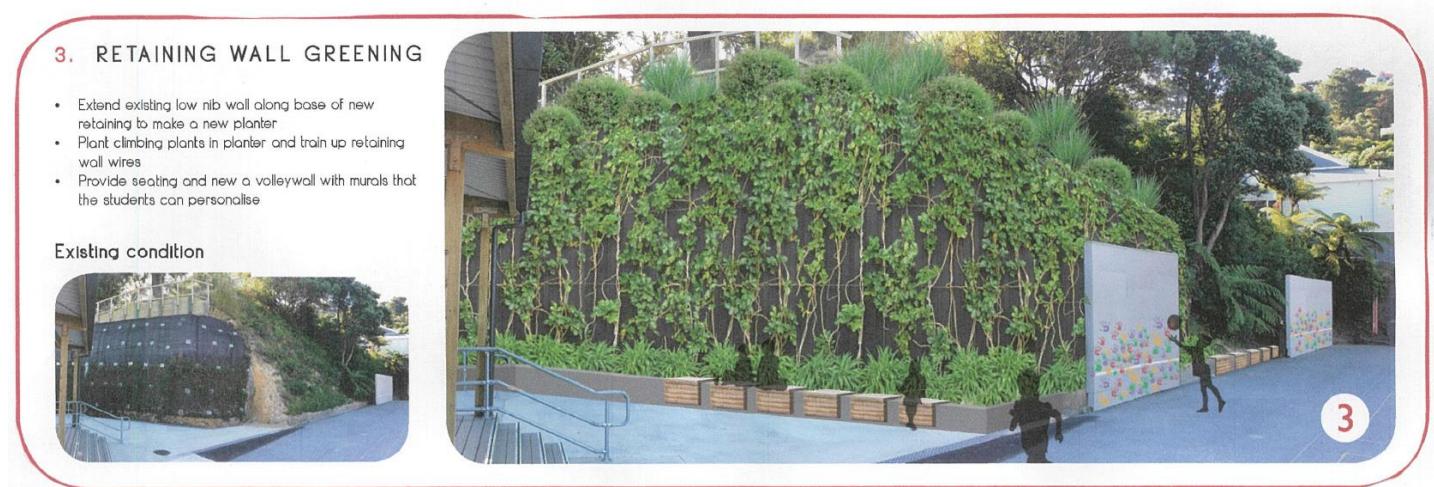
Work on the Amphitheatre project is expected to commence over the year-end school holidays, in particular the work involving heavy machinery, and be completed during term one.

These timeframes remain subject to matters such as acceptable tendering, consents, weather, etc but we are confident that the works can be completed as indicated.

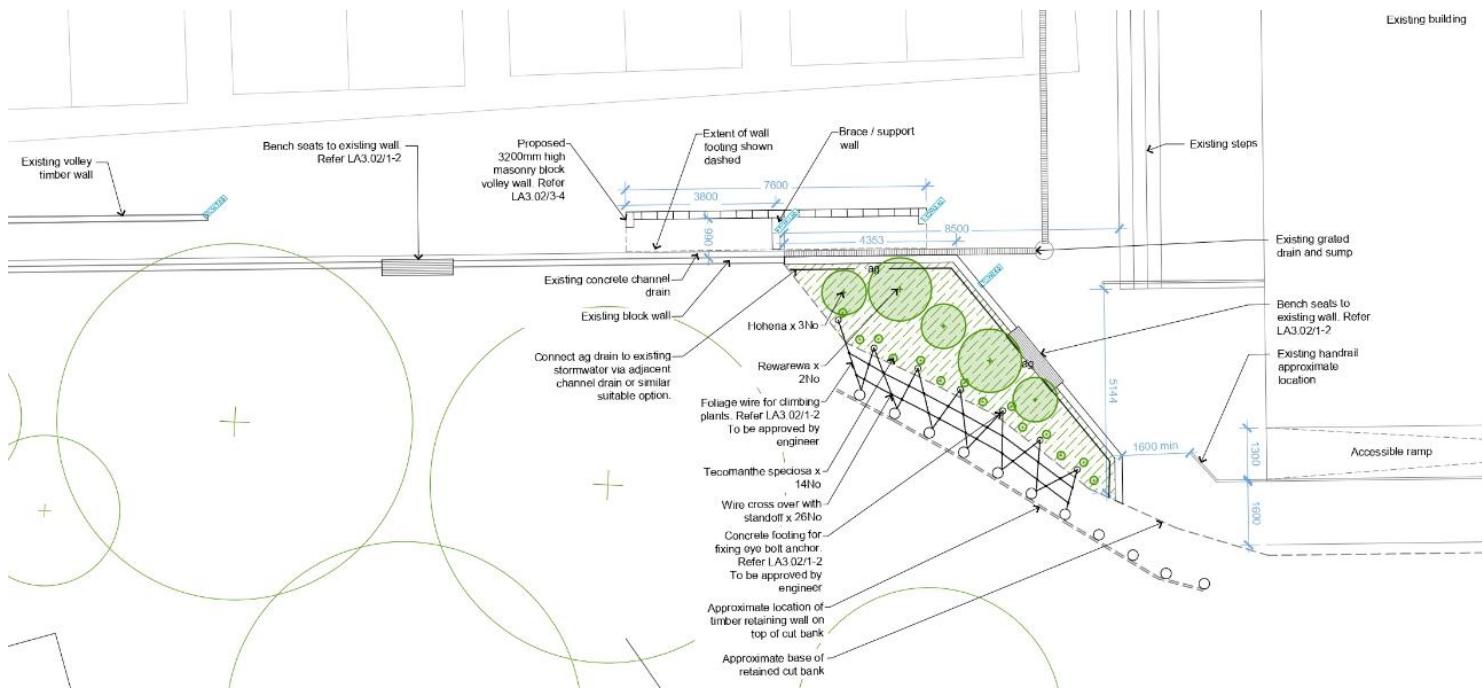
1. Greenwall

Construction of seating at the base of the retaining wall to form a retaining nib wall behind which climbers can grow and mask the retained bank, along with other planting and construction of an additional volley wall.

This is shown in the image below.



Detailed design is shown below. The main quad area is at the top of the plan and the classroom on the right hand side. The new volley wall, new seating and plantings are shown.



2. Nature play

Extending existing built structures down the bank at the area behind the top school block to enable greater utilisation of the space and encourage creative play in a natural setting.

9. NATURE PLAY AREA

- Add to existing decks to extend this popular element and allow larger groups and outdoor classrooms
- Add informal / abstract play elements which encourage creative play
- Steppers, balance beams, decks, nests, huts, cane houses, bamboo tunnels etc
- Soft strappy planting that withstands exploration
- Some seating / hammocks for passive occupation

Existing condition



9

In the top-down design shown below, the top block classrooms are at the bottom of the picture. The terrain slopes down towards the top of the image and towards the left with the existing platform decks shown in grey.

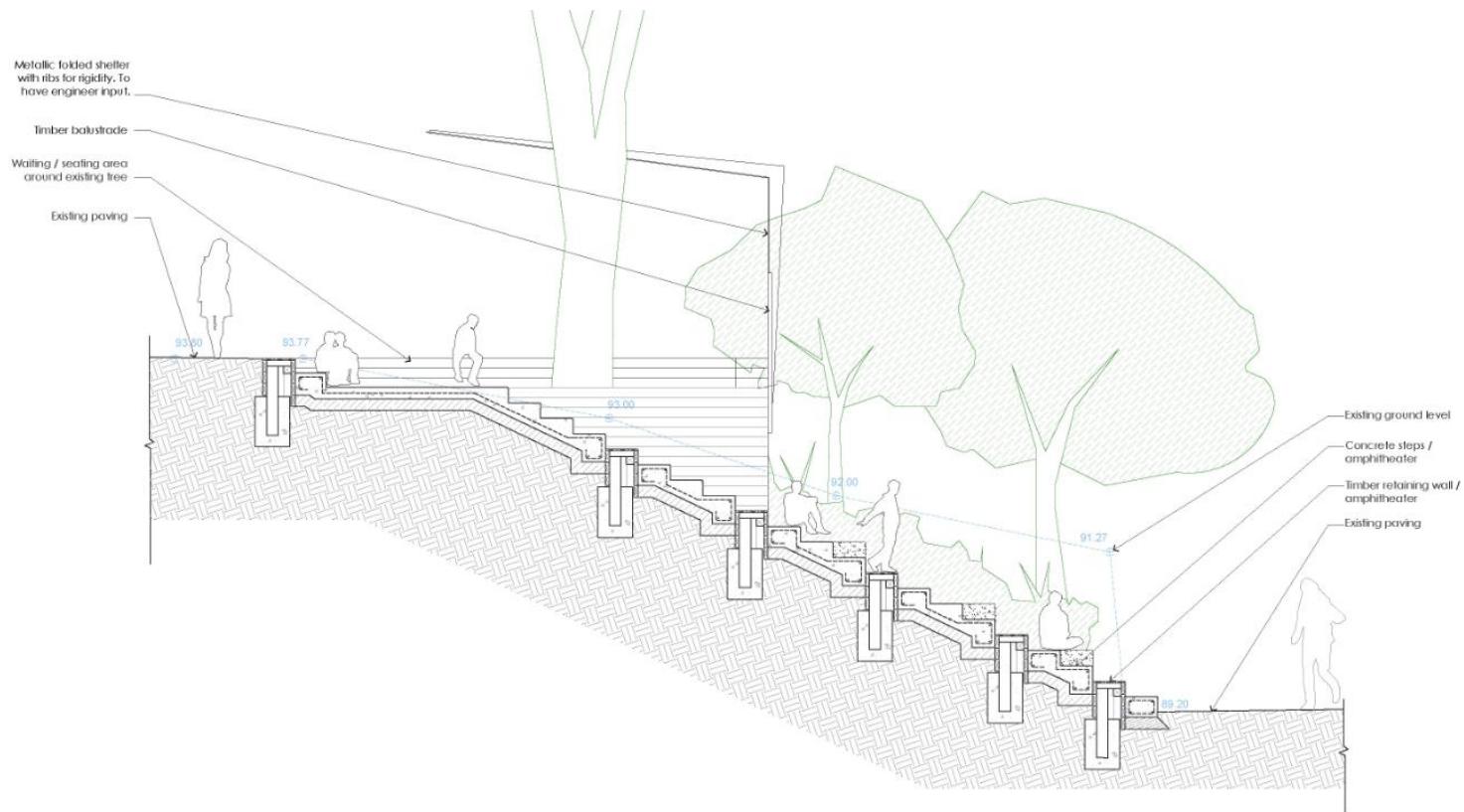


3. Amphitheatre

Conversion of the unused bank behind the top fence by the main entrance of Rose Street (by the gum tree) into seating and in an amphitheatre style with associated ground markings.



The section design shown below is based on actual surveying of the ground. The gum tree is shown rising to the slight left of centre. This creates an enhanced / opened entrance-way to the school, seating and steps in place of the unused bank and an amphitheatre style outcome for other potential uses.



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In the top-down image below, the main entrance sloping path to the school is shown at the bottom of the picture. The gum tree remains a feature around which the design is based. Seating and steps are shown going down to the existing concreted area on which new ground markings will be drawn (the ground markings shown in the picture are indicative as children are expected to express strong views about their preferences!)



Please note, all work remains subject to costs which may affect the full extent to which the designs shown can be completed. But based on advice from the architect, the Board is confident these projects can be achieved.

Main playground design

We have instructed the architect to advance the main playground design. This part of the playground will be in the middle quad of the school next to where the two classrooms ultimately being demolished are located and some aspects may be dependent on the classroom demolition. We will communicate how this design may be able to be progressed when it becomes available.

Other upcoming projects

We still plan to undertake these projects but haven't fixed the timing at this stage:

- astro-turfing of the quad
 - Weld St nature play - development of the sloping bank into landscaped and nature play finishings

- science / nature garden - developing the area between the tennis court fence and the Purakau Ave retaining wall
- decking at the back of new classrooms - seating and decking in the bare concrete area behind the two new classrooms

Completed projects

Demolition of the old pool and creation of extra green space and associated landscaping at the Weld Street has been completed.

And finally, a big thankyou to our school community

We would like to thank a) everyone involved in the school working bee for all your efforts in supporting the school and improving the school grounds for our children and staff, and b) all those involved in organising the school's main fundraiser, the House & Garden Walk.

The Board has committed that all funds raised from the House & Garden Walk on November 10th will be used for grounds / playgrounds re-development.

Please show your support by selling as many tickets as you are able to. This will enable us to increase the amount of grounds /playgrounds re-development work. The House & Garden Walk has always been a great event for those attending.