



Wadestown School

Board of Trustees

Mark Crofskey
Huia Forbes
Genevieve Hancock
Ian Hastie
Fazleen Ismail
Amy Maddock
Alistair Rumball-Smith

News from the Board – September 2020

Hi mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa

Farewell and welcome

As another term draws to a close, we farewell Ian Hastie, our Acting Principal, who has been with us, leading the school, since the start of the year while we recruited a permanent Principal. Thank you Ian for your outstanding leadership - you will be greatly missed! It takes a certain bundle of skills to walk into any organisation with the care and success that Ian has shown - an outstanding example of kaitiakitanga. There has been a round of presentations by the children, staff and board and we are thrilled that Ian will be joining us at the working bee on 17 October and there will be a chance there for a few words of thanks there also.

COVID has played interference with other planned thank yous - namely to Sally and Neil - but these will get back on track.

Looking forward - our new Principal, Amanda Frater has already been engaging with the school community and has attended various events and has been working with Ian and Staff - we thank Amanda and the Staff for extra effort put to date to make this transition go smoothly for our Childrens' School and we are really looking forward to formally welcoming Amanda at the start of next term.

At our last meeting we welcomed Alistair Rumball-Smith to the Board following the recent selection process and again a massive thank you to all who participated in that election, we are really blessed in Wadestown with a gifted and engaged parent community (even if I have to declare an interest in saying so).

Property update

The Board is happy to be able to update the school community about progress on the playground and other grounds redevelopment projects which we expect to start in October.

The Board has made this work one of our key focus areas. The efforts of staff have also been crucial to achieving progress toward this major upgrade of our playing and sports areas as we progress to the implementation phase of the master redevelopment plan.

Key developments are outlined below and the attached photo shows the sites chosen for all the projects. We hope this is helpful. Please feel free to email the Board if you have any further questions or comments about progress so far. It'd be great to hear from you at board@wadestown.school.net

Playground

The Board is proposing to put the playground on a different site to the one previously allocated (the new site is shown as "playground" in the photo attached).

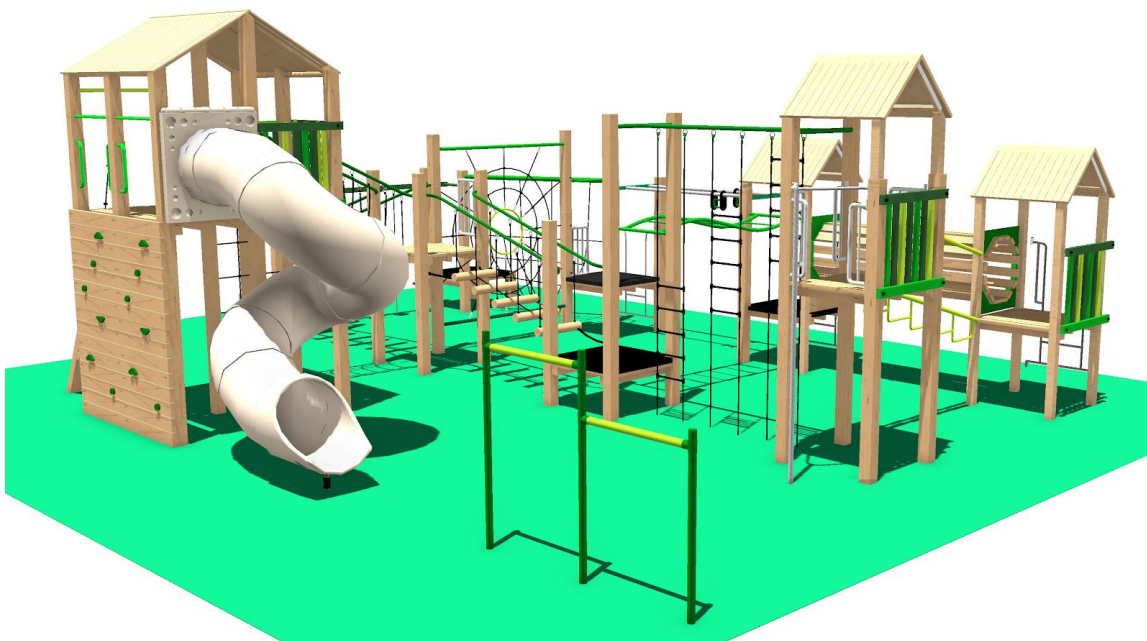
The previous site - next to the old rooms 7 and 8 - would have meant a major delay which the Board felt was not acceptable. We'd received advice that rooms 7 and 8 would need to be demolished before any playground building could start, and also that such demolition work could not proceed until the Rata Block development had been completed. It would also be more difficult and expensive to build on that site. It is also useful to note that the concept drawings for the playground were, unsurprisingly, just that, and not buildable - not in any case for the sort of budget available to any school. Accordingly - a new site had to be found which would be practicable and compliant.

The choice of the new site came after a thorough investigation of a number of alternative Rose St sites. Factors to weigh up included available space, playground compliance issues, maintaining or growing teaching spaces, ability for staff to supervise, flow of students, underground drains and pipes, site access and health and safety for the construction. The new site has significant advantages in all of these areas. It will require giving up some game and ball space in the old tennis court but we will be making up for that in the new sports areas we are providing.

The Board has engaged a provider, PlayCo, and has been working with them on the design. There is a lead in time with manufacturing the equipment which means that the playground is likely to be installed early next year. A working design for the new playground is shown below, this will be consulted on in the first fortnight of the new school term with staff and students prior to the order being placed and final elements, colours, materials selected and modified accordingly. Parents are welcome to participate.

The new playground will cost approximately \$150,000. This includes the surface and the groundworks. Thanks to community efforts over the years, this money has already been raised.

Working design of playground (subject to final consultation and refinement)



New basketball areas

A new basketball area will be built next to the new playground, including an additional hoop, backboard and a new surface. The cost for this project is approximately \$20,000. Regarding the timing for this build, it is likely to be a similar time to the playground. There will also be a new basketball area on the quad - see below.

New tennis and netball courts and equipment

The tennis courts will be resurfaced with a high-grade astro-turf surface suitable for tennis, netball and hockey. New netball hoops will be purchased and we're providing for a system for storage of the tennis nets. The Board reviewed a number of quotes for this project. We have now selected a supplier and are working to finalise the project with them. It's likely this will all happen early next year but we will confirm this once the planning is finalised. This project is likely to cost approximately \$50,000.

In selecting a suitable surface the Board has engaged directly with the Wadestown Tennis Club and representatives of netball and hockey and researched what other school sites were using. In the end, a high-grade astro-turf appeared to be the best option.

New netball, tennis and basketball on the quad

We are painting new lines and purchasing new hoops and equipment to play netball, tennis and basketball on the quad.

Science garden

The board has asked parents Pete McLellan, Susy Jackson and Malcom McKee to lead this project to build a nature and science garden. They are coordinating with teachers and students. The garden is likely to be developed in stages with the plant beds going in first at the school working bee on October 17. We are very grateful for Susy, Pete, Malcom and the wider community's assistance in building the science garden. We have allocated approximately \$5,000 for this project out of Working Bee costs for materials and equipment.

Nature playground

The site for the nature playground is along the bank down and around the sides of rooms 4, 5 and 6. The Board has engaged a landscaping firm for this work. It will include elements like logs, stones, wood and rope, together with planting to encourage play. The project will also include building a new fence along the boundary on this corner of the school site. This project is likely to cost approximately \$25,000. We are working with the landscaping firm on timing.

Here's a concept drawing of the nature play area:



Investigating astro-turf for the lower field

The Board is investigating putting astro-turf on part (not all) of the lower field. New Zealand schools are increasingly turning to astro turf as a way to ensure that sports areas can be used year-round instead of for only two terms a year. The turf would be painted for netball, soccer, hockey and possibly other sports. This would likely cost around \$80,000 with possible additional funds for drainage.

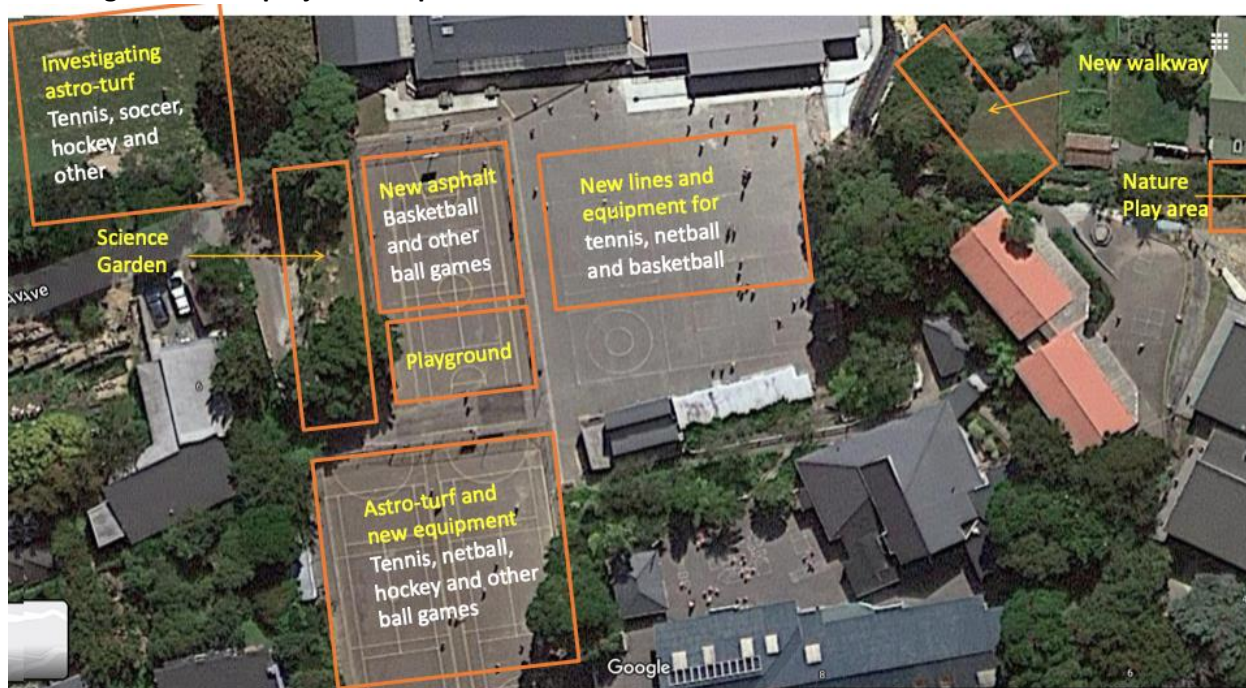
New walkway

This project is a Ministry-led project which flows from the building of the new classrooms in the lower part of the school several years ago. The school is working with the Ministry on the timing and will of course coordinate all projects. Construction of the walkway is likely to start soon and we will send out further details once we have them. No cost is included for this because it is paid for directly by the Ministry.

Weld St

At Weld St we are painting new markings on the asphalt, recovering the ground under the train playground and adding planter boxes. We are in the process of confirming the cost for the new surface. The markings and planter boxes should be completed in October. The new surface for the train playground is likely to be early next year.

Rose St grounds and projects site plan



Summary

Project	Timing	Approximate cost
Playground	Early 2021	\$150,000
Basketball court	Early 2021	\$20,000
Tennis court astroturf	Early 2021	\$50,000
Quad – equipment and lines	November/December	\$3,000
Nature playground	TBA	\$20,000
Science garden	October	\$5,000
Turf for lower field	2021	\$80,000+
Weld St surfaces etc	October – early 2021	-

We hope you have a great break.

Noho ora mai

Mark Crofskey, Chairperson
Wadestown School Board of Trustees