



Bundalaguah Primary School in Action

Key Priority Areas: **Active Recreation and Supportive School Environment**

Type of Funding: **Active Schools**



School Overview:	Nestled in farmland between Maffra and Sale, Bundalaguah Primary School, with its 30 students and 10 staff, is positioned in an idyllic location, but it can also be inhibitive for families to access extracurricular activities. Many students self-report that they aren't active on weekends and cost, transport and student confidence and skills have been identified as barriers to participation.
Project Goal:	To improve student engagement in learning by providing a variety of stimulating learning environments that promote connectedness and inclusion. To also continue to grow the engagement of students in active recreation during unstructured play times by updating current playground spaces and purchasing new sports and play equipment.



A major focus in Bundalaguah Primary School's strategic plan was to encourage and support whole school connectedness and safety whilst improving playground behaviours. When exploring the causes of incidents on the playground with senior students, it was identified that they weren't being challenged by the playground equipment because it catered more for the younger students in terms of height, size, and interest.

The ideas generated for the Active Schools grant encompassed different climbing structures for active play and alternative play spaces that would be both challenging and accessible for the older students. A Gaga pit, walking track, challenging climbing frame, a raised stage and imaginative play spaces have been installed and are wonderful additions to a creative and interactive environment for all the school community.

These open-ended activity spaces have led to inclusive opportunities where students can work together and identify strengths and qualities in themselves and others. The creation of a student co-designed structure and space resulted in learning taking place before the structures were even built. The empowerment of student voice and agency, with the focus on planning and creating in collaboration, creates a shared ownership of the space.



Student Voice Planning photos

Active School Strategy	Impact
Environment - Further improve the school environment and encourage active recreation and cross-age play that is challenging and stimulating by installing different play structures.	<i>Increased engagement in aerobic type activities has occurred with the introduction of the Gaga pit. The climbing frame has extended the physical challenges the students experience and the raised stage has encouraged dance and creative movement.</i>
Student Voice and Agency - Encourage and support students to participate in discussions and contribute to decisions about new play spaces by putting forward their views, concerns and ideas.	<i>The idea that the playground was 'made with' instead of 'made for' the students set the scene for further collaborative learning. It had a positive influence on student confidence and led to the creation of student led lunchtime clubs.</i>
Professional Development – Actively engage staff in sharing and developing their knowledge of cooperative games and creative play ideas to support positive student behaviour during breaks.	<i>Students are more active more often. How the students interact with each other during play times has also improved. The Playground data collected by the school has reflected a decrease in challenging behaviour incidents in the yard.</i>