



Cowara Nature Playground Proposal

PIONEER PARK, COWARAMUP

PRESENTED BY KATE TADÉ AND WENDY BEVERIDGE – SOUTH WEST CAPES LIONS BRANCH



Our Mission



Build a nature-based adventure playground in Pioneer Park, in collaboration with the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, that will service the local region and invigorate Cowaramup businesses



Cater to children of all ages and differing abilities with inclusive, accessible play equipment and tall climbing structures for the risk takers



Collaborate with the community on the final design



Use natural materials: timber, boulders, water and native plants to encourage children to use their imagination and embrace the natural environment



Share traditional stories of Cowaramup, led by Wadandi Custodians, including the story of the Cowara bird

Why build a Nature-based Adventure Playground in Cowaramup?

Cowaramup is growing rapidly

- 30% population growth in 6 yrs and number of families doubled
- Another 300 residential lots recently released

No natural play spaces

- Cowaramup residents travel to access nature and adventure playgrounds (Vasse, Yallingup, Busselton etc)
- Only plastic and metal play equipment – no nature play

Safety concerns

- Minimal leisure and play options on west side of Bussell Hwy to service Parkwater
- Current playground adjacent to un-fenced dog park

The Location

Pioneer Park, Cowaramup

There is an unutilised, shaded, mulched area at the back of Pioneer Park (behind the stage) which seems ready-made for a nature playground.



The Space

Close to the park's facilities

Natural shade

Vacant spot - no interruption to current park usage

A safe distance from the road

Easily visible for passers by

Site approved by Undalup Assoc. as culturally appropriate

Parking close by on both sides of Hwy

Walking distance from most Cowaramup locations



Project Cultural Goals

Led by Wadandi custodians from the Undalup Association, we aim to draw the larger community into the cultural and spiritual history of the area by telling the traditional story of the Cowara bird in artworks and installations.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Partnering with Wadandi custodians to create a culturally safe environment
- Giving a sense of belonging to local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children who will assist with design
- Encouraging imaginative play in nature and connection with country
- Creating collaborative relationships with other community organisations and local Aboriginal artists



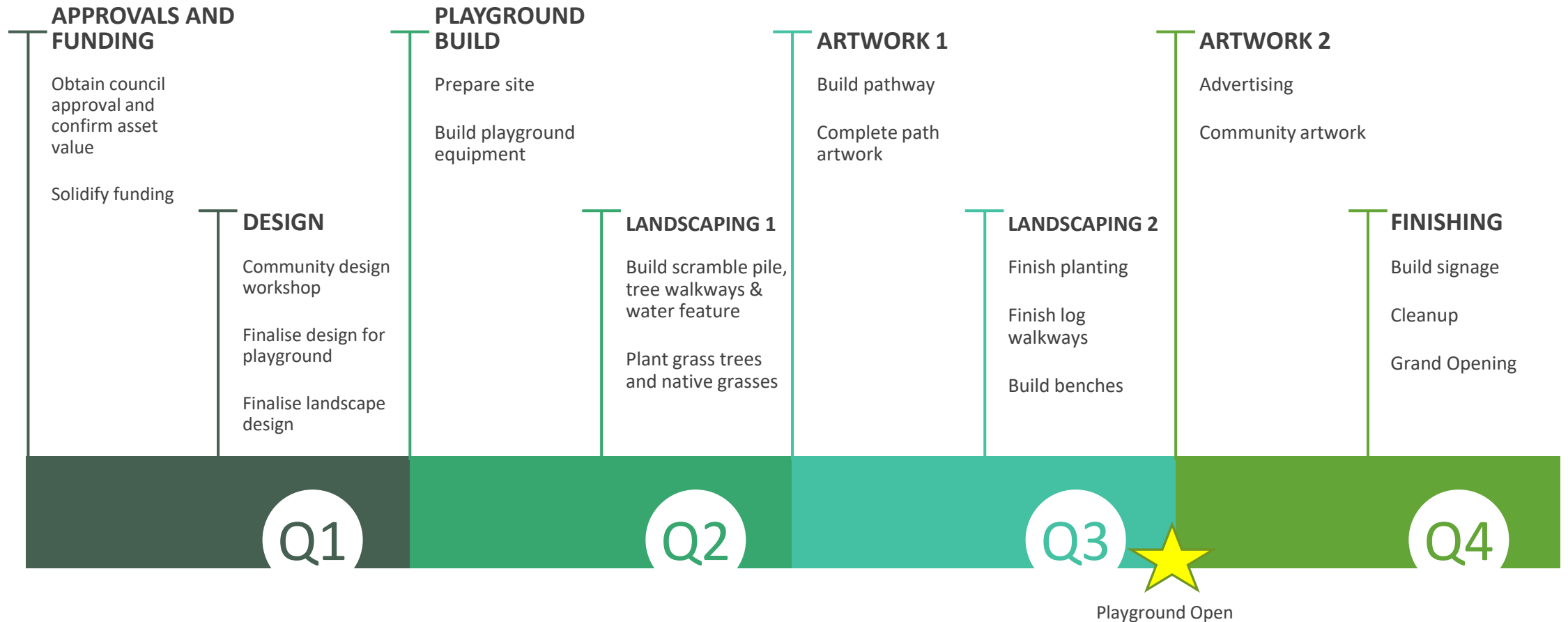
**UNDALUP
ASSOCIATION**



**Weaving
Stories of
Boodja**

Women
cowaramup

ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE



Consultation to
date

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community of Cowaramup – petition with over 300 signatures

Cowaramup Business Association

Cowaramup Community Garden

Cowaramup Community Mens shed

Cowaramup Halls, Reserves & Residents

District Lions Clubs

Cowaramup Primary School P&C

Peter Howse – Principal of Cowaramup Primary School

Undalup Association Inc – Wadandi Custodians

Shire of Augusta Margaret River – Matt Slocomb and Susan Elton, Leisure Planning

PLAYGROUND DESIGN

Trish Flower – Project manager of Djiljit Mia playground and meeting space in Dunsborough

Hamish Firth – Landscape Architect

Woven – community arts group for community artwork planning

Jen Wrigglesworth – consultant for playground accessibility and inclusivity

Jo Curtin – Kindy Teacher, Cowaramup Primary School

Nature Based Play – playground design company

Rustic Nature Play - playground design company

Nature Play Solutions - playground design company

Steve Palmer – property developer of Parkwater, donating timber and materials

Letters of Support to date

Cowaramup Business Association

Cowaramup Community Mens Shed

Cowaramup Halls, Reserves & Residents Association

Cowaramup Primary P&C

Lions Club of Vasse

Undalup Association Inc.

Woven Cowaramup



The Design

Fort Design

- Timber donated by local developer
- Not too polished – less plastic, more natural materials
- Adventure for older kids – some risk involved
- Climbing, building upper body strength
- Rope bridges
- Elevated and built around existing trees



Fort Inspiration – cont.



Fort Inspiration – cont.



Fort Inspiration – cont.



Cowara Story Artwork / Pathway

- The Wadandi story of the Cowara stealing fire and being trapped inside the Balga tree (grass tree)
- Story visually represented on/around the circular, perimeter pathway
- Wheelchair and stroller accessible so everyone can enjoy the artwork and access the play equipment





Cowara Artwork/Pathway – cont.

- Timber artistry and carving along the path/ up fort
- Painted climbing poles
- Textile art



Scramble Pile

- Boulders donated
- Minimal maintenance
- Integrate with water play?
- Native grasses – no mowing, minimal maintenance



Zip Line

- Facilities to engage older age groups
- Can be scaled down to fit space
- Very popular in destination playgrounds in SW
- At back of playground, away from foot traffic



Swings

- Options for all ages
- Wheelchair accessible or basket swing for inclusive play



Walkways

- Weave through existing trees
- Physical barrier between playground and the road



Toddler Cubby



- Hiding and imaginative play
- Entertainment for younger age group
- Connected to the sandpit with mud kitchen bench incorporated



Toddler Cubby – cont.

- Incorporated into landscaping – arbour to grow native creepers around



Sandpit

- Nature-based play for all ages
- Encircled with logs – outdoor classroom, yarning circle and meeting space
- Next to toddler cubby / mud kitchen bench



Water Play

- Solar pump donated by local developer
- Natural materials
- Possible location for community artwork – mosaic tiles in waterway, painting etc.





Benches

- Log benches
- Swinging benches
- Rest place for parents/grandparents/ carers
- Yarning circle/outdoor classroom

Next Steps

1

Design

Confirm suppliers, begin first stage communications with community stakeholders and finalise design in community workshop

2

Fundraising

Collaborate with Shire on Lottery West grant, apply for arts and disability grants and open public fundraising online portal. Engage with local businesses for donations and in-kind support

3

Artworks and Community Engagement

Engage Wadandi custodians and local Aboriginal artists for artworks, launch marketing and publicity strategy



Thank you

End of presentation