

Letter of support 25 January 2020

Hello FOBG

Read your plea today and have penned the following. Hope it gets through for you.

Cheers Marita

The plea by the FOBG to support their playground project is worthy of support for a number of reasons. While Heritage rulings duly take note of the physical environment of a site in this case the precinct of the Warrnambool gardens there is also a different heritage which exists within the gardens and that is the memory and appreciation of the thousands of people who have enjoyed their surrounds for over 100 years. I have fond memories of visiting the gardens with family including my grandmother (born 1880) and likewise now my grandchildren love the freedom of running through the expanse, the cannon, clambering around the "Faraway tree "or quietly sitting by the pond. However there are many children today whose only experience of play is safe, structured and dare I say sterile. You can't climb a Yucca! I believe this playground is a step toward providing an opportunity for imaginative and free play for our younger citizens and their families. Who knows they may want to explore the gardens further, create their own memories and grow to appreciate Guilfoyle's canvas.

I acknowledge it can be difficult to preserve precincts whether buildings or spaces to maintain their integrity but if heritage sites are to be relevant to the successive generations, there must be knowledge, appreciation and care of these sites. It is evident our gardens are in good hands. Often it is neglect, apathy and ignorance which leads to the loss of our past whether heritage listed or not. A playground for our children surely is a suitable step towards engaging them in their heritage and involving them in a treasured part of Warrnambool's history. Not to underestimate the enjoyment for the child in all of us.