

# Have a say on new nature-based playground at Warrnambool Botanic Gardens



[Rachael Houlihan](#)

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**LET'S PLAY:** A girl climbs a rock at the Ian Potter Children's Garden. Its designers will build a nature-based playground at Warrnambool Botanic Gardens.

A new nature-based playground will be installed at Warrnambool Botanic Gardens, and the community is invited to have their say on the project.



**A DELIGHTFUL PLAY SPACE:** Lettie, 1, and Davy, 3, Nuske feed the wildlife. A new nature-based playground will be installed at the gardens.

At the end of last year the Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens were successful in their proposal to create a nature-based play space in the gardens as part of the State Government's Picky My Project initiative.

Since then they have been involved with detailed planning, required as part of the funding agreement.

President Pat Varley said she was delighted to confirm that internationally acclaimed landscape architects Laidlaw and Laidlaw had been contracted to undertake the design.

Andrew Laidlaw is renowned for his work with children's gardens.

The Ian Potter Children's garden in the Royal Melbourne Botanic Garden is an example of his work.

"Andrew would like to meet and talk with people interested in the project," Dr Varley said.



“He will be at the gardens from 11am until 12.30pm on Saturday, just prior to WUNTA’s Jazz in the Gardens where the friends will mount a display on the site, west of the bridge beside Botanic Road. We look forward to lots of interaction and encourage questions, suggestions and ideas.”

She said Mr Laidlaw was well-known for his work.

“He is the perfect person for the job,” she said.

“We are very lucky to get him and he wants to consult with people which is very positive.”

The listening post will continue all day while the jazz is on.

The botanic gardens play space received \$198,000 in funding and will be located on the northern side of the gardens near the lake.

It will feature a series of engaging, natural play elements which fit into the heritage listed gardens.

A large cypress stump and the remains of a historic tree will be incorporated into the design, becoming play pieces.

It will be built using natural and recycled materials, with no plastic or cost to parents.

Elements which encourage climbing, jumping, balancing and squeezing will be included, with logs, rocks, ropes and old bridge timbers featuring in the play space.



If you are unable to attend or wish to follow the progress of the project visit [www.wbgardens.com.au](http://www.wbgardens.com.au) and follow the gardens page on Facebook.

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