



May 2016

Fundraising kicks off with \$50,000 donation

Guests donated more than \$50,000 on the spot at the launch of the All Abilities Play Space community fundraising appeal on Friday night. Host Verity James even set up an impromptu “kissing booth” to encourage donations.

Verity James said the play space was a great way to honour our community.

“And what better way to do it than in a playful way!” she said.

“There are many ways to donate. It might not be money, but it could be by people power. By offering your pro bono skills or putting other skills to work,” said Verity.

The Hon Bill Marmion presented the Lotterywest certificate, pledging a grant of \$750,000. The Hon Peter Collier also attended the event, along with local dignitaries, philanthropists and business people. Guests viewed a fundraising video and a video made in support of the project by cricket legend Justin Langer.

Four local Rotary clubs are asking the Perth community for donations to help build the play space, which will cost \$4 million to construct. The play space will be an inclusive playground which will be built on the Nedlands foreshore on the Swan River.

Rotary has previously raised approximately \$750,000 from WA businesses plus the Lotterywest grant. A further \$2.5 million is now needed to complete the facility over four stages.

Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Federal Member for Curtin, the Hon Julie Bishop MP as well as Justin Langer have thrown their support behind the All Abilities Play Space project.

Ms Bishop is a great supporter, and after visiting the site and meeting with local Rotarians, said she is delighted to endorse the project.

Five years in the making, the All Abilities Play Space is a big project, based on a big idea: to bring inclusive play to people of all ages and abilities to share experiences and create life-long memories.

The Play Space is unlike anything Western Australia has ever seen, and will boast play equipment for children and adults of all ages and abilities and includes intergenerational and exercise equipment.

Past District Governor Angus Buchanan from West Perth Rotary Club said, ““This project is about creating new possibilities for everyone in the community.”

“It will be a celebration of inclusion and diversity,” he continued.

The play space has been purpose-designed to cater for children with disabilities and their families as well as teenagers, adults and older people, to play together with everyone using the same equipment.

Initiated by Rotary, the project is a collaboration between four local Rotary clubs and local government, and has some fantastic supporters on board, including Lotterywest, Inclusion WA, Australia's Bridge and Wood and Grieve Engineers, who are donating their services free of charge.

Cleverly designed by award-winning inclusive designer and architect, Fiona Robbé, the All Abilities Play Space will cover 10,000 square metres on the Nedlands foreshore on the banks of the Swan River. The existing greenspace and trees will also be respected and embraced throughout the design process.

Donations to Rotary can be made through Inclusion WA's website – visit www.inclusionwa.org.au. For more information on the project, visit the City of Nedlands' website www.nedlands.wa.gov.au/all-abilities-play-space or like us on Facebook.

The fundraising video can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fo-YZmELH0o>

Construction is due to start in December 2016.



Dr. Ching-Howe Chan receives a kiss from Verity James after making a donation.



Mayor Max Hipkins receives the Lotterywest certificate from the Hon Bill Marmion

ENDS

About the All Abilities Play Space

The All Abilities Play Space will be an inclusive, inter-generational play space for use by all in the Perth metropolitan area. It will be a large scale, innovative, state-of-the-art play facility that is purpose designed to meet the play needs of all, regardless of their age or ability.

It will be built at Beaton Park on the Nedlands foreshore of the Swan River in Dalkeith.

Research shows the importance of play for everyone, throughout life’s stages. It’s important for physical, psychological and social health – play makes us healthy!

Initiated by Rotary, this project has brought together a unique community partnership including Rotary, Lotterywest, Inclusion WA, Australia’s Bridge, Wood & Grieve Engineers, and the City of Nedlands.

About the City of Nedlands

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of over 21,000 live in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta, and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

For further information please contact communications@nedlands.wa.gov.au or 9273 3500

