

For immediate release

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FUNDING RAISES STANDARDS FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

Three local kindergartens are among the total of 12 local groups to receive funding from the Rotorua Trust in its latest round of donations.

Reporoa Kindergarten is using funding received from the Rotorua Trust to upgrade their playground. Abi Cane, Kindergarten Grant Coordinator, said there are 50 children aged from three to five years, currently attending the Kindergarten, with a further 50 on the waiting list. "The old playground was starting to get quite tired and we also wanted to get it up to the correct safety standards." The playground includes a sand pit, play 'fort', slide, moveable / stacking boxes and interchangeable ladders. The swings are also interchangeable with tyre, rope ladder and tight rope. So far the Kindergarten has re-grassed the area and re-built the play fort to make it safer. "We want to put in seating and a coloured cobbled area as well as a pergola and hope the overhaul will make the playground brighter as well as safer for the children," she said. Funding from the Rotorua Trust is being used to purchase rubber safety matting for underneath the swing.

Selwyn Kindergarten is making a quieter environment for their children by installing Autex-board. Carol Marks, Head Teacher, said the boards will muffle noise and make the building quieter for the 40 children, who attend daily, to work in. "Our building is relatively old so covering all the walls will also beautify and modernise it." "The boards will be easy to display the children's artwork on as both Velcro and drawing pins can be used," she said.

The Amazing Place Early Childhood Centre in Sunset Road will also be upgrading its facilities utilising funding it received from the Rotorua Trust. The Centre is now run by Bethlehem College PreSchool Ltd, in response to an application from the Bethlehem Foundation, which works to strategically plan and fundraise for Christian education from early childhood through to tertiary level. Peter Wyatt, CEO of the Bethlehem Foundation, said Amazing Place was a recent addition to their group and its first education facility in the Rotorua area. The Centre caters for 48 children aged up to five years, including eight children aged under two. "The funding will be used to upgrade facilities, including play equipment, to the standard required," he said.

The full list of local community groups and organisations to receive funding from the Rotorua Trust recently were:

Bethlehem Foundation
Play Resources

\$10,000

Central Plateau Division Parkinsonism Exercise Classes	\$2,000
Geyserland Lions Carols by Candlelight	\$8,000
John Paul College Role Model Programme	\$500
Lynmore Scout Group Heating	\$7,066
New Zealand Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year Event	\$2,000
Reporoa Kindergarten Safety Matting	\$6,000
Rotorua Model Railway Club Annual Show	\$1,500
Selwyn Kindergarten Acoustic Wall Panels	\$9,500
Te Arawa Pouako I Te Reo Maori Speech Awards	\$5,000
Te Tohu Taakaro O Aotearoa Maori Sports Awards	\$7,500
Western Heights High School Role Model Programme	\$500

Ends

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