



St Andrews Sunbury Kindergarten Outdoor Learning Project Update

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Innovative New Materials

During our brief period away from site we had plenty of time at home. We spent our time focusing on the business, on design work, client engagement and watching Netflix. The time spent Netflixing wasn't wasted as expected. We as a company were given the task to watch the great David Attenborough's witness statement to the world called "A life on our planet." This witness statement was our precedent to delve further into our practices and reflect on what changes we can make.

Using our inspiration, we have researched further into the materials we use and our waste output. Though our company always has an ethical approach to everything we do, we can always do better. We have researched 2 main materials that we try to avoid where possible due to its impact to the environment. Though the material won't change its contributions to heat island effect, which we offset with plants and organic materials. They will have a significantly smaller carbon footprint.

St Andrews will be the first project that will be using Envirocrete. A concrete formular made from raw materials such as fly ash, blast furnace slag, recycled aggregates, recycled water and inert coloured oxides. Fly ash is a by-product of coal combustion in power stations, blast furnace slag is a by-product of iron and steel manufacturing. This product reduces the use of Portland cement by %60 and completely removes the use of virgin crushed aggregate. We are also having a discussion with the manufacturer to develop a mixture that adds shredded plastics to remove the use of reinforcement mesh.

The second material that will be installed for the first time is a sustainable synthetic grass. What makes this synthetic grass different to previous products is that the process of forming the plastic is from a by-product from sugar cane rather than a by-product from oil-based materials. The other benefit is that it doesn't travel far it is manufactured in Australian.

Plan:

The next step will be

- build balustrades
- start creek bed
- pour coloured concrete path
- plant plants
- add mulch
- fix slide and ropes

Progress Pictures



Urban
Discovery
BY JENN REED DESIGN