

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

85 volunteers pitch in to give Dungowan Public School grounds an extreme makeover

July 29 2004

The grounds of Dungowan Public School have been given an extreme makeover thanks to the combined efforts of the school's P&C Association, community and business members.

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper was one of 85 volunteers who gave up an average of four hours on Sunday to help transform the grounds into a landscape the Dungowan school children couldn't wait to explore.

Dungowan P&C Association member and project co-ordinator Kate Lye said the activity began as a National Tree Day event but soon grew into a bigger project when safety issues surrounding a footpath were identified.

"Bunnings donated pavers, concrete and wooden sleepers for the edging and three employees came out to give advice and deliver the new plants for a native garden," Mrs Lye said.

"I was surprised by everyone's commitment and enthusiasm. I didn't have to ask anyone twice to make a donation or give up their time," she said.

As a result a new footpath was built and the working bee went on to plant 20 trees, 41 shrubs, numerous ground covers, landscape native garden beds and remove dangerous storm damaged trees as well a noxious tree species.

Mr Draper said it was a wonderful example of the community pulling together to create a school environment children wanted to spend time in.

"In total 28 businesses, individuals and community groups donated items ranging from sand, soil and fertiliser to chicken kebabs and sausages barbecued by the Dungowan Lions Club to keep up workers' energy levels," Mr Draper said.

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"I was really impressed by the generosity of Tamworth's Bunnings Warehouse which supplied materials as well as manpower to save the P&C a considerable amount of money. And Brian Hartman of NPTS Tree Services performed a highly professional service in spotting and removing dangerous storm damaged trees while his staff donated their time.

"The school looks completely different and the kids are particularly proud of a bright blue wall they painted as a feature. The atmosphere on the day was wonderful and the results will be enjoyed for generations to come," he said.

Contact: Dungowan Public School P&C Association member and event co-ordinator Kate Lye 6769 0243

Photo by Email Caption: Dungowan Public School Principal Jeremy Mills (centre) and a group of volunteers transformed a featureless grassed area at the school into a native garden bed on Sunday.

End Release

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