

## **THE STORY SO FAR**

### **WESTERN AUTISTIC SCHOOL**

The Rotary Club of Keilor East has committed last August to raise funds to replace an adventure playground at the Western Autistic School at Garnet Street, Niddrie.

The playground to be replaced is constructed of Pine treated with copper chrome arsenic (CCA). This preservative is very toxic and accordingly the playground has been condemned. Playgrounds are an intrinsic element in developing interpersonal recognition and co-operation with peers therefore are an essential element in the development of abilities to overcome Autism disabilities.

As the School didn't have adequate budget to replace this fundamental facility, nor would it in the foreseeable future, the Rotary Club of Keilor East has undertaken the challenge to raise the \$37000 to replace the old playground with a purpose built playground.

This new playground will be designed as "state of the art" in the treatment for and development of children with Autism to enable their successful assimilation into mainstream society.

To date from various fund raising activities and public donations, the Keilor East Rotary Club has raised \$26000 and we are on target to install the new equipment during the final term of 2007.

The next Gala fund raiser will be a Monster Trivia Night to be held at the Italian Club on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May. This night will be a night of fun including silent auctions and the drawing of the monster raffle for goods at the value of \$4000.

We have written to the Moonee Valley City Council and the local State Government members asking for assistance with the dismantling and disposal of the old playground which would save the project around \$5000.

As part of the Rotary Club's support to the Western Autistic School and the playground replacement project, we have donated 6 BMX bikes and helmets for use in the school's recreation activities

Further information on this project and our Trivia Night can be obtained from :

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