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Media Release:

Preschoolers are climbing into new adventures

Children at Mudgee Preschool are racing outside to enjoy their new climbing equipment, thanks to a joint donation from Moolarben and Peabody-Wilpinjong Coal Mines.

The new \$30,000 outdoor children's fort offers loads of fun and is at the Lovejoy Street premises. It complies with Australian safety standards and was built with high quality materials that will last for many more years of child's play.

Mudgee Community Preschool is a community based, not-for-profit organisation that has been providing preschool education services to the children and families of Mudgee for over 60 years.

Rosie Gibbs, Director of Mudgee Preschool was delighted with the new outdoor equipment and generous donations.

"Outdoor play is critical for children's learning and supports positive outcomes in the development of physical, communication, cognitive, social and emotional skills.

"It has been amazing to watch some children rise to the challenges that the new fort presents. Some were initially tentative when crossing the new wobbly bridge or climbing up the net to access the deck, however a lot of children have now mastered those skills and enjoying their playtime.

"We were able to re-use the previous tunnel in the new design and the double slippery dip has been a big success for children to slide down or climb up with their friends.

"Children love the opportunity to see the world from up high and this new equipment has brought a lot of joy to the playground.

"We are very grateful for the generous support, the fort will be enjoyed by and benefit children from the community for many years to come," said Rosie.

Moolarben Coal General Manager, Steve Archinal said, "We are pleased we could help fund the new play equipment for the local preschool and thrilled it's bringing so much happiness to the children at the preschool.

"Our Community Support Program is designed to help make a positive difference to the people that live in our local community and this project has the potential to be enjoyed by hundreds of children in the future," said Steve.

Ian Flood, Manager Project Development & Approvals, Peabody Australia said, "It's important for all of us at Wilpinjong to support the community that supports us and it's a really good feeling to see the kids at the preschool having so much fun running and climbing around on the new Fort.

“A lot of our employees are locals with kids of their own so we know how much of a difference this financial support from local mining companies can make to kids’ education,” said Ian.

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Media contacts:

Moolarben Coal
Tracy Woodley
Email: tracy.woodley@yancoal.com.au;

Peabody-Wilpinjong Coal Mine
Jane Paterson
jpaterson@peabodyenergy.com
0417 281 754