

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am very pleased to announce a major new initiative for the school: a proposal to build a sustainability, environmental and community education hub with the working title of "The Shed". With your support, raising funds to support this initiative will be the key focus of our school fundraising efforts over the next 12 months.

What is it?

The Shed is a secure, covered shed and workshop which provides a custom facility to promote and empower students and the wider school community to develop important sustainable life skills. Initially focused on the maintenance and secure storage of bikes and other sustainable transportation, the Shed will become part of a wider precinct, including the existing tram and kitchen garden area, which emphasises practical, sustainable and outdoor skills development for students.

Who will use it?

- Students and teachers who ride bikes to school (and encourage more!)
- Applied learning students will use the workshop to develop projects and enterprise skills, such as fixing others' bikes and even developing new products.
- Each year the school participates in the Great Victorian Bike Ride, a tradition with a growing number of students, parents and teachers. Leading up to the GVBR, the school provides workshops on bike maintenance, safety and teamwork.
- Secure storage for the school's bike collection, which are for students who don't have their own bikes and who want to participate in bike education.

How will we build it?

The approach to building the Shed will form an important part of the educational and community goals of the project. While private contractors will be engaged to undertake the main infrastructure build, students in applied learning programs will take the lead in the fit out of the Shed facilities as part of their curriculum and project work, supported by parents and friends of the school volunteering their time, skills and enthusiasm.

How much will it cost?

The Buildings and Environments Subcommittee of the School Council has developed a detailed plan and costing for the Shed. The total cost of constructing the Shed will be \$50,000. This includes the cost of laying a slab, electrical connections and the construction of the building. On top of this, we will need the school community to volunteer their time and provide in-kind support.

We need your help!

Funding for the Shed will need to come primarily from donations from the school community. \$50,000 is a large target and we understand that in these difficult times, not everyone will be able to contribute. We do believe, however, that as a community we can achieve this target and together make an invaluable and long lasting contribution to the school and local community. If you are able to contribute, please make your donations to the Fitzroy High School Building Fund. The Building Fund has tax deductible status, so with June 30 just weeks away, now is the perfect time to make a donation.

(And a reminder that families experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to apply for support through another of our funds, the Family Support Fund, to ensure students can access the full range of educational opportunities provided by the school. Application forms are available at the school office.)

To make a donation to this exciting initiative or our other parent donation funds, please complete the form below and return it to the school office.

To find out more about the project and volunteering opportunities, contact Roger Smith, Convenor of the Buildings and Environment Subcommittee, by email at rogersmith1546@gmail.com

Yours sincerely,



Ralph Saubern, School Council President

