



MEDIA RELEASE

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Meridian SeamGas heeds Theodore Kindy's cry for help

Meridian SeamGas Joint Venture partners WestSide Corporation and Mitsui Exploration and Production Australia have pitched in to fund restoration of the Theodore Kindergarten's playground which was destroyed by the recent floods, along with much of the central Queensland community's infrastructure.

WestSide's Moura Area Manager Peter Dingle said provision of fresh turf and sand to refill the playground sandpit was a meaningful way for WestSide and Mitsui to show they care and help the community get back on its feet.

"With the school year starting, we knew that getting the kindergarten fully functioning was vitally important for both the children and their parents who no doubt need time to be able concentrate on the massive rebuilding effort required," Mr Dingle said.

Mr Dingle said the 2,000 square metres of turf had been sourced from a Rockhampton firm Fitzroy Turf, which would also lay the grass, while 50 cubic metres of sand was coming from Moura Sand & Gravel as soon their quarry became accessible.

WestSide, which operates Moura-based Meridian SeamGas, and Mitsui E&P Australia have jointly funded the playground restoration project at a cost of approximately \$15,000.

Vice President of the Theodore Early Childhood Centre Association (TECCA) Natalie Dunk-Andrews said the kindergarten was established in 2004 and now catered for up to 20 infants and pre-schoolers following a recent extension to the community-owned building.

"We were very fortunate to have not received any damage to the internal building and were able to open up our day care facility again on Monday (January 21) for the commencement of Term 1, providing a vital service to Theodore families," she said.

But Ms Dunk-Andrews said the new play-fort area and three associated sand-pits had been the hardest hit and needed re-stocking with sand, while many outdoor toys were also lost.

"The grass at the day care centre was totally destroyed and the donation of turf and sand is very much needed and appreciated beyond words," she said.

"This very generous donation will provide our children with a lovely, clean grassy area to play on and they will be able to use their amazing play-fort again sooner than we thought possible."

Ms Dunk-Andrews said the generous support from local and state community organisations had also been overwhelming.

"TECCA is very indebted to your generosity," she said.

The turf is scheduled to be delivered and laid on the morning of Saturday, January 29, 2011 from approximately 9am at the Kindergarten located at 5, First Avenue, Theodore

Any companies or individuals interested in helping Theodore restored damaged or lost community infrastructure should visit www.theodorerebuilds.com.au

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