

Facility: Fulham Correctional Centre
Media: Gippsland Times & Maffra Spectator, Sale
Published Date: 23 May 2014

Happy crew aboard East Sale Kindergarten's FriendShip

EAST Sale Kindergarten, located on the RAAF Base East Sale, launched the FriendShip, a remarkable wooden play ship built by prisoners at the Fulham Correctional Centre earlier this month.

The project was funded by the kindergarten's surplus budget from the previous few years and the ship was the fulfilment of a long standing dream of kindergarten assistant Rosanna Murray, who believed such an addition to the outdoor learning space would allow children to use their imagination to go "anywhere in the world".

UnitingCare Gippsland practice leader Sue Grogan-Williams and Air Base Executive Officer, Commanding Officer 30 Squadron Wing Commander Jim Svede were on hand to assist with the launch of the FriendShip.

In addressing children, families and staff at

the launch Ms Grogan-Williams said East Sale Kindergarten strove to develop partnerships with families and community when planning educational programs for children.

"Their commitment in achieving this was evident following the recent quality standards review where they received 'Exceeding' quality practices in relation to this," she said.

Wing Commander Svede said the base was a very family friendly place.

"We have a great relationship with the local community. We are pleased to have such a bright and interesting addition to the children's playground.

"Thank-you to the Fulham Correctional Centre Team, Bunnings and Dulux for their contribution to our kindergarten and putting in the hard work to give children of Air Force and local families an exciting playground to enjoy".

In celebration of the event, the children boarded the ship following a scattering of glitter and cheer!

East Sale Kindergarten director Shirley Fyfe said the FriendShip had been a long time in the making.

"But it's thanks to the RAAF, the Fulham Correctional Centre, Bunnings, Dulux and of course families at East Sale Kindergarten, that we have such a bright and colourful addition to our spacious outdoor environment for our children to enjoy," she said.

Rosanna Murray said, "I am just so happy that the boat project came to fruition and am grateful to the different people in the community who have helped with this project."

The East Sale Kindergarten provides early learning opportunities for children aged three to five years with enrolments from both RAAF families and the local Sale community.

