



A tree of knowledge, ideas, dreams and memories



United Nations Global Peace School

Working Together

"I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book."

J K Rowling

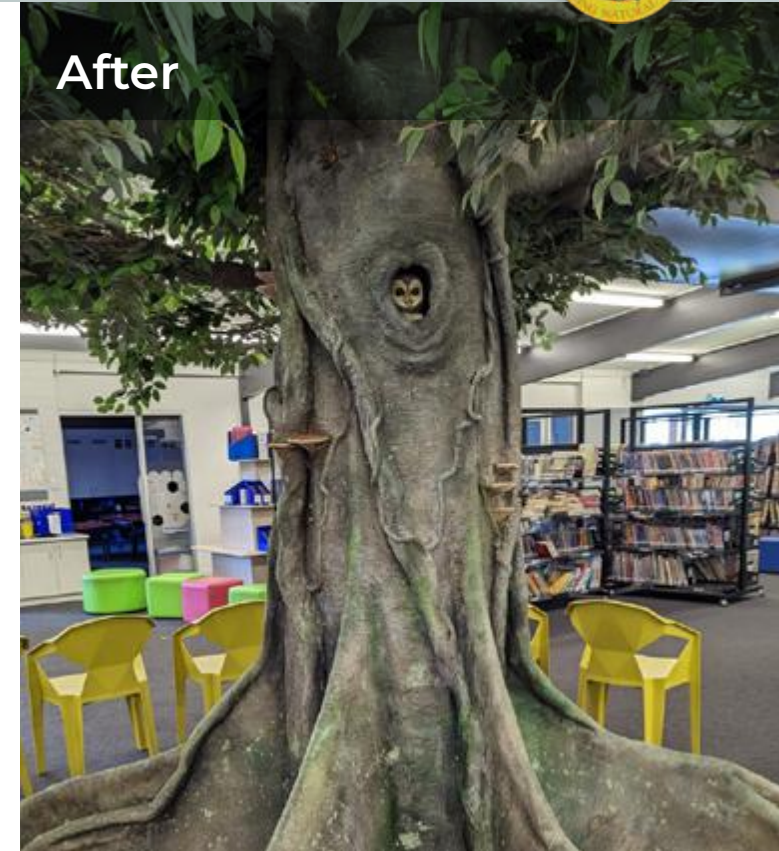


Inspiring a natural love of reading

To help children discover the joy of reading, teachers at Parafield Gardens Primary School were keen to create an inspirational reading and learning space. They envisioned a beautiful reading tree that would provide a focal point for reading activities in the school library/resource centre. As well as firing children's imagination, the tree would bring a relaxing sense of nature indoors.

Natureworks was only too happy to help the school achieve this! True to the teachers' vision, the magnificent artificial fig tree now sits proudly in the centre of the recently upgraded library space.

Children can sit in nooks of the fig root buttresses and immerse themselves in a good book, or gather around the tree to hear a story. While there, they can spot fungi, animals and insects hidden amongst the branches. Both teachers and students can enjoy a tree that not only enhances the space, it stimulates the imagination!



"The Reading tree is going to inspire so many beautiful memories and dreams for our students as they enjoy many great books in our library."

Deana Cuconits, Lead Teacher, Parafield Gardens Primary School

Left: children reading at Parafield Gardens Primary School (CC by 3.0 AU)



Designing and building the reading tree

As the tree was to be installed in the middle of the library area, it needed to be cleverly designed around a central support column. To do this, we created the main trunk in two halves and assembled them on site. We also built the four buttresses separately, for easier manufacture and transportation.

Once the tree pieces were in place, our artists applied textured blending to the seams so they were barely noticeable when finished. We then added branches and leaves to complete the effect.

Enhancing the space

Another design consideration was the need to distract attention from a prominent air-conditioning duct on the ceiling. We achieved this by careful planning of branches and leaves. Drawing the eye towards the tree rather than the ducting produced a much more visually pleasing effect!



The tree was made in six pieces for easier transport and installation



A Natureworks artisan works on the tree trunk in our Brisbane studio



The prominent air conditioning duct (before the tree was installed)



After installation, the tree's foliage helps to conceal the ducting



Installing the tree at the school



A tree installer or a tree hugger?



Summary of features and scope

- Design of artificial tree to suit the allocated space
- Artificial fig tree trunk made of fibreglass with durable waterproof paint finish
- 11 real tree branches (foraged locally by the team), de-barked and finished with fibre-filled waterproof compound and paint finish to match the trunk
- 840 artificial Ficus leaf sprays individually and carefully hot-glued to branches
- Various fibreglass animals and insects
- 32mm thick artificial turf at base of tree
- Delivery to Adelaide and installation on site



Room for lots of little visitors!



Comfy artificial turf to sit on



Children under the tree (Photo: Parafield Gardens Primary School)

“Words honestly cannot describe how absolutely blown away I am with what you have all created for us. It is absolutely exquisite and has exceeded anything I had dreamed of having created. I can’t thank you enough for bringing our vision to life.”

Deana Cuconits, Parafield Gardens Primary School



Various creatures to look for!



Fungi and vines on the trunk



Close-up view of insects on the trunk, and leafy foliage

Looking for a realistic artificial tree?

We can design and fabricate any type or size of tree to bring a sense of nature into your space. Alternatively, we can adapt an existing design such as this reading tree to suit your needs. We can also provide a wide range of themed props, such as storybook characters or animal sculptures.

Contact Natureworks to bring your vision to life!