

Thursday 15 March 2012

SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR NEW PLAYGROUNDS

With names like *Supernova*, *Girospiral* and *Star Net* you would be forgiven for thinking your kids were reliving their most recent exploits in outer space instead of comparing the fun factor of the latest additions to their local playground.

These intergalactic play pieces, along with safety features such as soft-fall ground cover, shade cloth and trees, play sculptures, landscaping and family picnic areas are reshaping playground all over the City of Ryde as part of Council's \$550,000 playground upgrade program.

Mayor, Cllr Artin Etmekdjian said: "In recent months, we have seen the opening of several new playgrounds, including Jim Walsh Park in Eastwood, Wandoo Park in Ryde and Charity Creek Cascades. Several more are close to completion, including Lardelli Park in Putney, a 10 acres multi-function park and playgrounds on the Royal Rehabilitation site.

"We also have exciting plans to building a \$1.3 million all-abilities playground in partnership with the Touched by Olivia Foundation to be called *Livvi's Place at Yamble Reserve*."

Council is undertaking a full playground audit based on their compliance with new Australian Safety Standards and on how well they suit the needs of surrounding families. This has led to the removal of old equipment from a number of sites.

The Mayor added: "With over 100 playgrounds across the City of Ryde, it is an ongoing responsibility for the Council to ensure that playgrounds are fun and safe for children, and that they provide comfortable and welcoming places for parents, to get together, relax and enjoy a healthy outdoors life. We are currently talking with schools and parents to find out what they like and want to see in our playgrounds."

Residents are invited to participate in the City of Ryde's review of open spaces and playgrounds by registering on www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/playgrounds or speak to Customer Service on 9952 8222.

Playground Roundup

New and major upgrades at:

- Midgee Reserve, Marsfield
- Jim Walsh Park, Eastwood
- Forrester Park, Eastwood
- Wandoo Park, Ryde
- Charity Creek Cascades, Ryde

New and upgraded playgrounds to come:

- Pidding Park, Ryde
- Blenheim Park, North Ryde
- Livvi's Place, Ryde (new)
- Lardelli Park, Putney (new)