

Media Release

Tuesday 28 May 2019

Lawson Reserve crowned the best playspace

Camden South's Lawson Reserve has been crowned the best playspace under \$500,000, at the Parks and Leisure Australia (NSW/ACT) Awards of Excellence last week.

The playspace was upgraded for under \$150,000 and reopened to the community in September 2018. After extensive research and consultation with surrounding organisations and residents, there were a number of key improvements made. These included the:

- Replacement of the existing play structures with structured experiences, including balance beams, grip and spin, rockers, swings and climbing rocks and nets;
- Introduction low impact, natural experiences into the space, including stepping stones, vertical stepping logs and balance beams;
- Integration of the structured experiences with the low impact experiences, to improve accessibility between the two spaces;
- Relocation of the structured experiences and the natural experiences, so users could flow through the space more easily;
- Improvements to all-ability access, by including an accessible swing;
- Improvements to accessibility, with an additional pathway leading through the space;
- Resurfacing of the basketball facility, to eliminate noise concerns for surrounding residents;
- Addition of concrete to the netball facility, so it could be used;
- Improvement of turf growth, so play is easy and comfortable;
- Providing an 'outdoor classroom' space for Macarthur Preschool to use on a regular basis; and
- Enhancement of the visual appeal, by adding vegetation to complement the existing Cumberland Plain Woodland vegetation.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Theresa Fedeli, said the way the space was upgraded, and how it is now used, was very special to her.

"It was an honour to design and deliver Lawson Reserve in consultation with Macarthur Preschool, so we could help these children achieve key educational outcomes," Cr Fedeli said.

"Macarthur Preschool now regularly use this space as an outdoor classroom for formal lessons including reading, discussions and craft. This is completely unique to this space.

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“The children at Macarthur Preschool also collected foliage from surrounding trees and plants and pressed them into the wet concrete of one of the pathways. That pathway is now a beautiful mosaic of patterns made from these imprints.

“And, what’s really special, is the addition of accessible equipment. There are 3,327 residents throughout Camden that need help in their day-to-day lives due to disability, and 768 of these residents are aged under 19 years. It was incredibly important to us that all of our residents had a beautiful space to enjoy.”

For more information on Lawson Reserve, as well as other playspaces near you, visit camden.nsw.gov.au/parks-and-recreation

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