

Media release

15 March 2024

Media opportunity

Glenorchy Mayor Bec Thomas TODAY will officially open the \$1.2M Benjafield Park Playspace.

WHEN: 10:00am TODAY (Friday 15 March, 2024)

WHERE: Benjafield Park, Gormanston Road/Hopkins Street

New playspace at Benjafield Park officially opened

The new playspace at Benjafield Park has been officially opened following a \$1.2 million renewal project.

Glenorchy Mayor Bec Thomas said the new playspace was driven by the community, with a poll determining the theme of the play equipment.

“A space theme was the popular choice, and this allowed Council to deliver play equipment that, with a little imagination, could be just as easily navigating the far reaches of the solar system as it is supporting dreams of such adventures in a playground in Moonah.”

Mayor Thomas said the community connection was further supported with a bequest from the estate of a resident who lived all his life in nearby Gormanston Road, which was used to purchase all-abilities and wheelchair suitable play equipment.

“Reginald Webb suffered mobility issues throughout his life after a severe hip injury in his early teens. As an almost daily visitor to Benjafield Park in his later years, Mr Webb’s bequest has assisted council in ensuring children of all ability levels will be able to enjoy this new playspace.

“It is particularly heartwarming when someone with such a strong connection to a place helps create a lasting legacy for others, and I thank Mr Webb and his family for their generosity and commitment to the community.”

Mayor Thomas said the revamped playspace featured a We-Go Swing, which was suitable for wheelchairs, as well as a wheelchair spinner, to ensure it catered for children of all abilities.

“These pieces of equipment complement the rocket ship-styled towers, slides, a spinning orb, dual flying foxes, a seesaw rocker, and equipment specifically designed to be used as percussion instruments.

“The equipment supports not just physical activity, but also aims to stimulate imagination and creativity through play in a safe and accessible space.”

The project also included the provision of seating and shelter and is completely fenced off due to its proximity to the area of the park where dogs are permitted.

Mayor Thomas said the Benjafield playspace refurbishment was funded by the recent sale of underutilised land to Homes Tasmania for the development of social and affordable housing.

“Proceeds from the sale were placed in Council’s Property Disposals Reserve which is used exclusively for the acquisition, development, improvement and/or accessibility of open space.

“Benjafield Playground is one of our municipal area’s most significant and popular district playspaces. Having served the community for more than two decades, it formed a key plank in Council’s Playspaces Strategy,” she said.

ENDS

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