

COMPLETING STAGE 3 OF WATERLILY PLAYSCAPE

WATERLILY Park in Ocean Shores is one of the most beautiful, tranquil, easily accessed, nature inspired parks in the Byron Shire.

Waterlily Playscape grew from local community needs for social and play space. It is a central hub where family members can relax and watch children of all ages and abilities, explore, laugh, run, play, and be creative with nature based play.

With support from Mayor Richardson and Council's Open Space Manager, Michael Matthews, the Waterlily Community Playscape Committee (WCPC) was formed to gain local and government funding to bring the community's ideas to fruition. Over the past five years our talented, dedicated and hard working volunteers have secured over \$500,000 to provide a design plan which included a giant see-saw, a flying fox, a play station, a fairy throne/story telling chair, a rock dragon, little kids swings, a large Fort with double slippery dip, a balance beam, a basket swing, a water pump, a free electric BBQ that specifically has wheelchair accessibility, a shelter, shade sails, a water fountain, gym equipment, two public toilets (the first in Ocean Shores) park furniture, landscaping and advanced shade trees, wide pathways for wheelchair access and 500 mtrs of shared pathway through



the Park for walking your dog on lead, push bike riding for all ages and abilities, scooters, skating and wheelchair access, jogging etc, three garbage bins, a dog bag dispenser and a 'bin ya butts' container. Hopefully, the recycle bins will come very soon.

It's taken us extensive community consultations at local schools and widely with residents and park users here, online surveys and petitions, exceptional letters of support from local community groups and businesses and many grant applications that weren't always successful, but we're nearly

finished, after more than five years of passionate progress to bring the community's vision to life. Special thanks to Splendour in the Grass for your generous donation to get us started, and Ben Franklin and Tamara Smith, Ocean Shores Country Club and our local community for their amazing generosity and support.

It's wonderful to see a once neglected community parcel of land off Yamble Drive, and a salvinia choked lake, breathe again and flourish with multiple uses like picnics, themed birthday parties, Easter egg hunts, events, tai chi, yoga and exercise

classes, Christmas parties, book circles and swaps, family barbecues, tennis coaching and social tennis matches (day and night) and school and pre-school outings. Seeing the community take ownership of this park, and families and schools having lots of fun, and still picking up their rubbish and popping it in the bins provided, shows a healthy respect for their environment and those around them, and that puts a smile on anyone's face, and it's always great to see.

The final elements that Council delayed for so long, the little kids swings in a boat surround that the Ocean Shores Public School students and local community raised funds for from cake, face painting and crazy hair stalls; and essential bike racks for the shared pathway will be in before Christmas 2020.

There are other priorities that our community has requested like hard courts for basketball/netball, a cultural garden, a timber footbridge across Orana drain and more off-road shared cycleways which may take more will power from Byron Council and more passionate, talented community minded team members to deliver in the not too distant future; but vision, passion, great ideas, and keeping your eye on the goal will always bring a community project to life and keep the community unified.