

31st March 2010

Liberty Swing for Harry Sawkins Park

Shoalhaven City Council has accepted a generous donation from the Variety and Shoalhaven Bash Team to install a Liberty Swing in Harry Sawkins Park.

The swing will help children in wheelchairs to enjoy the freedom and fun of swinging in a Shoalhaven playground.

Seen as revolutionary in its design, the liberty swing provides an opportunity for those with disabilities to enhance their play experience. Harry Sawkins Park was chosen as the most suitable site as it has level pathways and an existing disabled toilet. Its central position will also allow wide usage.

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green said the liberty swing will be a valuable addition to Harry Sawkins Park.

"Imagine the fun many young children gain from playing on the climbing frame or sitting in the cloud swing or running around the duck pond, Cllr Green said. "Now we have a swing which will allow young children who have a disability to enjoy swinging in the park with their parents or carers. I thank the Variety Club and the Shoalhaven Bash Team on their generous contribution."

The Variety Club has a vision to see at least one Liberty Swing in each major playground in Australia. The swing allows a wheelchair to safely fit inside a swinging apparatus that provides children with the exhilarating experience of swinging.

Council accepted the donation of the swing and has committed to financially support the installation and upgrade of access from McGrath Avenue at a cost of \$15,100.

This swing encourages inclusive play in Harry Sawkins Park which is targeted for future equal access opportunities to facilities within the Park.

Cllr Green said: "It's a delight to be a part of this state of the art play installation, and to be able to offer this kind of experience to all people. We want to continue to create accessible facilities in the Shoalhaven that all of our citizens can enjoy."

CONTACT: Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green

(02) 4429 3251
0423 881 873