



4 March 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

The CPlay Playground at Caroline Bay is a true destination play facility, drawing visitors from Canterbury, Otago, and Southland for repeat visits. Others from further afield also visit on occasions. A woman visitor from New York said, "there is nothing like this in New York."

The design incorporates education elements from local Māori and European history. Having an artist appointed by Arowhenua Runanga on the committee has successfully delivered a bicultural design for this project.

Another important aspect identified in early consultation is catering for a diverse range of physical and neurological abilities.

Designed, funded, and built as a community partnership with Council, CPlay Committee, corporates, and individuals, CPlay has involved a large section of the community.

People enjoying CPlay have been too numerous to count at busy times. On occasions there have been more people using the playground than the thousands attending the free Carnival concerts. Ages of users range from 2 to 92 years old.

CPlay is used from dawn until dusk and it has been difficult to find time to clean and inspect equipment. The popularity of CPlay is fifteen times that of the previous playground at the same site. This is evidenced by having to install additional bins for waste and recycling.

Safety under surfacing from the previous playground on the site was recycled into shock pads for this playground. This is a first for the country which contributed to making the build more sustainable and lowering its carbon footprint.

Council sees the benefits of this project as a positive contribution to the lifestyle afforded residents and a drawcard for visitors. This is evident in the vibrancy created by spontaneous social interactions spaces used for recreational and cultural activities, physical challenges aiding physical, cognitive development and fitness. The considerable number of visitors provide an economic contribution to local businesses. Hospitality, service, tourism, and retail sectors have all benefited from visitors to CPlay.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Steans

Parks and Recreation Manager