



TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL Office of the Mayor

27 March 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my full support and endorsement for CPlay Playground, a community asset that provides an accessible environment for all children, and a community driven project that deserves recognition and appreciation.

CPlay is a remarkable example of how a community can come together to create something beautiful and beneficial for all. The playground was championed by volunteers. It prioritised cultural inclusion and accessibility, setting a standard for future endeavours. Funds were raised predominately by donations from local businesses, members of the community, schools, clubs, and grants. The collaborative efforts of volunteers, government, charities, and private sector partners were crucial to the success. Volunteers led communications, concept design, and fundraising, resulting in broader community engagement and support.

The involvement of a respected charitable trust, The Aoraki Foundation, enhanced transparency with donors and lightened the load on volunteers, allowing them to focus on community engagement and playground design. The Timaru District Council's sponsorship and management support streamlined processes and ensured transparency with contractors. A skilled project manager, representing both CPlay and Council interests, facilitated effective coordination during the construction phase. Specialist contractors were enlisted for design and construction tasks, guaranteeing quality, safety, and adherence to design requirements.

The result is a superb and fun playground that caters to the diverse needs and abilities of all children, taking into consideration all their physical, mental, or sensory needs and challenges.

The playground features a variety of equipment, such as swings, slides, climbing structures, tunnels, bridges, and sensory panels, that are safe, durable, and adaptable. These have been themed to help share our stories and histories of the Caroline Bay area, including bespoke whare, shipwreck and lighthouse slide tower. The playground also has a large open space for running, playing, and socialising, as well as a shaded area for resting and picnicking. There have been large crowds there over the Summer, and because of the ample space, it hasn't felt chaotic. The playground is surrounded by trees and plants, creating a natural and inviting environment for children and families, both local and visiting.

CPlay has enhanced one of our District's premier parks; Caroline Bay, and created a wonderful space for children to play, and a place for the community to connect, learn, and grow, ultimately

helping our community thrive together. This project contributes to the Timaru Districts vision, Connecting Citizens, Enhancing Lifestyle and a Sustainable Environment.

I am proud to have CPlay in our district, and I commend the efforts and achievements of everyone involved in this project. I believe that CPlay is a worthy candidate for the NZ Playground of the Year, and I strongly recommend it for this award.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Bowen', with a small flourish at the end.

Nigel Bowen
Mayor