



Percy Park, 10, from Ross Creek checks out the new playground which has a poppet head paying tribute to Ballarat's goldrush history. Picture by Kate Healy



Climbing fun at Winterfield Park.



Isaac Shan, 6 and Eden Shan, 20 months old from Winter Valley, at the official opening of new playground at Winterfield Park in Winter Valley.

A tribute to city's goldrush history

CHILDREN hit the swings and slides yesterday at the official opening of the \$2 million Winterfield Park in Winter Valley.

The Moritz Drive playground pays homage to the city's goldrush history.

The Courier's Kate Healy photographed all the action.



Goldfields developers national director of communities Paul Cicchiello, Ballarat mayor Des Hudson and Goldfields development manager Luke Guirguis at the official opening of new playground at Winterfield Park in Winter Valley.



Alex Bourke, 16, and Elliott Bourke, 13, from Invermay Park hone their umpiring skills on the oval at the new park.



Ups and downs on the slides and climbing hill at Winterfield Park.



Climbing fun at Winterfield Park.

Winter Valley's new \$2m playground opens for fun

Michelle Smith

BALLARAT families have a new fun playground to check out with the official opening yesterday of an eye-catching hilltop playground in Winter Valley.

The \$2 million Winterfield Park on Moritz Drive pays homage to the city's goldrush history with a poppet head tower, visible from throughout the Winterfield estate, looming over the playground which also features hill access ropes, multiple slides, an

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Paul Cicchiello

agility trail, and spin point play equipment.

A small oval, paths, a sheltered barbeque, toilet facilities, fitness equipment and drinking fountains en-

sure it will become a popular family venue.

Renju Jose and her children Isaac, 6, and Eden, 20 months, live 300 metres from the playground.

The trio have been eagerly awaiting the park's completion.

During visits to the park over the past few weeks, ahead of its official opening yesterday, Isaac has learned to ride his bike without training wheels on the path surrounding the oval.

"Because of the building around the new estates, everywhere there is obstacles on the road but at the park he loves it ... riding on the path around the oval.

"Every time we go to the park he wants to take the

bike and ride, and there's the swings and everything else there."

Almost 250 trees have been planted to provide shade and amenity in the future with a mix of crown ash, redpointe red maples, swamp mahogany, elms, and oaks to create a new landscape throughout the 17,400sqm park.

Paul Cicchiello, national director of communities for Goldfields, which developed the Winterfield estate, said an activity and fun-filled park was the heart of every

great community.

"Our new park has been designed with an active lifestyle in mind with facilities to accommodate neighbourhood cricket, footy and soccer," Mr Cicchiello told *The Courier*.

Ballarat mayor Des Hudson said the new park would allow the community to build connections and families to create memories.

"It is fantastic to see this investment in our community and in the Ballarat West Growth Zone," Cr Hudson said.