Media Release



31 May 2022

New park brings Officer community together

A new, more than one hectare park officially opened on Saturday 28th May in AVID Property Group's (AVID) Hillstowe community in Officer – offering local families a range of exciting play equipment, active zones and calming spaces designed to support the local community to re-connect in nature.

AVID Property Group Project Director Danny Boubli said the park is located centrally within the community, to ensure all residents are within a 5-minute walk from the park and to also create sense of place within the boutique Hillstowe community.

"At AVID one of our core values is 'bringing communities together' and the Hillstowe Central Park has been purposefully designed with this in mind- incorporating multiple spaces for children and adults alike to enjoy," Mr Boubli said.

"The playground includes equipment for smaller children such as a rocker and carousel as well as a larger play structure, inground trampolines and a multi-sports court complete with spectator seating for older children and families to enjoy.

"Additionally, we have incorporated 3,058 sqm of open green space for recreational activity, 394 meters of footpaths, multiple shaded picnic areas and various seating zones to create holistic outdoor spaces for people of all ages to experience.

"We welcome Hillstowe residents, and the wider Officer community, to get outside and enjoy time together in the space.

Landscape Architect at Taylors Development Strategies Leon Rozitis said the design of the Hillstowe Central Park focuses on connecting people to the natural surrounds whilst referencing the history of the Officer area.

"The park includes two dedicated 'nature-play' areas, which is a fairly new concept in park design. Studies show that nature play enhances children's physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development so we're pleased to be able to bring this approach to Officer," Mr Rozitis said.

"Additionally, over 115 trees have been planted throughout, including those in the ornamental tree grove, chosen to reflect the horticultural history of the area.

"A large existing gum tree has been retained on-site, coupled with newly planted native drought tolerant plant species that will encourage biodiversity and canopy trees that will create shaded areas and support the cooling of the park.

"A key trend we brought to the Hillstowe Central Park was a natural palette of materiality making specific reference to the site's history. The use of recycled brickwork to the arbor acknowledges the brickmaking industry in the 1880s, while the palette of the play equipment, furniture and finishes aims to create links to the timber industry of the 1870s."

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The Hillstowe Central Park is open for residents and visitors to enjoy and can be found on Rosedene Avenue, Officer.

For more information on Hillstowe, visit <u>www.hillstoweliving.com.au</u> or phone 1300 159 138.

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About Hillstowe

Hillstowe is an intimate 210 block community positioned in Officer within Melbourne's thriving south east growth corridor.

Hillstowe is a welcoming, inclusive community, which supports residents at all stages of life – from first home buyers, to young families, to downsizers.

AVID acquired the land for development in late-2018 and commenced work on the 13.63hecatre community mid-2019. Hillstowe is expected to welcome 600 residents upon completion in 2023.

About AVID Property Group

AVID Property Group (AVID) is an award-winning Australian developer responsible for a diversified portfolio of residential communities in key growth precincts across Australia.

Having delivered \$2.6 billion worth of projects over the past 13 years, AVID's current portfolio includes more than 14,300 residential blocks and a gross revenue pipeline of \$4.9 billion.

With 38 projects across the eastern seaboard, AVID has a diverse mix of developments, including masterplanned communities, completed homes and apartments.

Led by highly experienced senior management, AVID deliver exceptional communities, valuable shareholder returns and wonderful environments for its customers.

For more information, visit www.avid.com.au.

For further information, please contact BBS Communications Group:

Allegra Young ayoung@bbscommunications.com.au 0457 056 838 | 07 3221 6711