

## **'Families in Parks'**

**Onepoto 9 Jan 2011**

After an impromptu visit with my two and three year old to see Dad and his 'boat' down at the pond we then wandered towards the childrens park, turning to walk up the path towards the big slide, to the right of us, like a 'mirage in the desert', people, little people, bikes, toys galore appeared... Suddenly the sun came out. I felt thrilled to have accidently stumbled across "Families in Parks" a free public organised play activity occasion for the under fives. Of which, encompassed on a very large scale a grass area of various, fun age appropriate activities. A large circular area fenced off catered for the very little people 0 - 2years with parental supervision while a larger adjoining open field area had various activities for older preschoolers.

With many sun umbrellas, sunscreen and chairs provided for use, extra added comfort especially on a hot summer day.

I loved this attention to detail. I was amazed by how many different types and styles of bikes, scooters and trailers on offer...catering to all ages with some for slightly older children 7+years. A fantastic area for the children to ride on with the smooth concrete paths in the park. I was even more impressed with a maintenance man on site who promptly fixed a bike bringing much joy to my son enabling him to have the experience. There were also little people gym equipment, bikes, steppers and rowers...all activities available to the children enabling them to have the experience, building their confidence and learning.

I would highly recommend to all young families, to pack a picnic lunch and your preschoolers, enjoy a relaxing experience and fun afternoon out. And such a rare delight that evening to have our children 'want' to go to bed early.

Yasmeyn Balsom