

Eagerly-Awaited Urunga Lido Officially Opened

With Summer just around the corner, the eagerly-awaited \$535,000 Urunga Lido was officially opened last Friday by the Member for Oxley, the Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, Bellingen Shire Council and Reflections Holiday Parks.

Member for Oxley, the Hon. Melinda Pavey said the Urunga Sea Lido was an important social, cultural and recreational facility enjoyed by many residents of and visitors to Urunga over the years.

"I have advocated for the restoration of the Lido on behalf of the community and I am happy to be announcing its completion," Ms Pavey said.

"The whole community has been united in their desire to see a Lido reinstalled and I am proud to see families now being able to enjoy this amazing area even more.

"The NSW Government, which is committed to improving regional communities and visitor economies, has contributed more than half a million-dollars to this important local project which will make Urunga shine."

The \$535,000 in funding Reflections received from the NSW Government's *Restart NSW Regional Growth – Environment and Tourism Fund* has allowed the installation of:

- A 40-metre long, 1800-wide jetty boardwalk with access directly from the grassed area adjacent to a newly-constructed beach retaining wall.
- An attached floating pontoon with an aluminium ramp access located adjacent to the boardwalk together with stainless steel ladder access.
- A separate floating pontoon located approximately 25 metres from the jetty boardwalk
- Viewing platform at the end of the jetty boardwalk
- Two beach access ramps to the beach and swimming area.

Reflections Holiday Parks CEO Steve Edmonds said he was pleased to see this important public facility already being enjoyed by local residents and visitors to the area.

"We know that the entire Urunga Community has been passionate about a new Lido since it was removed decades ago, and our successful application for grant funding from the NSW Government combined with Bellingen Shire Council's contribution, has allowed this to happen," Mr Edmonds said.

"Our surplus funds are invested across the Group's holiday and community parks, and we rely on Grant Funding to make critical projects like the new Urunga Lido a reality."

The original popular concrete Lido (boardwalk) was removed by the Urunga Reserve Trust back in the 90's due to serious degradation of the structure caused by 'concrete cancer'. With the help of NSW Government Grant Funding, Reflections Holiday Parks and Bellingen Shire Council have been able to rebuild a new Lido for future generations to enjoy.

Mr Edmonds said the concept was to build an accessible, boardwalk-style facility with a floating pontoon that complemented the already stunning swimming area at Urunga.

"We wanted to create a swimming pool within nature and reinstate the historical swimming structure known as the Lido, in a way that people could connect to," Mr Edmonds said.

"We use nature to create experiences that delight and in all of our projects we work off the credo that 'nature never felt so good.'"

Mr Edmonds said Bellingen Shire Council was instrumental in being able to transform the facility and create the final natural swimming pool that locals love.

"Council has provided invaluable support at all stages of this project and was responsible for the dredging works last year which ensured that a swimming hole with a suitable depth could be created," Mr Edmonds said.

"Without Bellingen Shire Council this project would never have been completed in time for summer."

To learn more about the new Urunga Lido, visit <https://youtu.be/iW7WYYXbF3w>. To book an inspiring stay at the Reflections Holiday Park at Urunga, visit www.reflectionsholidayparks.com.au.

#Ends#



Photo: The Urunga Tidal Pool has now been officially opened ahead of what looks to be a hot summer ahead. Reflections Holiday Parks, the Member for Oxley, the Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, Bellingen Shire Council and the Urunga Tidal Action Group came together to cut the ribbon for this important community achievement.

About *Reflections Holiday Parks*

Reflections manages the operations of 37 holiday parks and community reserves on Crown land throughout NSW. Formed in 2013 to consolidate the operations of 28 coastal and nine inland holiday parks and reserves located on Crown land throughout NSW, the Group incorporated three holiday park brands, (*North Coast Holiday Parks, South Coast Holiday Parks and Inland Waters Holiday Parks*), under its corporate banner, *Crown Holiday Parks*.

Rebranded to *Reflections Holiday Parks* in February 2018, the Group brings its 37 holiday and community parks on Crown land under the one unified banner. The group is a not-for-profit organisation and reinvests its surplus funds across all its holiday and community parks, so visitors and regional communities can keep enjoying these pristine locations. The vision of *Reflections Holiday Parks* is to inspire all who visit.

<https://www.reflectionsholidayparks.com.au>