

Accessibility for all at The Hills Forest campsite

A FLURRY of activity from Mundaring District forester Jamie Ridley and his team at Mundaring District heralded last-minute preparations for the opening of The Hills Forest Campground.

They made sure that everything looked spick and span to welcome special guests 1996 Paralympian of the Year Louise Sauvage and Darling Range MLA John Day, who jointly opened the Campground.

CALM Executive Director Dr Syd Shea was there early to welcome guests to the facility, which is unique in that it is the only universally accessible campground associated with an activity centre in Australia.

With generous sponsorship from Alcoa of Australia, the Lotteries Commission through the Gordon Reid Foundation, and ACROD, the campground is designed for use by people wishing to camp in tents in a bush setting but who want the luxury of proximity to services such as toilets, hot showers, car parking, electric cooking

by Kate Baxter

facilities and easy access to activities.

Sites and facilities are designed to be low key and unobtrusive, and offer a range of combinations—individual, paired or group—for up to 45 campers.

Campsite facilities include a firewood barbecue, wood box and fire ring, furniture and tent site with soft sawdust base.

Open layout

The central cookhouse provides cooking facilities on electric barbecues, with sink, hot water and power points in an open layout to provide a social area.

As John Day MLA said, "All Western Australians should have the opportunity to pursue and enjoy outdoor activities in our natural environment, in a safe and comfortable way.

"This new camping facility will ensure this, as it means that the more than 30,000 Western Australians with disabilities will now be able to go bush."

Guests were welcomed



MLA John Day, Louise Sauvage, Charlie Chuditch and Stev Slavin check out the new campground. Photo by Michael Palmer, courtesy The Hills Gazette.

with billy tea and damper and everyone had the opportunity to toast marshmallows over the fire

before being entertained by the Kooraubudda Aboriginal Dance Group with Dreamtime stories,

songs and dance.

CALM Financial Services Branch senior finance officer Stefan

Dimitro's son, James was among the students from the Sir David Brand Special School and

Walliston Primary School, who enjoyed tapping sticks in time to the didgeridoo.

