



Magical sea-creature inspired water sprayground

For this highly imaginative wet playspace at Yeppoon, we branched out beyond our traditional realm of naturalistic realism and ventured into the world of abstract contemporary art.

Working closely with landscape architects Vee Design, Natureworks developed an abstract interpretation of Kraken tentacles (giant octopus), a stingray, a starfish, turtles and a giant crab. Using a range of finishes, we created larger-than-life artforms with precise mosaic patterns and a unique 3D bronze appliqué that hugs the free-flowing sculptural forms. The 3D micro-bronze patterned inlay tells the story of the sea creatures fringing the coral reef off Yeppoon.

A key challenge of the project was to produce large wet-play sculptural icons of local significance that would meet Australian Playground Standards. The brief called for a concrete substrate with no soft-fall, requiring the tall sculptures to be designed as unclimbable, but still inspirational and with great visual impact. Each sculpture was designed with a 75-year lifespan, reinforced to withstand strong weather conditions.

The hero piece of the installation is the 'Keppel Kraken'. At a height of 4m, this central sculpture towers over other elements, periodically dumping an avalanche of water on unsuspecting children below! An additional series of intermittent spray and jumping jets of water add more surprises and a ton of fun to this popular sprayground.

