

● Debra Mudra says consultation with families found a water theme appealed to users of Les Stone Park and, below, an image of the new pirate-themed equipment. Picture: MATTHEW SMITHWICK

## Park to be turned into pirate playground

BY BRAD WORRALL

IT will be "ahoy there me hearties" after a pirates and pelicans makeover for one of Wodonga's most popular parks.

Les Stone Park will be closed for two weeks from today in the \$50,000 revamp that will include a pirate ship named after the Christopher Columbus flagship.

The neighbourhood park is considered as one of the Wodonga's three main playgrounds headed by council's \$1 million mega-playground at Sumsion Gardens.

Wear and tear on the equipment over the past decade had prompted the up-

Manager of early years and recreation Debra Mudra said the existing playground would be shut for two weeks for the new equipment to be installed.

"This is a very exciting project which

will see the equipment that is clearly showing its age replaced with a new range of play equipment," she said.

"It will include a large pirate ship with various elements including slides, monkey bars and a small wooden bridge.

"There will also be equipment for smaller children with a wave boat and see-saw, all with a water theme."

Ms Mudra plans for the pirate ship, named The Santa Maria, and water theme was the result of consultation.

"We talked to parents and this is what they wanted," she said.

"Initially we wanted to do this in winter but the wet weather meant we put plans back until now.

"Les Stone Park is incredibly popular in the lead-up to Christmas and where we hold Australia Day activities.

"The plan is that we will have the park reopened for Australia Day."

