



From left, Laurie Maher, Malcolm Brooks and Dave Medcalf inspect Kibble Park.

# Praise for park upgrade

AFTER months of contention the next stage of Gosford's Kibble Park upgrade was officially opened at the weekend.

While there are still some final touches to be made, the bulk of the second, third and fourth stages of the nearly \$5 million upgrade was unveiled on Saturday when hundreds of people inspected the new-look park.

Gosford Mayor Laurie Maher said there had been a positive response to the result.

"It actually creates a civic centre, a gathering place for people to come and meet," he said.

Project manager Dave Medcalf said the latest stage was completed on budget.

He said despite problems surrounding interruptions to trade during the latest phase of work, shopkeepers approved of the result.

"The next stage won't impact on the shops as much as this stage did during construction," he said. "During this latest stage we maintained access to the shops and the contractors were working ahead of schedule to complete it."

Gosford Councillor Malcolm Brooks, for whom the upgrade was a pet project, said the five-stage upgrade proposal was floated in 1997.

The \$600,000 first stage, the upgrade of the William St Mall, was completed in September.

The \$2.3 million second, third and fourth stages were combined to achieve a more cohesive look for the park.

The \$2 million final stage, which should be completed next year, will involve improvements to the grass park including a stage, toilets and a playground.