

Lake Hood Jumping Platform FAQ

April 2024

What is the jumping platform?

A purpose-built jumping platform has been designed for older children and adults to enjoy. Users must be confident swimmers as they need to swim out to the access platform, and then climb a ladder to either a 2.5m or 4m high platform.

Where is the jumping platform?

At Lake Hood. It is located in its own pond at the north end of new lake, west of the rowing club building. It was not possible to build the 4m platform in any parts of the existing lake, as the lake depth was insufficient. Over time, as the lake is extended it will be incorporated into the lake, but until then the water is sourced separately from natural aquifers. Prior to opening, water quality testing was undertaken in the jumping platform pond, with the results showing there is no cyanobacteria present. Regular water testing will occur over the summer months to ensure the quality remains suitable for contact recreation.

Why was the jumping platform built?

The primary reason was to address safety concerns regarding people jumping off Lake Hood canal bridges, which boats and other watercraft also use. Knowing this activity was enjoyed by our community, we have provided a purpose-built jumping platform that's even higher and has a larger area for spectators to watch while having a picnic. We want all confident swimmers to enjoy using the jumping platform and ask that all users respect one another, take turns to jump and take all waste and recycling home with them.

What safety controls are in place at the jumping platform?

The jumping platform is in a 4m deep open body of water, with no lifeguard supervision. Users must be confident swimmers and children should be actively supervised at all times, as like any other body of water, drowning could occur. The design includes a lower gradient entrance and exit beach and emergency climb out ropes on the steeper gradient sides, should they be required. All four sides of the water body have a sudden drop down to 4 m deep. Lifebuoys have also been provided. High sided barriers on the platforms provide fall protection of non-jumping areas and signage on the platform decks reinforces the main safety rule that users need to ensure the water below is clear of other users before they jump. A handrail has been installed near the access ladder to assist with people waiting their turn. Should the number of users exceed that who can circulate and the platform handrail is full of users waiting to jump, users who have just jumped should go back to the beach and join the queue on land.

Are there any number or weight limits for the jumping platform?

The platform sizes are small (4-6sqm) by design so that this limits the number of people able to be on the platforms at any one time. The ladders up to the platforms are certified to 150kg, so nobody over this weight should use the jumping platform. We also recommend one person at a time should be on the ladders to ensure the combined weight doesn't exceed 150kgs.

What more is planned for the jumping platform and surrounds?

In the coming month some seating will be installed and trees will be planted to provide a source of shade in the years to come. Other than a slide being added to the 2.5m platform, no further additions are included within the engineered design. The slide will be added over the winter months as the pond needs to be drained in order for the slide to be installed.