



Need a coffee while the kids burn off some energy? **Nicole Partridge** and **Deborah Johnson** road-test six of Sydney's best playgrounds with cafes

### WINNERERREMY BAY PARK AND FLYING FOX CAFE

**Winner**erremy Bay Reserve, 2 Mona St, Mona Vale; Monday-Friday 9am-3pm, weekends 8am-4.30pm, 9986 0980, [flyingfoxcafe.com.au](http://flyingfoxcafe.com.au), [pittwater.nsw.gov.au](http://pittwater.nsw.gov.au)

**PUT** the words flying fox and cafe in the same sentence and you have a winner. The Flying Fox Cafe is located on the picturesque southern shores of Pittwater, and the state-of-the-art playground and surrounding parklands have something for everyone. The great selection of play equipment, like the gigantic spider's web climbing frame and the oversized flying fox, will keep kids of all ages amused for hours while you're sipping a double-shot latte on one of the many bench seats dotted throughout the enclosed play area. And if they tire of the playground, you can head on down to the small, secluded beach; plenty of mud to squelch between the toes and safe swimming. If you want to make a day of it, the cafe offers everything from muffins to mains or take advantage of the many picnic tables and electric barbecues. Don't forget to bring your bikes, rollerblades, scooters and a ball to enjoy the parklands and pathways.

**Kids' comment:** "The flying fox was awesome."

Getting into the swing: Jack (left) and Ben enjoy the playground at Winnererremy Bay Park (main)



**PICTURES**   
**Bob Barker**  
**Nicole Partridge**  
**Deborah Johnson**

### AND BALMORAL BOATSHED

cafe open daily for breakfast and

ce you find that coveted spot, there's timers with kids should head for the its amazing views over to Middle hire and a well-established children's boat cubbyhouse, slides, lots of a climbing frame located only a few nd calm, shallow waters of Balmoral e a canopy of shade over the tables picnics. And you'll be spoilt for choice range of kiosks and cafes along the round is the Balmoral Boatshed where t white (superb), ice cream or even



### CAMELLIA GARDENS AND THE TEAHOUSE

**Cnr Kareena Rd and President Ave, Caringbah; park open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm, weekends 9.30am-6pm daylight saving, cafe open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm, weekends 9am-5pm, 9540 2018, [teahouse.com.au](http://teahouse.com.au), [sutherland.nsw.gov.au](http://sutherland.nsw.gov.au)**

**WOW**, what a find. Tucked away on the corner of a busy road in the Shire, this secret garden serves so much more than coffee. The small neighbourhood park and award-winning teahouse offering breakfast, lunch, devonshire teas and that all important takeaway cappuccino, is just the first stop on a journey through an enchanted wonderland. Beyond the enclosed playground and lush picnic lawn is an oasis of winding stone walkways, babbling brooks and shady pergolas, set against a backdrop of lush tropical vegetation and manicured lawns. The peace and tranquility of this magical hideaway is interrupted only by squeals of delight as children offload handfuls of duck food (bought at The Teahouse) to the hungry residents. We're not sure if there are fairies at the bottom of this garden, but there's definitely a second well-equipped playground with plenty of space for a family picnic or barbecue.

**Kids' comment:** "Feeding the ducks was cute."



### ROSEVILLE PARK AND SOUS LE SOLEIL CAFE

**60A Clanville Rd, Roseville; cafe open Tuesday-Sunday 9am-4.30pm, 9880 8816, tennis court hire from \$14.50 per hour, 9424 0754, [kmc.nsw.gov.au](http://kmc.nsw.gov.au), [slshome.com.au](http://slshome.com.au)**

**ADD** a touch of sophistication to your family outing with a visit to Roseville Park and its French-inspired cafe and shop set in a heritage-listed cottage. Perfectly positioned between tennis courts, an enclosed playground and a shady neighbourhood park, this is coffee with style. If you're looking for a grown-up experience amid the rough and tumble of kids' play, then you can wander through the elegantly appointed store with its unique range of gifts, clothing and homewares, imported directly from France. Choose a table on the front veranda, order a cafe latte then sit back and soak up the ambience, while your children enjoy the recently refurbished play equipment. Your teens will appreciate the nearby tennis courts, handball court and basketball hoop, and your pooch will love the fully-enclosed dog-off-the-leash park.

**Kids' comment:** "The chocolate croissant was yummy."

