



Helina, 6,
explores the
Coal Flowers
garden.
Picture:
DAVID SMITH

BLOOMIN' GOOD FUN IN GARDEN

KIDS will be able to let their imagination run wild at a quirky new adventure playground.

The eco-friendly playground in Fitzroy has helped disadvantaged kids reach new heights since opening last month.

The design by Benjamin Gilbert has been dubbed "Coal Flowers", and is a hit with local migrant families living in the Atherton Gardens housing flats.

Fitzroy Adventure Playground chairwoman

HARRIET WORRALL-CARTER

Margaret Harrison said local kids were rapt when it opened after two months.

"Some just stood there in awe. They didn't know where to start," she said.

"The old playground was very rundown. Now they've got a space that is challenging for them, where they can test their limits."

The outdoor play area — run by Cubbies Fitzroy and Save the Children Australia — provides children, largely

from migrant backgrounds, with a safe place to play and explore.

The flower design includes 25 solar panels and generates electricity for the building and teaches children about sustainability.

Six-year-old Helina said the best part of the playground is the big slide and catching up with her friends from school.

"We call it Fun City," she said. "I get to see all my friends from different grades and play tiggy."