



Stonemason Karl van Middeldyk and his son James astride the 18 tonne hippo designed by architect Fiona Robbe.



Hip Hop Rock!


Karl van Middeldyk of Aussie Stonemasons was given the challenging task of carving an 18 ton hippo from three 2.6 x 1 x 1 m blocks of sandstone which were delivered to the Fit Kidz Enviro-Playspace in Dural – by stone supplier Sarkis Bros of Glenorie, New South Wales.

The blocks were positioned using an artic loader which dropped them in place, and nudged them tightly together. Karl explained, “The project took 3 months to complete. Landscape architect Fiona Robbe designed the one acre play space, which features the giant hippo surrounded by sand”.

An energetic child with a vivid imagination might easily imagine that the Hippo is wading through a river somewhere in darkest Africa.

Architect Fiona Robbe has been involved with numerous award winning projects including the prestigious AILA NSW and NSW Minister

for Planning’s Sydney Greenspace Award. Fiona commented, “I produced a drawing and Karl came up with a palm sized soapstone sculpture of a hippo which ultimately became an 18 tonne sculpture”.

Karl recently carved his way to second place in the Mosman Festival of Sculpture, with “Unlocking the links” a superbly crafted linked chain and padlock. 



SPECIFICATIONS

Project:

Fit Kidz Play Space,
Dural, NSW

Architect:

Fiona Robbe

Stonemason:

Aussie Stonemasons

Stone:

Mangrove Mountain
Sandstone, supplied by
Sarkis Bros.