2019 AFL KEN GANNON COMMUNITY FOOTBALL FACILITIES AWARDS

WINNING PROJECT CASE STUDIES

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR GROWTH GORE HILL OVAL

AT A GLANCE

- New state-of-the-art synthetic playing surface
- Major, under-oval retention tank for storm water from the sports precinct and neighbouring North Shore Hospital
- Upgraded amenities including modular change rooms
- LED lights that lean down to ground level for easy maintenance
- Adventure playground
- Walking track
- Grassed mounding
- $10,000,000 invested in civil works, sports facilities and the community precinct

THE BACKGROUND

BELOW THE SURFACE

Gore Hill Oval in St Leonards, Sydney, New South Wales has long been famous - for all the wrong reasons. The venue was notorious for the poor surface that often rendered it unplayable. But even with its sub-par conditions, the junior and senior clubs had become two of the biggest in the State, highlighting the need for a safer, superior facility.

THE PROCESS

SAFETY FIRST

Led by Willoughby City Council, AFL NSW/ACT, North Shore Australian Football Club and Willoughby Wildcats Junior Australian Football Club were involved in the process from consultation through to delivery. The planning process included extensive research and visits to other state-of-the-art synthetic fields across Australia.

THE RESULT

A FACILITY FIT FOR FOOTBALL

Gore Hill Oval has been transformed from an unsafe and often unusable facility to an inclusive community facility with extraordinary levels of reliable usage. This standout regional ground features a new synthetic playing surface and upgraded amenities block along with many other features. The safe carrying capacity and surface quality have allowed both the North Shore Australian Football Club and Willoughby Wildcats Junior Australian Football Club to continue their remarkable growth, particularly in female participation.

Beyond the code, the precinct is an extension of the backyard for the surrounding community of St Leonards, with an adventure playground, landscaped walking tracks and grassed mounding for spectators, local families and office workers to enjoy.

THE FUTURE

ACCOMMODATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF TALENT

The facility is now able to accommodate the growing community and surrounding clubs in high level senior Australian Football as well as junior football and other sports. Independent research shows the ground is one of the safest in the whole competition. The facility will be used for a range of competitions, including the NSW Independent Schools AFL program.

> The artificial playing surface has been a significant positive. North Shore has 13 senior teams and there are 20 or so junior teams that also use the ground. All of these teams have to be accommodated on one ground and there isn't a grass surface that would be able to stand up to that level of use. The old surface reached the point where it was almost unplayable from the start of July each year, but by that time last year we had one of the better decks in Sydney.

John Goode
President, North Shore Australian Football Club

> Australian football's profile will flourish thanks to this very visible, always green, always usable playing surface. It will easily host approximately 35 male and female teams who will never miss a training session or game and will set a new benchmark for Community AFL in Sydney.
> A lower injury rate and an open, free-flowing game style will only boost participation, a win-win for the players, club, code and community. This community friendly precinct is already acting as the backyard for the rapidly growing apartment and CBD-like office populations of St. Leonards.

David Lawson
Infrastructure Planning Manager, AFL NSW/ACT

DEVELOPING TASMANIAN TALENT CAMPBELL TOWN WAR MEMORIAL OVAL

AT A GLANCE

- $3,224,000 invested, including $150,000 from the Australian Football Facilities Fund
- Inclusive change rooms
- Improved facilities including first aid room, function room, meeting rooms and kitchen and bar
- Upgraded lighting from 50lux to 200lux
- New electronic scoreboard

THE BACKGROUND

UNLOCKING TALENT

Tasmania is a unique State and equally, the Campbell Town War Memorial Oval required a unique approach. With a large proportion of the Tasmanian population located outside the capital city (Hobart), Campbell Town provided a central location between the three football regions (North, North-West, South) to bring together talent for competitions and programs to benefit Tasmania on and off the field. However, the facility needed work to be able to deliver the communities the amenities and programs they deserved.

THE PROCESS

HARNESSING POTENTIAL

Commissioned by Council, the Campbell Town War Memorial Oval Development Plan included thorough community and stakeholder consultation, with extensive involvement from the AFL.

AFL Tasmania worked closely with the Northern Midlands Council, consulting the community, local businesses and potential new user organisations throughout the process, ensuring the project wouldn't only respond to the immediate needs, but to the community's future needs as well.

THE RESULT

BREAKING GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES

Its location, combined with new, purpose-built facilities, allows the Campbell Town War Memorial Oval Precinct to host a range of programs and competitions for the community and its visitors. As a key venue for AFL Tasmania, the Oval welcomes AFL Tasmania's Tasmania Devils (State Academy) Programs, North Melbourne Football Club Next Generation Academy sessions and training games. It also hosts grassroots competitions, training and coaching opportunities, workshops and meetings.

THE FUTURE

A PLACE TO THRIVE

With its new facilities, the Campbell Town War Memorial Oval will continue to host high performance sporting programs and support the development of Tasmanian talent. The multi-purpose space also enables community use outside of the sporting arena.

> Campbell Town is a really important community football facility - it is ideally positioned with respect to Tasmania's three football regions and is brilliant for bringing our state together. It is an important hub for the local community and a flexible multi-use facility, with the recent developments enabling use for a wide range of user groups that visit or reside in Campbell Town. The redevelopment is a major boost for the Campbell Town Robins footy community and their potential for growth into the future.

Damian Gill
State Manager - Public Affairs and Infrastructure, AFL Tasmania

IMPROVING GENDER EQUALITY, TOGETHER MOUNT BARKER FC FEMALE FRIENDLY FACILITIES

AT A GLANCE

- New custom-built female friendly amenities
- Improved access and participation opportunities for females
- Upgrading quality and functionality of facilities for all
- Teaching and coaching spaces and resources
- Interior features to promote club values and develop culture

IN NUMBERS

- $539,803 invested, including $22,000 from the Australian Football Facilities Fund
- 8 unisex showers
- 2 new umpire rooms
- First female friendly change space in the region

THE BACKGROUND

TIME TO CHANGE

A lot has changed since the development of the Mount Barker Football Club facilities 40 years ago. As the popularity of female football grew, Mount Barker Football Club's female players were using the old amenities block limited to one toilet, a urinal and six open showers with a single communal change room. To match the growth of the sport, the facilities needed an upgrade.

THE PROCESS

SUPPORTING FEMALE FOOTBALL

With the support of the AFL's Australian Football Facilities Fund and the State Government, the Mount Barker Football Club was able to develop a stand-alone, purpose-built change room facility. Extensive consultation took place throughout the project, with a focus on female stakeholders, resulting in unique design features to enhance the usability and longevity of the space.

THE RESULT

WITH OPEN ARMS

The new amenities have seen on and off-field growth for the Mount Barker Football Club and its community. On field, female participation has increased and off-field, the Club has experienced greater family participation and increased spectator attendance, sponsorship and community involvement.

The upgraded facilities have done more than improve the space. They have reinvigorated the culture of the club. The walls are adorned with club logos, philosophies and murals, preserving the club's future while welcoming new participants with open arms. Junior players have adopted the space as their own, singing the Club song after the match and using the facilities with pride. Features that allow for more flexible use of the space, including the addition of a movable partition, have opened up the facility to host multiple teams, as well as catering for a more diverse participation base by hosting male and female teams at the same time. In addition, two new umpire rooms have been developed, providing facilities to accommodate increased female participation in all facets of the game.

THE FUTURE

EMBRACING THE NEXT CHAPTER

The project features the first unisex change amenity in the Adelaide Hills region, setting the standard for future amenities that support female participation. The number of female teams has increased to five and the increased participation encouraged surrounding clubs to introduce new female programs.

> The Mt Barker project has raised the enthusiasm around the club. Having a new female facility hasn't just benefited women and girls but has had an unexpected positive impact on all our club members and the wider community. The rooms are lighter, brighter and welcoming. They are now being accessed by all sectors of our club and the community, a benefit we didn't anticipate when we started the project.

Scott Filmer
Mt Barker Football Club

SUPPORTING SAFE AND INCLUSIVE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL GREAT NORTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AT A GLANCE

- $100,000 invested
- Upgraded change room facilities for all seven club venues including install of lockable cubicle showers and toilets in all venues The individual works ranged from around $14,500 up to $23,000 per venue.

THE BACKGROUND

READY FOR CHANGE

The Great Northern Football League (GNFL) comprises seven football clubs and all were equipped with old change rooms and facilities, built for the male participant base of years past. As participation numbers increase - particularly in the female competition - there was a need for female-friendly, fully serviced facilities.

THE PROCESS

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

The project was led by the Great Northern Football League, with the support of the West Australian Football Commission, and completed with the support of the Community Sport Infrastructure Grant. The GNFL worked with the local government and all affected clubs, ensuring the relevant stakeholders were consulted and the facilities delivered would meet the growing needs of their clubs and communities.

THE RESULT

FACILITATING GROWTH

The upgrade had a significant impact on the seven clubs affected, providing improved amenity including female-friendly change rooms, shower and toilet facilities. The amenities also cater to cricket clubs in the summer season and provide a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for women to participate. This has supported and will continue to support significant female participation growth within the league, going from 149 participants in 2018 to 247 participants in 2019.

THE FUTURE

EQUIPPED FOR THE FUTURE

The upgraded facilities enable and encourage more women's matches to be played at the grounds in 2020 and beyond, as well as accommodate increased training sessions and programs. The grounds can also be used for other purposes - sporting and non-sporting - providing a versatile and valuable community facility.

The Great Northern Football League's collaborative and proactive approach to upgrading facilities across all 7 clubs will have a positive effect on female participation in the region. The project will ensure a safe and inclusive environment for females to participant in and the WAFC commends the GNFL on the approach it took to upgrade each of the key venues in the GNFL competition. The majority of facility upgrades target individual venues, however, this project demonstrates a blanket upgrade to all key venues, enabling the GNFL to facilitate female competitions in 2020.

Tom Bottrell
Executive Manager - Country Football & Facilities, West Australian Football Commission

All our clubs' facilities now have high quality shower and toilet partitions suitable specifically for the growing women's football segment in the GNFL.

Colin Cox
President, Great Northern Football League

DRIVING GROWTH IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES MAROOCHYDORE MULTI SPORTS COMPLEX

AT A GLANCE

- New two-level building
- Two unisex change rooms and amenities
- New first aid and medical rooms
- Unisex umpire change rooms and amenities
- Public amenities
- Electronic scoreboard
- Administration offices and meeting space
- Three high quality fields
- Expanded and upgraded netball facility featuring parent's room, training and administration spaces

IN NUMBERS

- Approximately $2,800,000 invested, including $150,000 from the Australian Football Facilities Fund
- 8 unisex showers
- 2 new umpire rooms
- First female friendly change space in the region
- Netball facilities

THE BACKGROUND

A GROWING COMMUNITY

The Sunshine Coast is growing rapidly and by 2041, the population is expected to increase by 63 per cent. On a community level, in the past three seasons Maroochydore Australian Football Club has grown more than 15 per cent.

To accommodate the increasing population and popularity of AFL, the Maroochydore Multi Sport Complex was upgraded, making national standard facilities available to players and volunteers, from the grassroots to elite levels.

THE PROCESS

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

As part of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council masterplan for the precinct, AFL Queensland, the Sunshine Coast Netball Association, Maroochydore Australian Football Club and other Sunshine Coast based clubs were part of the process to ensure the facility met the needs of the growing community.

THE RESULT

A HOME FOR SUNSHINE COAST AFL

The 11,500 strong Sunshine Coast football community has a new home, with the state-of-the-art facilities to match. The community has access to three ovals with a fourth currently being developed, allowing increased participation and talent development programs, and AFL Queensland offices allow the region to receive exceptional support and open up the facility to other sports. Its impact was immediate. Six AFL clubs used the facility for 2020 preseason training and multiple clubs have been based on the Sunshine Coast in high performance hubs due to COVID.

It is a facility designed especially for its community. It's accessible, inclusive and built for the needs of male and female teams, athletes, umpires and officials at all levels.

THE FUTURE

CONTINUING THE GROWTH

The growth will continue into the new decade, with Council committing an additional $1.9 million to invest in a fourth football field and additional change rooms to make the Complex one of the nation's largest AFL facilities.

Maroochydore will join the QAFL in 2020 so the venue will host top flight State football.

AFLQ has more than 116 Sunshine Coast school teams playing in the Q Schools Club competition and in 2020, the Q Schools Cup will be hosted at the venue, in addition to hosting elite competition and talent, diversity and inclusion programs.

> Each weekend thousands of players, parents, volunteers, coaches and umpires descend on clubs across the Sunshine Coast and the rest of Queensland to enjoy our uniquely Australian game. To keep players and officials engaged in the game and engaged with their clubs we need to deliver fit for purpose facilities that are safe, accessible, and welcoming. Maroochydore Multi Sports Complex is the benchmark for community football on the Sunshine Coast, if not Queensland, making national standard facilities available for players and volunteers.

Dean Warren
AFL Queensland Chief Executive Officer

THE HEART OF A THRIVING COMMUNITY MONBULK RECREATION RESERVE

AT A GLANCE

- New pavilion featuring unisex changerooms, social space, club and community meeting room, bar and kitchen and match day canteen
- New turf, including laser graded surface
- Upgraded irrigation and drainage to support higher participation
- New lights, scoreboard, fencing and coaches box
- Wall of Support highlighting mental health programs, support services and recognising the community's contribution

IN NUMBERS

- $3.8 million invested
- 24% increase in AFL participation
- 550% increase in AFL women's participation
- $90,000 community contribution through the Wall of Support

THE BACKGROUND

CONNECTING A COMMUNITY

The Monbulk Recreation Reserve has been a pillar of its tight-knit community for more than a century. It's more than a home base of sporting clubs; it's the social heart of the community.

In 2010 the community and local sports clubs formed the Monbulk Recreation Reserve Development Group. The group had the vision to work with council to develop a master plan that would support its growth and continue to connect the community into the future, both on and off the field.

THE PROCESS

THE POWER OF PLANNING

The project was a combined eight-year effort of the Yarra Ranges Council, State and Federal Governments and local clubs and community, with the community involved at all stages of its planning and development. Community consultation, meticulous master planning and fundraising ensured the facility met the growing needs of the community.

THE RESULT

A PLACE TO BE PROUD OF

The upgraded Monbulk Recreation Reserve has elevated the profile of the local clubs, instilled a strong sense of community pride and provided much-needed multipurpose spaces for the community to connect through football, netball, and community activities including Men's Shed, emergency services, scouts and guides, farmers markets, Rotary and surrounding schools.

The new playing surface can accommodate increased participation and is able to host finals and higher profile matches. Spectators, members and participants enjoy state-of-the-art facilities that set the benchmark for the Yarra Ranges and beyond.

THE FUTURE

A COMMUNITY CENTRE

With a focus on inclusion and usability of the space - from club sport, to schools and community - Monbulk Recreation Reserve is a true product of its people. Additional work is planned to continue to grow the facility, with new netball courts to be constructed in 2020 for community and school use.

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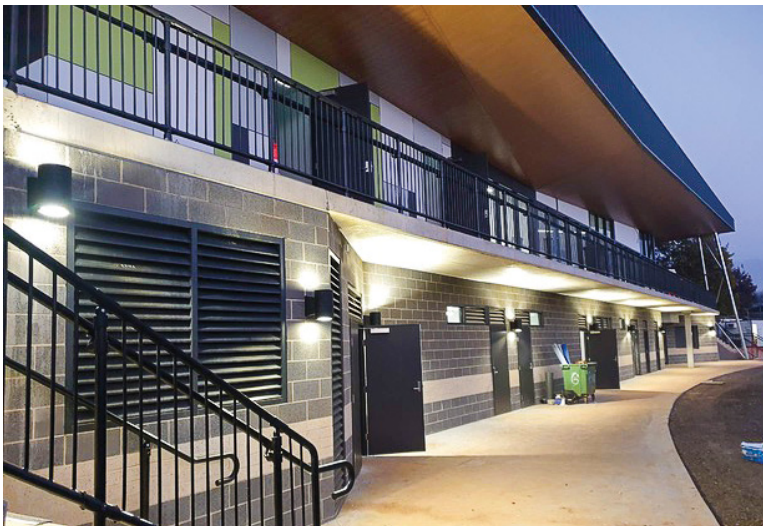
Our recently completed new Community Sports Pavilion has had a massive impact on the tenant clubs and also the local community. It has provided us with four unisex changerooms and up to date female toilets where previously we had outdated communal showers and only one female toilet in the entire reserve. This has led to increased female participation and female spectators.

We now have a building that serves current community expectations and one that the entire community is proud of. We host community outdoor movie nights and with a full commercial kitchen we are able to cater for other community events, not just club events. It also provides us with the perfect opportunity to promote our "Wall of Support" initiative which focuses on mental health awareness and support.

Paul Utting
President, Monbulk Recreation Reserve Development Group and Monbulk Football Netball Club

The people of Monbulk are strong, community-minded people. The Reserve created a sense of belonging and provided a community space to be proud of.

Amber Koster
Strategy, Government & Infrastructure Manager, AFL Victoria



CHANGING NORTHERN TERRITORY FOOTBALL FOR THE BETTER
TIO OVAL 2

AT A GLANCE

- $1,900,000 invested
- Four new change rooms
- Air-conditioned timekeeper and media rooms
- Kiosk and bar
- Ticket box

THE BACKGROUND

THE STATE OF PLAY

Located in the precinct of TIO Oval, the premier outdoor stadium in the Northern Territory, TIO Oval 2 is the stomping ground for many players, clubs and community members. As AFL participation has grown - including in the female game - the four existing change rooms simply weren't enough.

THE PROCESS

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Four new player change rooms, as well as an umpire change room, kiosk, bar, ticket booth and timekeeper and media facilities, were developed by the Northern Territory Government with support from the AFL through the Australian Football Facilities Fund.

THE RESULT

FACILITATING GROWTH

The four new dual-gender change rooms improve access for all players, particularly females, and allow for faster changeover from game to game, regardless of the grade or gender of the teams scheduled. The upgrades have enabled the facility to continue to support the growth of the game now, and into the future.

In addition, the kiosk, bar, ticket booth and other facilities allow clubs to adopt the facility as their own home ground. The clubs can use the venue to host home games, assisting them with raising additional revenue and developing a more sustainable financial model.

THE FUTURE

EQUIPPED FOR THE FUTURE

The new facilities have positioned TIO Oval 2 for future growth, providing a better experience for players, spectators, officials and volunteers. The new facilities support AFL NT's school competitions and carnivals, as well as provide an opportunity to host national events in the future.

> With the support of the Northern Territory Government and the AFL we have been able to deliver a facility that will help TIO stadium cope with the growing demand of a growing game and at the same time give the Club that do not have the opportunity to host a home game and enjoy the benefits that flow on from this activity. We have received some terrific feedback on the facility since it has been open from players, volunteers, official and players, it has improved the operations of main oval and many of our stakeholders are saying they wish we had this facility years ago.

Stuart Totham
Chief Executive Officer, AFLNT