AFL TASMANIA WINNER

BLUE GUM PARK OVAL REDEVELOPMENT

Club: George Town Football Club
Council: George Town Council
Venue: Blue Gum Park
Facility Hierarchy: Local Club Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
AFL	$34,700
George Town Council	$239,226
Tasmania State Government - Improving the Playing Field Grant	$226,391
TOTAL	$500,317

OVERVIEW

The Blue Gum Park Oval Redevelopment marks a beneficial football project which involved re-levelling the oval, installing new drainage systems, sand slitting, and the establishment of a 100 mm sand mattress and reseeding. In addition, new goal posts, nets behind the goals and perimeter fencing was installed. These improvements not only benefit the local club but also contribute to the broader football community, increasing the carrying capacity of the existing oval. The redevelopment has positioned Blue Gum Park as a venue capable of hosting marquee events, supported through the successful hosting of the Northern Tasmanian Football Association's Women's Gala Day and NTFA Finals in the 2023 season.

Previous hours of use	30	Previous SFA score	123
Current hours of use	32	New SFA score	133
Male Participation	118	Female Participation	32

This project stemmed from a thorough review of the facilities prompted by the grounds prior susceptibility to sever weather events. The ground's poor drainage had historically left the venue vulnerable to closures causing fixtures being moved away from the venue. The Baker Group's was a key stakeholder in achieving the projects outcomes. Their team's experience in delivering other similar projects was critical in delivering a high quality surface within a condensed timeline. This redevelopment provides a more reliable venue for the club, the NTFA competition and the broader footy community. These works now support Blue Gum Park to be a year-round facility for the club and community.

Supported by council involvement, this project was able to go ahead through allowing the club access to off season training venues and additional player retention offerings. On completion of the works, the project was handed over to George Town Council to oversee the grow in period. This successful redevelopment not only addresses past challenges but also signifies a positive step forward for the community, providing a well-maintained and versatile space for both George Town Saints Football Club and the broader community.



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"Our club is very fortunate to have a supportive council to work alongside to ensure we can give our community access to a high quality facility. The ground upgrades project managed by the council has given us a facility that can be used year-round, with a focus on improving community participation. AFL TAS provided support to ensure the ground was finished with a high quality fence that improved player and spectator safety"

George Town Football Club

"Council contacted NTFA and AFL Tas when it became apparent the existing fence was unable to be retained. Without the support provided by the NTFA and AFL Tas in identifying potential funding avenues and guiding council officers through the application process, the council would not have been able to deliver this critical piece of infrastructure. This overall project has provided our community with a venue to be proud of."

George Town Council



"The Baker Group was engaged by the George Town Council to design and construct a new drainage system for both their cricket and football fields. Both fields were unable to withstand persistent winter rainfall and as a result, were becoming waterlogged and flooded. The flooding of the football field resulted in the cancellation of numerous local football games throughout 2021. The Baker Group along with our design partner, SportEng, were able to provide a solution involving subsurface drainage and field reshaping."

The Baker Group

Blue Gum Park Upgrades



Image Credit: Solstice Digital