

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.



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

