

REID OVAL REDEVELOPMENT

Club: Warrnambool Football Netball Club and Warrnambool
Council: Warrnambool City Council
Venue: Reid Oval

Funding Partners	Contribution
Australian Football Facilities Fund	\$250,000
State Government (SRV and RDV)	\$7,100,000
Warrnambool City Council	\$3,000,000
Cricket Victoria	\$200,000
Club and Community	\$95,000
TOTAL	\$10,645,000

OVERVIEW

The completed project developed a regional level facility that included:

- » Complete reconstruction of the oval playing surface
- » Installation of 200 Lux lighting
- » Construction of a multipurpose sports pavilion inclusive of our unisex player change rooms and an umpires room to allow for AFL preseason and AFLW matches.
- » Adjoining grassed training area and lighting upgrade, which included the installation of goal posts to host training and junior matches for both players and umpires.

Previous hours of use	26 hours	Previous SFA score	78
Current hours of use	> 31 hours (More than 6)	New SFA score	145
Combined Male Participation	224	Combined Female Participation	69

Reid Oval was unsuitable for female football and rated very poorly for player and umpire changerooms, playing field condition and field lighting. Access for players and officials is also very poor, all impacting the regions ability to attract significant regional events.

The redevelopment constituted a major renewal of the primary oval and associated facilities within the Reserve. Already a significant asset to the community, the project represented an important opportunity to enhance the existing infrastructure onsite whilst addressing an increasing demand for sport by diverse user groups.

Officially opened on 29 April 2022, Reid Oval is considered the premier regional level facility providing sport and recreation opportunities for Warrnambool and the surrounding Great South Coast community. Its amenity and program provision are driving sports development in all community sectors, particularly those that are currently under-represented in formal sporting activities, especially women and girls.

Since opening, Reid Oval has also hosted:

- » Its first AFLW Game which featured Essendon and Geelong in front of over 3,800 spectators

UTILISATION

The main oval upgrade allowed for greater hours of use and programming for both training and competition and the new warmup oval has also taken the training load off the main oval, allowing for greater football use. The female specific changerooms have seen more players attend training and game day.

Reid Oval hosts finals for both Hamden FNL and Western District FNL, is home to the Warrnambool Football Netball Club and Warrnambool and District Umpires Association and for 2023, welcomes its first U14 girls competition.

- » HFNL matches (including night matches) and finals, WDFNL finals. Installation of Goal Posts on training ground to host training and junior matches
- » Private school senior boys football competition, Emmanuel College made it through to Herald Sun Shield
- » Emmanuel College Year 8 football academy training session and motivational talk - Guest speaker Willem Drew (Port Adelaide)
- » South West Sports - Disability Inclusion sports day, identified as an accessible venue and club volunteer workshops
- » AFL Community Camp with Geelong Football Club which included a training session, hosting a seminar with local clubs and a junior training session.

Reid Oval has provided an opportunity for the tenant clubs to increase participation in sport, particularly among females. On top of this, the ability to attract major events, conduct sport at night and host a variety of events linked to sport and participation has resulted in the Reid Oval becoming a beacon for female sport and inclusiveness. To highlight this, Council made a decision that first five (5) night matches at the venue during the 2022 season were U18 girls and women's matches and Grand Finals to showcase women and girls football in the region.





"The old Reid Oval was tired. The playing surface was patchy, uneven, the pavilion - if you could call it that - was dingy, dark and from an era when people could only dream of an AFL competition that included women. But it was the best we had and it was time to change. We needed Reid Oval to be many things:

- » *a top level playing surface;*
- » *a pavilion with changerooms that were friendly and accessible regardless of gender;*
- » *a ground and inclusive pavilion that provided accessible viewing;*
- » *a pavilion with adaptable social spaces along with technology and rooms for off-field staff and media.*

The new Reid Oval is all of the above and more. In its first year it has hosted girls footy under lights, local football home and away games plus finals and the Geelong versus Essendon AFLW game that drew a huge crowd and provided a substantial boost to the local economy. Its accessibility has eliminated barriers to participation for women and girls and the new pavilion and the ground itself are accessible to all. We now have a sportsground we are proud of and that will serve us well for decades to come."

Debbie Arnott
Mayor, Warrnambool City Council

