

Barossa Park - South Australia



2025 KEN GANNON COMMUNITY FOOTBALL FACILITIES AWARDS

WINNING PROJECT
CASE STUDIES



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The annual Ken Gannon Football Facilities Award presents the opportunity to recognise an exemplary football facility development or improvement which best demonstrates a commitment to growing the game in a region or area in need of greater capacity for Australian football utilisation.

The AFL is proud of its investment into the game and the facilities we use. Since 2017, the AFL has invested over \$100 million into infrastructure projects and are currently involved in more than 100 facilities projects in development or underway across the country at all levels of the game, from elite through to grassroots.

Each year projects are nominated by AFL state and territory representatives. Each nominated project has been selected due to its significant benefit to the local community, the role it plays in supporting the growing participation in Australian football, particularly among women and girls, along with the role it plays in strengthening stakeholder relations between local Australian football clubs, community groups, council and state government bodies.

Case studies have been developed for each of this year's nominees highlighting their remarkable and noteworthy contributions to football facility best practises with each aligning strongly to the AFL's aim of providing well positioned, welcoming, fit for purpose football facilities that support our growing game's strategic priorities.

2025 Ken Gannon Community Football Facilities Award Nominations

State/Territory	Project Title	Total Project Cost
New South Wales / ACT	Bob Prenter Reserve Facility Upgrade	\$7,800,000
Northern Territory	Maningrida Sports Upgrades	\$4,600,000
Queensland	Iona College - Breaking New Ground Partnership	\$625,000
South Australia	Barossa Park Development	\$45,942,330
Tasmania	Windsor Park Oval Redevelopment	\$1,978,138
Victoria	Alexandra Park Pavilion Redevelopment	\$10,500,000
Western Australia	Halesworth Park Development	\$21,401,680

In a decorated career across many areas of the AFL, Ken Gannon spent much of the last decade of his career developing the AFL's interest and partnerships in the community facilities space, leading outcomes related to over 800 community football facility projects in that period. This award recognises Ken's significant contribution to our great game.

Each State and Territory have announced their local best community football facility which has been nominated to win the Ken Gannon National Award.



BOB PRENTER RESERVE FACILITY UPGRADE

Club: South West Sydney Blues Australian Football Club
Council: Campbelltown City Council
Venue: Bob Prenter Reserve
Facility Hierarchy: Regional Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
NSW Government - Multisport Program	\$5,000,000
Campbelltown Council	\$2,800,000
TOTAL	\$7,800,000

OVERVIEW

Bob Prenter Reserve has been a home for Australian Football for many decades. In 2022, the tenant club, Campbelltown Blues, merged with nearby South West Sydney Magpies, to create the South West Sydney Blues. This new entity was promoted into AFL Sydney Premier Division - the highest level of community football in Sydney. In 2022, the AFL and Campbelltown Council collaborated on a concept design and business case, funded by the AFL, for an upgrade at Bob Prenter Reserve.

The need for this project was driven by significant growth in AFL participation in the south-west of Sydney, one of the AFL's key strategic markets and a rapidly expanding region. Existing facilities were no longer capable of supporting current or projected levels of use, with only two outdated changerooms, limited spectator amenities, and no compliant spaces for umpires or mixed-gender participation. These constraints directly impacted the quality of the participant experience, restricted scheduling flexibility, and limited our sports ability to accommodate the growing number of female, junior and multicultural participants in the region.

This project involved the development of a brand-new amenities block, including four gender-neutral player changerooms, a dedicated umpires room, and an upgraded clubroom, significantly improving the utilisation of the venue by creating a safer, more functional, and more flexible environment for multiple teams and user groups. Modern changerooms allow back-to-back scheduling of games without teams waiting for spaces to become available. The shift to fully gender-neutral changerooms represents a major step forward for equity and inclusion, addressing previous limitations and ensuring the facility is welcoming for all participants. A compliant umpires room ensures full game-day operations can be delivered on-site, reducing barriers to hosting higher-level competitions. An improved clubroom enhances community use, supports education and volunteer activities, and creates a welcoming hub for social connection.

In addition, this project also included upgrading the venue lighting from poor quality to an average of 200 lux, further increasing utilisation by enabling training and competition to occur safely and reliably at night. High-quality lighting expands available scheduling hours, reduces cancellations, and supports elite-level programming, including women's and girls, and junior fixtures that often rely on mid-week evening timeslots. Together, these upgrades significantly boost the venue's capacity to host more teams, more programs, and a wider range of participation opportunities throughout the year.

Previous hours of use per week	20	Current hours of use per week	30
Combined Male Participation	162	Combined Female Participation	44

The new clubroom, featuring a bar and commercial kitchen, has enhanced the club's ability to host events, build community engagement and generate revenue, supporting long-term sustainability. Spectator amenities have also been significantly improved, creating a more enjoyable environment for families and supporters. Overall, the upgrades have modernised the facility, futureproofing it for expected participation growth and aligning it with contemporary standards across community sport.

The success of the project demonstrates the value of collaboration between AFL, Campbelltown Council, and the South West Sydney Blues. Strong advocacy by the club and persistent pursuit of funding ensured the facility met both strategic standards and local operational needs. The upgraded amenities provide a vibrant community hub, supporting player development, social engagement, and club sustainability, and stand as a model for how targeted investment in sport infrastructure can drive participation, inclusion, and community connection.





“The new building amenities at Bob Prenter Reserve are a game-changer for football in the South West and Macarthur Regions of Sydney. Delivered through a strong partnership between AFL Sydney and Campbelltown City Council, it builds on our existing club culture and strong regional presence while lifting match-day standards and delivering lasting benefits for players, supporters, sponsors and the wider community.”

Shannon Prenter
President
South West Sydney Blues

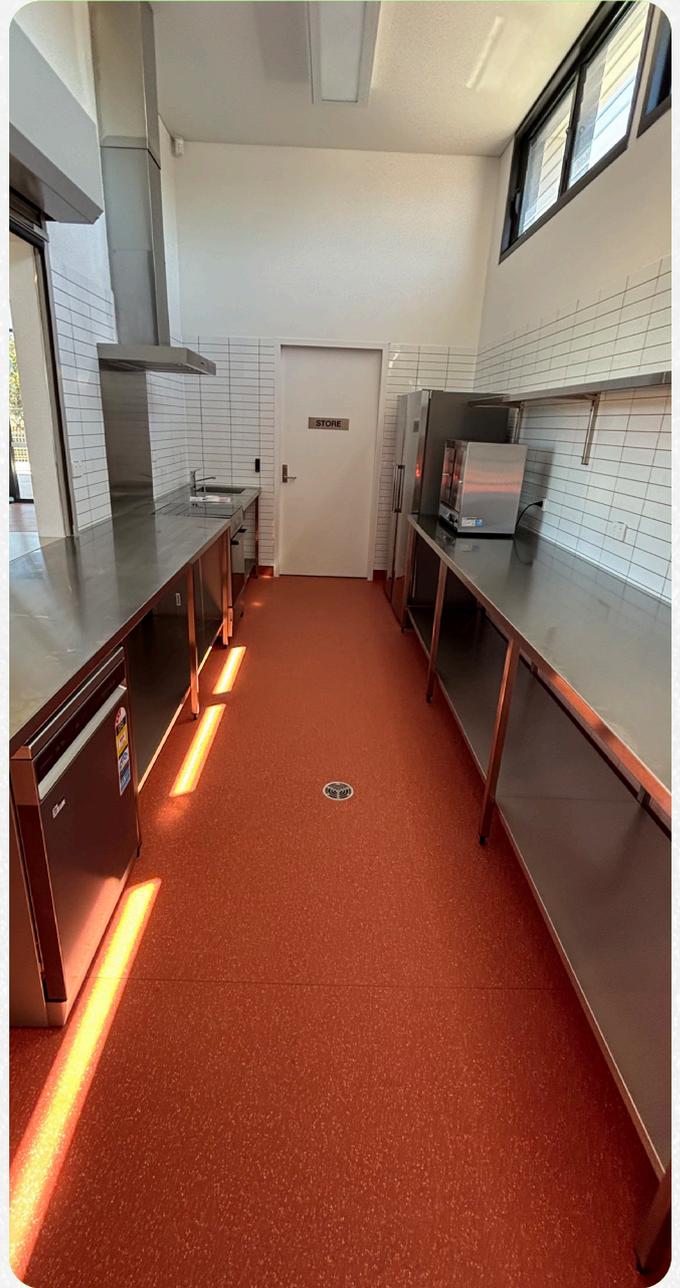
“This project has delivered world class facilities that will help the South West Sydney Blues foster the development of junior players in Campbelltown while providing seniors with a great place to play and train. The fantastic design of the female-friendly change rooms has raised standards to ensure this regional facility will cater for the growing participation of women in local sport.”

Mayor Darcy Lound
Campbelltown City Council

[South West Sydney Blues](#)

[Bob Prenter Reserve Building Upgrade](#)





"As participation continues to surge across the region, having modern and inclusive facilities is critical to supporting players, volunteers and families, and ensuring everyone feels welcome and included in our game. The upgrade sees Bob Prenter Reserve become one of the premier facilities across Sydney and will play a key role in our ambition to connect more people across South West Sydney to our game."

Andrew Varasdi
Head of AFL NSW/ACT



MANINGRIDA SPORTS UPGRADES

League: Maningrida Football League
 Council: West Arnhem Regional Council
 Venue: Maningrida Sports Oval
 Facility Hierarchy: Remote Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
Federal Government - Aboriginal Benefits Fund	\$4,600,000
TOTAL	\$4,600,000

OVERVIEW

The upgrades at Maningrida Sports Oval, funded by the Federal Government via the Aboriginal Benefit Account, saw the construction of new gender neutral changerooms, a canteen, and shaded seating to provide modern inclusive amenities for players, officials and spectators. This project was a collaboration between the Maningrida community and Local, State and Federal governments. Being a remote indigenous community, strong community consultation was a key component of the planning and design phase to incorporate cultural knowledge and deliver outcomes that are meaningful and sustainable for the community.

Maningrida is a remote community in Arnhem Land, approximately 500 km north-east of Darwin. It is one of the largest remote communities in the Northern Territory and has a population of approximately 2,500 people and serves as a major service centre for more than 30 outstations and homelands in the region. Maningrida is considered one of the most multilingual communities in the country with over 10 different languages spoken.

The Maningrida Football League is made up of teams from surrounding communities including Ramingining, Minjilang, Gunbalanya and Jabiru. It is a community run competition supported by AFL NT staff and the West Arnhem Regional Council in its governance and administration.

The new changerooms will assist to grow the sport in Maningrida by providing a spacious environment with fit for purpose amenities making the game of Australian football more accessible for all participants. In addition, the canteen and shaded seating support a more comfortable viewing experience for spectators, making the Maningrida Oval a hub for community sport and activities in the region. The new amenities in addition to lighting at the venue now provides more flexibility with match and programme scheduling, allowing more activity in the evenings providing a wonderful social gathering point for the community.

Current hours of use per week	84	Total Participation	1,800+
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Since planning commenced for these upgrades in 2019, new lighting has also been installed at the oval, increasing the hours football and community activities can take place at the venue. This need for improved amenities was driven by local community members and local government to help boost sporting participation in the region providing a welcoming hub for all to utilise and enjoy.

These upgrades have improved access to sport which promotes health and wellbeing in the community, particularly in remote communities, and celebrates pride in community and culture. In addition, local contractors were engaged during construction, providing employment opportunities within the community.

Upon completion of these works local community members, NT Government and Federal Government members attended the official opening which coincided with the Maningrida Football Festival and a visit by the Sydney Swans AFL team. This event provided a great spectacle for the region by showcasing local talent, with over 700 participants across the festival, as well as how this venue can host the local community to promote social engagement and football participation.





"AFL isn't just a sport out here; it's a way of life. It brings us together; it teaches teamwork discipline pride and belonging. It connects generations and builds bridges between cultures. Most importantly it inspires our young people."

Mayor James Wood
West Arnhem Regional Council



IONA COLLEGE - BREAKING NEW GROUND PARTNERSHIP

Club: Morningside Australian Football Club

Venue: Iona College

Facility Hierarchy: Training Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
Iona College	\$350,000
AFL Grand Final Facilities Fund & QLD Government	\$250,000
AFL - Breaking New Ground	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$625,000

OVERVIEW

The partnership between Iona College and AFL Queensland to deliver floodlighting to the school’s playing fields creates a unique opportunity to grow Australian Football in Queensland. This project was first identified through the AFL’s Breaking New Ground Program to help maintain the fast growth of Australian football participation throughout Brisbane.

The Breaking New Ground Program has been set up to identify unique and innovative ways to improve existing, or access new, greenspaces for football utilisation. The school submitted an AFL Breaking New Ground application which was approved for the preparation of a Partnership Opportunity Plan, outlining project design and costs, along with partnership terms and access arrangements between school, AFL QLD and community clubs over a 10-year period. This plan outlined the opportunity to install new sports lighting at the Iona College AFL playing fields to support the continued growth of Australian football in the region, by creating more available hours to schedule training and competition needs, where greenspace is scarce and participation is growing at an exponential rate across all ages and genders.

Following on from the planning process, Iona College was successful in attracting infrastructure funding through the AFL Queensland Grand Final Facilities Fund in partnership with the Queensland Government. The project scope included the installation of 120 lux lighting on the school’s playing fields giving greater capacity to schedule Australian football training at the site. The lighting services an MCG size playing field and adjacent training space providing an enhanced experience and increased access for the continued growth of school sport and AFL within the community for the next 10 years.

Morningside Panthers AFC are the primary user of the Iona College playing fields. They are the largest club in Queensland and one of the largest clubs in Australia, with more than 1,350 registered players and 60 teams. The club continues to experience significant growth in female and junior team numbers and was unable to suitably cater for all teams due to a lack of available training space.

The access to additional training space, through this project, has helped the club address their team training and competition needs by providing more than 33,000sqm of greenspace which can accommodate 6-7 teams training simultaneously. This assisted in addressing current capacity challenges at their home venue.

Previous hours of use	0	Current hours of use per week	20
Male Participation	960	Female Participation	380

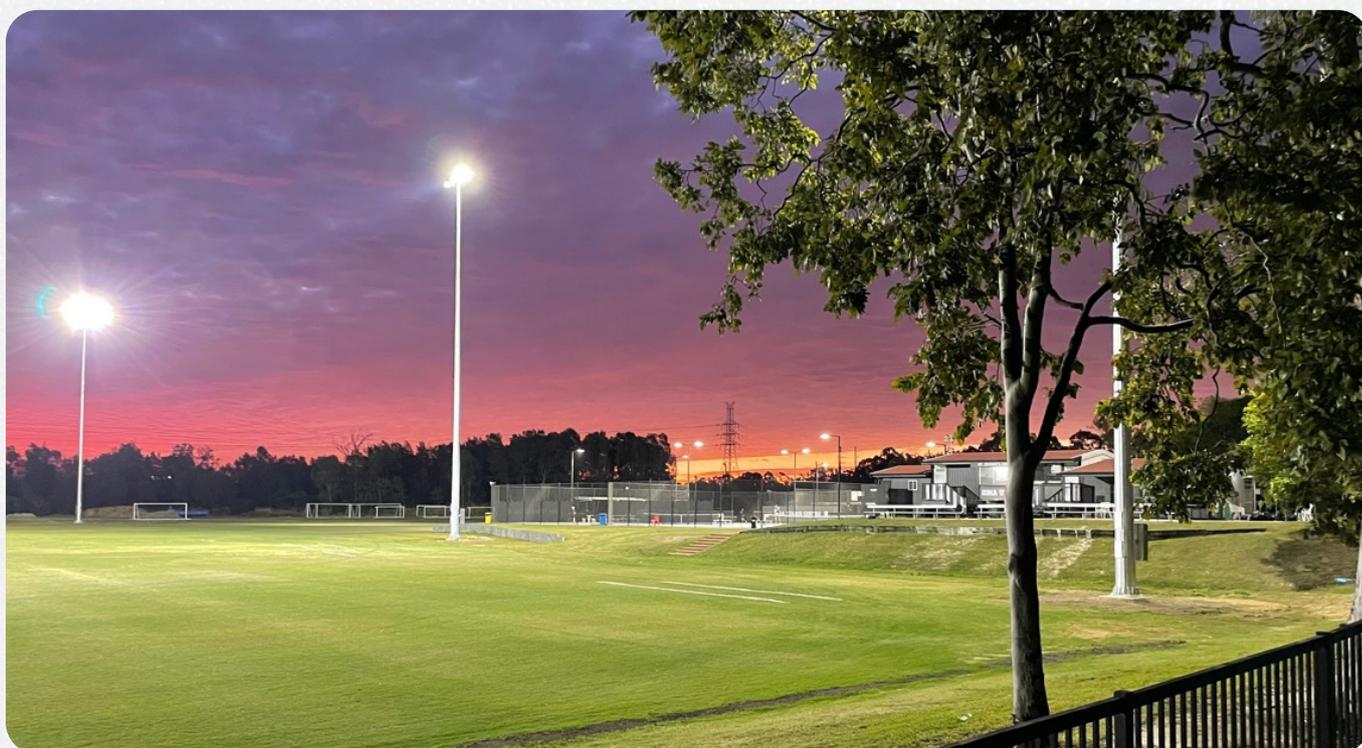
In addition to community football outcomes, the project has enhanced the school infrastructure for its students in particular those participating in the school’s Australian Football program. It has also successfully created a high-quality additional match venue for the Associated Independent Colleges (AIC) school competition in which Iona College participates. The school is now the first in the competition that can host night matches. As a result, travel requirements and costs have been reduced, and the school can now provide a quality match day experience for their teams and other competing schools.

This project has enabled the activation of a long term, mutually beneficial partnership between the school, club and AFL in which more than 1,000 hours of community access will be available to Australian football community users annually. Iona College will manage ongoing maintenance and booking of the site and provide subsidised AFL access for use highlighting the school’s commitment and support to the partnership.

The partnership with Iona College aligns to the key strategic priority outlined in the AFL Towards 2030 Infrastructure Plan which is to ‘Drive the supply of new facilities in areas most in need.’

“Community is at the heart of everything we do at Iona College, and our wonderful relationship with AFL Queensland has now grown into a true partnership through the Breaking New Ground program. This partnership is the result of a lot of hard work from both sides. The end result is not only a first for schools in Queensland but supports the growth of the game and greater opportunities for our students and the local community. Iona is delighted to be at the forefront of this initiative, and very proud of our strong relationship with the AFL to deliver this project for our community.”

Trevor Goodwin
Principal, Iona College



“This is a real game changer for Morningside, this infrastructure investment. It is so exciting, but we couldn’t be growing at the level we are without the support of the school as well as the AFL.”

Richard Wittig
Board Member, Morningside AFC

“Iona College has been fantastic to work with in establishing a partnership for this project and we are grateful for the funding provided through the AFL Queensland Grand Final Facilities Fund.”

Trisha Squires
Head of AFL Queensland & International

[The Panthers](#)



[Let There be Lights](#)



BAROSSA PARK DEVELOPMENT

Club: Barossa District Football & Netball Club
 Council: The Barossa Council
 Venue: Barossa Park
 Facility Hierarchy: Regional Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
The Barossa Council	\$24,920,280
Government of South Australia	\$20,500,000
Barossa District Football & Netball Club	\$350,000
South Australian Cricket Association	\$100,000
SA Football Facilities Fund	\$72,050
TOTAL	\$45,942,330

OVERVIEW

The development of Barossa Park was a joint initiative between The Barossa Council and the State Government, which has seen the transformation of the Lyndoch Recreation Park into a \$45.9 million, multi-use destination, for events and community use in the heart of the world-renowned wine region. The initial concept for upgrading commenced in 2016, evolving over time into Barossa Park in response to population growth, particularly in the young family demographic in Lyndoch and the nearby town of Williamstown.

The Barossa Region is expecting a 15% increase in participation in sporting clubs by 2031, which highlighted the need for a strategic response from Council for intergenerational sports infrastructure investment. The development includes the upgrade of the existing oval to meet AFL standards, a second oval and a new multi-purpose building comprising a 350-seat event space, commercial kitchen, clubroom, gym and three 90 m2 gender neutral change facilities (or divided into six 45 m2 changerooms). Both ovals now include lighting of 500 lux on the main oval and 150 lux on the secondary oval, allowing the seasonal load to be shared across both ovals. New netball courts, resurfaced tennis courts, playground and landscaping have also been delivered.

Previous hours of use per week	0	Current hours of use	40
Male Participation	245	Female Participation	88

Constructed within 11 months, the landmark facility was ready to host two AFL Gather Round matches in 2025, with a further two matches announced for 2026. The brand-new precinct hosted more than 10,000 footy fans per game, generating over \$8M of economic benefit to the region during the Festival of Footy. Stunning landscapes of the Barossa Valley provided the ultimate backdrop which was broadcast across the nation.

Following Gather Round, Barossa District Football and Netball Club relocated into the new premises from their previous home of Williamstown, which has already led to a 20% increase in participation, across playing, volunteering and officiating roles. The club also recorded growth in women's and girls' participation. The senior women's football team were unable to fill a team in the 2024 season, however with the new facilities at Barossa Park, a full complement of female teams (U10, U13, U16 and Senior Women) took to the field in 2025, with this growth expected to be maintained into future seasons.

In addition, the economic impacts of seeing the increased number of spectators at the home games is enormous for the club. The two full size ovals also mean the juniors can play at the same grounds and on the same day as seniors, which is something they haven't been able to facilitate previously. Supported by adequate lighting, which now provides more flexible and equitable scheduling across all teams. This AFL ready venue also provides opportunities for support of talent pathways, through representative football and higher level SANFL content.

Barossa Park's transformation is a landmark project for football in South Australia, delivering a world-class venue with elite turf, lighting and modern facilities. Delivered to AFL standards, it hosted Gather Round matches for premiership points, showcasing its capability to attract major events boosting community engagement and economic impact across the Barossa region. The new facility better supports Barossa District's future growth aspirations and gives players access to high quality, fit-for-purpose facilities that meet contemporary sporting standards for all participants, officials, volunteers and spectators.





"Our Club is proud of the people and place that make up Barossa Park. The significance of Barossa Park to our whole community ensures that we can provide continued opportunity for everyone to participate and connect with our great game and club."

Jamie Sibbick
Chairman, Barossa District
Football & Netball Club

"This award is testament to our forward-thinking Council and highlights a shared vision to not only build a landmark multi-use precinct where sport and community come together, but to create a venue that attracts events and brings people to the Barossa. Barossa Park has already proven to be a huge asset for local sporting clubs, including the Barossa District Football and Netball Club completing their first season in their new home, and the cricket, little athletics, tennis, bowls, and pigeon clubs are now actively using the facility."

Mayor Bim Lange
The Barossa Council

[SANFL Facility of the Year Winners](#)

[Barossa Park Shines](#)





"Barossa Park is a piece of infrastructure not just about the AFL game, this is a piece of infrastructure that will service the whole Barossa Valley community for decades to come."

Hon Peter Malinauskas
Premier of South Australia



"Beyond local and regional impact, the venue positions the Barossa to host major events, meeting requirements for events such as AFL Gather Round, as well as providing opportunities for state and national-level football competitions such as the SA Country Football Championships. This not only brings elite football to the community but also generates meaningful economic and tourism benefits for the region."

Belinda Marsh
Head of Infrastructure and
Government Relations, SANFL

[Barossa District](#)

[Barossa Park Project](#)

WINDSOR PARK OVAL REDEVELOPMENT

Club: Launceston Football Club
Council: West Tamar Council
Venue: Windsor Park
Facility Hierarchy: Regional Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
West Tamar Council	\$1,904,138
AFL - Australian Football Facilities Fund	\$74,000
TOTAL	\$1,978,138

OVERVIEW

The Launceston Football Club, the oldest active running football club in Tasmania, faced significant issues stemming from the poor surface quality of their home ground, Windsor Park. This had been a point of contention for a long time with the ground's poor drainage system causing damaged turf leading to delays and cancellations throughout the winter months. The ground was regularly referred to as a 'mud pit' within the local football community, with a helicopter even hired by council to hover over the ground in an attempt to remove excess surface water before a finals match in 2023.

Paired with inadequate lighting provision and outdated oval fencing, investment into the ground was desperately needed to ensure the venue aligned with the standards outlined in the AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines. With Launceston playing at the highest level of community football in Tasmania, it was also vital that the conditions befitted the standard of football played at the venue and that the ground could be fully utilised throughout the entirety of the year. With regular closures and sub-par conditions for Tasmanian State League / NTFA Premier League football, both the lighting and surface components of this project were desperately needed to support full utilisation of the venue.

Civil works included the re-leveling of the oval surface, installing new drainage systems, sand slitting, irrigation, the establishment of a 100mm sand mattress, reseeding, new perimeter fencing and improved lighting to 200 lux, to support nighttime training and matches.

The Launceston Football Club advocated for this project for years, understanding the issues with the venue in its previous state. The club sought support from AFL Tasmania and ensured connection between club and council to generate momentum behind the project. West Tamar Council engaged the Launceston Football Club and AFL Tasmania throughout the planning process for this project, ensuring that plans aligned with the AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines and addressed the needs of the club. The Baker Group were brought on to deliver the project, with an outstanding track record delivering similar projects and experience developing the venue adjacent to Windsor Park (Launceston Christian School) giving council confidence. Timelines were clearly set out from the outset and adhered to throughout, supporting the successful delivery of the project.

Previous hours of use	20	Current hours of use per week	25
Male Participation	248	Female Participation	60

This project has fundamentally transformed the perception and functionality of this venue. Now, the ground is resilient throughout wet conditions, draining superbly, while also having lighting coverage that supports safer training access and night fixtures. A huge result for not only the Launceston Football Club but the broader Northern football community. In addition, the Launceston Football Club has been working to rebuild its women's and girls' program, and these venue improvements make an enormous impact in supporting the club in this pursuit, with more equitable access now far easier to achieve.

The venue and community are now also in a position to host high-level content, as evidenced by the recent hosting of the 'Relive the Rivalry' charity match between Tasmania and Victoria, featuring the likes of Steve Johnson, Russell Robertson, Michael O'Loughlin and more, providing the council with the opportunity to continue attracting higher profile and marquee matches into the future.





"When I played here, come July/August there weren't many blades of grass left. This is fantastic for our club and the West Tamar community.. it's a feather in our community's cap. It is a positive outcome for the hard work the club and council have put in and goes to show what can be achieved."

Scott Stephens
President, Launceston Football Club

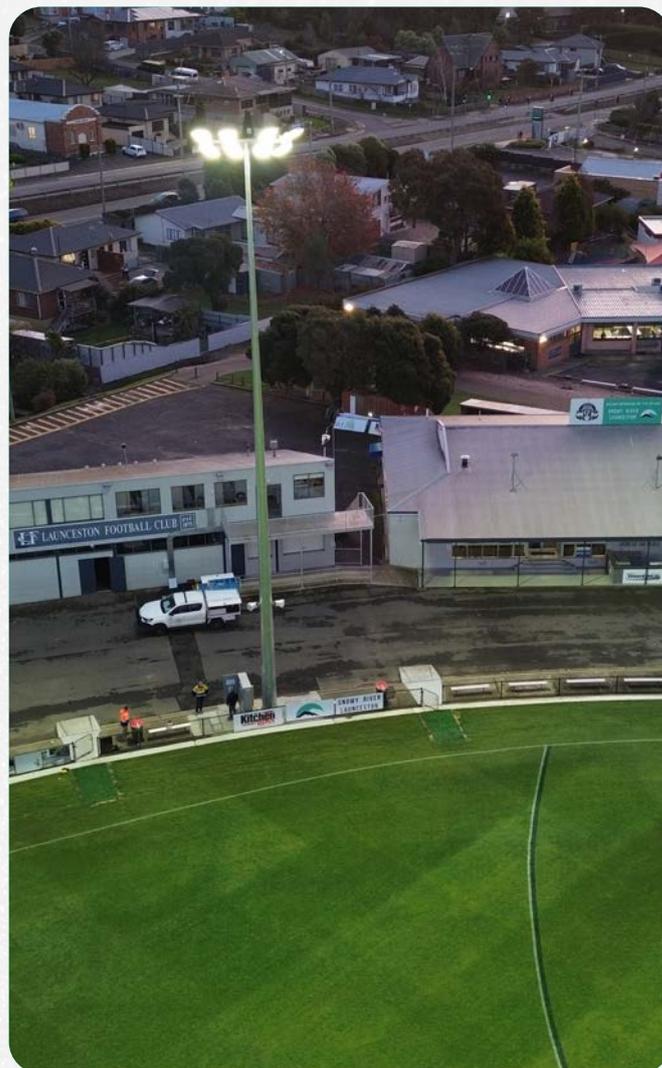
"We are very proud of the outcome and have had fabulous feedback from players that use it on a regular basis. We're pleased we have this for our community members, but the benefits also go further outside our municipality. This award gives us the confidence in future to look at projects like this that we may waiver on for whatever reason. We now know when we provide a facility like this for the municipality, its benefits are very far reaching."

Mayor Christina Holmdahl
West Tamar Council



[Windsor Park Redevelopment](#)

[Windsor Park Opening](#)



“The ground was plagued with surface drainage challenges for decades, highlighted through opposition coaches describing the ground as ‘mud pit’ in the media and council hiring a helicopter to remove excess water before a State League final. Looking at it now, it is hard to believe that this is the same venue. Through the Tasmanian Community Football Facilities Fund, AFL Tasmania has a focus on advocating for and contributing to infrastructure upgrades that result in participation benefits, including a \$74,000 contribution to this project. We view this project as a blueprint for councils and clubs across Tasmania to strive towards improvements and upgrades to unlock greater access and improve the experiences of all participants.”

Anthony Osborn
Venue & Government Partnerships Manager, AFL Tasmania

[Windsor Park Precinct](#)

[Project of the Year](#)

ALEXANDRA PARK PAVILION REDEVELOPMENT

Club: Mornington Football Netball Club, Mornington Junior Football Club, Peninsula Raiders Superules Football Club
 Council: Mornington Peninsula Shire
 Venue: Alexandra Park (Mornington)
 Facility Hierarchy: Local Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	\$4,500,000
Victorian Government - Growing Suburbs Fund	\$2,900,000
Federal Government - Department of Health	\$2,600,000
Community Fundraising - Alexandra Park Project Group	\$400,000
AFL Victoria	\$100,000
TOTAL	\$10,500,000

OVERVIEW

The Alexandra Park Pavilion Redevelopment project delivers a brand new two-storey multi-use sporting hub with modern facilities to the AFL South East region, a region in which Australian football has a strong presence, and demand for facilities which are gender equitable and fit for purpose. The pavilion now offers 4 gender-neutral home and away change rooms, medical and trainer rooms, compliant with the AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines, ensuring the facility caters to the diverse needs of all user groups that call Alexandra Park home. The new facility also provides medical specialist consulting suites and inclusive spaces.

Historically, the old pavilion was severely outdated, failing to meet the needs of its diverse user groups. An AFL Victoria audit underscored this need for change, with major issues with the existing facilities identified. These major issues included open showers, inadequate changing rooms, a lack of unisex amenities, and insufficient space for social gatherings. The public toilets were unsafe and lacked accessibility, and the parking area had no designated disabled spaces, limiting participation and access for many community members. The redeveloped pavilion addresses these issues and challenges faced by the clubs, providing safe and accessible amenities that encourage growth in participation from juniors to seniors as well as women's and girls' teams, helping increase retention and provide further participation opportunities across all three clubs.

This upgrade has significantly benefited the Mornington Football Netball Club, Mornington Junior Football Club and Peninsula Raiders Superules Football Club with the facilities modern and inclusive design already showing increased community engagement and participation. In the last 12 months, since the opening of the Alexandra Park Pavilion in late 2024, the reserve has seen a 5% increase in registered participation from 714 in 2024 to 751 in 2025, with strong female participation being experienced at the site from 169 in 2024 to 176 in 2025, a 4% increase. Peninsula Raiders Superules Football Club fielded their first stand-alone women's team in 2025 by having this gender-neutral facility to create a welcoming and fit for purpose facility to cater for a diverse and growing segment of the football community. The upgraded facility has helped all clubs by providing a welcoming space not only for players but also the community with gate takings up 30% and canteen revenue up 50% in 2025 thanks to the improved facilities including a commercial kitchen and bar upstairs along with a canteen on ground level.

Previous hours of use per week	25	Current hours of use per week	32
Male Participation	575	Female Participation	176

In 2017, the Alexandra Park Project Group contacted AFL Victoria to talk about opportunities and seek guidance to redevelop the reserve including the outdated pavilion. The development of the Venue Improvement Plan provided strategic direction and identified the gaps in the facility and potential improvements/opportunities for the site to cater for a growing and diverse football community that strategically aligned with AFL Victoria's "Growing the Heartland" Statewide Facilities Strategy by building the capacity of community football and council's strategy.

Through the collaborative approach of developing a partnership with The Bays Healthcare Group, the pavilion integrates a rehabilitation and wellness hub including fully fitted out gym within the pavilion that can be accessed by the local community throughout the day. This addition allows football participants access to additional services outside of football to help develop and maintain their health and wellbeing. Council leases the consulting suites to Bays Health to allow for a space to provide services to the community.

Since the initial discussions of the idea to undertake a project at the site, the relationship between Mornington Football Netball Club, Mornington Junior Football Club and Peninsula Raiders Superules Football Club has never been stronger with this project bringing together all 3 clubs to work and achieve a common goal of having a new pavilion that would create a hub for all football programs.





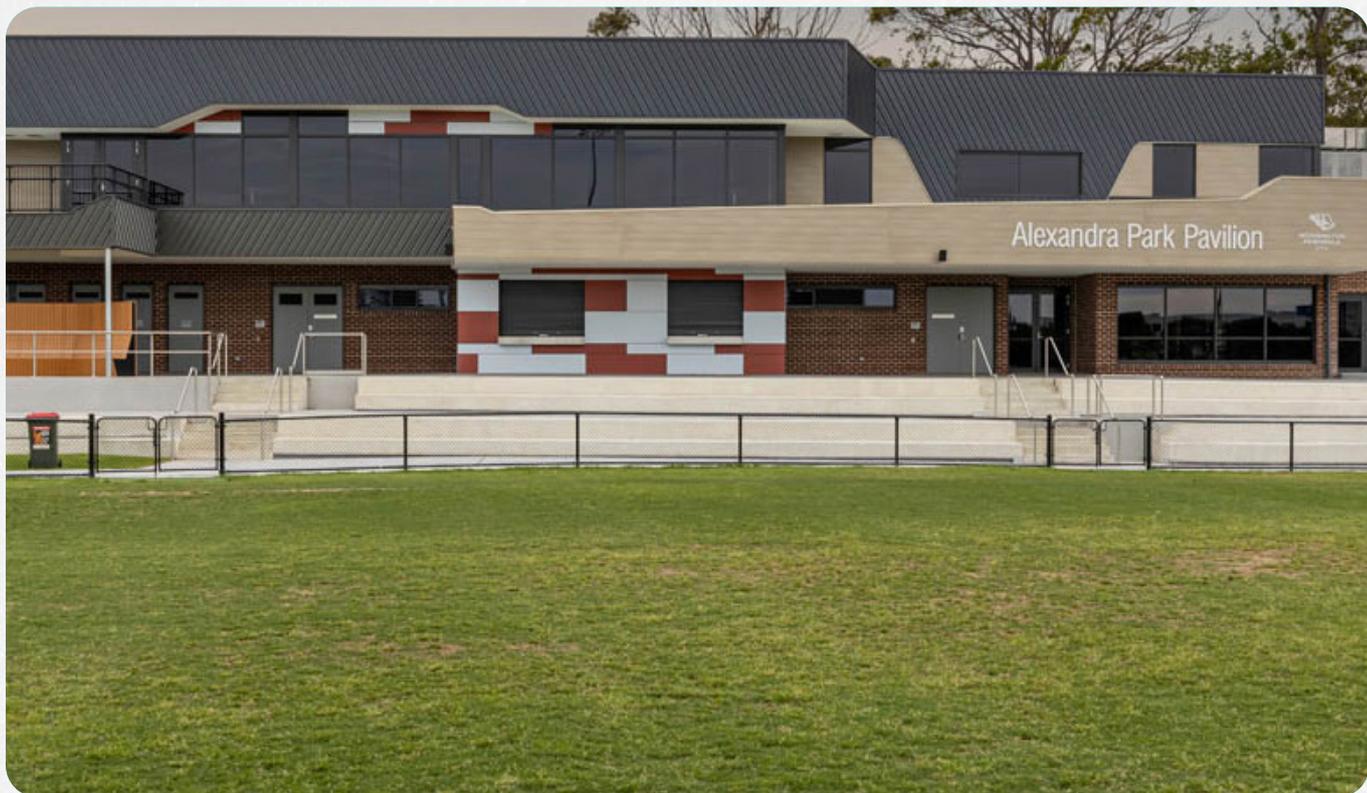
"The Alexandra Park Pavilion is a fantastic achievement showing what can be done when the Community, Governments & Council come together to build such an amazing community pavilion."

Mick Wunderly
President, Alexandra Park Project Group

"As football participation continues to grow in Victoria, it's important that our facilities evolve to support increased demand. This redevelopment supports the growing football programs here in Mornington and also provides a community hub for the wider Mornington population to enjoy."

Jessie Doull
Venue & Government
Partnerships Manager, AFL Victoria





[Alexandra Park](#)

[Best Community Facilities Project](#)

[Venue Information](#)

"We're thrilled to see the completion of Alexandra Park Pavilion. The pavilion is now more inclusive, accessible, and functional, and I'm sure it will become a cherished community asset. The Alexandra Park Project has played a crucial role in making this vision a reality. Their dedication, including raising \$400,000 in community funding, is a testament to what can be achieved through strong partnerships."

**Briars Ward Councillors,
Despi O'Connor, Anthony Marsh
and Steve Holland**

HALESWORTH PARK DEVELOPMENT

Club: Brighton Seahawks Junior Football Club
 Council: City of Wanneroo
 Venue: Halesworth Park
 Facility Hierarchy: Local Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
City of Wanneroo	\$11,853,680
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts	\$5,000,000
Department of Cultural Industries, Tourism and Sport - CSRFF	\$2,000,000
LWP Property Group	\$1,568,000
Department of Education	\$980,000
TOTAL	\$21,401,680

OVERVIEW

The Halesworth Park Development was established to meet the growing demand for sporting and community facilities in the City’s northern corridor. Rapid population growth has created increased pressure on existing infrastructure, with local clubs experiencing limited access to quality playing fields, courts and amenities. The project created a sports hub with two 100 lux floodlit multipurpose ovals, multi-use courts, playground, exercise areas, and a pavilion containing gender-neutral changerooms, multipurpose rooms, meeting spaces, kiosks, and public amenities. The landscaped, accessible facility supports diverse sporting, recreational, and community activities, with parking and supporting infrastructure to meet community needs. Developed in partnership with the City of Wanneroo, Department of Education, local clubs and other sports, the facility addresses the need for new ovals and amenities in a fast-growing area. It provides a high-quality venue for football, other sports, schools, individual exercise and passive recreation, creating opportunities for participation, social interaction and community connection.

For many years, Brighton Seahawks JFC had operated out of shared facilities that were stretched and run down. Despite those challenges, their players, coaches, and families have continued to grow the Seahawk spirit. Now, with the opening of Halesworth Park, the club finally has a purpose-built facility where their kids – from Auskick right through to Opens – can play, learn, and thrive. Looking ahead to next season, the club will also be teaming up with Footy Fundamentals to strengthen their connection with young players and create even more opportunities for growth. The large southern greenspace provides football with priority access to up to two playing fields during the season with other sports occupying the space in the offseason. With match quality lighting, this gives flexibility to mark one larger oval to support senior matches with 2 smaller ovals marked in overlap for junior games or for a more organised training space for multiple teams to use at once.

The club worked closely with the City of Wanneroo to advocate for the project and their needs of a new home base. The club was involved in the journey from the start of the project to ensure the project delivered the needs and wants of the club, plus the other user groups and broader community. The council’s commitment to delivering a facility that meets the needs of the club, and the wider community has been invaluable.

Previous hours of use per week	0	Current hours of use per week	25
Male Participation	170	Female Participation	16

To achieve the project outcomes, the works were delivered in two stages. Stage 1 (2020-21) involved civil infrastructure and landscaping, including two senior floodlit ovals (to 100 lux) catering for multiple sports, Little Athletics facilities with a 400m track, baseball/softball back nets, eight multi-purpose floodlit hardcourts, dual-use paths, playground, exercise pods, BBQ areas, landscaping, carparking, reticulation, and prepared building pads. A key milestone, driven by the Department of Education, was the early completion of one oval for use at the start of the 2020 school year.

Stage 2 (2023-24) focused on constructing the main pavilion, providing multipurpose function and meeting rooms, gender-neutral changerooms, first aid and umpire rooms, public amenities, accessible bathrooms with baby change spaces, storage, kiosks, veranda viewing areas, CCTV, and associated equipment and furniture. Together, these works delivered a modern, fit-for-purpose sporting and community facility.

Along with supporting the main user groups, the project supports the local economy, enhances neighbourhood amenity, and encourages active, healthy lifestyles in line with the City’s Strategic Community Plan. In addition, landscaping and retention of natural bushland ensure the facility blends with its surroundings, creating a safe, accessible and sustainable community asset for the future.



“Halesworth Park is a fantastic example of a well-positioned, welcoming, accessible, fit for purpose football facilities that support our growing game’s strategic priorities. The partnership between the City of Wanneroo and Brighton Seahawks Junior Football Club is also another reason this facility has been produced to this standard, highlighting the importance of this relationship.”

Steven Rose
Manager Facilities and Government Relations, WA Football

“This award means a great deal to our City and our residents. Halesworth Park was built to help local clubs thrive and give families a place to connect, play and grow. It shows what’s possible when we invest in facilities that bring lasting value to the community.”

Mayor Linda Aitken
City of Wanneroo

[WA Football Facility of the Year](#)

[City of Wanneroo Article](#)





“For many years, our club has operated out of shared facilities that were stretched and run down. Despite those challenges, our players, coaches, and families have continued to grow the Seahawk spirit. Now, with the opening of Halesworth Park, we finally have a purpose-built facility where our kids – from Auskick right through to Opens – can play, learn, and thrive. Looking ahead, next season we will also be teaming up with Footy Fundamentals to strengthen our connection with young players and create even more opportunities for growth. Working alongside the City throughout the planning, design, and build process has been a fantastic experience. Their commitment to delivering a facility that meets the needs of our club, and the wider community has been incredible.”

Jamee Brien
President, Brighton Seahawks Junior Football Club

Brighton Seahawks



