

Barkly Square Master Plan

June 2012

FINAL

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executive summary

In March 2011, Macedon Ranges Shire Council commissioned Hands on Community Solutions to complete a Master Planning exercise for Barkly Square in Kyneton. This included the need to work with current user groups to guide the development of the small recreation reserve. Barkly Square is home to the Kyneton District Soccer Club, as well as the Kyneton United Cricket, Dog Obedience and Kennel, and the Small Bore Rifle clubs. The site is very constrained due to its size and topography. There is very limited parking and the buildings are in poor condition. There is also a BMX track at the rear of the reserve which is in average condition. The future of this track has been considered in the development of this report. The reserve is Crown Land and Council managed.

Barkly Square is one of a number of formal recreation reserves in Kyneton, with the main one being the Kyneton Showgrounds. This has a top and bottom oval available for use. There are also school facilities that are utilised for community use. Barkly Square is located on the corner of Beauchamp and Wedge Streets, in the residential area located adjacent to the Kyneton and District Racing Club. The main playing surface has been in very poor condition for the last 5-10 years due to the drought conditions. However, an upgrade to the irrigation system and some minor improvements works have resulted in a much better playing surface in the last 12 months. Barkly Square is about to receive recycled water from Coliban Water, which will be stored in the large water tank on site. This will ensure a reliable water source in the future. Having recycled water on site will present some operational challenges but the benefit to the turf in the long term will be significant.

There are a number of buildings on the site which are in poor condition and the user groups have been hoping for a facility upgrade for some time. The consolidation of facilities on the site will present a major opportunity to free up some space on the reserve and possibly improve parking and access.

The Barkly Square Master Plan will be a great tool for user groups and Council to seek external funding to help achieve some of the much needed projects as identified in the report. This will ensure ongoing use and success of the clubs utilising the facilities on the site.



Barkly Square

Methodology

The following methodology was completed for this master planning project:

- A start up meeting was conducted with Council officers
- Consultation was held with all users of Barkly Square to discuss the process and identify key issues and priorities
- Research, consultation and an industry review was completed
- Consultation was held with the users of the reserve
- A workshop was held with user groups to discuss the draft Master Plan
- A detailed site inspection was completed
- A workshop was held with key Council officers
- A draft Master Plan, including all priorities for Barkly Square, was developed and presented to Council and the community for further input before the documents were finalised

research conducted

The following section contains a review of relevant reports, information and plans in relation to the project. The key findings from this literature are contained herein:

Demographic Review

Based on the 2006 Census data;

Geographic area: 9.5 square kilometres

Population: 4,286 an increase of 159 from 2001

Proportion of Shire population: 11.2%

Average annual population growth 2001 to 2006: 0.3% p.a.

Total number of households: 1,650

Total number of private dwellings: 1,949

Average annual growth in private dwellings 2001 to 2006: 1.3% p.a.

The Draft Settlement Strategy identifies the role of Kyneton and surrounds as a District Town (2,000-6,000 residents). It is likely that by 2036, this role will change to a Large District Town (6,000-10,000 residents).

Kyneton is the second largest town in the Shire and performs an important employment, retail and service role to the surrounding agricultural district and smaller towns. The presence of significant industries, tourism, heritage streetscapes and features, and a mix of residential living environments, also define Kyneton's role.

The existing infrastructure identified;

- Reticulated sewer, water, gas and stormwater.
- Located within close proximity to the Calder Freeway and railway line.
- Kyneton has a modern hospital, two secondary schools and Shire offices.
- Cultural events are regularly held at the Kyneton Town Hall.
- Sports and aquatic centre.



Kyneton Main Street

Literature Review

Council Plan 2009 – 2013

This Council Plan is the primary instrument for how resources will be used and how Council can achieve the community's vision for the Shire. Within the Council Plan are four key themes: Sustainable Living, Community Wellbeing, Sustainable Environment and Infrastructure and Responsible Governance.

Vision: To provide leadership in this inspired region by providing the opportunity for all to live a fulfilling life, whilst protecting our heritage, environment and a sense of community through shared commitment to a sustainable Macedon Ranges.

A Key Theme relevant to Barkly Square is:

Community Wellbeing

Healthy, vibrant and resilient communities

To promote and support social, recreational, cultural and community life by providing both essential and innovative amenities, services and facilities in the Macedon Ranges.

2.3 a) A Healthy and Creative Community

By enriching the vibrancy and diversity of community life through promoting and supporting recreational and cultural services and facilities in the Shire.

2.3 b) Support for a range of passive and active recreational and sporting opportunities in open spaces

Natural Environment Strategy 2009 - 2013

There is heightened community concern and sense of urgency to put in place measures that can support a move towards a more sustainable future and to focus on those issues and activities that will make a real and visible difference. Climate change, water supply and biodiversity threats are critical issues. This document, the Draft Natural Environment Strategy 2009, is Council's response. It has been designed to:

- be consistent with the Council Plan and Municipal Strategic Statement
- provide clear goals and objectives that enable clarity in progress reporting and accountability
- contain practical and achievable actions that are meaningful and meet the needs of the community
- build upon and enhance partnerships within the local community and with private and government sectors
- be flexible to enable adaptation to any future changes to priorities and resources

Key Actions

Significant actions relevant to Barkly Square included in the strategy are:

Developing and enhancing reserves in public ownership

Native vegetation throughout the Shire is in good condition and these must be protected and enhanced to preserve species diversity and to ensure that ecosystem services provided by these natural areas can be maintained.

A new commitment to water use efficiency has to be developed as rainfall diminishes and urban areas expand further. Council's Recreation and Cultural Services Unit has taken advantage of a range of funding programs allowing Council in partnership with Western Water and Coliban Water to use recycled water on many sporting ovals and install rainwater tanks in reserves, such as Barkly Square. This investment in sustainable infrastructure has many benefits including reduced use of potable water, lower volumes of high-nutrient water released to waterways and much improved sporting facilities across the Shire.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Open Space Strategy

This Strategy identified for Barkly Square that it is an established sporting reserve with clubrooms and informal/ passive recreation facilities. Many facilities are in poor condition and vehicle access into the reserve is uncontrolled. In the report, Council states that vehicle access must be controlled and designated parking must be provided. It outlines the importance to consult with sports clubs to commence a masterplanning process to plan for a progressive upgrade, replacement and improvement of park furniture and facilities, a revegetation program to create conservation bushland setting around the northern perimeter of the reserve and to provide formalised parking.

It also details the development of an established shared pathway link at the rear of reserve along Post office Creek.

Rural Land Review (2002)

The Rural Land Review found that ‘the environment and landscapes of the Macedon Ranges Shire are a critical element of planning in rural areas’. The key environmental issues in the rural areas of the Macedon Ranges Shire include:

- the protection, maintenance and enhancement of remnant vegetation and the habitat it provides
- the management of water quality, especially within proclaimed water catchments
- the protection of land from environmental risks such as erosion and salinity
- the promotion of sustainable land management and agricultural practices, and the promotion of sustainable residential development in a rural setting
- the maintenance of rural landscapes and open space for aesthetic, recreational and economic benefits

Community Consultation Framework 2010

Council’s decision-making processes

Council has various strategies to guide its decision-making. Consultation is an integral part of this strategy development. Consultation is also integral to measuring our success and identifying new opportunities and areas for improvement. In making specific decisions, Council is guided by relevant legislation and strategies, and consults with stakeholders. Stakeholders include those who may be affected by the decision and those who may have an interest in the decision.

Planning scheme amendments

Specific consultation arrangements apply in relation to proposed amendments to the Planning Scheme under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. These arrangements enable a person to make a submission:

- to the planning authority about an amendment to its planning scheme
- to a panel appointed to consider a planning scheme amendment

Council is required to give public notice when proposing amendments to its planning scheme, including advice about how submissions can be made.

Consultative protocol for planning permits

In dealing with any planning application, Council uses the following consultative protocol:

- An assessment of the impact of the proposed use or development on surrounding residents/landowners will be undertaken by the Planning Officer. This may involve an on-site inspection.
- On the basis of the assessed impact, the Planning Officer will make a decision on the necessity or otherwise and/or extent of notifications required to surrounding residents/landowners.

Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009 - 2013

All Councils are required under the Health (General Amendment) Act 1988 to have a Public Health Plan that documents its major public health focus and activities. Plans are prepared every three years and reviewed annually.

The Vision for the Health and Wellbeing of the Macedon Ranges Shire community is that:

All individuals within the Macedon Ranges Shire enjoy optimum physical and mental health and wellbeing and feel part of a cohesive, inclusive and integrated community. The community is strong, connected and supportive and actively engaged in healthy lifestyles. The Shire’s community has opportunities to live, work, play and learn in a sustainable, safe and well maintained physical and natural environment. Through responsible governance and effective collaborative partnerships, the Shire’s community is empowered to participate in decisions that affect their health and wellbeing.

Goal 3: To promote community engagement in a physical setting that strives to achieve environmental sustainability and promotes a sense of safety and security.

Goal 4: To build the community’s capacity through consultation, collaboration, excellence in service provision and information sharing.

Health Priorities Objectives

Objective 3.1: Improve community safety and security.

Objective 3.2: Maximise access to a wide range of health, leisure and recreation activities that satisfy the needs of all.

Objective 3.3: Promote the sustainable use of natural resources and protection of native flora and fauna.

Leisure Strategy Plan

The Study Purpose was:

To provide direction to Council for the planning and provision of leisure and recreation facilities and services within the Shire over the next 10 years that is based upon detailed research, consultation and supported justification.

The positive impact of regular participation in leisure pursuits on people's physical and mental well-being is increasingly being demonstrated, which is an important factor for Council staff and other external service providers who are dealing with the health of the community.

General Leisure Participation Trends

Factors regarded as the catalysts for change in leisure participation include the following:

- Change in the size and structure of a population
- Increased recognition of the strong links between involvement in recreational activities and good health, and the development of appropriate activities and services which cater for this
- Demand by people for a greater diversity of leisure activities
- Increased expectation of people/groups for higher standards in facility provision, and of quality programming, servicing and management
- Greater reliance on locally accessed and lower cost opportunities by those without the resources to travel or pay for more expensive pursuits
- Greater emphasis on non-competitive, unstructured recreation opportunities at the expense of participation and involvement in organised sport
- Improved promotion, provision, and management of introductory sports programs by most State Sporting Associations, which are designed for children to "come 'n try"
- More flexible opening hours of facilities and for programming, including weekday, evening and weekend time-slots
- An increasing demand for indoor facilities to facilitate this programming, and to provide protection from poor weather and exposure to the sun

Other significant trends include a gradual decline in sports participation by young people (14 – 20 year olds), possibly because of increased importance placed on academic achievement, and a greater involvement by young people in the workforce created by the introduction of extended shopping hours. Another possible reason identified is the prevalence of children's use of electronic games, computers, TVs and videos. The research found that within the total population of children aged 5-14 years (2,647,500), more children now play electronic or computer games (71%) than play organised sport (62%). This decline in sports participation has resulted in decreasing involvement by young people in 'structured' sporting activities.

Notwithstanding the previously described trend, overall participation in organised sport and physical activities remains highest amongst young people and declines steadily with age. In 2002, 69.5% of all 15-24 year olds in Victoria were involved in organised sport and physical activities. However, among 25-34 years olds, the participation rate had dropped to 51.7%, for 45-54 year olds to 36.4%, and down to 34.8% for people over 65 years.

A particularly significant, but yet to be confirmed, trend concerns increasing participation rates amongst older people. Government programs (such as Active Australia and Go for your life), the continued high media exposure of the Masters Games and athlete role models, and pro-active sporting organisations are collectively having the result of increasingly encouraging older people to participate in sport and regular physical exercise.

In relation to formal sporting and recreation facilities, the Macedon Ranges Shire offers a large range of activity options for residents and visitors, including but not limited to athletics (track and field), Australian football, badminton, basketball, cricket, cycling (track), golf, lawn bowls, petanque, skate boarding, soccer, swimming and tennis.

There are over 100 community sporting clubs and groups which utilise sports grounds and facilities directly managed by Council, Community Committees of Management, and other not-for-profit organisations.

Settlement Strategy

The Macedon Ranges Settlement Strategy responds to Macedon Ranges Shire Council's identified need for an integrated long term plan to manage the growth and development of the Shire.

The Strategy provides the overall direction for urban growth – consistent with environmental constraints, community aspirations and government policy – until 2036.

Managing future urban growth is a key strategic issue in the Macedon Ranges Shire. Significant increases have occurred in the population of most towns within the Shire over the past 20 years, reflecting the Shire's attractive living environments, increased commuting to Melbourne and growth in home-based occupations. The popularity of the Shire's urban living environments coupled with its rural character, have been a source of rejuvenation. However, urban development has also placed pressure on the protection of the Shire's regional values and natural resources.

Community Access and Inclusion Plan 2009 - 2013

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Community Access and Inclusion Plan 2009 - 2013 aims to improve the accessibility and inclusion of those that may have previously been restricted in accessing Council's services and facilities.

Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992

The Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) makes it unlawful to discriminate in the provision of goods, services or facilities, against people on the basis that they have or may have a disability. It also makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person on the basis that one of their associates has, or may have a disability.

Victorian Disability Act 2006

The purpose of the Disability Act 2006 is to enact a new legislative scheme for persons with a disability which reaffirms and strengthens their rights and responsibilities and which is based on the recognition that this requires support across the Government sector and within the community.

Victorian Equal Opportunity Act 1995

The objectives of the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act 1995 - Section 3 are:

- to promote recognition and acceptance of everyone's right to equality of opportunity

Local Government Act 1989 - SECT 3C

The Local Government Act 1989 - Section 3C states that the primary objective of a Council is to endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions.

The Local Government (General) Amendment (Community and Social Plans) Regulation 1998

The object of this Regulation is to require a Council to provide information in relation to access and equity activities undertaken by the Council to meet residents' needs (including access and equity initiatives prioritised in the Council's community or social plan prepared in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Local Government).

Building Code of Australia 2006

The Building Code of Australia is a uniform code that provides comprehensive details regarding the performance and technical requirements relevant to the design and construction of buildings and other related structures. Australian Standard 1428.1 is the main accessibility Standard referenced in the Building Code of Australia.

Barkly Square Lighting Strategy

2MH Consulting completed a Lighting Strategy for the reserve and the findings have been included within this Master Plan as Appendix 2.

Barkly Square Pavilion Feasibility Study 2008

Council commissioned a study into the feasibility of redeveloping the pavilion and associated facilities at Barkly Square.

Along with the need to upgrade or redevelop the main pavilion, a number of other actions were being addressed at the time to ensure the long term use and sustainability of the reserve. Grants had been received and actions were being taken to provide a water storage solution for bore water to improve the playing surface. Funds had also been committed by Council at the time to conduct a feasibility study into the provision of recycled water to the reserve.

The report proposed that the new pavilion be constructed in stages:

Preliminary stage: Seek funding

Stage 1: Two changerooms with amenities, accessible amenities within the changerooms, an umpires room, separate first aid room, three storage areas, male and female public toilets, accessible public toilet.

Stage 2: Two more changerooms with amenities, accessible amenities within the changerooms, an umpires room.

Stage 3: New social/meeting rooms, internal storage, kitchen/canteen.

The total Capital Cost for these redevelopments was: Stage 1 \$622,000, Stage 2 \$461,000, Stage 3 \$420,000.

Strengthening the World Game - DPCD

This DPCD funding program recognises that Soccer is one of the fastest growing sports in Australia and is providing financial support to harness that growth.

Soccer is one of the most popular sports being played at Barkly Square Recreation Reserve. With increasing membership the provision of functional, modern and improved built facilities would strengthen the viability of the club and ensure the long term sustainability of all user groups into the future.

There is no doubt there are more children playing soccer than any other sport. Bureau of Statistics figures for 2006 show there were more children aged 5-14 playing soccer than Australian rules and rugby league combined (304,000 for soccer compared with 176,000 for Australian rules and 97,000 for rugby league). The junior category (10 to 17 years of age) has become the largest component of the FFV competitions, having grown by 94% from 7,827 in 2001 to 15,216 in 2004. (In fact, records show since 1988, there has been an almost continual increase in soccer's popularity on all measures; participation, attendance, television viewing, radio listening and in the print media.)

However, this impressive junior participation rate does not last. Soccer has long held the top spot in the participation tables but has been unable to harness that interest once youngsters go past 16 or 17. The lack of adequate regional facilities that can support growth and a non-existent domestic professional league puts the sport at a disadvantage when it is seeking sponsorship, marketing support and media interest.

The most commonly reported issues affecting Councils within the region are an undersupply of facilities for soccer, overuse of soccer facilities, limited space for additional facility development, the facility standards expected by Football Federation Victoria and seasonal creep (competitions extending beyond set sports season dates). Soccer clubs' desire for pre-season training also adds to the demand for the use of facilities in summer.

Participation in soccer at the senior level has remained relatively stable, and is either yet to experience the impact of the increased number of junior and women players, or players are leaving the sport before they reach the older age competitions.

surrounding facilities

Kyneton and District Racing Club

NMIT Kyneton Park is scheduled to conduct 14 meetings during the 2011/12 season. Six of these are events days attracting around 30,000 people per year.

The yearly Marquee Event is the \$100,000 NMIT Kyneton Cup. This is run over 2000m on the second week in November following the Melbourne Cup. It attracts a crowd of around 6000 people. The NMIT Kyneton Cup Day is recognised as one of the great days out on the Country Racing calendar and forms part of Victoria's Spring Racing Carnival.

NMIT Kyneton Park is located on the edge of the Campaspe River nestled amongst 100 year old Elm and Oak trees. It is considered one of the most beautiful race courses in Australia and is situated approximately one hour's drive from the Melbourne CBD, Bendigo and Ballarat.

Entertaining with family, friends and work colleges in marquees under the magnificent Elms and Oaks has become exceptionally popular over the past couple of years with over 2200 people enjoying Marquee Packages at the 2010 NMIT Kyneton Cup.

Approximately 66 trainers undertake their craft from NMIT Kyneton Park, with around 100-120 horses training on course each day producing approximately 1850 starters across Victoria each year.

Kyneton Showgrounds

Located near Barkly Square, the Kyneton Showgrounds comprises the Number 1 Oval and associated facilities including netball court, changerooms/pavilion, grandstand, public toilets, shade, seating, Agricultural Show facilities and oval lighting.



Number 2 Oval has a skate park, changeroom/pavilion, public toilets and a fire brigade running track.



The Showgrounds are used by Kyneton United Cricket Club, Kyneton Football Club, South Kyneton Junior Football, North Kyneton Junior Football, Kyneton Agricultural Show, dog shows and for many other recreational purposes.

consultation

Consultation was undertaken with the following key groups:

- Macedon Ranges Shire Council officers
- All Barkly Square user groups; Kyneton District Soccer Club, Kyneton United Cricket Club, Kyneton Small Bore Rifle Club, Kyneton Dog Obedience Club and Kyneton Kennel Club.
- Sporting and community organisations that use the reserve or who may be interested in its future use
- Broader Kyneton community
- Football Federation Victoria
- Coliban Water

The results of this consultation were used to develop this Master Plan and the priorities contained within. The draft document was presented to the user groups for their further input and advice. Due to the current condition of the soccer club facilities, there was strong support from members to see facility improvements in the near future.



Kyneton District Soccer Club

The Kyneton District Soccer Club can trace its beginning to 1974 when a soccer club was formed by David Plant, George Johnson and Stan Hodgson. Known as Kyneton United, the teams played in the Bendigo Amateur Soccer League (BASL) and was based at Malmsbury with a red and white strip. Over the following seasons the home ground changed to Kyneton High School (1977) then to Barkly Square (1978 - Present).

The prestigious year of 1979 saw the club win the Division 1 and Division 3 League Championships, the Division 1 and Reserves (now Division 2) Knockout Cup, the Division 1 League Cup and the Reserves 5 A-Side competition. In 1982 the club split into two, with Kyneton United playing in the Metro Division 2 and the newly formed Kyneton Soccer Club (Yellow and Black) playing in the Bendigo League. The present club, Kyneton District Soccer Club, began in 1989 as a merger of the two existing clubs with the new colours of claret and sky blue (West Ham). Kyneton won the Second Division and came second in Third Division in 1996, having been relegated the previous year.

The club has grown from fielding three senior and four junior teams in 2004, to now fielding 10 teams. In 2008, the club fielded teams in the BASL, as well as a Women's team in the Melbourne Metro North West Division. In 2009, the club fielded four senior teams (Division One, Division Two, Women's and Youth) and six junior teams, (Under 16 x2, Under 14, Under 13, Under 12 and Under 11). With an increase in participation, the club made the decision in Season 2010 to move all senior teams into competitions in Melbourne. The youth teams were brought under the Senior Men's banner and the club now fields Thirds (Divisions 1, 3, 4 and 5) as well as a Women's team in the Women's State 3 competition. The junior teams remained in the FFV Central League.

Senior teams play on Sunday and the Junior's on Saturday. Training is held every night of the week during the season. The 2011 Season commenced on 1 May with the following teams; Senior Mens, Senior Womens, Under 18, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12.

The soccer club is concerned that the existing facilities limit the development of the club and do not cater adequately for club use. The club has been hoping to upgrade the changerooms and club room for many years. Football Federation Victoria (FFV) speaks very highly of the club's professionalism and growth over recent years and would advocate for the development of the facilities at the reserve. The club has expressed difficulties in raising contributions for capital works projects due to the socio-economic climate and the cost of FFV registration fees as compared with other sports. Improved facilities would help the club expand further and generate additional income.

Kyneton Dog Obedience Club

The Kyneton Dog Obedience Club aims to encourage responsible dog ownership through socialisation and basic training. Its training sessions are very popular and well attended.

The club conducts training sessions at Barkly Square on Sunday mornings between 10 - 11am from mid February to the end of December, and on Wednesday evenings between 7 – 8pm from mid January to the end of February.

Current club membership is 145 with between 30 – 50 dogs at the Sunday morning sessions. Membership has generally risen over recent years from 100 in 2000/01 peaking to 180 in 2007/08. The club expects this trend to continue in line with the regional population growth.

The club has identified the following issues and priorities;

- The perimeter of the oval needs to be securely fenced to allow safe off-lead dog obedience and agility training and to prevent unaccompanied roaming animals from fouling the grounds.
- Toilet facilities at Barkly Square could be improved to a better standard.
- Insufficient sealed parking areas make it boggy and dangerous in winter.
- Lack of bins for general rubbish and dog waste disposal.
- Dog waste bags and dispensers to be provided as per other MRSC parks.
- Additional bench seating could be provided.
- A covered public BBQ area (similar to the Quarry Reserve facility in Piper Street) would benefit the current users and improve the amenity of Barkly Square.

Kyneton Kennel Club

The Kennel Club conducts the biggest Victorian Dog Show outside the Metropolitan area. It hosts two Championship Shows each year: one in January and one in September. It also conducts the Dog Show at the Kyneton Agricultural Show in November.

Club meetings are held from 8pm on the third Wednesday of each even month in the clubrooms at Barkly Square. Actual dog shows are conducted at the Showgrounds because the grounds and facilities can cope with the high number of participants.



Kyneton United Cricket Club

The club was founded in 1855 and fields teams A Grade, B Grade, B Reserve and C Grade, Under 14 and Under 12 in the Castlemaine and District Cricket Association.

The club uses Sacred Heart College, Kyneton Showgrounds Oval 1 and 2 and Barkly Square for cricket practice sessions in the nets.

The cricket club has not played at Barkly Square for five years as it has struggled to find volunteers that could maintain the turf wicket. While the senior teams at the club would like to play on a turf wicket again, at the present time there is still limited volunteer capacity to maintain it.

It would assist the club greatly to have practice nets at the Showgrounds or at least have improved facilities at Barkly Square. They have also had limited access to the social rooms at the Showgrounds, which presents challenges for the club. It feels that this has affected club numbers in the past and general club morale.

Kyneton Small Bore Rifle Club

Club facilities are used an average of 2.5 times per week throughout the year. Total members for the 2011-2012 club year is 19, including juniors, seniors and pensioners. The local fishing club holds monthly meetings in the Rifle Club's facilities, which is believed to be around 12 members. The Kyneton Branch of SSAA Victoria also uses the clubrooms for one shoot per month and additional committee meetings each fortnight. Kyneton SSAA Branch has 440 financial members in the region.

The club has identified the following issues and priorities;

- There has been a significant problem with surface run-off from the oval and greater reserve area. This has already flooded the clubrooms on two occasions in the last six months. Catchment and drainage to the East of the building needs to be sufficient to transport run-off before it reaches the building. This has caused low level damage to contents only.
- A toilet has been installed and the sewer is ready to be connected to the building.
- Parking is currently inadequate, with the overflow from the Beauchamp Street parking area running around the sides of the club building.
- Street lighting could be improved considering the club's location at the intersection of Jeffery and Beauchamp Streets.
- Any excess fill from works on the reserve could be deposited to the north end of the building. Eventually, the club plans to build out to 50m (currently 20m) and the land drops off at that end.

Schools Use

There is limited use of Barkly Square by local schools and for interschool events when Soccer is being played.



Kyneton and District Soccer Club rooms.

key recreation reserve features

This section of the report aims to document and highlight key features of Barkly Square and some observations about its use and/or condition.

Facility	Existing conditions and comments	Utilisation implications
1. Playing surface	<p>Main playing surface has been in poor condition for last 5-10 years due to drought. An upgrade to irrigation system and other minor improvements has resulted in a much better playing surface last year. Barkly Square is about to receive recycled water from Coliban Water. This will be stored in a large water tank on site ensuring a reliable water source.</p> <p>Soccer club has installed lighting to provide for night training. Recently completed Lighting Strategy suggests major improvements to ensure compliance with training standards.</p> <p>Fencing around oval is not complete and in average condition.</p> <p>Turf cricket wicket is not being maintained.</p> <p>Soccer club completes line marking on a weekly basis during season.</p>	<p>Usage has been affected in past due to poor playing surface. Having reliable water source is likely to increase participation at reserve.</p> <p>Oval lighting is required for night training.</p> <p>Soccer and Dog Obedience clubs would like to install fencing.</p> <p>Cricket club is not using Barkly Square but may need to in future.</p>
2. Soccer clubrooms	Facility is in poor condition and urgent improvement works required to ensure accessibility. A new pavilion would be an advantage.	Clubrooms are well utilised, however their condition would be affecting perception of club and possibly participation.
3. Public toilets/ changerooms	Public toilets and changerooms are in poor condition. Structural damage is evident and they do not adequately cater to user groups.	Toilets/changerooms do not meet demand and present ongoing issues for user groups and visitors. Pressure on these facilities is increasing. Their condition would be affecting perception of club and possibly participation.
4. Dog club building	Building is adequate for current purpose.	The building is used for meetings and storage. Events are held at Showgrounds. Dog Obedience uses building for meetings and training.
5. Small Bore Rifle Club Building	Located on corner of reserve, Club is well used and adequate. Club has reported some drainage issues, from reserve through to building.	Used only by Small Bore Rifle Club and suitable for its purpose.
6. Parking area/ entrances	There are a number of entrances/exits to reserve and a small amount of gravel roadways, informal parking and limited signage. There is only small amount of space available and open roadside drainage also presents some challenges in winter.	Significant parking and traffic issues which create concern for residents.
7. BMX track	Is in average condition and would not comply to industry standards for competition.	Reported that usage of the track is very low.
8. Reserve grounds	All well maintained with ongoing support from Council Parks and Gardens staff. There are some significant trees, limited grass areas and poor park furniture, with some risk management concerns identified in terms of embankments and hazards.	Improvements to reserve grounds would increase safety and enhance area for spectators and casual visitors.
9. Cricket nets	There are two cricket nets which have recently been installed and require some minor improvements to enhance functionality and safety.	Used by the Cricket club once per week and open for general community use.

master plan projects

The Master Plan projects have been developed as a result of the issues identified and the opportunities or projects raised by the user groups and the broader community. The projects have been ranked using the following scale, but the projects should be implemented as funding or resources allow. It is likely that many of the projects will not be completed in the next 5-10 years. These are listed as a guide to ensure broad directions are given for the development of the Master Plan.

Very High Action within 12 months

High To be actioned within 1-3 years

Medium To be actioned within 3-10 years

Low Works not programmed at this stage, but fit into the long term plan

In order for the Consultant to determine these priorities, it was acknowledged that it would not be possible for all user groups to agree on the priority of projects identified in the Master Plan. There are some significant projects identified that will require external government funding for them to move ahead. The funding programs available are likely to determine which projects are completed first.

However, it is within the scope of each user group to raise funds and lobby government for funding to enable projects to be implemented in the future; as long as they are listed in the Master Plan and that appropriate approval has been obtained.

The criteria considered by the Consultant to develop the priority ranking were; Community Priorities, Risk, Usage/ Participation, Availability, Cost/Funding availability, Aesthetics/Improve Appearance/Community Pride, Competition Standard, Multi Use.

Risk Matrix

It should be noted that some risks were identified at Barkly Square that may cause injury or harm to users. The user groups and Council have an obligation to address these risks in order of priority using a Risk Matrix, similar to the following table. This report has commented on areas of concern and further consideration should be given to Risk Management in the future in consultation with qualified and experienced professionals as required.

L – Low M – Medium H – High E – Extreme

		Consequence				
		Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Frequency	Rare	L	L	L	M	H
	Unlikely	L	L	M	H	H
	Possible	L	M	M	H	E
	Likely	M	M	H	E	E
	Almost Certain	M	H	H	E	E



identified projects - master plan

1. Redevelopment of Public Toilets/ Changerooms



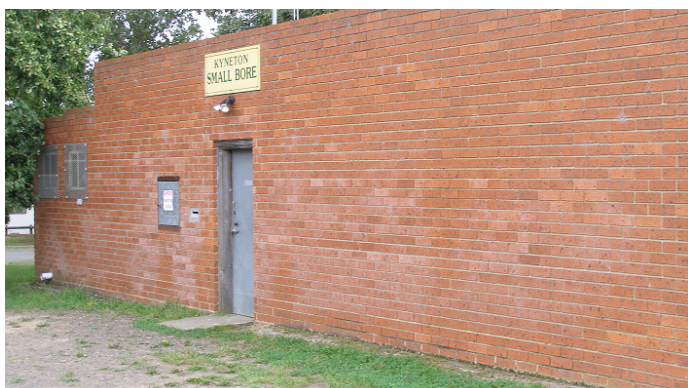
Action	Indicative cost	Primary partner	Priority
Changerooms are inadequate - rated very poorly in Council's Pavilion Strategy. Structural damage is evident and a complete re-build is recommended in medium term. Ongoing building maintenance would assist with appearance and items stored in changerrooms should be moved to appropriate area to reduce risk. There is back flow of sewer, which floods changerrooms regularly.	Design and specifications for new facility-\$30,000.	Council to lead this project in consultation with user groups.	High
Despite recent improvements to public toilets, they are still at an average standard and require upgrading. Number of toilets does not cater for events.	Building maintenance \$20,000.	Council	Very High
Recommended that a new medium sized pavilion constructed combining public toilets, multiple changerrooms, umpire changerrooms, storage area and first aid all in one building, safe and accessible. If funding limited, a staged approach could be developed; firstly overall plan for completion and then construction in stages.	Stage 1: \$500 - 600,000 Stage 2: \$461,000. Stage 3: \$420,000. See Pavilion Feasibility Study.	Council to lead project and user groups to raise a contribution. Funding sought from government with support from FFV.	High - subject to funding available.
Three locations proposed for new pavilion: 1. Once BMX track removed, building located at rear of reserve, but this may not be possible due to soil structure or cost of service re-location. This option greatly improves access. 2. Construct new facility on main corner of reserve and relocate cricket nets. Would also improve functionality and access. 3. Demolish part of the existing facility and rebuild in the same location in a staged approach with the changerrooms being the first priority.	Pavilion costs as listed above or as determined through further investigation. Demolish existing facilities- \$20,000.	Council to lead project and user groups to raise a contribution. Funding sought from government with support from FFV. <i>Note- User groups responsible for development and funding of social facilities.</i>	High - subject to further investigation and funding available.
Areas around buildings need improved surface/paving as they are difficult to access and trip hazards exist. Paved areas should link with formal footpaths to improve access to and from facilities.	\$20,000.	Council.	Medium
Until new pavilion is developed, major building maintenance required to Soccer club building to improve safety and accessibility.	Building maintenance \$10,000 - \$20,000.	Soccer club.	High - safety issues first.

2. Kennel Club building



Action	Indicative cost	Primary partner	Priority
A new pavilion could potentially incorporate facilities to cater to Kennel and Dog Obedience clubs, which would then enable the Kennel Club building to be removed, again freeing up open space/parking areas for the reserve. All groups would need to be involved in detailed planning for this new pavilion.	Costed with Project 1.	Kennel Club and Dog Obedience Club in partnership with Council and other user groups.	Medium
Kennel Club is using the Showgrounds for its events and it may wish to relocate to a building on site in the future.	Subject to investigation.	As above.	Medium

3. Small Bore Rifle Club building



Action	Indicative cost	Primary partner	Priority
The building is maintained and managed by the club and it is fit for its purpose. It would be unsuitable for the club to share its facilities, due to it being designed for one purpose. They do not impede the development of the reserve.	Ongoing building maintenance.	Small Bore Rifle Club is responsible for maintenance.	As required
Improve reserve drainage to ensure the Rifle club is not flooded and any excess fill to be retained for possible extension.	Earthworks - \$5,000 - \$10,000.	Council and Rifle club.	Medium

4. General Reserve improvements



Action	Indicative cost	Primary partner	Priority
Tree Safety- monitor tree safety at the reserve, especially in the car park/high use areas and ensure that tree work is done with appearance in mind. Future tree planting with appropriate mature species would enhance the reserve and provide shade for spectators. Develop a tree management plan in the long term.	Audit- \$6,000. Tree Works- as required. Tree Planting- \$2,000.	Council.	Medium
The old cricket nets need to be removed as they are a hazard.	Old net removal- \$2,000.	Council.	Very High
The old telephone poles, which are used for fencing, and are stored in stacks, present some risk as they have spikes sticking out of them. These should be removed as they are a hazard.	Hazard rectification Council operating expense.	Council.	High
The embankment between the oval and the neighbouring property has an average fence and the bank is not well maintained. There is risk that a child could fall down and injure themselves or that a child could access the water storage area located in the neighbouring property. A new fence should be installed in this area and bank works could be completed to improve safety.	New fence and landscaping - dependent on scope \$10,000- \$15,000.	Council.	Medium



5. Oval improvements



Action	Indicative cost	Primary partner	Priority
Complete installation of recycled water that is being provided by Coliban Water as this will be an important resource for the reserve.	As planned.	Coliban Water.	Very High
Oval fencing will need to be upgraded, replace timber posts and existing fence with chain mesh fencing with a top and bottom rail. A secure fence will benefit the users and also limit access to the oval during settling period of the recycled water. It should be noted that the Soccer club would like to pursue fencing in the configuration to match the pitches, but we have planned for a circular formation to comply with future cricket use.	\$40,000 for complete perimeter fence. Fencing could be completed in stages with a focus on most dangerous sections first.	User groups in partnership with Council.	Medium for majority of fencing. Safety issues a higher priority.
Further turf improvements on an annual basis to include; top dressing, weed spraying, fertiliser and re-seeding.	Ongoing operating budget.	Council.	High
Complete a major renovation/levelling/re-surfacing to a warm season grass project as needed.	\$80,000.	Council.	Medium
Increase the playing surface at the far end corner to increase the space available for the second soccer pitch. Earthworks completed at same time as bank works.	As costed with reserve improvements.	Council.	Medium
Routinely upgrade the irrigation system to ensure good coverage. The water tank could be re-located if the Kennel Club building was removed.	Ongoing operating budget.	Council.	Medium
Install a Synthetic Cricket Pitch as required by the Kyneton United Cricket Club should demand warrant it.	\$20,000.	Cricket Club and Council.	Medium - as needed for Cricket.



6. Oval lighting



Action	Indicative cost	Primary partner	Priority
Implement the 2MH Lighting Strategy as found in Appendix 2. Remove the existing lighting infrastructure as it appears that re-use is not possible. Update the lighting design and determine exact configuration to meet FFV requirements. Implement as a staged approach as funding allows.	\$359,927.	User groups to seek external funding in partnership with Council. Support from FFV.	High - as funding opportunities arise.
Electrical supply appears to be at capacity. A power upgrade to the reserve would be subject to a Powercor quotation.	\$40,000.	Powercor.	High - as above.

7. Park furniture



Action	Indicative cost	Primary partner	Priority
There is a need to repair and update some of the park furniture on site, as well as increase the number of seats. A consistent theme should be used when purchasing seating/tables/bollards bins where possible.	\$10,000.	Council.	Medium - focus on safety issues first.
Increases the number of shelters/coaches boxes.	\$3,000 each.	User groups.	Medium

8. Driveways and access



Action	Indicative cost	Primary partner	Priority
Restrict access onto reserve, especially on the corner, and install signage. Access for emergency and service vehicles only.	Traffic Management and Parking Study.	Council.	Very High
It is recommended that the gravel surface is retained but maintained appropriately in designated driveway areas. Re-instate other areas with grass.	Operating cost.	Council.	High
Signage/infrastructure like removable bollards, chain or fencing could be installed to define parking areas as determined by the Traffic Management and Parking Study.	\$5,000.	Council.	Medium
The open drains could be replaced with kerb and channel, which would improve on road parking and prevent vehicles from being bogged in drains or pedestrians tripping. Ideally, on street angle parking would assist with amount of vehicles using reserve, if space was available. To be considered as part of the Traffic Management and Parking Study.	Traffic Management and Parking Study.	Council.	High
Improved street lighting/security lighting on the buildings.	\$1,000 - \$10,000.	Council.	High
Modifications to the oval fencing, consolidation of the buildings on site, removal of the cricket nets and tree work would all improve access and parking on the site. If any major changes were implemented, a Traffic Management and Parking Study should be completed to maximise the area available.	Traffic Management and Parking Study.	Council in partnership with user groups.	High
A concrete footpath around the reserve boundary would improve pedestrian access to the reserve and would allow local residents to ride scooters and push prams more easily and potentially reduce parking issues.	As part of Council's Footpath Program.	Council.	Medium



9. BMX track



Action	Indicative cost	Primary partner	Priority
Existing facility seems to be in average condition and does not meet competition standard. There are stringent guidelines for maintaining BMX facilities. A more cost effective option could be to remove the track and use area as open space. The area could also be used to host the new pavilion and/or parking - subject to earthworks and Geotechnical reports.	To flatten site for open space \$15,000.	Council.	Medium - as required for the new pavilion.

10. Playground installation

Action	Indicative cost	Primary partner	Priority
Council has previously identified that Barkly Square would be a good location for a small playground. Council currently has one available that could be installed if an agreed location was identified. Presently there is no suitable location, however we have identified that one could be installed on the BMX track site if the area was flattened and not used for the Pavilion. It could alternatively be installed at the front of the reserve, depending on the outcome of the new pavilion location.	\$10,000.	Council.	Medium

11. Cricket nets



Action	Indicative cost	Primary partner	Priority
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Retention of the junior sized oval at Barkly Square

It should be noted that the user groups, predominantly Soccer, have requested the conversion of the Barkly Square oval to a rectangular playing surface. This would better cater for soccer and allow some major modifications to the site to improve access and functionality.

We have determined that significant cost savings would result in some of the projects if the oval size was reduced, these would include;

- Oval Lighting- Less playing area would need to be covered and the light towers could be closer together, reduced cost
- Oval Fencing- less fencing would be required which would increase parking and open space areas and better cater for soccer
- New Pavilion- could be relocated closer to the playing surface and allow a staged approach for construction, retain the existing buildings until completed
- Oval Maintenance- there would be less playing surface to maintain and irrigate which would be less expensive

Currently, the Kyneton United Cricket Club do not use Barkly Square, although there is some interest in returning in the future to re-establish a turf wicket. However, the club's priority is to develop the clubhouse and cricket nets at the Kyneton Showgrounds.

At the time of the development of this Master Plan it was determined that Barkly Square should be retained as an oval configuration (junior sized) as broad participation in a range of sports in the future was the planning objective. Council's Leisure Strategy has predicted that it is likely participation in cricket and other sports will require a junior sized oval in the future.



Barkly Square oval

funding and grants available

Federal Government

Various funding programs are released annually. Information on suitable grants should be obtained through Macedon Ranges Shire Council as it will be required to auspice the grants.

Department of Planning and Community Development – Sport and Recreation Victoria

The Community Facility Funding Program contributes to the provision of high-quality and accessible community sport and recreation facilities across Victoria. Building Community Infrastructure provides grants to improve places where communities meet and interact. Applications under the Minor and Major Facilities category are available for community groups, working in partnership with Council, to develop or upgrade community sport and recreation facilities.

Regional Development Victoria

This State Government department has access to funding that supports the building of community infrastructure where economic benefit and broad community use is identified. Not ideally suited for recreation facilities, but broader aspects of Reserve development may be considered especially given the tourism benefit for the visitors to the Macedon Ranges region.

Philanthropic Grants

There are active philanthropic organisations supporting regional Victoria through various grants programs. More information can be obtained through <http://communityfoundations.philanthropy.org.au>.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Funding Programs

- Community Grants Program, which allows community groups to apply for project funding
- Capital Works annual budget, which is developed through identified priorities in key strategic planning exercises and demonstrated need
- Council employs Community Development and Recreation staff to assist with the preparation of funding applications and advise should be sought on all identified funding applications

Strengthening the World Game

This program will provide funding to assist local football (soccer) clubs and organisations to upgrade existing or develop new facilities to maximise their capacity to cater for additional participation in soccer. Only Local Councils can apply directly to the Department of Planning and Community Development. Football (soccer) clubs and organisations (leagues, associations, and referee associations) have the opportunity to access funds by applying directly to their Local Councils via an Expression of Interest. Funding is for a maximum of \$100,000 per assessment period.



Funding for Regional and Rural Renewal (FRRR)

Supports the development of regional community foundations and uses seed funding and challenge grants. The Small Grants for Rural Communities program offers about \$900,000 a year in grants to benefit people in rural and remote communities. Not-for-profit organisations can apply for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities living in small rural and remote locations contributing to their development in social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas.

Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)

This program supports the development of modern, high quality infrastructure to create more liveable, productive and sustainable communities. The Fund is also responsible for providing strategic policy advice on infrastructure from a regional perspective. One of the six priority areas is Community and Culture - infrastructure projects that build on local community and cultural assets and enhance the public amenity of regional towns, centres and cities.

Various Environmental Grants

Grow Me the Money - A free program that focuses on correcting over-consumption of resources like electricity and water, and reducing waste.

Sustainability Fund - Supports projects and initiatives that will foster the environmentally sustainable use of Victoria's resources best practices in waste management.

For other environmental grants go to www.business.vic.gov.au and www.vic.gov.au



Sustainability Fund may support better use and management of the water metre, which is currently exposed.



There are various opportunities for facility funding

recommendation and conclusions

The user groups in partnership with Macedon Ranges Shire Council should work through the project list or Master Plan actions as resources, funding and support is available.

Of most importance is the need to upgrade and extend the changeroom building in one of the three locations identified as the existing facilities are in poor condition. The need to improve the public toilet facilities and other buildings is also important. This is subject to some further investigation and funding available. The Lighting Strategy (Appendix 2) should be implemented to enable club training during winter that will comply with industry standards.

A Traffic Management and Parking Study should be completed as a Very High priority. This will effectively design on street parking, limit access onto the reserve and improve vehicle and pedestrian access around Barkly Square.

The BMX track should be removed and all priorities should be implemented with a focus on reducing safety issues first and improving amenity and access in the longer term.

The Barkly Square user groups should:

Source suitable funding/grant opportunities whose criteria fit the scope of this project, in consultation with Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

Continue to develop activities and events at Barkly Square that will demonstrate high participation and viability of the reserve, and to raise funding contributions wherever possible.

Maintain the facilities to cater for the high number of visitors to the reserve.

Work together to identify ways to share facilities and ensure maximum utilisation of the reserve.

Review the Barkly Square Master Plan in five years or as required.

Disclaimer of Liability

The information contained in this report is intended for the specific use of the Barkly Square user groups and Macedon Ranges Shire Council. All recommendations by Hands on Community Solutions are based on information provided by or on behalf of Council and we have relied upon such information being correct at the time this report has been prepared.

Readers should note this report might include implicit projections about the future which, by their nature, are uncertain and cannot be relied upon. They are dependent on potential events or technical assessments, which have not yet occurred.

References

The following references have been used in the development of this report:

- DPCD website - Planning scheme data and maps, grant information
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council - website/strategies provided
- Australian Bureau of Statistics - population data
- Recreation data as identified in the document

Appendix 1- Master Plan Diagram

Appendix 2- Barkly Square Lighting Strategy



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in partnership with

