



**PYRENEES**  
— S H I R E —

# Recreation Strategy



**2017-2027**



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## Executive Summary

### Value of sport, recreation and physical activity

Pyrenees Shire Council recognises the important role sport, recreation and physical activity has in creating liveable communities and in contributing to the health and wellbeing of local residents. It understands that sport and recreation is the social glue that can bind communities together and create strong connections between residents, which in turn helps people to create new friendships and networks and reduces social isolation. It understands that participation in physical activity is important for people's physical and mental health and can reduce the burden of disease and its associated costs. It also understands without strong clubs and organisations and strategic partnerships with other organisations, that it would not be possible to deliver the breadth, diversity and quality of sport and recreation opportunities currently available within the Shire.

### Changing environment

Pyrenees Shire recognises that the sport and recreation landscape is constantly changing and that in order to be successful and sustainable, Council, its partners, clubs and organisations need to be informed, skilled, proactive and innovative. Issues such as droughts, floods and fires have had a major impact on sports grounds in the Shire in recent years, but have also offered opportunities to be more innovative about the way in which water is sourced and utilised and created opportunities for new facility developments.



## **Facility developments and upgrades**

In recent years, Pyrenees Shire has focussed its efforts and funding on upgrading and developing pavilions at its major recreation reserves. This systematic approach to facility development has paid big dividends, with Pyrenees Shire's sporting facilities now the envy of many neighbouring municipalities. It will be important, however, to ensure that these facilities are well maintained so that they reach their potential in terms of lifespan and continue to be well utilised by the community. It will also be important to continue to upgrade existing facilities, such as Lexton Recreation Reserve, as funding becomes available to do so. However, any potential new facility developments or major upgrades should be subject to a feasibility study to ensure that facilities not only meet the existing and future needs of the community, but are also sustainable to build and operate. All facilities should work towards being universally accessible with a focus on environmental sustainability.

## **Physical activities**

While the development and ongoing upkeep of facilities should still remain a priority, Council should also recognise and adopt as a priority, activities and programs for local residents. Currently there are 29% of residents over 15 years of age who do not undertake any physical activity and 66% of residents are obese or pre-obese, thereby potentially placing their health and wellbeing at risk and creating a negative impact on the health system. To enable a range of new activities, programs and events to be offered, Pyrenees Shire will identify physical activity ambassadors or champions in each community and work in partnership with community planning groups to deliver low cost place-based activities, supported by suitable equipment and training. The philosophy behind this approach is that each community knows what its strengths, assets and needs are and can build a model that best meets local needs. The ultimate aim of this approach is to get more people more active, particularly those who are currently inactive.

An examination of trends in the sport and recreation sector over recent years indicates that the desire of local residents for more unstructured and individual activities is consistent with that is happening elsewhere around Australia. Walking, gym / exercise classes, swimming and running are four of the most popular physical activities in Pyrenees Shire and the nation at present, and participation in these activities is continuing to grow. Activities to be implemented at the local level therefore may include walking groups, social cycling groups, tai chi, yoga, strength training or activities that require minimal infrastructure and numbers, e.g. social dancing, table tennis, community cricket matches, volleyball, badminton, etc. With 50% of the population currently over 50 years of age, it will be vitally important to ensure that there are activities available in every community suitable for older adults.

Pyrenees Shire will also encourage existing sport and recreation clubs, health services and other organisations to value add to what they already do by introducing more programs, new activities or modified versions of their activities. Come 'n' Try days will also be encouraged.

*It is recommended that 50% of Council's Sport and Recreation Capital Works budget be allocated to physical activity initiatives in 2018-19 and that the impact of this funding on increasing physical activity is measured and evaluated to determine future budgetary allocations to increasing physical activity.*



## Club and organisational support

The strategy also focuses on club / committee of management development to ensure that local clubs and organisations are strong, skilled, resilient, viable and adaptive to change. Council recognises the immensely important role these volunteer organisations play in the delivery of sport and recreation opportunities throughout the Shire, however, it also recognises that increased compliance and statutory requirements, along with a decrease in volunteers willing to be involved in governance in recent years has made it more difficult for clubs and organisation to deliver their activities effectively. Many Local Government Authorities are moving away from Section 86 Special Committees as a means to managing and governing sport and recreation facilities. Pyrenees Shire needs to consider its best options so that clubs / committees of management are able to deliver their activities to the best of their ability and meet governance requirements, whilst reducing the potential risk to Council. Several different options have been proposed for consideration.

Other areas in which clubs / committees of management may require support include: attracting and retaining new volunteers; fundraising; attracting and retaining players; improving accessibility; and policy development.



## Policy and planning

From a policy and planning perspective, the Recreation Strategy has recommended the development of several municipal wide strategies:

- A municipal trails strategy – incorporating commuter, recreational and tourist walking, cycling and horse riding trails
- Municipal play space strategy – identifying provision of a diverse range of accessible play spaces for all ages and abilities, including some regional level / destination play opportunities
- Play on Pyrenees strategy – focussing on cost effective solutions for the upgrade to drought resistant and safer playing surfaces (currently underway)
- Master plans for recreation reserves

It has also included a number of tools to help guide decision making:

- A draft capital works contribution policy
- Capital works assessment tool
- Minimum facility provision for towns framework
- Hierarchy and service standards for recreation reserves framework

### **Communications**

Establishing more effective communication processes with State Sporting Associations and other relevant partners, as well as better communication with clubs / committees of management, are two other priorities for Pyrenees Shire.

### **Collaborations**

Collaborations with other partners including health services, schools, community organisations and the private sector will continue to be important in order to deliver local opportunities. At a regional level, partnerships with neighbouring Local Government Authorities are becoming increasingly important. A number of joint planning initiatives are currently underway with neighbouring LGAs around recreation reserve usage and aquatic facilities; future planning of this nature is vital in order to maximise limited resources and to share knowledge and expertise.

### **Vision**

A vision has been developed to guide Pyrenees Shire in terms of sport and recreation provision over the next five years. It is as follows:

**The people of Pyrenees Shire are supported to be healthy, active and well connected to their communities through the provision of a diverse range of physical activity opportunities.**

To help achieve the vision, a series of planning principles have been developed. These planning principles will guide Pyrenees Shire and the community when considering implementing new initiatives or facilities or when considering upgrades to facilities. Any sport and recreation initiatives instigated by Pyrenees Shire will ensure that the following planning principles are addressed:

<b>Liveability</b>	Initiatives will enhance the liveability of the community. They may have a focus on one or more of the key criteria that promotes liveability: neighbourhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement and opportunities.
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	Initiatives will be designed to improve the health and wellbeing of the community.
<b>Community connectivity</b>	Initiatives will promote community connections and the development of networks and friendships.
<b>Sustainability</b>	Initiatives will promote all aspects of sustainability from a club operational level to the use of Environmentally Sustainable Design features in construction.

The 11 key municipal objectives included in this strategy, which are supported by specific actions, are:

1. To provide a **strategic approach** to the planning and development of sport and recreation facilities.
2. To **strengthen the capacity** of existing community organisations and clubs to increase participation in active sport and recreation activities and to effectively develop and manage assets.
3. To **increase participation** in unstructured physical activity in order to promote health and wellbeing benefits to the community.
4. To provide **fit-for-purpose sport and recreation facilities** to meet the needs of the community
5. To provide **adequate resources** to increase physical activity opportunities, support clubs / organisations and to develop fit-for-purpose facilities
6. To work in **partnership with or advocate** to other agencies to deliver recreation infrastructure and opportunities.
7. To improve sport and recreation **management and maintenance** practices
8. To **reduce usage of water and energy** at recreation and open space reserves.
9. To **increase awareness** of recreation and open space facilities and opportunities and healthier lifestyles.
10. To **reduce the number of assets** that no longer effectively meet the needs of the community.
11. To **source alternative income streams** to fund sport and recreation opportunities.

Town-based recommendations have also been included in the strategy. Activation of the community through the provision of low cost place-based activities is a key priority in all small towns. In terms of infrastructure development, the major projects identified include:

- Lexton Recreation Reserve community pavilion
- Unstructured physical activities such as shared walking / cycling trails, swimming pool upgrades, pump parks / BMX tracks, play spaces in Avoca and Beaufort
- Community park in Snake Valley
- Recreation reserve upgrades at Carngham (Snake Valley) and Waubra subject to feasibility
- Various other facility and playing surface upgrades throughout the Shire, e.g. increasing accessibility of club rooms, installation of shade / shelter, lighting of sports facilities, hall upgrades, warm season grass conversions, solar panels, scoreboards, irrigation systems, trails and outdoor gyms.

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Aim of the strategy

The aim of the Pyrenees Shire Recreation Strategy is to develop a framework to guide decision making in relation to recreation planning, provision and management.

### 1.2 Scope

Some key aspects that the Strategy addresses are:

- Identification of Council's future role in relation to sport, recreation and physical activity
- An analysis of current and preferred level of service and provision
- Identification of lifespan of existing facilities and advice around rationalisation and resource sharing
- Development of a prioritised infrastructure development strategy which is aligned with geographic regions and local communities
- Identification of strategies to increase access to specific target groups to sport, recreation and physical activity. These groups include young people, older adults and people with disabilities
- A review of Council's existing Recreation Capital Works guidelines and funding procedures and recommendations for improvements
- Identification of the number one priority project for Council and the completion of a feasibility study to progress further planning related to this priority
- Identification of strategies to reduce the burden on volunteers
- Strategies to increase participation in sport, recreation and physical activity.
- Identification of potential existing open space in the municipality that could be activated
- Assessment of Council's Recreation budget and financial processes

More broadly, the Strategy focuses on identifying the appropriate mix, location and standard of sport and recreation facilities, infrastructure, programs and services to effectively meet the needs of the community and to ensure that Pyrenees Shire continues to enhance its liveability for all residents.

A key outcome is to ensure the ongoing sustainability of sport, recreation and open space management and provision outcomes for Council and the community (financial, social and environmental outcomes) and identification of effective partnerships and collaboration with other land management agencies and leisure infrastructure providers to assist in meeting community needs.

For the purpose of this Strategy, Pyrenees Shire has defined recreation to encompass all formal and informal physical activities such as netball, football, lawn bowls, horse riding, petanque, swimming, running, dog walking, cycling, walking and swimming.

### 1.3 Methodology

In order to obtain the information necessary to make informed decisions about the future provision of recreation opportunities in Pyrenees Shire, the following methodology was utilised:

- Development of a project bulletin and survey
- Literature review
- Demographic review
- Assessment of Sport, Recreation and General Community Trends and Issues
- Key stakeholder interviews
- Listening posts
- Assessment of existing sport and recreation infrastructure, service levels and opportunities
- Review capital works guidelines and funding processes
- Identify Council's preferred position in relation to recreation provision
- Development of a Feasibility Study for an identified community project (Snake Valley Community Park).



## 2.0 Vision and planning principles

A vision and a set of planning principles have been designed in order to guide Council and the community in terms of sport and recreation provision over the next ten years.

### 2.1 Vision

**The people of Pyrenees Shire are supported to be healthy, active and well connected to their communities through the provision of a diverse range of physical activity opportunities.**

### 2.2 Planning principles

Any sport and recreation initiatives instigated by Pyrenees Shire will ensure that the following planning principles are addressed:

<b>Liveability</b>	Initiatives will enhance the liveability of the community. They may have a focus on one or more of the key criteria that promotes liveability: neighbourhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement and opportunities.
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	Initiatives will be designed to improve the health and wellbeing of the community.
<b>Community connectivity</b>	Initiatives will promote community connections and the development of networks and friendships.
<b>Sustainability</b>	Initiatives will promote all aspects of sustainability from a club operational level to the use of Environmentally Sustainable Design features in construction.

## 3.0 Our community

### 3.1 Demographic details

Pyrenees Shire Council is located in central western Victoria and covers an area of 3,433 sq km. The current population of the municipality is estimated to be 7,238<sup>1</sup>. This figure has already surpassed the estimated resident population which was forecast for 2021, i.e. 7,227. The majority of the growth is expected to occur in the Correa Park Estate residential development in Beaufort and in other towns such as Avoca and Snake Valley which are close to larger centres such as Ballarat and Maryborough.

The main population centres and approximate number of residents per town (state suburb), according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census QuickStats are:

Amphitheatre (248)	Landsborough(180)	Raglan (231)
Avoca (1,193)	Lexton (231)	Snake Valley (743)
Beaufort (1,539)	Moonambel (167)	Waubra (275)

The remainder of the population lives in surrounding areas not covered by the towns and townships detailed above.

Pyrenees Shire is a predominantly a rural area which also features several state parks, forests nature and conservation areas and the Avoca River. Key agricultural industries in Pyrenees Shire include cereal crops, hay crops, wool, viticulture and forestry. The major employment sectors<sup>2</sup> are agriculture, forestry and fishing (25.1%); manufacturing (13.1%); and health care and social assistance (8.7%). Within these sectors, residents are typically employed primarily as managers (26.2%); technicians and trades workers (14.8%); and labourers (14.7%).

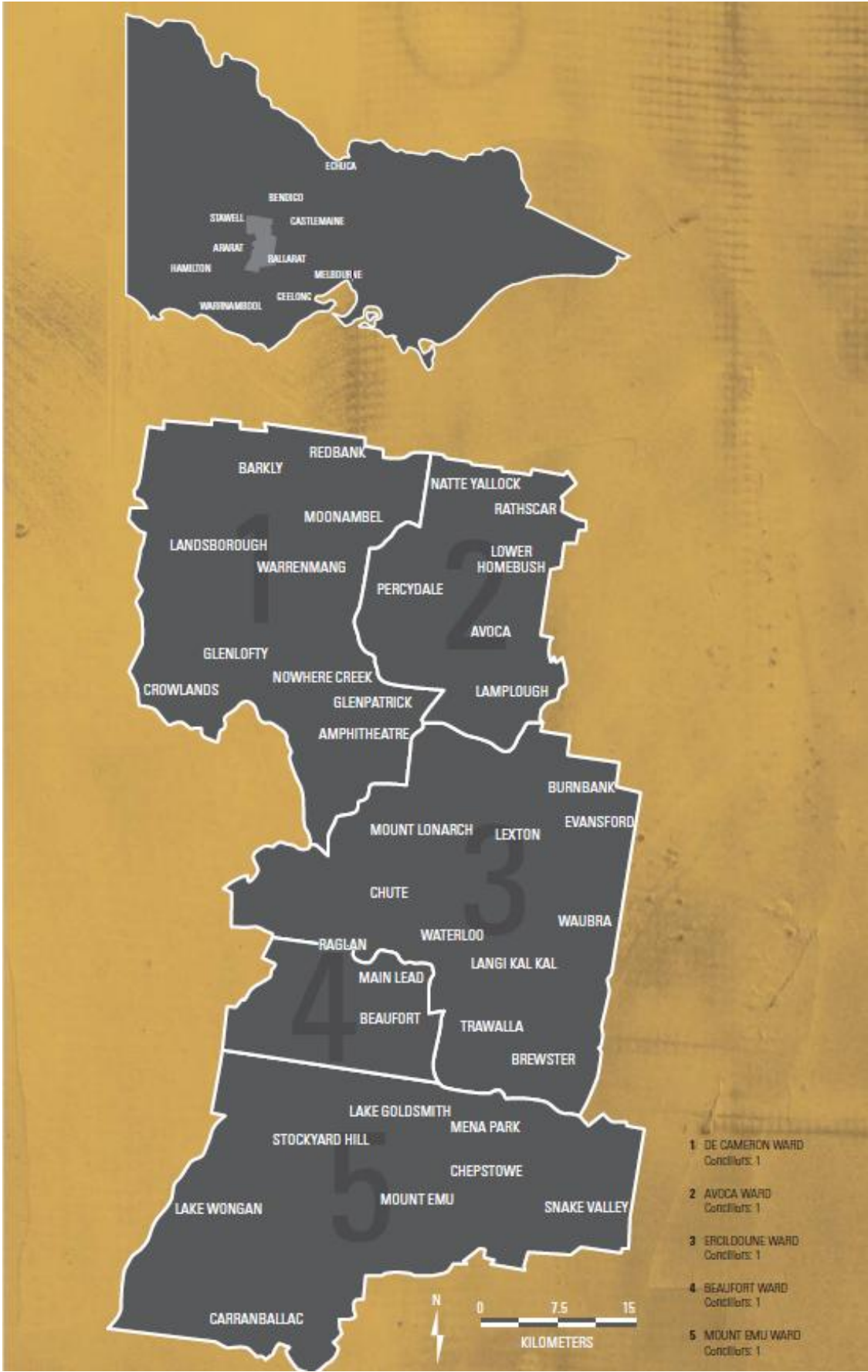
From an economic development perspective, Pyrenees Shire generates a gross regional product of approximately \$0.251 billion annually<sup>3</sup>. Tourism also generates revenue for the local community. Each year more than 40,000 people visit the Shire, contributing approximately \$28 million to the local economy and supporting 128 local jobs<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census QuickStats – Pyrenees Shire Local Government Area: [http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA25990?opendocument](http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA25990?opendocument) (viewed 27/7/17)

<sup>2</sup> Profile i.d.: <http://www.profile.id.com.au/pyrenees> (viewed 7/6/17)

<sup>3</sup> Pyrenees Shire Economic Profile: <http://www.economicprofile.com.au/pyrenees> (viewed 1/3/17)

<sup>4</sup> Pyrenees Shire Council Tourism Strategy 2016-2019





Some points to note about our community (sourced from Victorian Population Health Survey 2014 for Pyrenees Shire, Grampians Pyrenees PCP Population Health and Wellbeing Profile and Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census information):

### **Population**

- There are more males (52.9%) than females (47.1%) in the Shire.
- The percentage of 0-4 year olds in Pyrenees Shire is lower than the state average (4.7% compared with 6.3%), although the percentage of 5-14 year olds is fairly similar (10.9% compared with 12.0%).
- There is a significantly lower percentage of people in the 15-44 year old age cohort (26.9%) in Pyrenees Shire compared with Victoria (41.6%). Hence the number of people available to play senior level sport in the community is quite low compared with Victorian figures. This is one of the reasons sports which require a large number of players, e.g. football, struggle to find local players and instead have to 'import' them from other areas.
- There is a similar percentage of people aged 45-49 compared with Victoria (7.0% compared with 6.8%).
- There is a significantly higher proportion of the community that is aged 50+ (50.5%) when compared with Victorian statistics for the same age cohort (33.4%). This figure will continue to grow; hence provision must be made for people 50+ in relation to recreation facilities and opportunities.
- 81.5% of local residents were born in Australia (compared with 64.9% of Victorians) and 84.6% speak only English at home (compared with 67.9% of Victorians). The need for promotional materials in other languages for sport and recreation activities needs to be monitored, but is unlikely to be a major issue for the immediate future. The most common languages spoken at home in Pyrenees Shire (other than English) are Dutch, French, Greek, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- The median age of residents is 50 years of age, compared with Victoria at 37 years of age.

### **Income**

- The median weekly household income is \$876 compared with \$1,419 for Victoria. As a consequence, cost is likely to be a key consideration for people when choosing to take part in sport and recreation activities. Low cost / free and place-based activities are likely to be important.

### **Community**

- 26.6% of local residents have helped out as a volunteer, compared with only 19.2% of Victorians. Sport and recreation clubs and organisations rely heavily on volunteer labour. Given the high level of volunteerism already, there may not be much more scope to secure more volunteers. Instead, a different approach to volunteering may be required whereby people assist for a cause or a one-off project, without the burden of having to volunteer each week.

- Local residents feel somewhat better connected to the community than Victorians in general (75.4% compared with 72.3%). Sport and recreation plays a valuable role in helping people to develop friendships locally, feel connected to their communities or develop a sense of pride in the achievements of local sportsmen and women.

### **Technology**

- 71% of local residents have access to the internet at home compared with 83.7% of Victorians. Promotion of sport and recreation opportunities must not entirely rely on websites, social media, etc as there are still a significant number of people who cannot or choose not to access these mediums.

### **Education**

- A lower percentage of local residents are attending a tertiary or further education institution compared with Victorians (7.7% compared with 23.5%). It may indicate that young people from the area may have moved to other locations to take part in further training and therefore are not counted in Pyrenees Shire statistics despite growing up in the region. Lower levels of educational attainment may also contribute to lower wages and therefore the need to keep sport and recreation activities affordable.

### **Health and wellbeing**

- Local residents report a higher level of satisfaction with work-life balance than Victorians in general (59.3% compared with 46.9%). Access to sport and recreation opportunities can help people develop a sense of enjoyment, achievement and fulfilment outside their working lives and should therefore be encouraged.
- 7.1% of the population has a severe disability, compared with 4.8% of Victorians. Consideration needs to be given to ensure that people with disabilities are able to access sport and recreation opportunities – facilities and activities.
- 28.9% of local residents rate their health as fair or poor, compared with 20.3% of Victorians. A priority of Council's investment in sport and recreation needs to focus on improving people's health.
- Almost two thirds of the population (65.8%) are obese or pre-obese compared with half of all Victorians (50%). A priority of Council's investment in sport and recreation needs to focus on improving people's health.
- 17.9% of Pyrenees Shire residents had high or very high levels of psychological stress and 30.3% have been diagnosed with depression or anxiety (compared with 12.6% and 24.2% of Victorians respectively). Sport and recreation activities which promote community connections, provide social level opportunities, occur in supportive environments, involve immersion in nature will be vitally important into the future. Sport and recreation organisations can also provide a valuable service in terms of providing information about mental health services and by supporting participants who may be suffering from depression or anxiety.
- Less than half of the population (44.2%) undertakes sufficient levels of physical activity to maintain health benefits (compared with 41.5% of Victorians).

- More than a quarter of the population (29%) does not do at least one session of 30 minutes of physical activity per week (compared with 18.9% of Victorians). This group must be a target for increased physical activity.
- 28.6% of people do four or more sessions of 30 minutes of physical activity per week (compared with 41.3% of Victorians)
- 58.5% of people participated in non-organised physical activity such as walking (compared with 70.5% of Victorians).



## Transport

- A significantly higher percentage of residents from Pyrenees Shire reported transport limitation in the previous year compared with Victorians in general (31.6% compared with 23.7%). Transport limitations may have an impact on people's ability to participate in sport and recreation activities.
- 3.4% of Pyrenees households do not have a car, compared with 7.9% of Victorians. Whilst car ownership levels for Pyrenees Shire are higher than for Victoria, it must be noted that distances to travel to participate in sport and recreation (particularly football and netball) can be much greater in rural areas than metropolitan areas and also be very costly, especially for those on low incomes. Further, people in metropolitan areas may also have the option of using public transport to get to their activities. This is not an option in Pyrenees Shire. Hence the need for a vehicle could be considered greater in rural areas, but it does not necessarily equate to greater access to sport and recreation facilities and opportunities.



### 3.2 Comparison of main towns within the Shire (2016 ABS Statistics)

At the time of finalising the Recreation Strategy, the Australian Bureau of Statistics had not released all 2016 ABS Statistics, e.g. employment. Hence the following table only contains available information as 2011 Census data was considered to be too out of date to utilise.

Key metric	Amphitheatre	Avoca	Beaufort	Landsborough	Lexton	Moonambel	Raglan	Snake Valley	Waubra	Pyrenees Shire	Victoria
Residential population	236	1,193	1,539	180	231	167	231	743	275	7,238	5,926,624
Younger residents 0-14	13.2%	16.8%	16.5%	5.7%	19.7%	9.0%	16.8%	17.6%	19.4%	15.6%	18.3%
Older residents 65+	26.4%	30.1%	30.6%	26.7%	23.1%	32.9%	27.3%	16.4%	16.4%	24.7%	15.6%
Median age	52	52	53	57	49	59	52	44	48	50	37
Residents born overseas	15.3%	17.4%	19.1%	29.9%	13.9%	21.8%	16.9%	21.7%	16.5%	18.5%	35.1%
Most common language spoken at home (other than English)	None	Khmer and Greek	Vietnamese French, Greek, Dutch and Macedonian	Japanese	Dutch	None	German	Dutch, Greek, Maltese, Romanian and Filipino	Mandarin and Serbian	Dutch, French, Greek, Spanish & Vietnamese	Mandarin, Italian, Greek, Vietnamese & Arabic
Median weekly household income	\$855	\$775	\$792	\$747	\$777	\$862	\$820	\$1,004	\$1097	\$876	\$1,419
Household income less than \$650 gross weekly	34.1%	36.0%	37.2%	39.7%	39.6%	30.8%	35.1%	30.3%	30.4%	33.6%	20.3%

Key metric	Amphitheatre	Avoca	Beaufort	Landsborough	Lexton	Moonambel	Raglan	Snake Valley	Waubra	Pyrenees Shire	Victoria
Household income more than \$3,000 gross weekly	4.4%	2.5%	4.3%	5.2%	3.3%	0%	0%	4.5%	3.3%	4.5%	15.5%
Attending tertiary or technical institution (of those currently attending an educational institution)	8.5%	6.1%	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	4.8%	11.5%	13.9%	7.7%	23.5%
Average motor vehicles per dwelling	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.2	1.8
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Is.	1.6%	0.3%	2.7%	0%	3.3%	0%	0%	3.0%	4.7%	1.9%	0.8%
Internet connection at dwellings	69.7%	66.1%	66.1%	61.4%	63.0%	64.6%	77.0%	80.2%	71.2%	71%	83.7%

## 4.0 Context

Twenty local, regional and national strategies, plans and policies were reviewed in order to provide some context around existing and future provision of sport, recreation and physical activity in the municipality. The documents included:

- Beaufort Lake Action Plan (2016)
- Beaufort Walkability Plan (2016)
- Communications Strategy (2013-17) – updated November 2015
- Community Action Plans - 14 individual plans
- Council Plan (2013-17)
- Domestic Animal Management Plan (2012-16)
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2011)
- Growth Strategy (2015-18)
- Municipal Early Years Plan (2014-17)
- Healthy and Well Pyrenees – Our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (2013-17)
- Positive Ageing Strategy (2010)
- Recreation Strategy (2010-2020)
- Municipal Road Management Plan (2013)
- Section 86 Manual (2007)
- Tourism Strategy (2016)
- Caravan Parks Master and Business Plan (2013)
- AFL Goldfields Regional Strategy (2016)
- Highlands Local Learning and Employment Inc (2013 - updated) Environmental Scan
- Department for Health and Human Services (2016) Valuing Sport and Recreation: A Framework for the Future
- Australian Sports Commission and CSIRO (2013) The Future of Australian Sport – Megatrends shaping the sports sector over coming decades

Some of these documents identified specific actions that need to occur to improve town-based recreational opportunities, e.g. establishment of a community park in Snake Valley and the lobbying of funding bodies to support the construction of the Lexton Hub , whilst others focussed more broadly on management, operations and funding, e.g. reviewing Council’s community grants policy and upgrading footpaths. More detail of the recommendations contained within these strategies is provided in the Appendix, and wherever possible, these recommendations have been incorporated into the action plan. Some specific points to note include:

- ◆ There is a good understanding of the role that sport and recreation can play in terms of improving the liveability of towns and in improving the health and wellbeing of the community
- ◆ Communities have identified their specific sport and recreation facility needs within Community Action Plans, however, there may need to be further work undertaken to justify some of these works and to test their feasibility.
- ◆ There is a growing focus on ensuring accessibility and incorporating environmentally sustainable design features into facilities.
- ◆ Many of the community plans have a focus on programs, events or initiatives that will enable greater community connections
- ◆ Access to good quality and affordable water is an issue that needs to be addressed in order to provide clubs and organisations with safe playing surfaces
- ◆ There is an increasing focus on the need to develop walking and cycling paths / trails, for active transport, recreational purposes and to attract visitors and therefore economic benefits to the area
- ◆ The impact of climate change, particularly flooding and drought, has been identified as an issue for communities and sports clubs
- ◆ There is a recognised need to improve the promotion of initiatives and facilities, including better signage
- ◆ There is a greater awareness of the need to provide female change rooms in order to attract more female participants to take part in physical activities
- ◆ Lighting of sport and recreation facilities is recognised as an important factor to enable weeknight training or competitions.

A detailed literature review is included in the Appendix.



## 5.0 Benefits of sport and recreation

### 5.1 Benefits of recreation and open space

The benefits of recreation and open space are well documented. Not only do individuals benefit from a health and wellbeing perspective, but the whole community benefits from a greater sense of community, economic opportunities, improvement to the environment, reduction in crime and a more livable community. Some of the benefits that can occur through participation in sport and recreation are:

Social Benefits	Health Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater sense of community</li> <li>• Stronger, more self-reliant communities</li> <li>• Greater social and friendship networks</li> <li>• Enhances liveability of an area</li> <li>• Reduces anti-social behavior and vandalism</li> <li>• Helps to develop shared attitudes, values and codes of behavior in the community</li> <li>• Breaks down barriers between different sectors of the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Protect(s) against a range of poor health outcomes, including cardiovascular disease, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, musculoskeletal impairments, obesity, some cancers and poor mental health.”<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• Improved balance and coordination, resulting in fewer falls</li> <li>• Stronger muscles, joints and bones</li> <li>• Improved confidence and self-esteem</li> <li>• Improved body image</li> <li>• Improved motor skills</li> <li>• Less likely to suffer from depression and anxiety</li> <li>• Greater sense of achievement</li> <li>• Reduced stress levels</li> <li>• Higher energy and concentration levels</li> <li>• Reduction in incidence and severity of illness and disability</li> <li>• Increased life expectancy.</li> </ul>
Environmental Benefits	Economic Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protects areas of conservation or cultural heritage value</li> <li>• Contributes to storm water management</li> <li>• Contributes to abatement of urban heat island effect</li> <li>• Sequesters carbon</li> <li>• Reduces air pollution</li> <li>• Reduces noise pollution</li> <li>• Encourages a greater appreciation and awareness of the natural environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attracts visitors and generates tourism</li> <li>• Attracts businesses and creates employment</li> <li>• Creates higher market value of properties near public open space</li> <li>• Improvements to local business viability through sale of sport and recreation equipment, services or programs</li> <li>• Reduction in health care costs – according to VicHealth, physical inactivity is estimated to cost Australia \$13.8 billion annually; and the health sector alone \$719 million<sup>6</sup> 16,178 premature deaths can be attributed to physical inactivity each year across Australia</li> <li>• Increases productivity of workers and reduces number of sick days (approximately 1.8 working days per employee per year are lost to physical inactivity or the equivalent of \$458 per employee<sup>7</sup>).</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> VicHealth (2015) Promoting equity in physical activity: An evidence summary

<sup>6</sup> VicHealth (2010) Participation in Physical Activity: A Determinant of Mental and Physical Health

<sup>7</sup> VicHealth (2010) Participation in Physical Activity: A Determinant of Mental and Physical Health

## 5.2 Sport and recreation participation

In recent years, there has been a shift away from organised sport to more informal recreational activities that can be undertaken in small groups, alone, or at varying times of the day. The following table shows the most popular physical activities (organised and non-organised) for people 15 years of age and over in Australia in 2015-2016<sup>8</sup>. Note that participation refers to taking part in the specific activity at least once in the past 12 months (it doesn't account for frequency, intensity, membership / casual participation, etc). No current local data is available, however it is anticipated that local data would show a lower percentage of people who take part in soccer as no clubs are available within the Shire and may also show AFL football in the top ten activities (nationally it sits at number 15 after basketball, cricket, netball and surfing).

Activity	Participation rate (%)
Walking (recreational)	43
Fitness / gym	32
Athletics track and field (includes jogging and running)	16
Swimming	15
Cycling	12
Football (soccer)	6
Bushwalking	5
Golf	5
Tennis	5
Yoga	4

In terms of facility provision for adults, walking / cycling paths and trails, gyms and swimming pools need to be a priority, based on the Australian Sports Commission data. However, there continues to be a place for upgrading sport and recreation facilities.

For Australian children, the top 10 organised activities outside school hours (does not include other leisure activities such as bike riding) undertaken at least once per year in 2015 were<sup>9</sup>:

Activity	Participation rate (%)
Swimming	30
Football (soccer)	15
Australian Rules Football	8
Gymnastics	7
Netball	7
Dancing (recreational)	7
Basketball	7
Tennis	6
Cricket (outdoor)	6
Athletics – track and field	4

<sup>8</sup> Australian Sports Commission (2016) AusPlay Participation data for the sports sector – summary of key national findings – October 2015 to September 2016 data: <http://static.ausport.gov.au/ausplay/?page=1>

<sup>9</sup> Australian Sports Commission (2016) AusPlay Participation data for the sports sector – summary of key national findings – October 2015 to September 2016 data: <http://static.ausport.gov.au/ausplay/?page=1>

Assuming that children continue to participate in these organised sports in the future and assuming that children in Pyrenees Shire participate in these activities at an approximately similar rate to other young Australians, there will be a need to:

- Provide access to swimming pools and possibly swimming programs
- Provide access to fields suitable for soccer
- Provide access to halls and programs for gymnastics and dancing (most likely to be met through the private sector).
- Continue to provide access to football / cricket grounds for junior football and cricket clubs; as well as courts and programs for netball, basketball and tennis
- Provide facilities for athletics, possibly at existing recreation reserves, in partnership with schools or at a regional level.

Junior sports development programs such as Auskick, Net Set Go, Biddy Ball, Hot Shots, Milo Cricket, Little Athletics, etc have no doubt contributed to the continued popularity of traditional sports of football, netball, basketball, tennis and cricket, and will continue to be in demand in the foreseeable future as a way to develop skills for each of these sports.



## 6.0 Sport and recreation trends

Participation in sport and recreation activities by Pyrenees Shire residents has been influenced by broader social and economic trends. Some of the trends currently impacting on participation, facility developments and the way open space is used include:

Trend	Details
<b>New activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• movement away from many traditional organised sports such as football, cricket, netball and tennis to more individual or small group non-organised activities, e.g. walking, gym workouts, fitness classes, cycling, swimming, running, etc.</li> <li>• greater use of facilities by personal fitness trainers and their clients.</li> <li>• greater demand for lifestyle/non-traditional forms of sport, i.e. games that can be played in parks or indoors, e.g. petanque, street table tennis, spin classes in parks, etc.</li> <li>• emergence of off leash dog parks in response to smaller back yards and the desire to connect with other dog walkers</li> </ul>
<b>Improved surfaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• installation of sports surfaces that help to reduce injuries and increase player comfort, e.g. sprung wooden floors, plexipave tennis courts and more synthetic surfaces.</li> </ul>
<b>Spectator facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• installation of improved spectator facilities, e.g. verandas, retractable seating, shaded viewing areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Accessibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• installation of facilities to encourage participation by people of all abilities, e.g. use of ramps, unisex toilets with change tables, single storey buildings to allow for wheelchair access, Braille signs, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Improved infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• installation of lighting or higher standard of lighting to allow games and training to take place in the evenings.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmentally Sustainable Design features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development of environmentally responsible practices such as solar hot water, recycled water systems, double glazed windows, wetlands, community gardens, synthetic surfaces, etc to reduce the impact of facilities / spaces and their users on the environment and to potentially reduce operating costs of facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development or upgrading of facilities and equipment so that they meet the safety requirements of their designated sport, e.g. netball court run-offs and provision of adequate protection from the sun.</li> </ul>
<b>Improved planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• master planning of recreation reserves and open spaces to ensure that needs of all existing and casual users are considered in the long term – including the linking of cycling / walking paths, development of play spaces, landscaping and BBQ / picnic facilities, formalised parking, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Multi-purpose facilities and spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development of multi-use facilities and spaces which can cater for a variety of traditional activities as well as non-traditional or emerging activities, e.g. pilates, yoga, meetings, conferences, expos, markets, children’s programs, master’s games, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Social aspects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• greater emphasis on social competitions mid week during the evenings</li> </ul>

Trend	Details
	as opposed to structured competition on a Saturday afternoon. Also a greater focus on developing social areas for BBQs and picnics.
<b>School access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• greater demands on some facilities by school groups due to the declining standard of school sporting infrastructure in some areas or the lack of facilities at some schools.</li> <li>• difficulties for the community to access some school facilities due to school council policies around school use only</li> </ul>
<b>Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• greater demand on sporting facilities and public open spaces such as parks for special events and tournaments.</li> </ul>
<b>Sporting hubs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• co-location of several sporting facilities to form recreation precincts to maximise limited resources and to cross-market activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Value of physical activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understanding of the relationship between physical activity participation and improved health, wellbeing and social connectedness.</li> </ul>
<b>Improved facility standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expectation by the community that facilities, programs, services and management will be of a reasonably high standard.</li> </ul>
<b>Greater availability of facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expectation that facilities will be available during a range of time slots throughout the week, including weeknight, early morning and weekends.</li> </ul>
<b>Electronic communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expectation by user groups that draws, ladder, information, etc about local sports competitions are available via the internet.</li> </ul>
<b>Active transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• greater focus on ensuring that recreation and open space areas are connected to existing walking / cycling networks and public transport options where possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Connection with nature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• greater focus on providing quality landscaping and more natural play spaces which utilise loose materials, rocks, logs, etc. There may also be some interpretive activities associated with the natural features.</li> </ul>
<b>Female and cultural participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• constructing female change facilities for umpires</li> <li>• constructing female change facilities for netballers</li> <li>• providing greater opportunities for female participation in sport, e.g. developing teams for female AFL players, soccer players, cricket players, etc</li> <li>• providing greater profile of female sports at a state and national level, e.g. AFL women's league, professional basketball teams, netball teams, Matilda's soccer team, etc</li> <li>• providing single sex classes or sessions for women, particularly in areas where religious beliefs make it unacceptable for males and females to mix while undertaking an activity such as swimming.</li> </ul>

## 7.0 Existing sport and recreation opportunities

There are numerous sport and recreation facilities and activities available in Pyrenees Shire. A detailed list of facilities is provided within the Appendix. The following table provides an overview of the facilities that are currently available. Note that not all of these facilities are currently being utilised on a regular basis, (e.g. the oval at Landsborough Recreation Reserve):

Town	Bowling green	Cricket nets	Croquet green	Golf course	Gun club	Horse riding facilities	Motor cycle track	Netball courts	Oval	Path / trail	Petanque piste	Play ground	Skate park	Squash	Swimming pool	Tennis courts	Turf club
Amphitheatre								✓	✓			✓				✓	
Avoca	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Beaufort	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Crowlands									✓							✓	
Evansford																✓	
Landsborough	✓			✓					✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	
Lexton				✓				✓	✓			✓					
Moonambel									✓		✓	✓				✓	
Natte Yallock								✓	✓			✓				✓	
Raglan						✓			✓							✓	
Redbank											✓	✓				✓	
Snake Valley		✓		✓					✓			✓					
Waubra	✓							✓	✓			✓				✓	

In addition to facilities, there are a variety of recreational programs and activities undertaken in the Shire including gym, yoga, swimming lessons, personal training, etc. Some local residents visit facilities in other municipalities, e.g. indoor aquatic centres, soccer fields, hockey fields and basketball stadiums in other locations such as Ballarat and Maryborough. In some instances, people who live in other municipalities utilise facilities within the Shire, e.g. there are a number of people from Ballarat who travel to Lexton regularly to play golf, a number of men from locations such as Ballarat travel each week to the Shire to play AFL football and Waubra Football Netball Club buses boarders from secondary schools in Ballarat to play football for the club.

## 8.0 Community engagement

In order to identify the needs of the community and key stakeholders in relation to sport and recreation in Pyrenees Shire, a variety of community engagement activities were undertaken including:

Activity	Purpose	Details
Listening posts	To provide opportunities for the general community to input their ideas into the Recreation Strategy in an informal setting.	4 sessions (24 participants in total): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoca Information and Community Centre (5 participants)</li> <li>• Avoca Swimming Pool (12 participants)</li> <li>• Beaufort Community Resource Centre (4 participants)</li> <li>• Beaufort Swimming Pool (3 participants).</li> </ul>
Community survey	To provide opportunities for the general community to input their ideas into the Recreation Strategy.	67 completed surveys were received
Key stakeholder interviews	To gain some insight into sport and recreation issues and opportunities from the perspective of clubs, organisations, State Government and Council.	42 different people representing 19 organisations took part in 21 separate interviews / meetings
Written submissions	To provide opportunities for the general community to input their ideas into the Recreation Strategy in writing.	1 written submission was received.
Age-friendly communities workshop	To identify what types of programs, services or infrastructure would help older adults to remain living in their communities in the future.	10 people participated in the three hour workshop.
Benchmarking with neighbouring Local Government Authorities	To make some comparisons with Pyrenees Shire in relation to resources, areas of responsibility, successes, challenges and suggestions.	5 neighbouring Local Government Authorities participated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ararat Rural City Council</li> <li>• Buloke Shire Council</li> <li>• Central Goldfields Shire Council</li> <li>• Hepburn Shire Council</li> <li>• Loddon Shire Council</li> </ul>

Activity	Purpose	Details
Your Health Your Say Survey	To identify how the general community would prioritise health and wellbeing expenditure in the region.	24 responses
Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) Workshop	To identify the health and wellbeing priorities to be incorporated into the new MPHWP.	30 participants

A summary of each type of engagement activity follows. Full details of the engagement activities can be found in the Appendix.

## 8.1 Listening posts

Listening posts were held in Avoca and Beaufort to provide opportunities for the general community to input their ideas into the Recreation Strategy. The top priorities identified through these listening posts include:

- **Walking and cycling path developments and upgrades** (e.g. development of a Shire-wide cycling strategy, shared off road path between Avoca and Moonambel and development of a formalised trail up Camp Hill)
- **Swimming pool improvements** (e.g. extension of swimming season, additional programs and events at pools, swimming lessons and more infrastructure such as shade, seats and BBQs)
- **Playground improvements** (e.g. play equipment / recreational opportunities for older children and teenagers such as a half court and areas of open space within parks for play)
- **More information / promotion** in relation to sport and recreation opportunities (e.g. use of a variety of mediums and promotion of activities such as trails and yoga)
- **Gym developments** (e.g. offer health related programs at gyms in partnership with local health organisations, increase operating hours of existing gyms and consider installation of additional outdoor gyms)
- **Recreation reserve upgrades** (e.g. new pavilion at Lexton and improvements to playing surfaces and irrigation systems)



## 8.2 Community surveys

A community survey was developed to help identify existing and future participation and priority areas for investment and action

Of the 67 people who completed a survey, 62% were filled out by females, 31% by males, and 8% chose not to answer this question. There is a good spread of ages amongst survey respondents, with the majority in the 30-69 years of age cohorts. The majority of participants either live in Avoca or Beaufort.

The seven most popular activities by respondents are:

Activity	Number of responses
Walking	46
Swimming	22
Gym / personal training	14
Running / jogging	13
Aerobics / exercise class / zumba	12
Bushwalking / hiking	11
Cycling on road	10

The five most popular activities that people would like to do, but don't currently do are primarily informal non-team based activities:

- Swimming / swimming lessons (8)
- Walking / group walking (6)
- Boxing (5)
- Horse riding / show jumping (5)
- Tennis (5)

The main reason that prevents people from taking part in activities that they would like to do is the fact that it's not available locally (55%). The other two major reasons identified include: I don't have time (9%) and I don't have the skills / confidence (9%). Cost is a barrier for 6% and an additional 4% stated that they are not fit enough for the activity that they would like to do. Another 4% stated that their preferred activity is not available at the right time for them.

Survey respondents were asked to identify the types of activities that they think they will participate in in ten years time. Their answers included a mix of individual and team based activities such as walking, gym, golf, swimming, bowls, netball, cycling, fishing, tennis, bushwalking, horse riding and football.

A total of 48% of survey respondents stated that they undertake more than seven hours of physical activity each week such as: tennis, bowls, swimming, walking, gardening, dancing, riding a bike or manual labour.

41% of local residents contribute between one hour per week and over seven hours per week in a voluntary capacity to a sports club.

Survey respondents were asked to suggest where they believe Council should invest its limited sport and recreation budget. The five key areas of investment suggested are to develop more shared walking / cycling paths; encourage more people to be physically active; generally improve existing sport and recreation facilities; upgrade and better maintain Beaufort Lake; and construct tennis courts in Snake Valley.

### 8.3 Key stakeholder interviews

Key stakeholder interviews were held with 42 different people representing 19 organisations in order to gain some insight into sport and recreation issues and opportunities for consideration:

Issue / opportunity	Details
<b>Accessibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As facilities are developed or upgraded, ensure that they are accessible for people of all abilities</li> </ul>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to undertake an economic impact assessment of the value of sport and recreation to rural towns (undertaken by a university) and to better articulate the benefits of participation in sport and recreation.</li> </ul>
<b>Club support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to support clubs to adapt to the changing environment in which sport and recreation is delivered, to introduce modified or social versions of their sport to the community to source and write grants for funding seek funding</li> <li>Need to support our local football netball clubs, but how long can we continue to support seven ovals and clubrooms?</li> </ul>
<b>Committee of management (special committee) support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council does not have the resources to effectively support special committees. It made a resolution to review each Section 86 Committee. Need an audit tool to determine how effective each COM is, in relation to membership, minute taking, etc. Need to consider alternative options, e.g. incorporated bodies, friends of groups, advisory groups, etc</li> <li>Could consider providing additional support to special committees by potentially attending their meetings, conducting an annual meeting between Council and Committees of Management / clubs to discuss issues and opportunities (this may require more resources from Council)</li> <li>Establish clear protocols with special committees and friends of groups to identify the parameters in which they operate and how Council will support them</li> <li>Consider the establishment of one sports club per town, supported by various sub-committees</li> </ul>
<b>Environmentally sustainable design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities to reduce energy costs of facilities by using renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to focus on decreasing levels of obesity, improving diets and increasing exercise levels through participation in formal and informal recreational activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Informal recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to provide diversity of opportunities – not just football and cricket</li> <li>Develop an iconic playground in Avoca (potentially in the median</li> </ul>

Issue / opportunity	Details
	<p>strip) and a regional level facility in Beaufort to activate each of these areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider installation of more informal recreation facilities in towns such as Avoca and Beaufort, e.g. a half court, a splash park, outdoor table tennis tables</li> <li>• Need to train local people to deliver sport and recreation programs</li> <li>• Need to ensure that there are opportunities available for older adults to be physically active</li> <li>• Need to work with clubs and communities to get them to organise activities for young people. Could offer them some seed funding initially.</li> </ul>
<b>Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to audit current service levels to ensure that they are consistent and equitable</li> <li>• Need to ensure that all parties are aware of their responsibilities in relation to asset management (clearly articulate Council's expectations and set up suitable processes)</li> <li>• Use local correctional service inmates to assist with maintenance of sport and recreation initiatives</li> <li>• Need to improve the way in which Council's Customer Action Request (CAR) system is used.</li> </ul>
<b>Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities to develop partnerships with health agencies accommodation venues, property developers and wind farms to deliver programs, increase patronage of clubs and to attract funding for sport and recreation initiatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Promotion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilise a variety of different techniques to promote sport and recreation initiatives, e.g. posters, letter box drops, social media, Council's website and signage.</li> </ul>
<b>Sports facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to upgrade playing surfaces and irrigation systems on recreation reserves and review the need to develop additional lighting to enable night time use and training</li> <li>• Consider new ways for the community to use recreation reserves that no longer host football, netball or cricket, e.g. establishment of horse riding groups</li> <li>• Develop a new pavilion at Lexton Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Develop master plans for all major recreation reserves</li> <li>• Identify minimum standards for towns in relation to sport and recreation facilities</li> <li>• Need to hold discussions with neighbouring LGAs re shared usage of recreation reserves and other facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Swimming pools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider extending the swimming season; implementing different hours of operation to better cater for the needs of residents, e.g. early morning swimming; better promotion of learn to swim program; additional activities / events (e.g. water aerobics, dive-in movies and Friday night BBQs) development of a hydrotherapy pool in partnership with Beaufort &amp; Skipton Health Services; the development of a splash park in Beaufort.</li> <li>• Improve pool management, maintenance and operations across the Shire, including the CAR system, getting the pool ready for the</li> </ul>

Issue / opportunity	Details
	start of the swimming season earlier, developing service standards, employing Council staff with aquatic experience or sharing such expertise with another municipality.
<b>Volunteers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In partnership with the Regional Sports Assembly, consider providing clubs with support to attract, train and retain volunteers.</li> </ul>
<b>Walking and cycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish more walking and cycling trails / paths / footpaths, e.g. a trail from Avoca to Moonambel and mountain bike trails.</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish cost effective ways to access water and to utilise less water</li> </ul>

There were also a variety of town-based initiatives, which have been incorporated into the Appendix.



## 8.4 Written submissions

One written submission was received from a member of the Snake Valley community (Heather Lee) requesting that the Shire, in partnership with Parks Victoria, develop horse riding facilities, i.e. an area to park a horse float, yards to tie horses up in, a toilet block and a tap established on Parks Victoria controlled land on Coates Road opposite Carngham Bushland Reserve.

## 8.5 Age-friendly community workshop

A forum was held with older adults from Pyrenees Shire on 14 February 2017 in order to identify what older adults like about living in their communities and what types of programs, services or infrastructure would help them to remain living in their communities in the future. The forum focussed on three key areas: health and wellbeing; the built and natural environment; and sport and active recreation. Possible actions to consider include:

Township	Possible actions
General / shire wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to maintain and upgrade footpaths in each town in the municipality to ensure that footpaths connect to key destinations and provide a smooth, even surface.</li><li>• Advocate for improved accessibility to key buildings and facilities for people of all abilities.</li><li>• Undertake research to find out the sport and active recreation needs of older adults; and in particular the barriers that prevent participation.</li><li>• Explore the potential to extend the swimming season at the Shire swimming pools.</li><li>• Continue to upgrade parks and provide a focus on meeting the social needs of park users in future upgrades or developments.</li><li>• Consider installing outdoor gym equipment in each township.</li></ul>
Avoca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore the potential to transport older adults from Avoca to Beaufort (either through community or private transportation) to take part in the Beaufort table tennis competition.</li></ul>
Beaufort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plant more trees around Beaufort Lake and along the Avenue of Honour in Beaufort.</li><li>• Establish a walking trail, a look-out, a picnic area on Camp Hill, along with additional tree planting.</li><li>• Install tables and seats in the main centre of Beaufort at the band rotunda and in Memorial Park.</li></ul>

## 8.6 Your Health Your Say Online Feedback

As part of the development of the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, an online feedback process was established. Respondents had the opportunity to list suggestions and comments related to how they would allocate their dollar on health and wellbeing outcomes. Those comments and ideas of most relevance to the Recreation Strategy included commentary about:

- Establishment of group fitness / exercise classes for men (particularly for those whose football playing days are over) in towns without a gym
- Promotion of existing sport and recreation clubs / organisations and opportunities
- Payment of sports equipment and / or membership for children and young people who cannot afford these costs
- Installation of outdoor exercise equipment in parks and along walking trails
- Removal of junk food and soft drinks from sports club kiosks
- Provision of childcare for parents of small children to allow the parents to take part in an exercise class
- Improvements to walking tracks (i.e. a well maintained surface)
- Development of a skate park and bike track in Snake Valley
- Provision of free sport and recreation opportunities
- Creation of paid sports coordinator positions at each club
- Subsidisation of the cost of joining a gym in the winter months
- Bicycle friendly streets and end of trip facilities within workplaces
- Free access to local swimming pools and attendance by a local service provider to answer questions and provide information about health and wellbeing
- Establishment of the Parkrun program
- Establishment of exercise programs for new mothers
- Encouragement of more people to walk regularly, but ensure that paths / trails are well maintained.



## 8.7 Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan Workshop

A workshop, coordinated by Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership, was held to identify the health and wellbeing priorities to be incorporated into the new Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP). Thirty local service providers and key stakeholders attended the workshop. Across all the workshops held in the development of the MPHWP, there were two priority areas that stood out strongly and will be the main areas of focus for these plans moving forward. These were **healthy eating and active living** and **improving mental wellbeing**.

The report from the workshop identified priorities to encourage active living, as follows:

“Things we can do now:

- Access to community gym equipment, footy club, parents walking, community partners to fund equipment, lots of different activities
- Men’s shed do laps around the oval; improve knowledge of current groups to join; make own group; possible walking festival across a number of natural assets – like Clunes book festival. Focus on having an impact on community every day.
- New Zealand model of marketing – across LGAs
- Review of walking track surfaces / maintenance in Shire to plan for long term remedy/solutions.

2-3 years:

- Facilities and footpaths, and safe tracks; School exclusion zones – park and walk; Make it fun to walk with footpath games, meet a friend.
- Boot camps; opening pools for lap swimming, Sons of the West program.
- Communication about all the resources and program activities available
- Provide transport to facilities we don’t have in Shire
- Promote tennis teams within community
- Insurance fees inhibitive for small groups - possible merging organizations and hence access

Over the next 5 years:

- Access to pop up activities, outdoor gyms; Exercise associated with young families – bring the kids, kindergarten time. Need the babies and kids to be taken care of.
- Swimming pool needs to be warm.
- Improve internet connections; school resources used by community members
- Pathways in every town well maintained.
- Communicate what’s on as there are lots of activities for old people; also ensure times of activities cater for workers and low cost.”

## 8.8 Benchmarking with neighbouring Local Government Authorities

A benchmarking exercise was undertaken with five neighbouring Local Government Authorities:

1. Ararat Rural City Council
2. Buloke Shire Council
3. Central Goldfields Shire Council
4. Hepburn Shire Council
5. Loddon Shire Council

in order to make some comparisons with Pyrenees Shire in relation to resources, areas of responsibility, successes, challenges and suggestions. This exercise indicated:

Area	Details
<b>Staffing levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ararat Rural City Council – 1 EFT</li> <li>• Buloke Shire Council – 0.4 EFT</li> <li>• Central Goldfields Shire Council – 1.6 EFT</li> <li>• Hepburn Shire Council – 1 EFT</li> <li>• Loddon Shire Council - 2 – 3 EFT (with some community development work)</li> </ul>
<b>Key areas of responsibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facility planning, e.g. scoping of projects, master plans, tracks and trails strategic work</li> <li>• Project management, e.g. facility developments</li> <li>• Policy and procedure development</li> <li>• Facility management support (governance)</li> <li>• Club / organisational support and development</li> <li>• Contract management, e.g. swimming pools</li> <li>• Community engagement</li> <li>• Grant writing</li> <li>• Administration of community grants</li> <li>• Event management and / or liaison</li> </ul>
<b>Budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ararat RCC did not provide a budget.</li> <li>• Buloke Shire allocates:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$100,000 to sport and recreation annually</li> <li>○ \$220,000 to committees of management</li> <li>○ Additional funds for capital projects, e.g. \$1m this year for two pavilion developments</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Central Goldfields Shire has a budget of \$177,100 for recreation – this does not include any grants or one-off projects.</li> <li>• Hepburn Shire allocates an annual amount of \$126K to recreation including projects and maintenance</li> <li>• Loddon Shire allocates:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community grants - \$220,000</li> <li>○ Swimming Pools - \$500,000</li> <li>○ Recreation Reserves Support - \$220,000</li> <li>○ Volunteer Support \$20,000</li> <li>○ Community programs - \$30,000</li> <li>○ Strategic planning - \$25,000</li> <li>○ Tracks and Trails Management - \$20,000</li> <li>○ Oval mower replacement program \$40,000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Area	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Playground development - \$20,000</li> <li>○ Contributions towards capital works projects ranges from 10% - 50% of project cost and varies from project to project (average amount is around 30%).</li> <li>○ The in-kind support Council provides towards capital projects (administration, planning assistance, etc) is estimated to be around 20-30% of the total project cost.</li> </ul>
<b>Things the LGAs do well</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grant writing</li> <li>● Securing capital grant funding</li> <li>● Regional and local level planning</li> <li>● Facility development on behalf of clubs.</li> <li>● Provision of facilities</li> <li>● Facility management, e.g. swimming pools</li> <li>● Developing partnerships with communities</li> <li>● Supporting community organisations</li> <li>● Project / grant management and administration</li> <li>● Community engagement</li> <li>● Advocacy</li> </ul>
<b>Things that the LGAs find challenging</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting / balancing community expectations</li> <li>● Decline in volunteer numbers</li> <li>● Small rate base and therefore smaller budgets than larger more affluent Councils</li> <li>● Have more facilities than required</li> <li>● Strategic planning</li> <li>● Aquatics</li> <li>● Lack of streamlined IT resources</li> <li>● Ageing infrastructure and funding maintenance and renewal of facilities</li> <li>● No projects that encourage participation</li> <li>● Poor relationship with sports assembly</li> </ul>
<b>Things to consider in the PSC Recreation Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Set a clear strategic vision that takes a community development approach and increases physical activity.</li> <li>● Clear action plan is critical</li> <li>● Facility hierarchies</li> <li>● The concept of fit for purpose</li> <li>● Clear identification of roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders and partners.</li> <li>● Service level statements</li> <li>● Communication</li> <li>● Prioritising community infrastructure development (particularly rationalising other assets in towns such as halls, senior citizens that could be co-located in recreation precincts to get greater use).</li> </ul>

## 9.0 Issues and opportunities

This section of the strategy provides commentary on the key issues and opportunities that currently the provision of sport and recreation in Pyrenees Shire Council. This information has been sourced from community surveys, key stakeholder discussions, literature review and general research.

### 9.1 Health and wellbeing

Like Local Government Authorities around Australia, Pyrenees Shire Council is actively working towards improving the health and wellbeing of its community through delivery of a strategic and appropriate mix of programs, services and facilities that reflect local needs. In 2012/13, the Shire won the state and national titles for the Heart Foundation Health Communities Award for Local Governments with a population of 15,000 or less and also established the Grampians Goldfields Healthier Communities Project at that time. Particular challenges facing the Shire in relation to health and wellbeing include physical activity levels, obesity, pre-obesity, stress, anxiety and depression.

#### 9.1.1 Physical activity

Less than half of the residents of Pyrenees Shire (44.2%) undertake sufficient levels of physical activity to maintain health benefits (compared with 41.5% of Victorians). Some of these people may undertake a few sessions of 30 minutes or more per week, but more than a quarter of the population (29%) does not take part in any session of 30 minutes of physical activity per week (compared with 18.9% of Victorians). The impact on getting this group physically active in terms of their own health and wellbeing and the cost to the health system will be far more profound than simply increasing the activity levels of someone who may already be moderately active or who is already very active. However, there is still a very good case to work towards greater participation levels by all people who do not currently meet National Physical Activity guidelines.

#### 9.1.2 Obesity

Currently almost two thirds of the population of PSC (65.8%) are obese or pre-obese compared with half of all Victorians (50%). A lack of physical activity, poor diet, stress, anxiety and depression are some of the contributing factors to obesity and pre-obesity. A priority of Council's investment in sport and recreation needs to focus on improving people's health to reduce obesity and pre-obesity levels. Facilities such as walking and cycling paths / trails and a series of low-impact low-intensity programs offered in a supportive environment should be considered in the mix to encourage greater participation by this group and ultimately improvements to their health and wellbeing. Sugary drinks have been taken out of sight in swimming pool kiosks in 2016/17 and will be removed altogether for the next swimming season. There has been no negative feedback and no negative financial impact. Ideally this initiative should be rolled out across all sport and recreation kiosks.

#### 9.1.3 Stress, anxiety and depression

17.9% of Pyrenees Shire residents had high or very high levels of psychological stress and 30.3% have been diagnosed with depression or anxiety (compared with 12.6% and 24.2% of Victorians respectively). Sport and recreation activities which promote community connections, provide social level opportunities, occur in supportive environments, involve immersion in nature will be vitally important into the future. Sport and recreation organisations can also provide a valuable service in

terms of providing information about mental health services and by supporting participants who may be suffering from depression or anxiety.



## 9.2 Liveability

Liveable communities can enhance the overall quality of life of local residents. Some of the factors that determine how liveable a community are include:

- Access to health and wellbeing programs, services, facilities and opportunities
- Engagement / connections with the local community
- Well designed and attractive neighbourhoods
- Affordable and suitable housing
- Opportunities / activities / events
- Access to services (cost, time, physical access, inclusion, technology)
- Transportation options (walking / cycling, public transport)
- Well cared for environment

Sport and recreation can play a valuable role in helping to create liveable communities through:

- Quality, well maintained parks and playgrounds in towns or neighbourhoods which create a sense of place
- Shared walking and cycling paths / trails provide both recreational opportunities and an alternative form of transportation

- Transportation to facilities or activities in other towns or neighbouring municipalities, e.g. table tennis competition in Beaufort or aquatic facilities in Maryborough or Ballarat.
- Access to areas of the environment renowned for its natural beauty such as rivers, hills, bushland, etc via foot, bicycle, horse or vehicle
- Physical activities that enable people to improve their health and wellbeing
- Activities that encourage people to engage with one another and develop strong social bonds
- Ensuring that sport and recreation facilities, programs and services are accessible to all
- Opportunities such as events which can create community enjoyment and pride and at the same time contribute economically to a community.

A welcoming and liveable community not only benefits local residents but may act as an impetus to attract other people to move to the area or for businesses to invest in the area.



## 9.3 Ageing community

### 9.3.1 The numbers

Almost half of the population of Pyrenees Shire (47.2%) is currently over 50 years of age. With only moderate growth predicted for the Shire (i.e. approximately 62 new residents each year over the next four years) and general statewide trends, the proportion of older adults in the community is expected to grow. Hand in hand with the ageing community are a significantly lower proportion of younger people in the 15-44 year age cohort (28.9% in PSC compared with 42.3% for Victoria). The demographic make-up of Pyrenees Shire therefore has a significant impact on participation numbers and the types of activities that people want to or are able to participate in.

### 9.3.2 Impact of ageing on sport and recreation

The majority of people who play the more physically demanding formal sports such as football and netball at a senior level primarily fit within the age category that is under-represented in Pyrenees Shire (i.e. 15-44 years of age). Consequently football, as it requires more players per team than netball, often struggles to attract enough local players and therefore is required to pay players from other locations such as Ballarat to make up local teams. This situation in itself often creates considerable financial pressure on clubs.

Other sport and recreation activities that are not necessarily as physically demanding, such as tennis and cricket and potentially sports such as squash and horse riding tend to attract participants beyond this age range. Golf, lawn bowls, croquet and petanque traditionally cater more for older adults, although many younger people also play these sports. Informal sport and recreation activities such as walking, cycling, swimming, table tennis, strength programs, tai chi and yoga are becoming increasingly popular across all age groups, including older adults. Other recreational activities which can have positive mental health benefits and provide opportunities for social interactions as well as incidental physical activity (such as a group walk before activities commence), particularly for older men are fishing and men's shed initiatives.

### 9.3.3 Council's future investment to support participation by older adults

Given the existing and future demographic make-up of the community, consideration needs to be given to how Council should best invest its sport and recreation dollar. There is an argument that by further investing in recreation reserves and associated infrastructure such as clubrooms, lighting, etc, young people may be encouraged to stay in the community (providing there are employment or study opportunities available locally or online) or younger adults and young people with families from other locations may be attracted to the community due to its perceived liveability and access to quality sport and recreation activities. These people may then take up or create employment opportunities and help to grow towns. It is recognised that recreation reserves not only provide benefits for people playing the sport, but people of all ages (including older adults) can develop a strong sense of community connection by undertaking voluntary roles for a club or simply by going along to matches to watch their town team compete against another team from another town.

There is also another argument that by further investing in recreation reserves, facilities and opportunities that are perhaps more suitable for older adults (who make up almost 50% of the population) will be overlooked and therefore there will be fewer opportunities available for older adults to reap the social and health benefits of physical activity participation. To ensure that older

adults have access to sport and recreation facilities that are most likely to appeal to them, consideration should be given to investing in:

- walking and cycling paths / trails
- spaces in halls / buildings / pavilions (potentially at recreation reserves) where programs such as table tennis, yoga, tai chi and strength training can occur
- parks with social spaces and seating where they can meet with other people or take their grandchildren on outings / to play
- hydrotherapy / learn to swim pool in partnership with an organisation such as Beaufort Skipton Community Health
- increased temperature of swimming pools
- transportation to indoor aquatic centres in Maryborough or Ballarat and to other activities such as table tennis in Beaufort
- fishing platforms
- men's sheds
- improvements to lawn bowls, croquet, golf, petanque and other such facilities where ongoing viability can be demonstrated
- encouraging older adults to participate in a voluntary role with sports clubs such as football netball clubs
- encouraging football netball clubs to provide low cost memberships for older adults to promote social interactions and connection with the community
- encouraging football netball clubs to promote their Thursday night meals to older adults to promote social interactions and connection with the community.



## 9.4 Young people

A number of key stakeholders suggested that cost is a key barrier for participation in sport and recreation by economically disadvantaged young people in the area. They believe that more young people will be likely to participate if their sports registration and uniform costs are waived.

Retaining young people's involvement in sport and recreation can also be a challenge. A study by Craike et al (2009)<sup>10</sup> states that there is up to a 50% drop out rate for young women aged 10-14 years of age from sport and physical activity. Some potential strategies suggested by Craike et al to help increase the participation of young women in sport and recreation are:

- “enhancing intrinsic motivation for sport and physical activity
- appealing to young women's need for socialising through opportunities for informal physical activity
- educating parents about the benefits of sport and physical activity
- overcoming gender stereotypes about what is acceptable behaviour for young women
- improving physical education teachers' understanding of gender issues and motivating less physically active students
- the provision of accessible sport and physical activity facilities, programs, and services in schools
- prioritisation of sport and physical activity in the school curriculum.”



## 9.5 People with disabilities or long-term health issues

By designing facilities according to Universal Design Principles and ensuring that facilities are compliant with (or preferably exceed) Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations, facilities are

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<sup>10</sup> Craike, Melinda, Symons, C. and Zimmermann, J. 2009, Why do young women drop out of sport and physical activity? A social ecological approach, *Annals of leisure research*, vol. 12, no. 2, pp. 148-172.

likely to be reasonably accessible for people of all abilities. Physical access is only one side of the story, however. People with disabilities (e.g. physical, sight, hearing, speech, psychological and intellectual) or long term health issues (e.g. asthma, arthritis, heart disease and dementia) also need to feel welcome in the club environment, be provided with a diversity of opportunities and have access to physical activity at a level that suits them.

Although somewhat dated, a report by the Australian Bureau of Statistics<sup>11</sup> identified the most popular forms of physical activities for people with disabilities include: walking (24.0%), swimming (8.8%), aerobics / fitness (7.4%), golf (6.1%), cycling (4.1%), fishing (4.0%) and tennis (3.9%). The report also stated that for those who were not active, lack of transport or transport issues, along with a self-rated health status of fair or poor were the main barriers. Cost may also be an issue for many people with a physical activity or long-term health issues.

## 9.6 Community expectations

As local residents are exposed to facilities and programs elsewhere, or may have moved from larger centres such as Ballarat or Melbourne, their level of expectation regarding the number, type and quality of facilities and the standard of coaching available sometimes increases. Given the small size of the population and limited resources available, it is important to manage the community's expectations around what is feasible. It is anticipated that the development of a framework that specifies what level of infrastructure should ideally be provided at reserves or towns of a certain size will help to educate the community about what may be and what may not be possible and why.

## 9.7 Climate

### 9.7.1 Drought

In recent years, sports facilities in Pyrenees Shire have been negatively impacted by the effects of climate change. In periods of drought playing surfaces have become hard and sometimes unsafe to play on. At the same time, water has become scarce when sources such as Beaufort Lake dry up. Purchasing water on the open market, if it is available at all, is expensive. To help reduce the impact of drought, it is recommended that ovals that are regularly used for football and cricket, and are likely to continue to be used for this purpose in the future, are planted with drought tolerant warm season grasses and that efficient irrigation systems are installed. In addition, access to a secure source of water for irrigation purposes needs to be explored in partnership with Central Highlands Water. Consideration could also be given to planting drought tolerant warm season grasses, establishing a recycled water system, or installing synthetic surfaces (if feasible and where possible) on other grass based playing surfaces such as lawn tennis courts, lawn bowling greens, lawn croquet greens and golf courses.

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<sup>11</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Centre for Culture and Recreation Studies (2006) Sport and Physical Recreation Participation Among Persons with a Disability



### 9.7.2 Floods

Sport and recreation facilities in the Shire have also been negatively impacted by heavy rainfall events resulting in flooding. In some situations, it will be difficult to avoid damage when unexpected flooding occurs, particularly for facilities that may already be located in a zone prone to flooding, e.g. the playground located next to the Avoca River in Avoca. Sandbagging and other preventative practices will need to be instigated if flooding is expected, as is the usual process now. Any new facilities or facility upgrades need to take into consideration the potential risk of flooding and be designed to minimise the risk of being damaged by future floods or be located in a space that is unlikely to flood.

### 9.7.3 Bushfires

An increase in the frequency of high temperatures and bushfires is another issue that can have a major impact on communities and sport and recreation facilities. Where possible, sport and recreation facilities should be located in cleared areas and constructed of materials that are less prone to burning. Facilities such as walking, cycling or mountain bike trails which are located in areas of bushland need to have management plans that enable such trails to be closed down on days of high fire risk. They will also need emergency vehicle access.



## 9.8 Committee of Management Support

The majority of recreation reserves in Pyrenees Shire (with the exception of Goldfields Recreation Reserve in Beaufort and Waubra Recreation Reserve) are located on Crown Land. The management of these sites is undertaken by a local committee of management that has either been appointed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) directly (which Council has very little influence over), or has been appointed by Council (who has been appointed by DELWP to manage the facility on its behalf). These Special Committees must abide by the Local Government Act. There are currently six special committees in the Shire.

An audit undertaken by Council's insurers has highlighted that Council may not have the level of control over sites that it ideally would have, e.g. monitoring of items such as fire extinguishers. This is supported by a State review of the Local Government Act which indicated that special committees often do not work well for community committees. Council recognises that it has a level of liability and exposure by enabling special committees to manage facilities and by insuring such facilities. It wants to minimise this risk to Council. In Beaufort the special committee responsible for management of the Goldfields Recreation Reserve has had its responsibility reduced so that it is now only managing the clubrooms – not the caravan park and outdoor sports facilities.

Council also recognises that it does not currently have the resources to effectively support special committees to ensure that they are maintaining records correctly, that they are meeting the requirements of their constitution, that their membership is representative of all user groups, that they are charging user groups appropriately, etc. Hence consideration needs to be given to how best to support and resource committees of management. Some potential options include the employment of an additional staff member who has some responsibility for resourcing committees, or perhaps sharing the load throughout the Shire by assigning staff to specific towns to support committees in that town. This second option could be linked to the Community Action Planning (CAP) process, but would require training and support for the staff involved.

In terms of the model, consideration could be given to the establishment of an incorporated body, a 'friends of...' group or an advisory group. Neighbouring Hepburn Shire aims to transition its special committees to a model whereby Council has a lease with the Committee of Management. The lease specifies each party's responsibilities. The Committee of Management then has a licence agreement with sports clubs and is able to allocate the grounds for casual use as required. The Committee of Management is responsible for maintaining any buildings and the area immediately surrounding the building as specified in the agreement and charges user groups a fee to cover this cost. Hepburn Shire is responsible for all other aspects of the reserve, as per the lease agreement.

Some discussion occurred during consultation about the desire of sports clubs to establish just one committee of management or organisation to manage and govern all of the sport and recreation facilities in a town, as opposed to one for each facility. This model should be further explored.

It is also important to ensure that processes are established so that when a committee of management identifies maintenance requirements in their minutes, that these actions are transferred to Council's Customer Action Request (CAR) system where relevant. This does not always occur, particularly if the minutes of a meeting are not forwarded to Council to read.

## 9.9 Club support

Sport and recreation clubs and organisations are key providers of physical activity opportunities in the Shire. They are primarily run by volunteers with a passion for their particular sport or recreation activity. In recognition of the valuable role such clubs play in the provision of liveability, community connections and health and wellbeing, it is important for Council to continue to support clubs into the future.

### 9.9.1 Ground maintenance and facility upgrades

Some clubs and committees of management have stated that they would like more assistance from Council in terms of maintaining their facilities and upgrading facilities. Unfortunately Council does not have the resources to do this. However, there is a role for Council to advise on best practice around sports ground management and maintenance and to provide clubs with information about any grants that may be available to help fund facility upgrades.

### 9.9.2 Communication and information

Clubs and committees of management appreciate the information and support provided by Council officers to assist them to obtain grants. Resources such as the Club Project Checklist, Section 86 Committee Manual and regular information on grants available is also well received.

The majority of clubs consulted with felt that it would be advantageous to hold an annual meeting with Council officers to discuss any issues or opportunities. There was a suggestion that an annual forum or conference for local sports clubs is held where clubs can share information, present on what has been successful locally or elsewhere (e.g. in terms of attracting new members, events, programs, volunteer recruitment, etc), network with one another and be informed of any specific issues / initiatives by Council and the Regional Sports Assembly.

A number of clubs stated that they would like more assistance from Council to promote their club / activities. Some of the tools suggested include signage at town entrances and at recreation facilities and information about clubs and their activities on the Council website and in its publications. Currently Pyrenees Shire promotes the Beaufort Table Tennis Club and Beaufort Men's Shed on its homepage under its 'What's on' column and other activities on the subsequent page. This section of the website could be better utilised to promote more sport and recreation activities throughout the Shire.

### 9.9.3 Volunteers

A number of clubs identified volunteer recruitment, training and retention as a key issue. In fact one club noted that if two of its current volunteers were to leave, it is likely that the club would fold. According to demographics, 29.5% of local residents have helped out as a volunteer, compared with only 17.3% of Victorians. So whilst the percentage of volunteers is higher than for many other municipalities in Victoria, the statistics do not identify the type of roles undertaken by volunteers or the frequency of assistance provided.

Pyrenees Shire and other organisations such as the Regional Sports Assembly could work in partnership with clubs to:

- understand how volunteering is changing, i.e. instead of being involved on a committee of management and attending regular meetings, or helping out in the kiosk every week, or

mowing the tennis courts every week, people are tending to volunteer for a specific project, e.g. constructing a mountain bike trail or a particular event, e.g. marshalling for a fun run.

- understand why people choose to volunteer and respond to this, e.g. social interaction, to meet others, to put something back into a sport, to share their skills, to create something new, etc
- explore new avenues to attract volunteers, e.g. schools, older adults, online, notice boards, etc
- identify the specific volunteer requirements / tasks of clubs
- assist with training and education of volunteers, e.g. food handling regulations, governance, grant writing, etc
- help guide the preparation of job descriptions for volunteers to clarify roles and responsibilities
- provide advice on volunteer recognition processes, e.g. awards nights, thank you BBQs, notices in club newsletters, articles on social media, etc.
- help create a culture of accepting new ideas and new people to help out with volunteer tasks or specific processes.

To help reduce the burden on volunteers, there are several options to consider:

- Recruit more volunteers
- Review volunteer tasks to determine any potential efficiency improvements
- Utilise prisoners from Langi Kal Kal to assist with maintenance tasks
- Clubs to contribute a certain amount of funding to employ someone to drive their sport, administration functions or their committee of management
- Establish one sports club per town to manage all of the sports.



### **9.9.4 Partnerships**

In addition to Local Government Authorities, there are other organisations that are funded to support clubs including Regional Sports Assemblies (RSAs) and State Sporting Associations (SSAs). A number of clubs feel that whilst their members are paying affiliation fees to their relevant State Sporting Association, they get very little assistance or support in return. Council could potentially advocate to State Sporting Associations for improved representation and support in the Shire. It may be worthwhile for PSC, RSA and relevant SSAs to meet once per year to discuss issues and opportunities and to ensure that programs are not duplicated.

Another potential partnership that could be formed is one between clubs and accommodation venues or residential developers to encourage participation by visitors to the area, or to encourage new residents to sign up for a membership.

## **9.10 Facilities**

### **9.10.1 Recreation reserves**

Pyrenees Shire has worked in partnership with recreation reserve committees of management over the past ten years or so to progressively upgrade community facilities (club rooms and social facilities) at recreation reserves. All recreation reserves, except for Goldfields in Beaufort and Waubra, are located on Crown Land.

Committees of management are responsible for maintaining ovals and community facilities at each site, although Council does maintain the grounds at Goldfields Recreation Reserve in Beaufort for a fee. Council does not have the resources to maintain all of the other reserves.

Many of the recently developed facilities at recreation reserves in the Shire are the envy of football, netball and cricket clubs in neighbouring municipalities. The quality and standard of facilities is a testament to the self-help nature of clubs and Council's understanding of the social, health and economic benefits that activities such as football, netball, cricket, tennis and other sports contribute to the community. Lexton is the only major recreation reserve community facility still in need of an upgrade. In terms of sports grounds, there is still a need to upgrade playing surfaces, irrigation systems and install training level lighting at some sites.

There is some concern that each of the community facilities at the recreation reserves will begin to require maintenance and replacement of certain items in the near future, and that funds may not have been set aside by committees of management for this purpose. If the facilities are not maintained and items replaced as required, the lifespan of the facility, along with its appeal and functionality will be diminished. This in turn has an impact on its usage and its financial position. There is also concern about how much influence Council can have in relation to issues such as ensuring that each facility has fire extinguishers, given that these facilities, although insured by Council are not on Council owned land (with the exception of Goldfields and Waubra).

Local Government, as one of the key providers or contributors to facilities at recreation reserves needs to be assured that if it is going to invest a significant amount of rate payer's funds into enhancing facilities such as playing surfaces, lighting or community facilities that the reserve will continue to be utilised for the foreseeable future. Ideally prior to any decision on funding of such

facilities, honest and frank discussions will occur with clubs, leagues, funding bodies and Councils to discuss such matters.

To assist with planning, justifying and prioritising works at recreation reserves, it is recommended that a master plan be prepared for each of the active recreation reserves in the Shire (i.e. those with tenant clubs / organisations).

### **9.10.2 Impact of football club participation numbers and potential amalgamations**

An inevitable outcome of declining populations and an ageing community is the diminished number of young people available locally to play football. Pyrenees Shire and neighbouring municipalities such as Golden Plains and Hepburn Shire all have football netball clubs that are either unable to field senior teams this year or on the verge of not being able to field senior teams. As Pyrenees Shire has a significant investment in grounds and facilities it wants to take a proactive approach to planning, rather than a reactive approach. Consequently it is in the process of forming a working party with other LGAs in the region to identify and advise AFL Goldfields and other stakeholders of Local Government priorities to ensure clubs are sustainable and existing facilities are better utilised across the region. In order to address the issue of sustainability, it is imperative that Goldfields AFL take part in discussions.

There are several options that could be considered by the working party including:

- increased marketing of the sport to attract more participants, particularly those who may be unable to get a game in Ballarat
- encouraging teams from other areas such as Ballarat, where there is shortage of grounds, to relocate their team to an under-utilised facility within the Shire.
- the development of a more social level competition (which opens up the game to those who are less skilled and presumably a larger proportion of the community)
- the development of a competition involving less players per team possibly played on a smaller field
- eliminating the reserves team from the league (thereby reducing the number of players needed each week).

Naturally these decisions need to be made on a league basis with agreement from all clubs, rather than made by one club. There would also need to still be pathways for young people wanting to play more elite level football. If modifications such as these cannot be made to football and there are simply not enough players to field the required number of teams, amalgamation of two teams into one may occur. Amalgamations or winding up of clubs may also occur if the clubs are unable to manage their facilities or are in financial difficulties.

### **9.10.3 Re-purposing sport and recreation facilities**

As populations have declined in smaller towns some areas such as Landsborough are left with facilities such as an oval and community facility that are no longer regularly utilised by clubs or organisations. These areas of open space are important to maintain for the community and wherever possible, they need to be re-purposed for different types of sport and recreation activities. Some potential opportunities include maintaining the ovals as a community sports space so that people can come and play a game of cricket with friends, a golf Frisbee course, an off leash dog park,

an equine arena, etc. Greater use of community facilities could be made by providing communities with some equipment to encourage social recreation participation, e.g. several table tennis tables.

#### 9.10.4 Swimming pools

Swimming pools play a valuable role in the community. Not only do they provide opportunities to contribute to water safety by providing programs to teach people how to swim, they also provide valuable socialisation and physical activity opportunities. There are currently three public swimming pools within the Shire. Usage of the pools has declined in recent years. Statewide, the trend is for declining public pool attendances over the last ten years or more, primarily due to factors such as more private backyard pools, greater number of homes with air conditioning, competition from other leisure pursuits, etc.

Council has applied for funding under the Collaborating Councils (CC) grant funding program to complete a 'Regional Sustainable Aquatic Centres Feasibility Study'. The study will investigate the feasibility of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions as well as pool chemical production and management options with the aim to reduce operating costs, water, energy and chemical use and waste in order to improve the ongoing viability of country pools. One component of this review needs to focus on how affordable entrance fees are, given the socio demographic make-up of the community. Consideration may be given to charging a nominal fee or no fee at all, if the benefits outweigh the costs of provision.

From a management perspective, Council staff currently lack skills and expertise in aquatic facility management including regulations, risk management, maintenance, operations and programming. It may be worth actively seeking someone with this background; particularly if pools are managed in-house again in the future (they are currently managed under contract by the YMCA). Alternatively, such expertise could be shared with another Local Government Authority. Friends of Groups are heavily involved in fundraising for both the Avoca and Beaufort Swimming Pools.

When the swimming pool management contract is next due for renewal, consideration should be given to:

- extending the season (i.e. opening several weeks earlier and closing several weeks later)
- different hours of operation to better cater for the needs of residents, e.g. early morning swimming
- better promotion of learn to swim programs
- additional activities / events (e.g. water aerobics, dive-in movies, canoeing, stand up paddle boarding and Friday night BBQs)

From a maintenance perspective, Council also needs to improve the process for getting the pool ready for the start of the season. Development of service standards would be beneficial too.

There was very little community support for the development of an indoor heated pool through surveys. This is most likely because other indoor aquatic facilities exist in Maryborough and Ballarat. However, it could be beneficial to provide a bus service once per week to either or both Maryborough and Ballarat to enable residents with transportation difficulties (particularly older adults) to access these facilities.

Through consultation several capital works suggestions have been received for consideration:

- Develop a splash park, potentially in Beaufort
- Convert an old squash court next to the Avoca Pool into a spa or hydrotherapy pool.
- Develop a hydrotherapy pool in partnership with Beaufort Skipton Health Service, using heat from the wood chip boiler.



### 9.10.5 Resource sharing

Wherever possible, joint use agreements should be established with schools in the area to enable the public to access school grounds (playgrounds, ovals, hard courts, etc) after hours and for schools to utilise sporting facilities located in the municipality, e.g. swimming pools, ovals, hard courts, etc. Such an arrangement maximises the use of facilities and helps to prevent duplication. There are also opportunities to share resources with health agencies and the private sector (e.g. gyms).

### 9.10.6 Lifespan

All facilities have a given lifespan, which can vary according to usage levels, type of use the facility is subjected to, materials used, quality of construction, base, climate, maintenance levels, etc. The following table provides indicative lifespan figures for sport and recreation facilities:



Type of facility	Estimated lifespan
Turf based playing surfaces	10 years between 'rebuilt'
Tennis / netball courts (hard courts)	7-20 years (quality concrete or asphalt base may last 40+ years)
Club houses / halls	60-80 years
Playgrounds	15-20 years
Cycling / walking tracks	20-40 years
Swimming pools (concrete shell)	25-50 years
Synthetic surfaces	8-15 years
Lighting	40-100 years

Once a facility is nearing the end of its lifespan, it is prudent to identify whether or not the facility should be replaced, or instead decommissioned. If it is to be replaced, consideration should be given to:

- Redeveloping in a different location if need be, e.g. outside a flood zone
- Creating a facility that can be utilised for a variety of different purposes, e.g. a hard court lined for netball and tennis
- Changing what was previously on offer rather than just replacing like with like, e.g. developing a flying fox instead of replacing a spring critter in a playground
- Analysing the best surface / materials used to ensure a low environmental footprint, limited maintenance and longevity of the asset
- Ensuring any new development is designed according to Universal Design Principles and DDA requirements and meets any new regulations, e.g. netball court run off.

### 9.10.7 Facility rationalisation

Pyrenees Shire provides a diverse range of sport and recreation facilities for the benefit of the community including walking / cycling trails, sports grounds, sports courts, skate parks, swimming pools and playgrounds. These facilities are vitally important as they help to create the places where people can be physically active. At the same time, Council is mindful that its investment in such facilities is justified, and can continue to be justified, based on factors such as:

- Lifespan and condition of facility
- Use of facility
- Proximity to similar facilities
- Occupational Health and Safety legislation adherence
- Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliance
- Universal Design compliance
- Financial viability
- Local, state and national trends for similar facilities
- Value of the facility to the community

In order to assist Council with its decision making regarding whether or not specific facilities should be repaired, upgraded, retained in its current state until the end of its lifespan or rationalised, it needs to ask the following questions:

- What is the current lifespan of the facility?
- How often is the facility used?

- How many people use the facility each time it is used?
- What is the condition of the facility?
- Are there any Heritage Listings (or similar) associated with this facility?
- Are there any Occupational Health and Safety issues associated with this facility?
- If there any Occupational Health and Safety issues associated with this facility, are these issues able to be addressed?
- Does the facility require upgrading to ensure its functionality / adherence to relevant regulations such as the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and Universal Design principles?
- How much does this facility cost Council or user groups to maintain on average each year?
- How much (if any) income does the facility generate for Council per annum?
- Who are the main users groups of the facility?
- How important is this facility to the community?
- How important / necessary is it for Council to provide such a facility for the community?
- What are the trends for similar facilities in the Shire or in neighbouring municipalities?
- Are there other facilities in the community or that are provided by the private sector that could take the place of this facility if it was to be closed / no longer used?
- What type of community reaction would you expect if this facility was to be closed / no longer used?

There are several facilities in Pyrenees Shire that are no longer used on a regular basis by a club / organisation. Wherever possible, these facilities should be re-purposed. Where they cannot, and there is no demand by the community to retain the site, consideration should be given to selling the site and using the funds to create other sport and recreation opportunities locally or nearby.

#### **9.10.8 Framework to guide the provision for facilities at recreation reserves**

In order to guide Council and the broader community in terms of what types of facilities could reasonably be expected to be provided at recreation reserves, a hierarchy and service standards framework has been produced (refer to section 12.0).



## 9.11 Informal sport and recreation facilities

### 9.11.1 Trends

Based on national and state participation trends, participation in informal sport and recreation activities such as walking, cycling and going to the gym continues to exceed that of more traditional sports such as football, netball, tennis and cricket. Informal sport and recreation activities such as walking and cycling also tend to appeal to a broader age range than formal sporting activities, from toddlers right through to older adults, as well as people of all genders.

### 9.11.2 Walking and cycling

There are several short walking tracks in a number of towns in the Shire (e.g. the trail around Beaufort Lake), but opportunities exist to create a suite of paths / trails for both recreational and tourism purposes. Similarly, there is strong demand for safe places for people to ride as a means of transportation, for fitness, for recreation and for tourism purposes. Off road cycling in the form of rail trails and mountain bike trails have transformed some communities such as Bright (as part of the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail) and Derby in Tasmania as part of the Blue Derby Mountain Bike Trails. The installation of skills parks and pump parks for people using mountain bikes is being undertaken by Councils and mountain bike clubs at a rapid pace in Australia at present.

Some specific trails that have been suggested by key stakeholders and the general community include a cycling trail between Avoca and Moonambel and a walking track up Camp Hill in Beaufort. It is recommended that Pyrenees Shire undertake a walking and cycling strategy to identify what type of infrastructure, programs and services are required to support these activities.

### 9.11.3 Parks and playgrounds

Parks and playgrounds are an integral component to the suite of informal recreational facilities available within a municipality. To help guide the provision of quality play spaces, it is recommended that Council undertakes a play strategy. This play strategy would ideally analyse the current provision and play value of existing assets, identify any gaps, make recommendations around future provision (including location, play opportunities, infrastructure, access, etc) identify a suitable maintenance program and identify budgets required to maintain, upgrade and renew and develop play spaces.

A plan has been completed in partnership with the Snake Valley to identify the potential for a community based park in the town featuring play equipment, skate facilities, community gathering spaces, BBQs and shared walking / cycling paths. This plan accompanies the Recreation Strategy as background material.

### 9.11.4 Gyms

There are several gyms operating in the Shire at present. Feedback from the community indicates that there is demand to extend the opening hours of gyms and that additional community-managed gyms should be developed in smaller towns, subject to demand. There are also opportunities to work in partnership with health agencies and to deliver programs in the existing gyms. In addition, there is some demand to develop outdoor gym equipment in Avoca near the Avoca River.

### 9.11.5 Open space

The Victorian Planning Authority's Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines<sup>12</sup>, although designed for growth areas in metropolitan Melbourne and regional cities, include some standards that could be considered within the towns of Pyrenees Shire when assessing open space requirements, i.e.

- Local parks within 400m safe walking distance of at least 95% of all dwellings
- Active open space within one kilometre of 95% of all dwellings
- Linear parks and trails, most often along waterways, but also linked to vegetation corridors and road reserves within one kilometre of 95% of all dwellings.
- 10% of the net developable area as total public open space, of which 6% is active open space.

There are several areas of open space in the municipality that could be better activated to encourage increased community use. These spaces include:

- Snake Valley – section of land opposite the pub and right up to the memorial
- Camp Hill – to create an area for walking
- Bushland for activities such as bushwalking, cycling, horse riding, orienteering, etc.



<sup>12</sup> Growth Areas Authority (2009 – revised 2013) Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines – Preparing the Structure Plan: <https://vpa.vic.gov.au/wp-content/Assets/Files/PSP%20Guidelines%20-%20PART%20TWO.pdf>

## 9.12 Programs

### 9.12.1 Impact

The focus of State Government sport and recreation funding over the past twenty years has predominantly been for planning and facility development. The limited focus on programming or activation of the spaces that have been developed by recipients of these funds, however, has resulted in under-utilised facilities and a lack of diversity of physical activity opportunities in some instances. The lack of programs or suitable programs available may in turn have contributed to a proportion of the community becoming or remaining inactive. Council needs to be able to strongly influence programming; otherwise it is difficult to have an impact on obesity and physical activity levels.

### 9.12.2 Possible programs

Programs are less expensive to develop than new facilities and should be a focus for Pyrenees Shire, in partnership with other organisations, in its quest to develop a healthier, more active community. Utilising existing community spaces such as halls, sports grounds, parks, schools, walking tracks / footpaths, swimming pools, lakes, etc a suite of programs can be offered. Some examples include:

- Tai Chi
- Yoga
- Zumba
- Dance classes
- Kinder gym
- Strength training
- Spin classes in a park
- Community bike rides
- Community walking groups
- Pedometer challenges
- Walk to school / work program
- Parkrun
- Stand up paddle boarding on a lake
- Town vs. town social sports competitions

### 9.12.3 Potential partners

Potential partners in program delivery include:

- Sport and recreation clubs
- Sports Central Regional Sports Assembly
- Beaufort & Skipton Health Services
- Maryborough District Health Service - Avoca Campus
- Resource centres
- Gyms
- Schools
- Private instructors (coaches, personal trainers, etc)
- Contractors (e.g. swimming pool contractors)

### 9.12.4 Instructors / providers

In some circumstances trained instructors will be required to run programs. Council could consider paying for the training of local people to become instructors (as it did for swimming pool lifeguards) in return for an agreed amount of 'service' afterwards. Where there is an active community group, Council may also consider providing funding, potentially through a revised community grants program, for seed funding to support the development of new programs.

### 9.12.5 Address barriers to participation

Prior to developing any program, consideration must be given to addressing the common barriers to participation as shown in the following table which is modelled on VicHealth's BE ACTIVE Framework and other research, i.e.

<p><b>Individual level</b></p> <p>Where possible, we need to address the barriers identified by our residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of availability of desired activities</li><li>• Lack of time</li><li>• Lack of friends to take part in activities with</li><li>• Lack of suitability in terms of time</li><li>• Lack of suitability in terms of the standard of the activity, i.e. too easy or too hard, competitive vs. social, etc.</li></ul>	<p><b>Organisational and club level</b></p> <p>Factors that may limit participation at an organisational or club level include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of inclusive practices and policies</li><li>• Lack of information about opportunities available</li><li>• Inadequate sport and recreation facilities, footpaths, halls, trails, etc</li><li>• Clubs or organisations that are not welcoming and don't respond to the cultural needs of certain groups.</li></ul>
<p><b>Community level</b></p> <p>At a community level, the following factors can have a negative impact on physical activity participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inadequate facilities and areas of open space as a result of poor planning and lack of activation</li><li>• Communities that are based around cars as the major form of transport</li><li>• Lack of public / community transport</li><li>• Communities where people do not feel connected to one another.</li></ul>	<p><b>Societal level</b></p> <p>At a societal level, participation can be limited if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People don't feel that facilities and areas of open space are safe</li><li>• People feel that spectators / other participants will make it unpleasant to participate</li><li>• People feel that it is more enjoyable spending their leisure time using technology</li><li>• There is a concern that participation as a participant or support person may lead to litigation.</li></ul>

## 9.13 Events

There are opportunities to attract additional sport and recreation events to Pyrenees Shire to help create a sense of pride by local residents, opportunities to experience or take part in new activities locally and to provide an injection of funds into the local community. Sport and recreation related events that have been held in recent years include:

- Avoca Cup
- Victorian Endurance Riders State Championship at Granite Hill in Lexton
- Pyrenees Run
- Great Victorian Bike Ride
- Annual bicycle ride on the Friday before Grand Final

Given the topography of the municipality, the culture and the assets and infrastructure available, opportunities exist to hold other events with a focus on:

- petanque
- cycling
- mountain bike riding
- orienteering
- horse riding
- hang gliding
- 'Tough Mudder' type events

## 9.14 Maintenance

### 9.14.1 Council responsibilities

In terms of sport and recreation, Council does not maintain recreation reserve grounds (other than Goldfields Recreation Reserve in Beaufort), however it is responsible for maintaining swimming pools, playgrounds, skate parks, parks and walking / cycling paths / trails and Council owned community halls / buildings. Although funds for maintenance are limited, maintenance is an essential process in order to ensure longevity of facilities and regular usage. Sufficient funds need to be set aside to maintain Council's sport and recreation assets annually. To help guide appropriate levels of maintenance and to assist Council officers to plan and budget for such works, service standards need to be prepared and all facilities need to be monitored through asset management and maintenance strategies. An initial task will be to audit current service levels to ensure that they are consistent and equitable; to ensure that costs of maintenance are known; and to ensure that all parties are aware of their maintenance responsibilities.

### 9.14.2 Customer Action Request (CAR) system

In terms of identifying non-routine maintenance issues, e.g. a tree across a footpath or a vandalised sign in a park, Council relies on a combination of visual inspections and reports from the community. When a member of the community identifies a maintenance issue, they can notify Council officer staff by phone, email, writing, in person or by the Snap Send Solve application. The customer action request (CAR) is logged on Council's Record Management Software, Recfind Version 5.0 by the staff person who receives the request. The CAR is given a unique identifier and then placed within

Recfind. It is recorded by name, date, type of request, officer actioning the request and a description of request/actions to be taken. This document is then printed and given to the most appropriate unit within Council to address. A letter of receipt is sent out to the customer stating a time frame of works, if and when it may take place. When the CAR workflow is signed off and all action has been completed it is then sent to Corporate Records to be filed. Unfortunately this system has some shortcomings at present. There have been incidents when works have been signed off, yet not completed properly. There is also a gap in recording works that have been identified through other sources, e.g. Committee of Management meetings. These works are not necessarily automatically recorded and actioned using the CAR system. A review of the CAR system is necessary to improve its effectiveness.

### 9.14.3 Langi Kal Kal Prison

Inmates from Langi Kal Kal Prison have been utilised to assist with various maintenance tasks at sport and recreation facilities. This arrangement should continue to be supported as it reduces the burden on volunteers to carry out some of their tasks and also enables people serving a sentence in the corrective facility to develop skills which they may be able to utilise on release, possibly as a form of employment.





## 9.15 Resources

### 9.15.1 Funding support

As a result of Local Government rate capping instigated by State Government, along with greater competition for State and Federal Government funding and conditions associated with securing such funding (i.e. providing a substantial amount of matching funds for larger projects); it is becoming increasingly difficult to source funds to develop programs, services and facilities. An alternative option is to look at other ways of generating funding to support sport and recreation. The Waubra Wind Farm Community Fund Inc<sup>13</sup> is a good example of a funding program which can be accessed by sports clubs and community organisations. Established in 2008, this fund was set up to give something back to the community in which a wind farm was established. Examples of projects funded include a portion of the cost of the hub development, festival youth activities and an air conditioner for the bowls club. Bendigo community bank is another example of a source of funds from non-government sources. The Beaufort Community Bank has in fact contributed over \$1 million to local projects.

### 9.15.2 Community Grants Program

Council's Community Grants Program provides financial assistance to community groups, services and organisations located or operating within the Pyrenees Shire, to enable the provision of activities and events which promote community activity, achievement, participation and wellbeing. Two funding rounds are held annually in May and October. Feedback from key stakeholders indicates that this program is well supported by community groups and that the process to apply for and acquit any grants is simple and straight forward. This program should be retained as is for the time being, but as with all programs, should be reviewed regularly to ensure that it is still meeting its objectives.

### 9.15.3 Staffing

Currently there is only one staff member with responsibility for sport and recreation, however this position (Manager of Community Wellbeing) is also responsible for Family Services, Maternal & Child Health, Community Development, Youth and Emergency recovery and resilience planning and management so is therefore considered a .6 sport and recreation position. Specific recreation responsibilities of this position include development and monitoring of user agreements over Council Facilities, providing support and skill development to community committees, grant planning and applications. Council previously employed a community liaison officer but when this position was vacated in 2015 the position was not refilled.

Benchmarking with three neighbouring Local Government Authorities indicates that Pyrenees Shire is under-resourced in terms of sport and recreation staff. Two of the LGAs have one EFT and the other has three EFTs. Based on feedback from clubs and key stakeholders, it is recommended that a review of the responsibilities of the Manager of Wellbeing be undertaken with the view to creating 1.6 EFT positions to service recreation for the Shire.

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<sup>13</sup> Waubra Wind Farm Community Fund Inc. website: <http://www.waubra.org.au/services/waubra-wind-farm-community-fund/> (viewed 8/6/17)

Council recreation staff will ideally be responsible for:

- Recreation planning
- Contract management, e.g. of swimming pool contract
- Capital works project management
- Supporting committees of management and clubs in terms of governance, volunteer recruitment and training, planning, etc
- Grant writing to seek funding for major projects and various other Council related initiatives

#### 9.15.4 Council budget

In the 2016/17 financial year, Council allocated the following funds to sport and recreation capital works projects within the municipality:

- \$10,000 - Playground equipment replacement
- \$45,000 – Hard court renewal
- \$130,000 - Implementation of recommendations from the previous recreation strategy

Council’s Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) allocates an amount of funding each year to help implement recommendations contained within the new Recreation Strategy (at this stage these allocations have not been assigned to any particular projects). The following budget has been set aside for the next nine years:

2017/18 - \$130,000	2020/21 - \$126,000	2023/24 - \$122,000
2018/19 - \$129,000	2021/22 - \$124,000	2024/25 - \$120,000
2019/20 - \$127,000	2022/23 - \$123,000	2025/26 - \$119,000

Although it is disappointing to see Council’s recreation budget decrease each year instead of increase, there are other opportunities to increase the amount of resources available to support sport and recreation, e.g. private sector funding from sources such as Waubra Wind Farm and Bendigo Bank or government grants. Resources can also be shared with other organisations such as Beaufort & Skipton Health Services.

#### 9.16 Capital works guidelines

Pyrenees Shire provides cash resources for capital works program at recreation reserves on a case by case basis, using its annual recreation strategy funding allocation. It also assists with grant applications, project management and the provision of various in-kind services and infrastructure. It expects that community groups will undertake local fundraising for any new works. Where capital works are required to rectify a safety risk, Council may at its discretion provide the funds to do so.

Council will consider providing cash resources to match grants for projects that are considered to be a community asset rather than a facility that is primarily leased to sport and recreation clubs. Examples of these facilities include:

- Shared cycling / walking trails
- Swimming pools
- Skate parks
- Playgrounds
- Parks / open space
- Lake / river developments, e.g. fishing platforms.

In these instances, Council will seek to obtain the maximum amount of funding possible through Government sources, the philanthropic sector, the private sector and other community partners and will, if the project is considered feasible, meets the planning principles of the Sport and Recreation Strategy and is within Council's resource capacity, contribute the required amount to submit a funding application.

A draft policy capital works policy has been produced (refer to section 10.1)

### **9.17 Role of Council and partners**

Local Government, particularly in rural communities, is well placed to lead and facilitate a partnership approach to achieving outcomes in the sport and recreation and health and wellbeing sector.

However, it also recognises that it is not the only partner. Sport and recreation clubs, community health agencies, State and Federal Government departments (e.g. Sport and Recreation Victoria), water authorities, service clubs, hall committees, schools, the private sector and others all have an important role to play in relation to:

- Education and promotion
- Delivery of sport and recreation opportunities
- Provision of facilities
- Provision of resources

In order to achieve the best possible outcomes for the community, utilising existing budgets, Council and sport and recreation organisations will need to collaborate with a range of other areas such as health, economic development, tourism, etc. Not only do collaborations and partnerships contribute to an effective utilisation of scarce resources and potential leveraging of funding, they also allow a more holistic approach to all aspects of physical activity and help to achieve better health and wellbeing for the community.

Council's specific role in relation to recreation in the future should therefore include:

- Recreation planning
- Community engagement
- Facility provision and development
- Project management for sport / recreation capital works programs
- Contract management, e.g. swimming pools

- Provision of information and resources to clubs and committees of management including grant opportunities, manuals, checklists, meeting procedures, volunteer training
- Grant writing
- Development / maintenance of partnerships with other organisations, e.g. Sports Central, State Sporting Associations, Beaufort & Skipton Health Services, etc.

Within Council itself, sport and recreation crosses many areas within Council such as parks and gardens, engineering, strategic planning, early year's services, etc. It is important that each of these areas is involved in planning processes around sport and recreation and that in turn the recreation area is involved in planning for each of these other areas. Integrated planning and service delivery are essential if Council is to deliver the best possible outcome for the community.



## 10.0 Sport and recreation facility capital works

### 10.1 Draft Policy

#### Introduction

Pyrenees Shire Council aims to:

- Provide quality sport and recreation facilities for the local community that are functional, accessible, sustainable, attractive and well-utilised
- Assist clubs / organisations to provide new or upgraded sport and recreation infrastructure when and where it is needed
- Ensure that it has the capacity to manage its existing assets and that suitable asset management plans are developed and implemented
- Share the cost of developing community infrastructure with user groups, Government agencies and the private sector.

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Capital Work Contributions Policy is to:

- Identify the types of proposed capital works that Council is responsible for in relation to recreation
- Identify the types of proposed capital works that the community is expected to contribute funds / in-kind works to in relation to recreation
- Identify the level of funding contribution Council will provide to recreation capital works projects
- Identify the level of funding contribution the community is expected to provide to recreation capital works projects
- Identify the role of other potential funding partners in the development or upgrade of recreation infrastructure.

#### Implementation

- **Capital works that are the responsibility of Council:**

Council is responsible for the following types of capital works developments or upgrades at Council owned recreation facilities:

- roadways
- car parks
- cycling / walking paths
- drainage
- public toilets
- fencing
- directional signage
- seats.

- **Capital works that are not the responsibility of Council:**

Council is not responsible for any capital works on land owned by the Crown. However, Council may choose to either provide some financial assistance to clubs / organisations based on Crown Land to upgrade their existing facilities or to develop new facilities, or support funding applications submitted by these clubs / organisations.

- **Capital works that are the responsibility of community clubs / organisations:**

Where community clubs / organisations do not have exclusive use of the site that they occupy, they should not be held to be fully responsible for the entire cost of capital works upgrades or developments. However, Council will only support upgrades or developments that:

- are demonstrated to be feasible
- provide public access
- are sustainable
- are inclusive of the whole community
- do not duplicate existing facilities nearby,
- rectify any risk management issues
- are consistent with the neighbourhood character.

Examples of projects which both Council and community clubs / organisations are jointly responsible for include:

- community sports pavilions
- playing surfaces
- sports ground lighting
- playgrounds
- BBQs
- picnic facilities
- change rooms
- storage sheds
- interpretive signage.

Any additional capital works upgrades or developments chosen to be undertaken by the club / organisation leasing / hiring a particular site will not be supported financially by Council, but may be permitted to occur if the club / organisation can demonstrate access to sufficient funds to develop, maintain and ultimately replace the infrastructure.

- **Level of funding to be provided by Council:**

Council will assess each application according to the Capital Works Assessment Tool. Any funds available in Council's budget for recreation and open space capital works will be allocated according to the highest priorities.

- **Level of contribution expected by the community:**

It is expected that the community will contribute a minimum of 50% of the total cost of a project approved by Council. This amount may be made up of cash and / or in-kind contributions, depending on the assessment criteria of any grants that may be applied for. Where the club / organisation chooses to undertake works not supported by Council, it will be required to fund 100% of the development.

- **Role of other funding partners:**

Council and clubs / organisations may seek funding support from other organisations to assist with capital works developments and upgrades. Such organisations may include State or Federal Government, the philanthropic sector or the private sector.



## 10.2 Capital works – development, upgrade and renewal - assessment tool

This tool can be used to determine whether or not Council should support a specific capital work development, upgrade or renewal, or to prioritise different capital works initiatives against each other. A from 0-3 is given against each criteria and multiplied by the weighting amount to produce a total score.

<b>CRITERIA / SCORE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>Alignment with planning</b>	Initiative is not supported by any plans, policies or strategies	Initiative has limited support by local plans, policies and strategies	Initiative is well supported by local plans, policies and strategies	Initiative is very well supported by local plans, policies and strategies	3		
<b>Community benefit and demonstrated need</b>	There are no clear benefits to the community and the need for the initiative has not been demonstrated	There are limited benefits to the community and a limited amount of need demonstrated for the initiative	The benefits of the initiative to the community are clear and the need is clearly demonstrated for the initiative.	The benefits of the initiative to the community are very clear and the need for the initiative is very clearly demonstrated.	3		
<b>Increases participation in physical activity and contributes to health and wellbeing</b>	The initiative will not increase physical activity participation	The initiative may increase physical activity participation	The initiative is likely to increase physical activity participation	The initiative is highly likely to increase physical activity participation	3		



<b>CRITERIA / SCORE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>Financially viable to develop, operate and maintain</b>	The initiative is likely to be beyond the community's resources to develop, operate and maintain.	There may be some doubt regarding the community's ability to source the financial resources required to develop, operate and maintain the initiative.	It is likely that the community will have sufficient resources to develop, operate and maintain the initiative.	It is clear that the community has the financial resource capacity to develop, operate and maintain the initiative.	3		
<b>Increases accessibility for people of all abilities</b>	The initiative will not increase accessibility for people of all abilities	The initiative may increase accessibility for people of all abilities	The initiative is likely to increase accessibility for people of all abilities	The initiative is highly likely to increase accessibility for people of all abilities	3		
<b>Enhances / protects township character</b>	The initiative does not enhance or protect the township character	The initiative provides a minimal amount of enhancement or protection to the township character	The initiative is likely to enhance or protect the township character	The initiative will definitely enhance or protect the township character	2		

<b>CRITERIA / SCORE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>Minimises environmental impact</b>	The initiative is likely to have a negative impact on the environment.	The initiative may have a minimal impact on the environment	The initiative is unlikely to have a negative impact on the environment	The initiative will not have a negative impact on the environment	2		
<b>Provides greater diversity of opportunities</b>	The initiative is not likely to provide a greater diversity of physical activity opportunities.	The initiative may provide a greater diversity of physical activity opportunities.	The initiative likely to provide a greater diversity of physical activity opportunities.	The initiative will definitely provide a greater diversity of physical activity opportunities.	2		
<b>Promotes liveability of the local area</b>	The initiative is not likely to increase the liveability of the local area.	The initiative may increase the liveability of the local area.	The initiative is likely to increase the liveability of the local area.	The initiative is highly likely to increase the liveability of the local area.	2		
<b>Creates opportunities for social interactions</b>	The initiative is unlikely to create opportunities for social interactions.	The initiative may create opportunities for social interactions.	The initiative is likely to create opportunities for social interactions.	The initiative is highly likely to create opportunities for social interactions.	2		

<b>CRITERIA / SCORE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>Enhances club / organisation sustainability</b>	The initiative is unlikely to contribute to club / organisation sustainability	The initiative may contribute to club / organisation sustainability	The initiative is likely to contribute to club / organisation sustainability	The initiative is highly likely to contribute to club / organisation sustainability	2		
<b>Addresses safety / regulations / best practice</b>	The initiative has not addressed safety regulations or adhered to best practice.	The initiative may not have addressed all safety regulations or adhered to best practice.	The initiative has addressed all safety regulations and has considered best practice.	The initiative has thoroughly addressed all safety regulations and adhered to best practice.	2		
<b>Supported by a club / organisation that has developed and implemented relevant policies (e.g. gender equity, healthy eating, etc) and plans and is well governed.</b>	The club / organisation supporting the initiative has not developed and implemented relevant policies and plans and is not well governed	The club / organisation supporting the initiative may have developed and implemented some relevant policies and plans and is reasonably well governed	The club / organisation supporting the initiative has developed and implemented some relevant policies and plans and is well governed	The club / organisation supporting the initiative has developed and implemented a range of relevant policies and plans and is very well governed	2		
<b>TOTAL</b>							

## 11.0 Minimum facility provision for towns framework

In order to ensure equity throughout the municipality so that all residents, regardless of where they live, have access to recreational facilities and open space in close proximity to their homes, a minimum level of facility provision has been developed for the municipality. This table also provides a guide for future provision, in terms of what could or should realistically be provided in towns of various sizes. The information in this table has been specifically developed for the Shire, taking into consideration:

- provision and benchmarking of facilities in similar-sized towns in rural Victoria
- the types of activities that currently occur (or may feasibly occur in the future given feedback from local residents and examining statewide participation trends)
- climatic conditions
- population growth
- existing facility provision within the catchment (including neighbouring towns and municipalities).

***Note that some towns may already exceed these levels, or community groups or other organisations such as schools may choose to construct and maintain additional facilities. Also note that this table is simply a guide. Actual needs of towns vary considerably depending on the demographics of the town, proximity to other facilities in other towns, specific participation trends, availability of coaches / instructors for certain activities, transport availability, costs, etc. Hence this table simply lists the level of facility development that Pyrenees Shire recommends. It is as follows:***

<b>Facilities – may include</b>	<b>Large town (over 1,000 people)</b>	<b>Medium town (400-1,000 people)</b>	<b>Small-medium town (200 – 400)</b>	<b>Small town (less than 200 people)</b>
<b>Sports oval and change / social facilities</b>	Yes – developed to a reasonably high level. Facility provision needs to be guided by relevant publications including building regulations, DDA and other documents such as AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines.	Yes – developed to a medium level. Facility provision needs to be guided by relevant publications including building regulations, DDA and other documents such as AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines.	May be provided, but will be only developed to a basic level. Facility provision needs to be guided by relevant publications including building regulations, DDA and other documents such as AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines.	May be provided, but will be only developed to a basic level.
<b>Netball court and change facilities</b>	Yes – one to two courts at each recreation reserve, preferably line	Yes – one to two courts at each recreation reserve, preferably line	One court may be provided, preferably line marked for tennis	One court may be provided, preferably

Facilities – may include	Large town (over 1,000 people)	Medium town (400-1,000 people)	Small-medium town (200 – 400)	Small town (less than 200 people)
	marked for tennis too. Change facilities provided.	marked for tennis too. Change rooms provided.	too. Change rooms may be provided.	line marked for tennis too.
<b>Tennis court</b>	Yes – up to six courts with lights suitable for municipal-level and local competitions, social use and practice.	Yes – up to two tennis courts suitable for local competitions, social use and practice. May have lights.	At least one tennis court for social use or practice. No lights.	Possibly one tennis court for social use or practice. No lights.
<b>Bowling green</b>	Yes – one facility per town. May have a synthetic surface, but only if feasible.	May be provided, but generally lawn.	Generally not provided	Generally not provided.
<b>Croquet green</b>	Possibly one croquet green	Generally not provided	Not provided	Not provided
<b>Petanque piste</b>	Possibly one petanque piste	Possibly one petanque piste	Possibly one petanque piste	Generally not provided.
<b>Golf course</b>	Possibly one golf course with irrigated putting greens	Possibly one golf course, but only sand scrape courses. No new facilities will be constructed.	Generally not provided	Not provided
<b>Multi-purpose playing field, e.g. soccer</b>	Possibly one multi-purpose playing facility, but could be provided by a school. Needs a reasonably good playing surface.	May be provided, but only to a basic level – possibly at a school.	Generally not provided	Not provided
<b>Shooting facilities</b>	Possibly one facility to be provided	May be provided	May be provided	Not provided
<b>Horse racing tracks</b>	Possibly one facility to be provided	Generally not provided	Not provided	Not provided
<b>Community centres / halls</b>	Yes, one or possibly more community centres / halls	Yes. May be one in town and one at a recreation reserve.	May be provided, but should only be a community centre at a recreation reserve <b>or</b> a hall in the town.	May be provided, but should only be a community centre at a recreation reserve <b>or</b> a hall in the

Facilities – may include	Large town (over 1,000 people)	Medium town (400-1,000 people)	Small-medium town (200 – 400)	Small town (less than 200 people)
				town.
<b>Indoor leisure centres</b>	May be provided but will generally only feature one court. May be provided or shared with a school.	May be provided but will generally only feature one court. May be provided or shared with a school. No new facilities will be constructed.	Not provided.	Not provided
<b>Gymnasiums</b>	Yes. May be provided by schools, sports clubs, health agencies or the private sector.	May be provided by schools, sports clubs, health agencies or the private sector.	Generally not, but if they do exist, they will usually be provided by schools, sports clubs, health agencies or the private sector.	Not provided
<b>Park with BBQ, public toilet and picnic facilities</b>	Yes – several local level parks to be provided, but evenly spaced throughout the town. Minimum of 0.5 hectares. Maybe one regional level park - minimum of 2 hectares. Should have an accessible toilet.	Yes – at least one local level park to be provided, preferably in a central location so that it is accessible to all. Should have an accessible toilet. Minimum of 0.5 hectares.	Yes – one local level park provided to a basic level. If public toilets (including an accessible one) and BBQ are provided at a recreation reserve in town, they will not be duplicated in the park. Minimum of 0.5 hectares.	Possibly one park provided to a basic level. If public toilets (including an accessible one) and BBQ are provided at a recreation reserve in town, they will not be duplicated in the park. Minimum of 0.5 hectares.
<b>Playground with open space for ball games</b>	Yes – several playgrounds to be provided, but evenly spaced throughout the town. One playground should be developed to a municipal or regional level.	Yes – a local level playground should be provided within parks and also at the recreation reserve.	Yes – a local level playground should be provided within a park or at the recreation reserve.	Possibly a local level playground provided within a park or at the recreation reserve.
<b>Footpaths</b>	Footpaths to be provided on at	Footpaths to be provided on at	Footpaths to be provided on at	Footpaths to be provided

Facilities – may include	Large town (over 1,000 people)	Medium town (400-1,000 people)	Small-medium town (200 – 400)	Small town (less than 200 people)
	<p>least one side of each street in town, but preferably both sides. New footpaths in the town to be constructed to a width suitable for shared usage. Seats to be placed in key locations and at regular intervals (500m apart). Footpaths on all street frontages around schools connected to the township footpath network.</p>	<p>least one side of each street in town, but preferably both sides. New footpaths in the town to be constructed to a width suitable for shared usage. Seats to be placed in key locations and at regular intervals (500m apart). Footpaths on all street frontages around schools connected to the township footpath network.</p>	<p>least one side of each street in town. Seats to be placed in key locations and at regular intervals (500m apart). Footpaths on all street frontages around schools connected to the township footpath network.</p>	<p>on at least one side of each street in town.</p>
<b>Walking / cycling trails</b>	<p>One or more off road recreational trails that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc at least 5km in length, but may be much longer and may connect to other towns. Trails will feature interpretive signage, seats, etc. In areas of high use, the track should be sealed. .</p>	<p>One off road recreational trail that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc at least 5km in length. Will feature seats and may feature interpretive signage.</p>	<p>One off road recreational trail that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc at least 2km in length.</p>	<p>Possibly one off road recreational trail that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc.</p>
<b>Commuter route for cyclists</b>	<p>A clearly identified east-west and north-south route comprising of on road lanes for cycling commuters. There may also be</p>	<p>A clearly identified east-west and north-south route comprising of on road lanes for cycling commuters. There may also be</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

Facilities – may include	Large town (over 1,000 people)	Medium town (400-1,000 people)	Small-medium town (200 – 400)	Small town (less than 200 people)
	some marked on-road cycling lanes around schools.	some marked on-road cycling lanes around schools.		
<b>Swimming pool</b>	One 25m – 50m outdoor pool with toddler pool could be provided in a central location. Consideration could be given to the development of a small hydrotherapy pool, but only in partnership with other organisations.	Possibly one 12m-25m pool with toddler pool could be provided in a central location, but only if it already exists. No new pools to be constructed in towns of this size.	Access to a pool within 20 minutes drive from homes if possible	Access to a pool within 20 minutes drive from homes if possible
<b>Skate parks / BMX / pump park / bike skills area</b>	One skate park to be provided in a central location.	Possibly one small skate park may be provided in a central location subject to demand and distance from other skate parks.	Not provided	Not provided
<b>Bike skills area / pump park / BMX track</b>	One bike skills / pump park / BMX track to be provided.	Possibly one small bike skills / pump park / BMX track to be provided subject to demand.	Not provided	Not provided
<b>Lakes / creeks / rivers</b>	Possibly a fishing pontoon or platform will be developed to enhance lakes / creeks / rivers in or close to the town.	Possibly a fishing pontoon will be developed to enhance lakes / creeks / rivers in or close to the town.	Possibly a fishing pontoon will be developed to enhance lakes / creeks / rivers in or close to the town particularly in towns with no swimming pools.	Not provided
<b>Informal recreation facilities, e.g. outdoor gym equipment, down ball area, rebound wall, basketball half court, outdoor table tennis, etc</b>	Yes – a number of informal recreation facilities to be developed dependent upon community needs	One to two informal recreational facilities may be provided in each town – dependent upon community needs	One informal recreational facility may be provided in each town – dependent upon community needs	One informal recreational facility may be provided in each town – dependent upon community needs



## 12.0 Hierarchy and service standards for recreation reserves framework

The following table provides an overview of the type of features that could reasonably be expected to find at the various types of recreation reserves in Pyrenees Shire. Note that some communities may already have in excess of what is generally considered reasonable. In these instances, the asset will not be replaced when it reaches the end of its lifespan. For those communities that do not have what is considered reasonable, consideration needs to be given to the health or viability of potential clubs, local need, what else already exists locally and available resources prior to developing or seeking funding to develop such facilities. Where clubs / committees of management want to exceed what is reasonably feasible, they must fund the development 100% and be responsible for full maintenance of the asset, including asset replacement. Some recreation reserves will feature other facilities not generally associated with recreation reserves, e.g. petanque pistes, men’s sheds, ménages, etc. These types of facilities have not been included in the table below as they are not considered ‘typical’. However, their inclusion at recreation reserves is valuable as they help to increase the multi-use of the space and the diversity of recreational opportunities available.

Key: X = should not have    X✓ = may have    ✓ = should have

	Neighbourhood	Local	Municipal
Classification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amphitheatre Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Carranballac Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Crowlands Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Frenchman’s Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Landsborough Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Moonambel Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Raglan Recreation Reserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carngham Recreation Reserve, Snake Valley</li> <li>• Lexton Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Waubra Recreation Reserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goldfields Recreation Reserve, Beaufort</li> <li>• Avoca Recreation Reserve</li> </ul>
<b>Management / Master Planning</b>			
Management / Master Plans	No formal management / master plans prepared	There is likely to be a management or master plan for the site	There will be a management or master plan for the site
<b>Usage</b>			
Utilisation	Site receives fairly low level of use	Site receives medium level of use	Site receives high level of use.
Level of competition	Primarily social or casual use	Local level competition	Local and / or regional level competition

	Neighbourhood	Local	Municipal
Tenure	Generally no resident clubs	Resident clubs	Resident clubs
Public access	Public have access to the site at almost all times	Good public access to the site most of the time	Public access to sports grounds is limited during sports season and to keep ground in good condition
<b>Buildings</b>			
Main pavilion	Basic pavilion featuring a small kiosk / kitchenette, social function / meeting space, storage space and home and away change facilities for players and umpires.	Moderate pavilion featuring a kiosk, kitchen, social function space, home and away change facilities for players and umpires, trainer's room / first aid, storage space. May also feature timekeeper's box. Refer to AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines for more details of requirements <sup>14</sup> .	Larger pavilion featuring a kiosk, kitchen, social function space, home and away change facilities for players and umpires, trainer's room / first aid, storage space. May also feature timekeeper's box, media room, statistician area. Refer to AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines for more details of requirements <sup>15</sup> .
Additional pavilions / facilities	Generally no additional pavilions / facilities	May be a stand-alone netball change facility.	May be a stand-alone netball change facility.
Public toilets	Generally a separate stand alone facility.	Either separate stand alone facilities or built into the pavilion.	May be an older stand alone facility plus newer facilities built into the pavilion.
<b>Infrastructure</b>			
Oval	✓	✓ drought resistant turf	✓ drought resistant turf
Cricket wicket	X✓ concrete base only	✓ turf or concrete base	✓ turf or concrete base
Irrigation system	X	✓ sub-surface drainage and irrigation as required	✓ sub-surface drainage and irrigation as required
Lights	X	✓ training level / match practice - 100 lux	✓ training level / match practice - 100 lux
Scoreboard	X unless already in existence	✓	✓ may be electronic
Coach's boxes	X unless already in existence	✓ two	✓ two

<sup>14</sup> [http://aflvic.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines for State Regional Local Facilities FINAL 2012.pdf](http://aflvic.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/AFL_PREFERRED_Facility_Guidelines_for_State_Regional_Local_Facilities_FINAL_2012.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

	Neighbourhood	Local	Municipal
Interchange benches	X	✓ two	✓ two
Cricket practice nets	X unless already in existence	✓	✓
Netball courts	X✓ if already in existence, line marked with tennis	✓ one netball court with lights, possibly line marked with tennis	✓ one to two netball courts with lights on at least one
Tennis courts	X✓ one or two (if not located at another site in town and if already in existence), line marked with netball	✓ one to four tennis courts (if not located at another site in town), possibly line marked with netball	✓ up to six tennis courts (if not located at another site in town)
Spectator shelter	X	✓	✓
Car parking	Informal	Informal or formal	Formal
Bike parking	X	✓	✓
Accessible paths	✓	✓	✓
Seats	✓	✓	✓
Picnic tables	Only if no others located in the town	X✓	✓
BBQs	Only if no others located in the town	X✓	✓
Drinking fountains	X	X	✓
Bins	Only if BBQ facilities are provided	✓	✓
Bag dispensers for dog droppings	X	✓	✓
Playground	Only if no others located in the town	✓	✓
Directional signs	✓	✓	✓
Location sign	✓	✓	✓
Sponsorship signs	X	✓	✓
Landscaping	X	Basic level	Basic level
<b>Service standards</b>			
Mowing of oval	As required	Weekly	Weekly
Spraying	NA	Seasonally – Bi annual (Spring/Autumn)	Seasonally – Bi annual (Spring/Autumn)
Irrigation	NA	Club responsibility	May be Council responsibility

	Neighbourhood	Local	Municipal
Garden bed maintenance	N/A	As required	Seasonally - Bi annual (Spring/Autumn)
Tree maintenance	Annually	Annually	Annually
Tree inspections	Annually	Annually	Annually
Path maintenance	Annually	Annually	Annually
Playground maintenance	Annually	Annually	Annually
BBQ cleaning	N/A	Weekly	Weekly
Rubbish removal	As required	Weekly	Weekly
Aeration	NA	Annual	Bi annual
Top dressing	NA	As required	Annual
Fertilising	NA	Bi annual	Bi annual
Re-sowing	NA	NA	Annually
Building inspections	Every two years for Council facilities	Every two years for Council facilities	Every two years for Council facilities
Building maintenance	As required for Council owned facilities	As required for Council owned facilities	As required for Council owned facilities

## 13.0 Municipal action plan

The following table provides a set of objectives and actions to guide Pyrenees Shire Council in terms of the planning, development and management of sport and recreation facilities and opportunities from 2017-2026. Priorities have been developed from:

- An assessment against the vision and planning principles
- An assessment of existing strategies and reports
- Demographic review
- Examination of trends and participation rates
- Interviews with key stakeholders
- Community surveys
- Visual assessment of facilities
- Assessment of best practice
- Review of existing practices and procedures
- Review of resources available or potentially accessible.

Each of the actions is prioritised and identifies key partners, the resources required in order to achieve the action and the potential sources of funds. Resources or costs are indicative only and are based on 2017 costs. Quotes from suppliers will need to be sourced in order to gain more accurate costings. It is anticipated that wherever possible, external funds will be sourced to help fund initiatives.

No.	Objective	Action	Partners	Funding source	Resources	Priority
1	To provide a <b>strategic approach</b> to the planning and development of sport and recreation facilities.	Adopt the minimum sport and recreation facility provision for towns framework and work towards ensuring that all towns provide the basic level of recreation and open space infrastructure detailed.	Community planning groups	Existing staff wages	Staff time	High
2		Adopt the hierarchy and service standards for recreation reserves framework to ensure that there is equity and consistency in the way that recreation reserves are developed, managed and maintained.	Sport and recreation clubs  Committees of Management for sport and recreation facilities	Existing staff wages	Staff time	High

No.	Objective	Action	Partners	Funding source	Resources	Priority
3		Adopt the capital works policy and assessment tool to help make informed decisions about investment and prioritisation.	Sport and recreation clubs  Committees of Management for sport and recreation facilities	Existing staff wages	Staff time	High
4		Develop a municipal trails strategy which identifies works required to develop a safe, connected walking, cycling and horse riding network, including opportunities for tourism development.	Bicycle Network Victoria  Rail Trails Australia  Bushwalking Victoria  Victoria Walks  Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA)  VicRoads  DELWP  Parks Victoria  Potential trail users	Sport and Recreation Victoria  Council budget	\$30,000	High

No.	Objective	Action	Partners	Funding source	Resources	Priority
5		Develop a municipal play space strategy which incorporates opportunities to provide play experiences for older children and teenagers as well as young children and identifies components to be incorporated into new playgrounds in Beaufort and Avoca.	Play Australia	Sport and Recreation Victoria  Council budget	\$25,000	Medium
6		Undertake a strategy (called Play on Pyrenees) to identify cost effective solutions for the upgrade to drought resistant and safer playing surfaces, aligned with Australian Football League and Cricket Australia standards on the following recreation reserves: Avoca, Goldfields (Beaufort), Carngham (Snake Valle), Lexton, Natte Yallock and Waubra.	Sport and recreation clubs  Committees of Management for sport and recreation facilities  Australian Football League  Cricket Australia	Sport and Recreation Victoria  Council budget	\$12,000	High
7		Review the swimming pool management contract when it is due for renewal to incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extending the season (i.e. opening several weeks earlier and closing several weeks later)</li> <li>• different hours of operation to better cater for the needs of residents, e.g. early morning swimming</li> <li>• better promotion of learn to swim programs</li> <li>• additional activities / events (e.g. water aerobics, dive-in movies, canoeing, stand up paddle boarding and Friday night BBQs)</li> </ul>	Friends of Avoca Swimming Pool  Friends of Beaufort Swimming Pool	Existing staff budget	Staff time	High

No.	Objective	Action	Partners	Funding source	Resources	Priority
8	To <b>strengthen the capacity</b> of existing community organisations and clubs to increase participation in active sport and recreation activities and to effectively develop and manage assets.	Conduct an annual meeting with Committees of Management of sport and recreation facilities and sport and recreation clubs to undertake a health check of committees / clubs and provide the opportunity for issues and opportunities to be discussed.	Sport and recreation clubs  Committees of Management for sport and recreation facilities	Existing staff wages	Staff time	High
9		Facilitate a municipal or regional annual forum where local clubs and organisations can share information, present on what has been successful locally or elsewhere (e.g. in terms of attracting new members, events, programs, volunteer recruitment, etc), network with one another and be informed of any specific issues / initiatives by Council(s) Sports Central, Sport and Recreation Victoria and State Sporting Associations.	Sport and Recreation Victoria  Council budget  Sports Central  State Sporting Associations	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing
10		Provide advice on best practice around sports ground management and maintenance to clubs and committees of management.	Sport and recreation clubs  Committees of Management for sport and recreation facilities	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing



No.	Objective	Action	Partners	Funding source	Resources	Priority
11		Continue to provide clubs and committees of management with information about any grants that may be available to help fund facility upgrades.	Sport and recreation clubs  Committees of Management for sport and recreation facilities	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing
12		Explore how best to support and resource committees of management / clubs, taking into consideration the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• employment of an additional staff member who has some responsibility for resourcing committees / clubs</li> <li>• sharing the responsibility for committee of management / club support by assigning existing Council staff to specific towns to provide support in that town (linked to the Community Action Planning process)</li> <li>• establishment of incorporated bodies or advisory groups at recreation reserves that lease the facility from Council and the body then has a licence agreement with sports clubs.</li> <li>• establishment of one incorporated sports group for each town which oversees all sport and recreational facilities in the town.</li> </ul>	Sport and recreation clubs  Committees of Management for sport and recreation facilities	Existing staff wages	Staff time	High

No.	Objective	Action	Partners	Funding source	Resources	Priority
13		In partnership with the Sports Central, provide clubs and committees of management with support to attract, train and retain volunteers.	Sports Central  Sport and recreation clubs  Committees of Management for sport and recreation facilities	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing
14	To <b>increase participation</b> in unstructured physical activity in order to promote health and wellbeing benefits to the community.	Encourage community organisations such as U3A, senior citizens centres, health services and community houses to continue to provide activities for residents of all ages and abilities such as yoga, strength training, walking groups, etc.	Community organisations	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing
15		Work with community planning groups to identify physical activity ambassadors / champions in each town to promote and facilitate physical activity opportunities for the local community.	Community planning groups  Physical activity ambassadors / champions	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing
16		Work with physical activity ambassadors / champions in each town to identify basic resource requirements to encourage the community to be more active, e.g. equipment, training of instructors, free rent for new programs, etc.	Community planning groups  Physical activity ambassadors / champions	Existing staff wages  Some funds through Community Planning Grants	Staff time	Ongoing

No.	Objective	Action	Partners	Funding source	Resources	Priority
17		Through some seed funding, support sport and recreation clubs to offer a 'Come 'n' Try' event each year and to provide modified versions of sports to local residents of all ages and abilities.	Sport and recreation clubs  Sports Central  Regional sporting associations / leagues  State Sporting Associations	Existing staff wages  Some funds through Community Planning Grants	Staff time	Medium
18		Develop MOUs with schools to allow community access to playground equipment and other sporting infrastructure after hours.	Local schools	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Medium
19		Ensure that the social needs of park users (e.g. seats, paths, gathering spaces, etc) are provided for in all future park upgrades or developments.	Park users	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing
20		Establish a community group to help instigate the Park Run program (an internationally renowned free community-driven informal running program) in Avoca or Beaufort.	Potential Park Run participants	Existing staff wages  Some seed funding	Staff time	Ongoing

No.	Objective	Action	Partners	Funding source	Resources	Priority
21	To provide <b>fit-for-purpose sport and recreation facilities</b> to meet the needs of the community	Meet with local sport and recreation clubs / organisations club, associations, leagues, neighbouring LGAs (where relevant) and funding bodies prior to providing support to any facility developments or funding applications (e.g. installation of lighting, installation of irrigation systems, club house upgrades, oval upgrades, etc) to identify the 'health' of the organisation and to gain some perspective of its future viability.	Sport and recreation clubs  Sports Central  Regional sporting associations / leagues  State Sporting Associations  Neighbouring Local Government Authorities	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing
22		Regularly communicate with neighbouring Local Government Authorities regarding the shared usage of recreation reserves and other facilities.	Neighbouring Local Government Authorities	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing
23		Undertake discussions / research or a formal study to determine the feasibility of developing a hydrotherapy pool in partnership with Beaufort & Skipton Health Services, Maryborough District Health Service – Avoca Campus or other suitable partners.	Beaufort & Skipton Health Services  Maryborough District Health Service – Avoca Campus  Other suitable partners.	Council funds  State Government Grant	Staff time or \$15,000 for a feasibility study	Medium

No.	Objective	Action	Partners	Funding source	Resources	Priority
24		Where recreation reserves are no longer used for formal football and cricket competitions, identify new ways for the community to utilise such spaces, e.g. establishment of horse riding groups, off leash dog walking areas, community multi-purpose ball games area, etc.	Community planning groups	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing
25	To provide <b>adequate resources</b> to increase physical activity opportunities, support clubs / organisations and to develop fit-for-purpose facilities	Review the role of the existing Manager of Community Wellbeing to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of this position clearly align with the vision of the recreation strategy and so that priority areas are adequately supported.	None	Existing staff wages	Staff time	High
26		Reappoint the former community liaison officer position (possibly as a 0.6 position), ensuring that the new incumbent has an appropriate set of skills in order to focus on increasing physical activity participation in the Shire, supporting committees of management / clubs and overseeing aquatics facility management and operations.	None	Council budget	\$60,000 pro rata plus on costs	High
27		Retain Council's Community Grants Program but consider adding an additional stream to resource the community or clubs to provide physical activity programs for local residents.	None	Existing staff wages  Existing Community Grants Program budget	Staff time	Ongoing
28		Review Council's Community Grants Program annually to ensure that it meets the needs of the community.	None	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing

No.	Objective	Action	Partners	Funding source	Resources	Priority
29	To work in <b>partnership with or advocate</b> to other agencies to deliver recreation infrastructure and opportunities.	Advocate to Parks Victoria and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to develop quality, well signed walking / cycling / horse riding trails throughout bushland in the Shire, accompanied by suitable supporting infrastructure such as seats, picnic tables, BBQs, shelters, toilets, etc as appropriate.	Parks Victoria  Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Low
30		Advocate to Beaufort & Skipton Health Services and Maryborough District Health Service - Avoca Campus to expand the range of health related programs that they run in the Shire utilising local facilities, e.g. strength training	Beaufort & Skipton Health Services  Maryborough District Health Service - Avoca Campus	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing
31		Advocate to State Sporting Associations for improved representation and support in the Shire.	State Sporting Associations  Sports Central	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing
32		Conduct an annual meeting with Sports Central and relevant State Sporting Associations to discuss issues, opportunities and strategies to increase participation in sport whilst ensuring that programs are not duplicated.	State Sporting Associations  Sports Central	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing

No.	Objective	Action	Partners	Funding source	Resources	Priority
33		Encourage clubs to work in partnership with accommodation venues and residential developers to offer discount membership packages to new residents or one-off participation opportunities for visitors to the area in order to increase membership and revenue.	Recreation Reserve Committees of Management  Sport and recreation clubs  Accommodation venues  Residential developers	Clubs / committees of management  Accommodation venues  Residential developers	Funds from clubs / committees of management  Funds from accommodation venues  Funds from residential developers	Ongoing
34	To improve sport and recreation <b>management and maintenance</b> practices	Review Council's Customer Action Request (CAR) system to ensure that sport and recreation related matters are effectively dealt with.	CAR program developer	None	Staff time	High
35		Audit current service levels of parks, recreation facilities and open spaces to ensure that they are consistent and equitable across the Shire.	None	Existing staff wages	Staff time	High
36		Clearly document and provide all clubs / organisations that lease Council owned facilities with an outline of their responsibilities and Council's expectations in relation to asset management.	Recreation Reserve Committees of Management  Sport and recreation clubs	Existing staff wages	Staff time	High

No.	Objective	Action	Partners	Funding source	Resources	Priority
37		<p>Improve swimming pool management, maintenance and operations across the Shire by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developing service standards around maintenance and inspections and ensuring that any actions are recorded appropriately in the CAR system</li> <li>• developing protocols to prepare the swimming pool prior to the start of the season with timelines</li> <li>• potentially employing Council staff with aquatic experience or sharing aquatic expertise with another municipality.</li> </ul>	<p>Aquatic facility contractor</p> <p>Friends of Avoca Swimming Pool</p> <p>Friends of Beaufort Swimming Pool</p> <p>Neighbouring Local Government Authorities</p>	Existing staff wages	Staff time	High
38		Continue to use local correctional service inmates from Langi Kal Kal Prison to assist with maintenance of sport and recreation facilities.	Langi Kal Kal Prison	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Ongoing
39	To <b>reduce usage of water and energy</b> at recreation and open space reserves.	Convert all recreation reserve playing surfaces to drought-tolerant warm season grasses to reduce water usage, wherever practical.	<p>Recreation Reserve Committees of Management</p> <p>Sport and recreation clubs</p>	<p>Environmental sustainability grants</p> <p>Council budget</p>	Not costed.	High
40		Undertake a Regional Sustainable Aquatic Centres Feasibility Study to investigate the feasibility of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions and pool chemical production and management options to improve the ongoing viability of pools.	Neighbouring Local Government Authorities	<p>Sport and Recreation Victoria</p> <p>Council budget</p>	\$10,000	High



No.	Objective	Action	Partners	Funding source	Resources	Priority
41	To <b>increase awareness</b> of recreation and open space facilities and opportunities and healthier lifestyles.	Upgrade Council's website and publications to provide information about walking and cycling, yoga classes, sport and recreation clubs, etc and create some direct links to organisations such as Neighbourhood Centres and health centres that run physical activity programs.	None	Existing staff wages	Staff time	High
42		Develop a policy to remove sugary drinks from sale at all Council owned / managed facilities such as swimming pools, halls and recreation facilities.	Recreation Reserve Committees of Management  Sport and recreation clubs	Existing staff wages	Staff time	High
43	To <b>reduce the number of assets</b> that no longer effectively meet the needs of the community.	Assess recreation facilities against the guidelines for rationalisation to determine if there are any facilities that are no longer required.	None	Existing staff wages	Staff time	Medium
44	To <b>source alternative income streams</b> to fund sport and recreation opportunities.	Explore opportunities to access funds from the private sector and not for profit sector to fund the establishment of sport and recreation facilities and programs, along the lines of the Bendigo Community Bank model or the Waubra Wind Farm Community Fund Incorporated model.	Private sector  Not for profit sector	Private sector funds  Not for profit sector funds	Staff time	Ongoing
45		Encourage a community group or service club to establish a scholarship / grant for children and young people whose families / carers cannot afford to pay for sport and recreation equipment or fees.	Community groups  Service clubs	Community groups  Service clubs	Community group funds  Service club funds	Medium

## 14.0 Town priorities

A detailed assessment of the facilities available in each town and the community needs that were identified through strategies, community surveys and key stakeholder interviews are contained within the Appendix. Given the limited funds available at a local and State level, and taking into consideration the minimum facility provision for towns framework, it is recommended that physical infrastructure works in townships with a population of less than 200 and greater than 50 people are generally limited to those that are essential from an occupational health and safety perspective or Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliance. Instead the focus on sport and recreation infrastructure in these townships should be on ensuring that there is an area of open space / park where the community can come together, featuring some play opportunities and seats, as well as a hard court line marked for multiple activities and some sealed or compact shared paths. In addition, these communities should be provided with seed funding to establish free or low cost local sport and recreation activities where possible, such as strength training, table tennis competitions, school holiday program activities, etc. Where possible, when projects are seeking external funding (e.g. master plans and aquatic upgrades) projects should be bundled together. Note that the population figures have been derived from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census QuickStats (state suburbs classification).

A summary of recommendations follows:

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
Amphitheatre	236	Upgrade the toilet block at Bakery Park	This is the community's number one priority. It will allow improved amenities at the town park and reflects the minimum recommendations for small towns.	Amphitheatre Community Planning Group	Council funds	H
		Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Amphitheatre Community Planning Group	Council funds External grant	H
Avoca	1,193	Develop walking / cycling / horse riding trails for use by local residents and visitors in the Avoca area (as recommended by the proposed Trails Strategy)	Such facilities will enable improved health and fitness and may also provide economic benefits to the local community.	Avoca community  Potential users – cyclists, walkers and horse riders  Tourism / business operators	Council funds  State Government grant	H

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Develop a pump park / BMX area and additional informal play opportunities (e.g. flying fox and half court basketball court) for young people near the Avoca Skate Park	These informal recreation facilities are likely to appeal to a broad cross section of the community and provide new physical activity opportunities.	Avoca community  Young people  BMX / MTB riders	Council funds  State Government grant	H
		Develop an outdoor gym in Avoca	An outdoor gym which is free to use and can be used at any time of the day will allow greater access to physical activity opportunities for local residents.	Avoca community	Council funds	H
		Develop a regional level playground in Avoca	A regional level playground will provide a quality informal recreation facility for both local residents and visitors. It may also encourage visitors to stop in Avoca and spend money locally, thereby contributing to the local economy.	Avoca community  Families	Council funds  State Government grant	M
		Upgrade change rooms at Avoca Swimming Pool and include storage space	The existing change rooms are in poor condition and do not have hot water to the showers, thereby potentially limiting the number of people who use the facility. Additional storage space is required to safely house new equipment, e.g. inflatables, chairs, tables, portable BBQ, etc.	Avoca community  Friends of Avoca Swimming Pool  Swimming pool contractor	Council funds  State Government grant  Friends Group fundraising	M

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Explore the best option for the Avoca Golf / Bowls Club to either develop a synthetic bowling green or to access a reliable source of water, to recycle sewerage and to install an automatic watering system to B green	A quality green surface (either synthetic or lawn) will help to enable the bowls club to attract more players and tournaments.	Avoca Golf / Bowls Club	Avoca Golf / Bowls contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	M
		Upgrade clubrooms at Avoca Golf / Bowls Club and ensure these facilities are DDA compliant	Given that a large proportion of golfers and bowlers in Avoca are older adults, many of whom ultimately have some form of mobility issues, it is important to be able to provide accessible facilities designed according to universal design principles and DDA compliance.	Avoca Golf / Bowls Club	Avoca Golf / Bowls contribution  State Government grant	M
		Construct shelter on the east side of the tennis courts and install lighting at Avoca Recreation Reserve	To protect players from the sun, a shelter is required along the east side of the tennis courts.	Avoca Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  Avoca Tennis Club	Avoca Tennis Club contribution  State Government grant	M

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Prepare a master plan for Avoca Recreation Reserve and implement recommendations	A master plan will enable the community to prioritise works for the future. As the majority of works identified for the reserve have already been completed, this is a low priority.	Avoca Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  User groups of Avoca Recreation Reserve	Avoca Recreation Reserve contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	L
<b>Barkly</b>	43	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Barkly community	Council funds  External grant	H
		Upgrade Barkly Hall should funds become available.	A hall upgrade will enable the Barkly community to continue to provide social and recreational communities for the community	Barkly Hall Committee	Barkly Hall COM contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	M
<b>Beaufort</b>	1,539	Undertake a master plan for Beaufort Lake which would incorporate preferred location for facilities such as walking tracks, picnic facilities, shared play facilities with the caravan park, etc.	A master plan will help to guide future developments in a logical and well planned way.	Beaufort Caravan Park  Users of Goldfields Reserve  Beaufort community	Council funds  State Government grant	H

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Develop a pump park / BMX facility next to the Beaufort Skate Park.	This informal recreation facility is likely to appeal to a broad cross section of the community and provide new physical activity opportunities.	Beaufort community  Young people  BMX / MTB riders	Council funds  State Government grant	H
		Develop walking, cycling and horse riding trails in the Beaufort area in accordance with the Beaufort Walkability Plan, the regional trails strategy and a proposed municipal trails strategy.	Such facilities will enable improved health and fitness and may also provide economic benefits to the local community.	Beaufort community  Potential users – cyclists, walkers and horse riders  Tourism / business operators	Council funds  State Government grant	H
		Upgrade change rooms at Beaufort Swimming Pool and improve access for people of all abilities to the swimming pool.	The existing change rooms are in poor condition and do not have hot water to the showers, thereby potentially limiting the number of people who use the facility.	Beaufort community  Friends of Beaufort Swimming Pool  Swimming pool contractor	Council funds  State Government grant  Friends Group fundraising	M
		Develop a regional level playground in Beaufort	A regional level playground will provide a quality informal recreation facility for both local residents and visitors.	Beaufort community  Families	Council funds  State Government grant	M

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Prepare a master plan for Goldfields Recreation Reserve	A master plan will enable the community to prioritise works for the future.	Goldfields Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  User groups of Goldfields Recreation Reserve  Beaufort Caravan Park	Council funds  State Government grant	L
<b>Brewster</b>	51	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Brewster community	Council funds  External grant	H
<b>Carranballac</b>	42	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Carranballac community	Council funds  External grant	H
<b>Crowlands</b>	89	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Crowlands community	Council funds  External grant	H
<b>Evansford</b>	131	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Evansford community	Council funds  External grant	H
<b>Landsborough</b>	180	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Landsborough community	Council funds  External grant	H
		Install a swimming pool blanket	A swimming pool blanket will help to increase the temperature of the water and potentially increase patronage amongst local residents, the school and caravan park visitors.	Landsborough community  Swimming pool contractor	Council funds  External grant	H

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Install shade at the Landsborough Lawn Bowls Club	The installation of shade at Landsborough Lawn Bowls Club will provide some protection from the sun for lawn bowlers	Landsborough Lawn Bowls Club	Landsborough Lawn Bowls Club contribution	H
<b>Lexton</b>	231	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Lexton community	Council funds External grant	H
		Advocate for funding to construct a new community pavilion at the Lexton Recreation Reserve	Lexton Recreation Reserve is one of the few remaining reserves to be upgraded and from an equity perspective, should be afforded the same opportunities as other towns in the Shire.	Lexton Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Users of Lexton Recreation Reserve	Lexton Recreation Reserve Committee of Management contribution Council funds State Government grant	H
		Convert the turf at Lexton Recreation Reserve to warm season grasses	This will reduce the amount and cost of water required to keep the playing surface in good condition.	Lexton Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Users of Lexton Recreation Reserve	Lexton Recreation Reserve Committee of Management contribution Council funds State Government grant	M



Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Upgrade the power supply to Lexton Recreation Reserve and upgrade training lights on the oval.	This will enable a safer training experience for football players and will also help to reduce wear and tear on some sections of the oval.	Lexton Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  Users of Lexton Recreation Reserve	Lexton Recreation Reserve Committee of Management contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	M
<b>Moonambel</b>	167	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Moonambel community	Council funds  External grant	H
		Develop walking / cycling / horse riding trails and associated infrastructure in the Moonambel area, as per recommendations contained within the proposed municipal trails strategy.	Trails will help to create additional recreational facilities for local residents and also to attract more revenue locally from visitors.	Moonambel community  Potential users – cyclists, walkers and horse riders  Tourism / business operators	Council funds  State Government grant	H

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Prepare a basic master plan for Moonambel Recreation Reserve	A master plan will enable the community to prioritise works for the future.	Moonambel Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  Users of Moonambel Recreation Reserve	Moonambel Recreation Reserve Committee of Management contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	L
		Install solar panels and purchase additional water tanks for Moonambel Recreation Reserve.	These works will help to reduce operating costs of the Reserve.	Moonambel Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  Users of Moonambel Recreation Reserve	Moonambel Recreation Reserve Committee of Management contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	M

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Improve accessibility to the Moonambel Hall and install heating	These works will help to make the hall more accessible and comfortable for users.	Moonambel Hall Committee of Management  Users of Moonambel Recreation Reserve	Moonambel Hall Committee of Management contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	M
<b>Natte Yallock</b>	94	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Natte Yallock community	Council funds  External grant	H
		Investigate the purchase of an electronic scoreboard at Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve that can also be used for community events – consider portable options	An electronic scoreboard could be utilised for a variety of community events in addition to football / cricket.	Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  Users of Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve	Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve Committee of Management contribution  Council funds  External grant	M

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Install a watering system on Natte Yallock Oval subject to demand	An efficient watering system will enable a safer playing surface, better turf coverage, reduced operating costs and potentially less volunteer hours.	Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  Users of Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve	Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve Committee of Management contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	M
Raglan	231	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Raglan community	Council funds  External grant	H
		Prepare a basic in-house master plan for Raglan Recreation Reserve	A master plan will enable the community to prioritise works for the future.	Raglan Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  Users of Raglan Recreation Reserve	Staff time	L

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Undertake a basic upgrade of the clubrooms, septic system and boundary fence at Raglan Recreation Reserve to cater for equine groups	These works will enable the Raglan Recreation Reserve to become a hub for horse riding groups and may enable events to be held at the site.	Raglan Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  Users of Raglan Recreation Reserve	Raglan Recreation Reserve Committee of Management contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	M
		Upgrade Raglan Hall should funds become available.	A hall upgrade will enable the Raglan community to continue to provide social and recreational communities for the community.	Raglan Hall Committee	Council funds  State Government grant	M
<b>Redbank</b>	94	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Redbank community	Council funds  External grant	H
		Install shade (natural or shade sails) at the playground in Anzac Park	This will enable children and carers to be better protected from the sun whilst using the playground	Redbank community	Redbank community contribution  Council funds	H

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Upgrade Redbank Hall should funds become available.	A hall upgrade will enable the Redbank community to continue to provide social and recreational communities for the community	Redbank Hall Committee of Management	Redbank Hall Committee of Management contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	M
<b>Snake Valley</b>	743	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Snake Valley community	Council funds  External grant	H
		Advocate for funding to construct a community park in Snake Valley featuring skate facilities, picnic facilities, BBQ, walking track and other suitable features.	Such a site would provide improved informal recreational and social opportunities for the community.	Snake Valley community	Snake Valley community contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	H
		Explore opportunities to develop horse riding facilities, i.e. an area to park a horse float, yards to tie horses up in, a toilet block and a tap on Parks Victoria controlled land on Coates Road opposite Carngham Bushland Reserve.	There are few formal horse riding facilities available in the Shire, but increasing demand, particularly by women.	Parks Victoria	Parks Victoria funds	M

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Prepare a basic master plan for Carngham Recreation Reserve	A master plan will enable the community to prioritise works for the future.	Carngham Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  Users of Carngham Recreation Reserve	Carngham Recreation Reserve Committee of Management contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	L
		Consider undertaking upgrades at Carngham Recreation Reserve, i.e. lights, extended netball sheds, sheltered viewing area electronic scoreboard, power upgrade, irrigation system, warm season grasses, new training cricket nets and a children's playground subject to demonstrated needs and future usage	Upgrades to the recreation reserve will provide for improved amenity at the reserve, but need to be carefully considered so as not to create duplication or to develop facilities where the long term use is not clear (particularly given the relationship with Linton Recreation Reserve).	Carngham Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  Users of Carngham Recreation Reserve	Carngham Recreation Reserve Committee of Management contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	M
		Extend the walking track from Mag Dam to the township of Snake Valley	This trail will improve access to Mag Dam and also provide a new recreational opportunity for local residents	Snake Valley community	Council funds  State Government grant	M

Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
Trawalla	141	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Trawalla community	Council funds External grant	H
Waubra	275	Activate the community by introducing some local programs and events	Local activities may help to create a more liveable, active and connected community.	Waubra community	Council funds External grant	H
		Prepare a basic master plan for Waubra Recreation Reserve	A master plan will enable the community to prioritise works for the future.	Waubra Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  Users of Waubra Recreation Reserve	Waubra Recreation Reserve Committee of Management contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	M
		Upgrade the Waubra Recreation Reserve to include: refurbishment of home and away rooms, new accessible public toilets, new netball shelter, lighting for the oval and car parking area (which will require a power upgrade), new hub entrance and a BBQ	These works will enable Waubra Recreation Reserve to improve accessibility, cater better for female participation, provide a safer environment, reduce wear and tear on the oval, provide a more aesthetically pleasing venue and provide enhanced social and revenue raising opportunities.	Waubra Recreation Reserve Committee of Management  Users of Waubra Recreation Reserve	Waubra Recreation Reserve Committee of Management contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	M



Town	Pop.	Works	Justification	Partners	Resources	Priority
		Develop a new club house for Waubra Bowls Club	This will allow the Waubra Bowls Club to better meet the needs of its members	Waubra Bowls Club	Waubra Bowls Club contribution  Council funds  State Government grant	M