

# Montrose Recreation Reserve News

## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

A meeting was held on Tuesday 13th June at the Reserve attended by Cr.Len Cox, Gerran Wright, SYR Recreation Services, Grant Jack and Brad Martin from SYR Asset Maintenance and Services and the following members of the MRRD Committee: Ken Dowling, Convenor, Jan Smith - Netball, Peter Collins and Diane Bull - Montrose Scouts, Julie McDonald - Playground, Alan Cook, Paul Spizzica and Chris Dowling - Football, Paul Burley - Cricket, Roger Craddock - Tennis and Steve Jacobs - Auskick.

Ken Dowling welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested clarification from Gerran Wright regarding how future meetings would be organised. Gerran said that after the initial meetings of the steering committee to develop the Master Plan, it is now up to the stakeholders to decide on their priorities in the staged development and to request meetings with council as necessary. Cr. Cox confirmed that he is always available to discuss the on-going works and expressed his desire to see the development completed well before the 10 years allowed on the Master Plan.

The first stage of the plan, the up-grade to the entrance of the Reserve is nearly completed. Front fencing, clearing and replanting of vegetation "will hopefully be started this week" said Brad Martin. Safety and appearance are much enhanced by the works to date.

The access to the 'Kevin Heinz Garden' was an issue keenly discussed. Council is preparing some options, one of which is a path alongside the back oval from Devenish Ave. The Football Club representatives expressed several concerns with this proposal. Chris Dowling said, "We would not like to see any works which reduce the size of the current area designated 'back oval', especially when the Master Plan includes an up-grade to maximise use for training, playing non-competitive games, Auskick and Disability Clinics. Alan Cook added, "There is just no space for additional carparking in Devenish Ave. and a 200m path would make disability access difficult." Steve Jacobs from Auskick said, "With the number of

children participating in our clinics we use every available inch of the area. "The Cricket Club are also looking to moving some junior training to this area in the future. These representatives urged Council to seriously consider the option of garden access from the carpark located behind the shops. This would mean disabled visitors could drive right up to the entrance and access for all visitors would be easier and closer to the main pedestrian hub of the township.

Cr.Cox promised there would be no works undertaken without consultation with the MRRDC.

The Football and Cricket Clubs requested information on how to proceed with regard to major renovation of the pavillion which is now their top priority within the development. Grant Jack from Asset Management was extremely helpful with the steps in this process and Gerran Wright said the group must register interest in the council Grants project with him. Ken Dowling added that he advised the Football Club to explore grants through the A.F.L.

The public toilet situation is an on-going concern for Reserve users and the Montrose community in general. Cr. Cox confirmed that the old toilets behind the tennis courts will go when the pavillion renovation takes place. There will be public toilets accessible from outside. He also said he is organising funding for a public toilet for the Montrose township in the near future.

Ken Dowling was very pleased with the response and input at the meeting and thanked all concerned. He said, "Some disappointment has been expressed at the length of time it has taken for serious consideration of the re-development but the meeting was generally positive. We now look forward to working with the Shire Council and particularly Cr. Len Cox, and all stakeholders in the development of a major community asset for Montrose."

The next meeting of the MDDRC will discuss and prioritise developments within the Master Plan. Any interested residents who would like to attend are most welcome.

Contact Ken Dowling, Convenor. 97282899.