

Montrose Recreation Reserve Re-Development

The **Montrose Recreation Reserve** is a century old park that provides for both active and passive recreation and sporting opportunities. The decision to formulate a master plan for the Montrose Recreation Reserve resulted from user group requests to improve the playing fields and facilities, coupled with the recommendations contained in Council's 'Open Space Strategy (1998).

The Shire of Yarra Ranges - 'Montrose Recreation Reserve Master Plan' is a cohesive

plan that identifies short, medium and long-term priorities for the maintenance and development of the Reserve. A copy of the Montrose Recreation Reserve Master Plan is available for reference. The total cost to implement the master plan represents a \$1.2M commitment, with the developments staged over the next 10-15 years. The Report identifies opportunities for joint funding for some projects which will reduce Council's financial contribution.

MONTROSE ENVIRONMENT GROUP *Representative Noel Morgan*

M.E.G. were invited to join the MRRDC to give advice on the existing vegetation and landscaping of the reserve area to complement any new development of the sporting facilities. The group has an active on-going interest in this area with weed control and re-planting. They are eager to extend and enhance the opportunities for passive recreation activities such as walking, picnicing and enjoyment of the local environment in an area so conveniently located in the heart of the township.



Chris Dowling, Julie McDonald, Roger Craddock, Steve Jacobs, Jan Smith, Peter Collins, Paul Spizzica, Alan Cook, Dianne Bull, Paul Burley, Ken Dowling, Cr. Len Cox.

MONTROSE FOOTBALL CLUB

Representatives Alan Cook, Chris Dowling

The football club was the main driver behind the formation of the M.R.R.D. Committee as the major tenant of the Reserve. The Junior Football Development Program has been very successful and is attracting an increased number of registrations from local youngsters every year. There are now 9 junior teams, 2 under 9's, and one in every age level from 10-16 yrs. There has been mounting pressure to field more underage teams but the present facility is struggling to cope as it is.

Volunteers still involved at senior level can remember promises made by Council in 1992 when the club won three premierships and was promoted to First Division in the E.F.L. Major development and upgrade was seriously discussed but never eventuated. One major upgrade to the main oval in 1999 and some drainage works since have improved the surface but it is overdue for a complete re-surfacing, levelling and more efficient drainage works. We continually lose promising junior players

when they reach open age level because other local clubs can offer better facilities and a ground suitable to a club aspiring to be in First Division.

The pavilion is also in desperate need of a complete renovation and extension. The toilets and shower areas are inadequate and only kept usable by volunteer repairs, painting and cleaning. It has cost many dollars and voluntary work hours to keep the kitchen compliant with health and safety regulations. The main room is too small to hold social functions and there is very little secure storage.

Most importantly, now that the club in conjunction with Shire runs disability clinics on a regular basis, a recent Access Audit conducted by the shire showed that the facility (both indoors and out) does not comply at any level with basic disability requirements! This has been the catalyst for the Board of Management of the Montrose Football Club to rate the renovation and extension of the building as its first priority. This will give the football and cricket clubs and Auskick a viable operating base when future groundworks are undertaken.

D-MEN COTERIE *Representative Steve Wright*

The coterie is a group of local businessmen associated with the cricket and football clubs who raise money to assist the sporting community of the Montrose Reserve. They have been responsible for the provision of a synthetic pitch on the main oval and training lights for the back oval. The group meets every first Wednesday of the month at the pavillion to have dinner and discuss local issues.

CRICKET CLUB *Representative Paul Burley*

As the other main tenant and also severely affected by the condition of the oval surface and the pavillion the Cricket Club are a major supporter of the Reserve development. The success of the junior program has meant having to hire other grounds for playing and training. The club is in a similar situation to the football club with regard to the size and condition of the pavillion and see the improvements as essential to our ability to offer local children and residents the opportunity to play and enjoy cricket in Montrose.

NETBALL CLUB *Representative Jan Smith*

The Netball Club sees the Reserve development as an opportunity to replace their two sub-standard courts and would consider relocation within the Reserve. The courts are continually vandalised as they are adjacent to the parking area and on the main route for pedestrian traffic through the reserve from Stradbroke Rd. to the shops. Broken glass and damage to the goal posts are particularly dangerous. The club also has no shelter or access to secure storage or any amenity at all during training times. The re-development of the pavillion would provide all these requirements and also give the club access to a free social venue.

MONTROSE TENNIS CLUB *Representative Roger Craddock*

MTC appreciate the recent roadworks and pruning of trees by the Shire to up-grade access to the Reserve. The Club stongly endorses moves by the Montrose Football and Cricket Clubs to develop their premises to facilitate members of the public and the disabled.

We also support development plans by Montrose Township Group Secretary, Julie McDonald, to improve the playground area adjacent to the Montrose Tennis Club. We endorse the program of Montrose Environment Group to improve accessibility of the Montrose Reserve and make it more people friendly by indigenous planting and weed extermination.

AUSKICK *Representative Steve Jacobs*

Auskick is now working very closely with the Montrose Football Club and using the back oval to conduct clinics every Saturday morning. There are over 120 children from 5-12 years of age registered this year. Auskick is looking forward to the upgrading of the back oval and the provision of some shelter for parents and spectators in future development of the Reserve. The group will also benefit from the extension and renovation of the pavillion as at present they have no storage facility or access to an indoor area for wet weather activities.

1st MONTROSE SCOUT GROUP *Representatives Dianne Bull and Peter Collins*

The Montrose Scouts are located in the Montrose hall adjacent to the current playground area. This hall was built around 35 years ago by the people of Montrose. The scouting mission statement is to provide youth with life experiences and is open to males and females between the ages of 6 and 25 years. The Scouts fully support the local community and are wholeheartedly behind the development of the Reserve and will assist in any way possible.

We see this as a hand in hand partnership with all the other groups involved in the Reserve and the people of Montrose and surrounding areas.

"Working for our Community"

