

ATTACHMENT TO AGENDA ITEM

Ordinary Meeting

18 February 2014

Agenda Item 6.4	Merrigum Recreation Reserve masterplan	
Attachment 1	06a Merrigum Reserve Master Plan 13 Nov 13	412
Attachment 2	Merrigum Rec Res MP FINAL Nov 13	413

- NETBALL /TENNIS COURTS**
(high priority)
- rebuild 2 hardcourt netball courts
 - rebuild 5 hardcourt tennis courts
 - improve drainage
 - replace perimeter fence of netball/ tennis courts
 - install additional seats around tennis court
 - upgrade netball court lights (low priority)

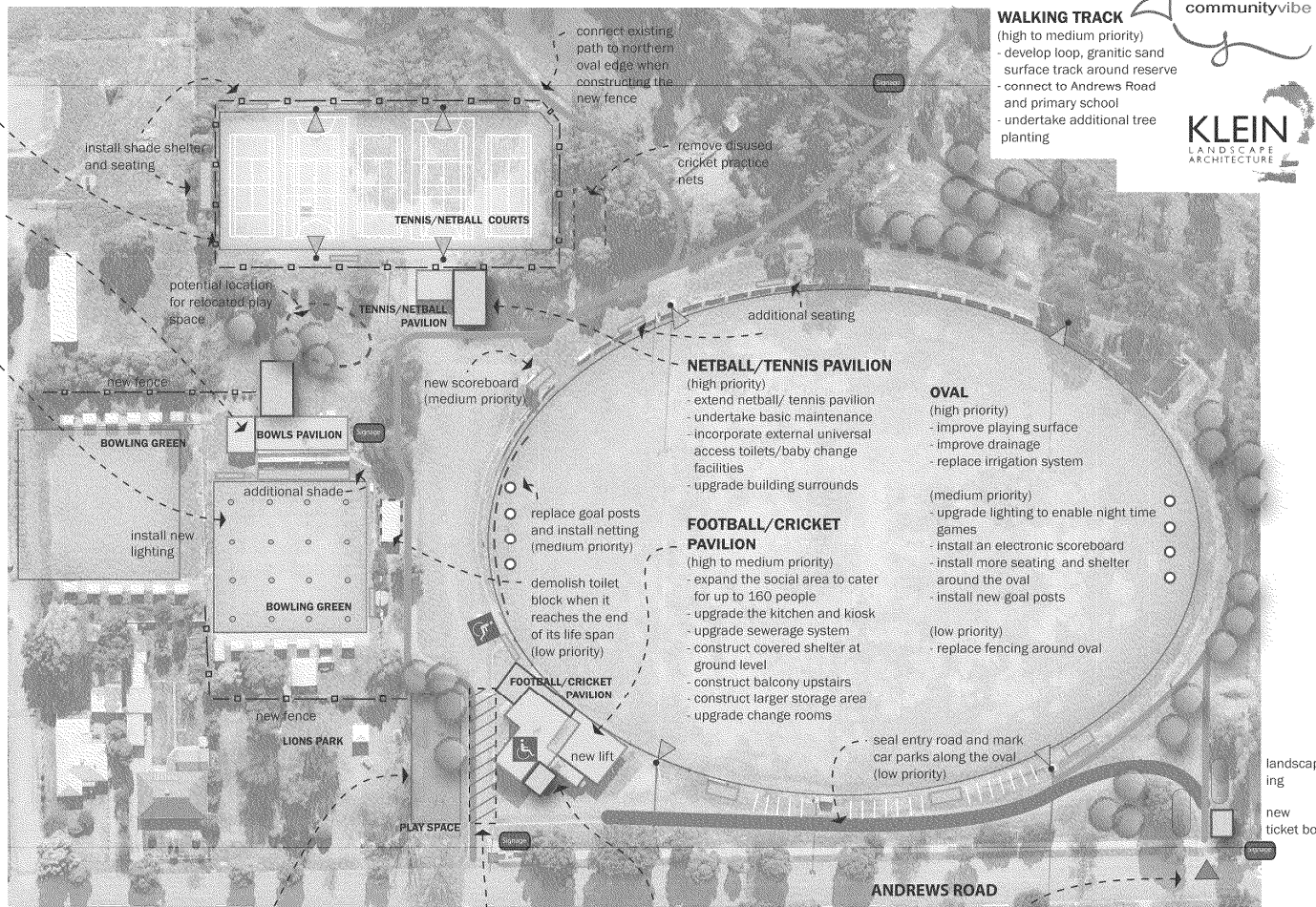
- LAWN BOWLS PAVILION**
(medium priority)
- extend pavilion to incorporate a bigger bar and more storage
 - improve serving outlet to the BBQ shed

- LAWN BOWLS GREEN**
(high priority)
- develop a synthetic bowls green
 - construct new fences
 - install additional shade and seating
- (low priority)
- install new lighting

PLEASE NOTE
All features are shown indicatively only for the purpose of providing an overview of the master plan recommendations. This plan should be read in combination with the written report. Detailed design should be undertaken prior to any on-ground works.

- LEGEND**
(all features schematic only)
- proposed extension to buildings - schematic only
 - proposed upgrade to lighting
 - proposed trees
 - proposed seating
 - proposed signage locations
 - proposed shade shelters

MANAGEMENT
liaise with the Greater Shepparton City Council and Department of Environment and Primary Industries to clarify management and maintenance roles and responsibilities for the Reserve



- WALKING TRACK**
(high to medium priority)
- develop loop, granitic sand surface track around reserve
 - connect to Andrews Road and primary school
 - undertake additional tree planting



- NETBALL/TENNIS PAVILION**
(high priority)
- extend netball/ tennis pavilion
 - undertake basic maintenance
 - incorporate external universal access toilets/baby change facilities
 - upgrade building surrounds

- OVAL**
(high priority)
- improve playing surface
 - improve drainage
 - replace irrigation system

- FOOTBALL/CRICKET PAVILION**
(high to medium priority)
- expand the social area to cater for up to 160 people
 - upgrade the kitchen and kiosk
 - upgrade sewerage system
 - construct covered shelter at ground level
 - construct balcony upstairs
 - construct larger storage area
 - upgrade change rooms

- (medium priority)
- upgrade lighting to enable night time games
 - install an electronic scoreboard
 - install more seating and shelter around the oval
- (low priority)
- replace fencing around oval

EVENTS
(ongoing)
organise or facilitate additional events at the reserve, e.g. gentle exercise classes, Tai Chi, markets, concerts, picnic days, sports events etc.

PLAY SPACE
(medium - low priority)

- install seating in play area
- soften edge with planting and natural play elements
- include shade trees
- consider relocating play space to area between bowling and tennis pavillion if demand can be demonstrated

CURRENT VEHICLE ENTRY
(high priority)
restrict traffic flow past play ground for vehicles/create a "shared zone" with pedestrians

FOOTBALL/CRICKET PAVILION
(high priority)
improve universal access to pavillion by installing a lift, widening doors and installing a disabled toilet

NEW GATE ENTRANCE
(high priority)
incl. new ticketing box
landscaping
signage

GREATER SHEPPARTON
Sept. 2013 - draft
MASTER PLAN - OVERVIEW

Greater Shepparton City Council
MERRIGUM RECREATION RESERVE

Merrigum Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2014-2023



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1.0 Executive Summary

To ensure that Merrigum Recreation Reserve can continue to cater for the existing needs of its community and the future demands placed upon it, a long term improvement plan has been prepared with input from user groups, City of Greater Shepparton, Department of Sustainability and Environment and the broader community. This Master Plan identifies a number of priorities that the Merrigum community believes are of importance in ensuring sustainability and the continuation of quality sport and recreation opportunities. The Merrigum community will use this Master Plan to guide their decision making in relation to infrastructure developments over a period of approximately ten to fifteen years.

It is important to note, however, that many of the infrastructure developments contained within this Master Plan are contingent on the development of partnerships and sharing of resources with other organisations; the attraction of external funding to support local fundraising efforts; and the achievement of certain triggers before some developments are considered necessary or viable.

Proposed developments at Merrigum Recreation Reserve have been identified and prioritised, based on a number of factors including whether or not the development is consistent with the vision and planning principles identified for the site. Developments have been included if the proposed works:

1. are consistent with the vision and planning principles developed for the Reserve.
2. have been demonstrated through a number of sources such as community plans, community consultations, surveys, etc, as needed by the community.
3. are consistent with the grading of the reserve and the type of infrastructure and facilities expected within the grading.
4. will help to maintain and / or increase participation in sport and recreation opportunities.
5. are likely to benefit the broader community (from a social, physical, economic and / or environmental perspective) and involve the community in operations or management.
6. create improved access for people of all abilities, ages, genders, etc.
7. increase the opportunity for the site to be used for a variety of different and / or new activities.
8. are likely to increase safety of users and reduce risk management issues.
9. are likely to allow the site to meet industry standards, regulations and legislation.
10. reflect best practice and current industry trends
11. are likely to decrease the impact on the environment and natural resources, e.g. installation of water saving devices, double glazing on windows, etc.
12. are likely to be financially sustainable in the long term and take into consideration whole of life funding costs, including development of replacement schedules.
13. are likely to decrease operational costs.

14. are likely to reduce the demands on volunteers time (for activities such as mowing, watering, line marking, etc).
15. will rectify existing infrastructure that is currently in a very poor state or beyond repair.
16. are likely to attract external funding.
17. are within the resource capacity of the community to achieve, i.e. plans are cost effective, user groups have sufficient resources to make the required financial contribution, user groups can provide some in-kind labour, user groups can assist with project management, suitable plans have been developed, etc.
18. enhance the appearance and usability of the site, e.g. improved landscaping, heating / cooling, marked car parking bays, etc.
19. involve a number of partners to assist with funding and / or operations, management and maintenance.
20. do not duplicate existing facilities.

The key areas identified in this master plan for further development or upgrading are:

Liaise with Greater Shepparton City Council and Department of Environment and Primary Industries to clarify management and maintenance roles and responsibilities for the Reserve.

Incorporate universal access into the pavilion which could include, but is not limited to, installing a lift or ramp, widening doors and installing a disabled toilet.

Rebuild two hard court netball courts and five hard court tennis courts that meet regulations and are well drained. At the same time, erect a new fence around the perimeter of the netball / tennis courts; erect a

shelter with seating at the west end of the netball / tennis courts; and install more seats around the netball / tennis courts.

Relocate entrance to gates near the swimming pool; construct new ticket box; undertake some landscaping near the entrance; and realign internal roads so that there is a pedestrian zone between the playground and the pavilion.

Install a sign at the entry to the Reserve outlining activities available on site; directional signage around the Reserve to key facilities; signage to direct people to the public toilets at Judd Park on non-game days; trail head signage on the walking track; and directional signage on the walking track.

Develop a synthetic bowls green; construct a new fence between the bowling club and the Lions Club Park and also at the northern end; construct sun shades at bowls pavilion end of the green; and install aluminum seats around the bowling green.

Extend the existing netball / tennis pavilion to include change facilities for netballers and tennis players. Incorporate external accessible toilets (featuring baby change facilities) into this building, which are open on game days and for other community events. Replace tiles outside pavilion and undertake basic maintenance inside the building.

Improve playing surface of the oval; replace irrigation system; and improve drainage.

Develop a continuous circuit around the Reserve linked to the footpath along Andrews Road and extended to Merrigum Primary School; undertake additional tree planting; and cover with granitic sand. This path should provide a link from the play space to the netball / tennis courts.

Redevelop and modernise the pavilion to expand the social area upstairs to cater for 150-160 people; upgrade the kitchen / kiosk; install phase three power to the kitchen; upgrade the sewerage system; construct a balcony upstairs; construct more covered shelter on the ground level to allow for viewing of football matches; construct a larger storage area;

and upgrade the change room areas.

Extend the lawn bowls pavilion to incorporate a bigger bar and more storage and an improved serving outlet to the BBQ shed.

Upgrade the lighting on the oval to enable night football or soccer.

Install an electronic scoreboard.

Install more seating and shelter around the oval and more seating along the walking track.

Install new goal posts on the sports oval and netting behind the goal posts at the bowls club end of the oval.

Install seating in the play area.

Plant more trees around the perimeter of the Reserve.

Redesign place space once it has reached the end of its life so that it features more natural play elements, has softened edges and more seating. Consider relocating playground to area between netball / tennis courts and bowls club pavilion if there is sufficient demand.

Formalise car parking along the south side of the oval by sealing road and marking car parking bays between the new entrance and the pavilion. Installing some shelter for spectators in this area. Consider placing gravel over the area of open space near the skate park to ensure maximum utilisation of existing space.

Replace fencing around the oval.

Upgrade netball court lights.

Install new lighting on the bowling green.

Demolish existing toilet block when it reaches the end of its life.

Organise or facilitate additional activities and events at the Reserve such as gentle exercise classes, Tai Chi, markets, concerts, picnic days, sports events, etc.



Figure 1: Bowls Club Shelter

2.0 Introduction

Merrigum Recreation Reserve is situated in Morrissey Street, Merrigum on land owned by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI). Facilities at the Reserve include:

- One football / cricket turf oval with football goal posts, two coaches boxes, scoreboard and training level lights
- One pavilion / change room featuring home and away player change rooms, umpire change rooms, kiosk / kitchen, toilets, bar, social area
- Two plexipave netball courts (with line marking for tennis) with one set of lights
- Three plexipave tennis courts (plus two shared with netball line markings)
- One netball / tennis pavilion featuring kitchenette, storage and meeting facilities (no toilets)
- One bowling green
- Bowling green pavilion
- Bowls storage shed
- Public toilet block
- One play area
- Walking track
- One cricket practice wicket
- One rebound wall
- Dam

In terms of other sport, recreation and community facilities in Merrigum, there is a skate park and swimming pool just outside the eastern

boundary of the Recreation Reserve, along with Judd Park and a community hall.

The community hall, along with the Recreation Reserve Pavilion, the bowls club and the Merrigum Golf Club, are all used for birthday parties, engagements, weddings and wakes. In addition, cultural and civic activities such as dance practice, the occasional dance, band practice and Greater Shepparton City Council meetings are held in the community hall. Merrigum Primary School, located in Judd Avenue (just to the north of the Recreation Reserve), features multi-purpose asphalt sports court and some areas of open space suitable for ball sports. Judd Park features a play space, BBQ, picnic facilities and public toilets as well as two iconic cow sculptures.

Although some of the local farming industries have been impacted by various Government decisions and regulations in recent years, the Merrigum community is confident that there will be alternative opportunities in the near future that will help the town to continue to grow and thrive. One such opportunity is the relocation of vegetable growers to the area. Another positive sign is a potential residential development across the road from the Reserve with up to 140 housing lots.

3.0 Methodology

The process used to obtain the necessary information on which to base recommendations contained within this plan is as follows:

- Review of relevant literature and reports
- Demographic analysis
- Analysis of local and state sport and recreation participation statistics
- Review of current state and national leisure trends and their impact on sport and recreation programs, services and facilities
- Meetings with user groups of the Reserve
- Interviews with key stakeholders
- Community consultation
- Site inspection of the grounds and buildings
- Examination of potential funding options
- Analysis of community needs and preparation of a series of prioritised recommendations



Figure 2: Kitchen / Kiosk in Football / Cricket Pavilion

4.0 Policy Context

City of Greater Shepparton Council Plan 2013-2017

The purpose of this strategy is to provide a framework to assist the City of Greater Shepparton to implement decisions that are consistent with the strategic direction it has identified for the next four years and beyond. The themes identified in the plan include the environment, lifestyles, culture, social opportunities and economy.

There are five strategic goals identified in the plan:

1. Active & Engaged Community (Social)
 - Improve liveability and a greater range of community service by
 - Enhancing social connectedness
 - Enhancing physical and mental health and wellbeing
 - Enhancing education and participatory opportunities.
2. Enhancing the Environment (Environment)
 - Conserve and enhance significant natural, environmental and cultural heritage.
3. Economic Prosperity (Economic)
 - Promote economic growth, business development and diversification, with a focus on strengthening the agricultural industry.
4. Quality Infrastructure (Built)

- Facilitate growth in a consolidated and sustainable development framework and will strive to provide urban and rural infrastructure to enhance the performance of the municipality.

5. High Performing Organisation (Leadership & Governance)

- Deliver best practice management, governance, administrative and financial systems that support the delivery of Council programs to the community of Greater Shepparton.

Consultations with community revealed a desire to live in a community that is both liveable and sustainable, with a continued focus on healthy lifestyles supported by high quality recreational, educational and cultural facilities and a natural environment that is nurtured and respected.

There is no specific reference to Merrigum Recreation Reserve.

City of Greater Shepparton (2012) Merrigum Community Plan Revision

The purpose of this report, produced in partnership with Greater Shepparton City Council and communityvibe, is to review progress from each of the previous community planning exercises to determine which actions have been completed; which actions have not been completed; and to determine whether or not any of the actions contained within the plan are no longer a priority.

It is also the aim of the report to identify any new priorities that may have emerged over the past three to four years that need to be incorporated into the Revised Merrigum Community Plan.

The vision identified by residents of the town of Merrigum is:

Merrigum is a thriving, attractive rural town that values all members of the community and provides a range of quality programs, services and facilities to enable people to live, work and recreate locally.

In order to achieve this vision, the local community has identified a number of key priorities to work towards.

The nine highest priorities are:

1. The development of more shops, businesses, industries and industrial land development in the town
2. An upgrade to the facilities at the Recreation Reserve
3. The development of a small supermarket / general store
4. The development of more housing opportunities
5. An upgrade to, and better maintenance of the walking / cycling track
6. Improvement to street lighting
7. Realignment of the train line intersection
8. More activities and infrastructure for young people
9. Establishment of a community health centre with a doctor.

A Master Plan for Merrigum township was developed in November 2006. Three priority areas were identified through a forum conducted as part of this plan:

1. Improved physical environment – town entrances; formal parks and gardens; streetscape; bushland reserve management; and community identity
2. Residential and business growth
3. Youth activities.

Specific actions are included in the Merrigum Town Master Plan, some of which are relevant to the Merrigum Recreation Reserve.

As of June 2012, the following community projects, which had been previously identified were given a status of completed, partially completed, not completed or no longer required.

The following projects related to recreation were considered completed:

- Skate Park construction
- Reserve lighting – night lighting for Recreation Reserve Ground and sports courts
- Playground – seating
- Bushland site/walking track – continued revegetation.

The following were considered partially completed projects:

- Pool – upgrade pool entry, new canopy and seating area.

Uncompleted projects:

- Pool – new hand holds and foot climbing holds for new traverse wall near pool
- Football ground - upgrade football entry
- Pool – extend opening hours.

Projects no longer required:

- Pool – new planting within pool grounds.

In a recent survey of local residents, 35 areas were identified as requiring action or improvement in Merrigum. Of these areas identified, residents were asked to prioritise them in order of importance (High, medium or low).

The following areas are concerned with the Recreation Reserve or recreation:

- Upgrade facilities at the Recreation Reserve (High priority)
- Upgrade and maintain walking/cycling track (High)
- Improve street lighting – Park and Hall (High)
- Transfer management of Recreation Reserve from DSE to Council (Medium)
- Organise more activities/ events (Medium)
- Encourage more community support for sport and encourage clubs to work together (Low)
- Install synthetic turf and lights for bowls (Low)
- More players for football/netball club and bowls club (Low)
- Fence the playground (Low)
- Develop a place to ride scooters (Low)
- Install additional play equipment in the playground (Low)

An action plan was developed for Merrigum Community Planning Group (MCPG) and the priorities in the action plan are based on the level of significance issues were given by local residents. High priorities were

those that were considered would ideally be achieved within 5 years; medium priorities within 6-10 years.

The action to be taken in order to achieve upgrade of facilities at the Recreation Reserve was identified as:

- MCPG to initiate a meeting with Greater Shepparton City Council's Recreation and Parks unit to seek external funding to undertake a master plan of the Recreation Reserve.
- Once funding is received and the master plan completed; local clubs to work towards achieving the key recommendations contained within it.

Partners for this action were identified as:

- Greater Shepparton City Council's Recreation and Parks unit
- Department of Sustainability and Environment (now known as Department of Environment and Primary Industries)
- Merrigum Football/ Netball Club
- Merrigum Tennis Club
- Merrigum Cricket Club
- Merrigum Bowls Club
- Department of Planning and Community Development

Possible resources for the action were identified as:

- Some local in-kind and cash contributions from clubs
- Some funding from Greater Shepparton City Council
- External grant (e.g. Community Facilities Grant – administered by Department of Planning and Community Development).

The action to be taken in order to achieve transfer of management of Recreation Reserve from DSE to Council was identified as:

- MCPG to facilitate a meeting between the Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, Greater Shepparton City Council's Recreation and Parks, Assets, Operations and Business Support and Property units and Department of Sustainability and Environment to discuss the possibility of transferring management of the Recreation Reserve to Council.
- Pending the outcome of the meeting, formalise the transfer of management and establish agreement on roles and responsibilities.

Partners in this action were identified as:

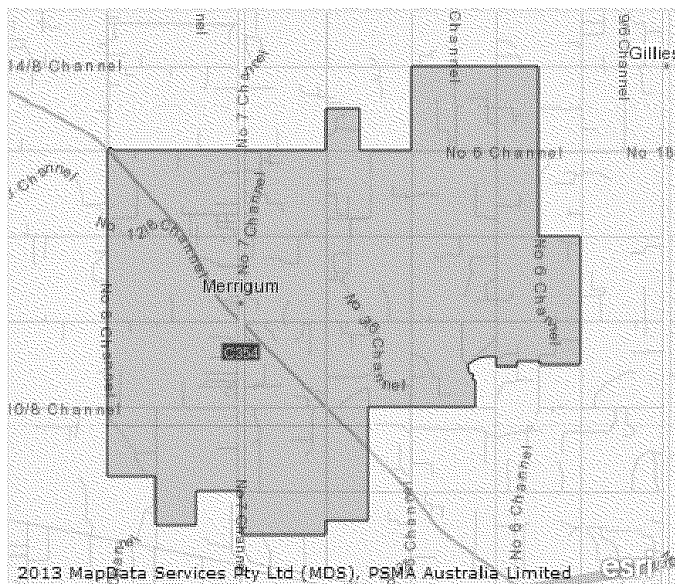
- Greater Shepparton City Council's Recreation and Parks, Assets, Operations and Business Support and Property units
- Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The resources for this action were identified as Committee time.



Figure 3: Bar in Football / Cricket Pavilion

5.0 Demographic Summary



Demographic data provides information which can be used by organisations and committees of management to understand the current make up of the community. Potential markets can be determined by examining the number of people in specific age groups. Other details such as household income may help decision making in terms of setting fees and languages spoken at home may indicate a need to have information translated into other languages for example.

Merrigum is situated in the Rural North West of the City of Greater Shepparton. The City of Greater Shepparton is located in north-central Victoria, about 180 kilometres north of Melbourne. The Rural North West is “bounded in the north by the municipal boundary of Moira Shire; in the east by the Goulburn River, a line that runs east-west north of Cemetery Road, Echuca Mooroopna Road, a line that runs north-south roughly along Excelsior Road, the Midland Highway, Turnbull Road and Simson Road; in the south by Pyke Road, Downer Road, Craven Road, Fenaughty Road, Starritt Road, Merrigum Road, Hooper Road, Manley Road, Mulcahy Road, Pyke Road, Crawford Road and Rushworth Tatura Road; and in the west by the municipal boundary of the Shire of Campaspe.”

The population (2011) of the Rural North West is estimated to be 2,991. By 2031, this figure is expected to grow by 94 persons to 3,085¹.

A brief summary of the demographic make-up of the Merrigum community (state suburb), as per the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ 2011 Census² is as follows:

- The Merrigum community comprises of 672 people 339 –males and 333 females. The median age is 38 (compared with a median age of 37 for both Victoria and Australia).
- There are 188 families in Merrigum, with an average of 1.8 children.

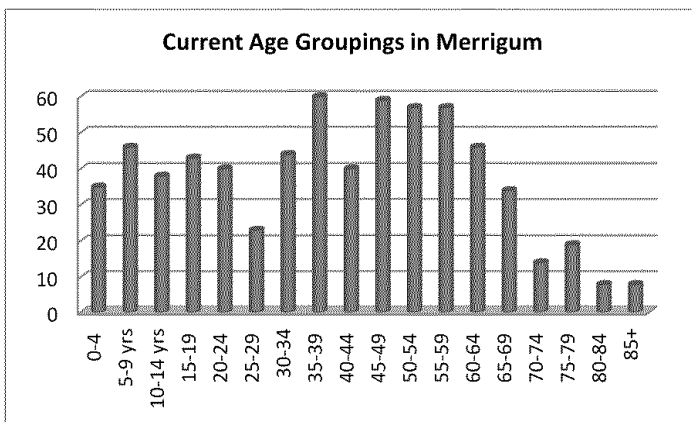
¹ City of Greater Shepparton / forecast.id Population Forecasts:
<http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=272&pg=5210> (viewed 11 August 2013).

² Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2011 QuickStats. Merrigum (SSC). Website:
http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/SSC20882?opendocument&navpos=220 (Viewed 10 August 2013)

- Compared with Australian figures, Merrigum has a higher percentage of people aged between 45 and 49 and 50-54 years of age. It has a significantly lower percentage of people aged between 25-29 years, and a somewhat lower percentage of older adults aged 80+.
- Adults over 45 years of age comprise 45% of the population, compared with 39% of the total population of Australia. Most of these adults in Merrigum are in the 45-49 years of age bracket.
- Indigenous people make up 0.6% of the population compared with 0.7% for Victoria and 2.5% for Australia.
- The majority of residents were born in Australia (82.5% compared with the national figure of 69.8%), with a further 7.1% of residents born in England, India, Italy, New Zealand and Philippines.
- The majority of residents only speak English at home (87.8%). Of those who speak languages other than English at home, the most common languages are Italian, Albanian and Arabic (all 5.2%).
- 23.6% of people over 15 years of age in Merrigum carried out voluntary work for an organisation in the last 12 months, compared with 17.8% for Australia.
- 332 people were in the labour force at the time of the 2011 ABS Census. 46% of these people worked full-time; 48% worked part-time; 7.8% were unemployed. Compared with Victorian and Australian statistics, there are more people working part-time in Merrigum and more people unemployed.
- Key employment industry sectors are Dairy Cattle Farming (11.6% compared with 0.2% in Australia); Fruit and Tree Nut Growing (7.6%); Fruit and Vegetable Processing (4.3% compared with 0.1% in Australia); School Education (4.0% compared with 4.6% in Australia); and Hospitals (4.0%).
- The highest category of occupational types in 2011 is Managers 22.4% compared to 12.9% in Australia overall. There is a higher percentage of workers employed as Labourers (19.7% compared with 9.4% in Australia) and also a higher percentage employed as Technicians and Trades Workers (16.1% compared with 14.2% in Australia). There are less Professionals (8.9% compared with 21.3%) and Clerical and Administrative (7.9% compared with 14.7%).
- The median weekly household income in Merrigum is \$917.0 compared with the Australian median household income of \$1,234.
- The percentage of households with a weekly income lower than \$600 is 35.8% compared with 23.7% in Australia. 1.8% of households have a weekly income of more than \$3000 (compared with 11.2% in Australia).
- 72.6% of households in Merrigum are family households (compared with 71.5% for Australia). The percentage of lone households in Merrigum is slightly lower than for Australia overall (25.4% compared with 24.3%).
- The most common form of family household composition is a couple family with children (46.3% compared with Australian figures of 44.6%), followed by a couple family without children (39.9% compared with 37.8%). One parent families make up 13.8% of families, compared with the Australian figure of 15.9%.
- There is much higher home ownership (i.e. owned outright, or owned with a mortgage) than in Australia (79.6% compared with

67.0%) and a much lower percentage of homes rented (17.2% compared with 29.6%).

- For those paying off homes, the median loan repayment in Merrigum is \$997 per month, compared with \$1,800 for Australia, and for those who are renting homes, the median weekly rental amount is \$180 compared with the Australian median of \$285.
- 26.3% of dwellings had one registered car (compared with 35.8% in Australia); 36.7% had two cars (compared with 36.1%) and 29.5% had three or more cars registered parked at the address (compared with 16.5%).
- 67.9% of people travel to work by car, either as a driver or as a passenger compared with 65.5% for Australia.
- Backpackers also boost the number of people living in Merrigum significantly during summer during the fruit picking season.



6.0 Participation in Sport and Recreation

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 table³ shows the most popular physical activities (organised and non-organised) for people 15 years of age and over in Victoria:

Ranking	Activity	% of Participants over 15 years of age (at least once per year)
1	Walking (other)	36.6
2	Aerobics / fitness	24.7
3	Swimming	13.5
4	Cycling	12.7
5	Running	12.7
6	Golf	7.3
7	Tennis	6.8
8	Australian Rules Football	5.4
9	Basketball	4.8
10	Bushwalking	4.6
11	Netball	3.8
12	Cricket (outdoor)	3.5

Facilities that are multi-purpose in design and clubs that are innovative in their thinking will be best adapted to take advantage of the changing participation patterns and consequently remain as strong, viable clubs.

³ Australian Government: *Participation in Exercise Sport and Recreation – Annual Report 2010*: http://www.ausport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/436134/ERASS_Report_2010-VIC.pdf

7.0 Benefits of Sport and Recreation

The benefits of participating in sport and recreation 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 healthier society. Some of the benefits that can occur through participation in sport and recreation are:

Benefits	Individual and Community
Physical and Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced risk of colon cancer, heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure • Less likely to become overweight or obese • Improved balance and coordination, resulting in fewer falls • Stronger muscles, joints and bones • Improved confidence and self-esteem • Improved body image • Improved motor skills • Less likely to suffer from depression and anxiety • Greater sense of achievement • Reduced stress levels • Higher energy and concentration levels • Reduction in incidence and severity of

Benefits	Individual and Community
	illness and disability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased life expectancy.
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater sense of community • Stronger, more self-reliant communities • Greater social and friendship networks • Reduced anti-social behaviour and vandalism • Helps to develop shared attitudes, values and codes of behaviour in the community • Breaks down barriers between different sectors of the community • Stronger family relationships.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment in sport and recreation activities, events, venues, clubs • Improvements to local business viability through sale of sport and recreation equipment, services or programs • Reduction in health care costs – According to VicHealth⁴, physical inactivity by Australians costs the health system \$719m

⁴ VicHealth (2010) Participation in Physical Activity

Benefits	Individual and Community
	<p>each year and is responsible for approximately 16,178 premature deaths annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases productivity of workers and reduces number of sick days Potential to attract businesses to the region if quality sport and active recreation settings, programs and services exist Flow on benefits to tourism businesses from people participating in sport and recreation events and activities.
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of habitats, biodiversity and ecological integrity More attractive living environments A greater appreciation and awareness of the natural environment.

Participation in physical activity in rural communities, such as Merrigum, brings a different set of benefits to those achieved in regional or metropolitan settings. In rural communities, leisure provides one of the few social outlets where people who may spend much of their time isolated on farms or in small townships, come together to take part in

activities with friends and neighbours in an atmosphere of camaraderie. The activity is sometimes secondary to the social benefits and enhanced sense of community connectedness achieved. Driscoll and Wood, in their report *Sporting Capital – Changes and Challenges for Rural Communities in Victoria*⁵ identify three key components of a successful and functioning community as trust, goodwill and interaction; all three of which can be achieved through participation in sport and recreation by its ability to act as a ‘social glue’.



Figure 4: Bowls Club seats and shelters

⁵ RMIT (Driscoll, Kate and Wood, Liz) – “Sporting Capital – Changes and Challenges for Rural Communities in Victoria”, 1999

8.0 Trends in Sport and Recreation

In terms of sports participation, management and infrastructure, there has been a trend in recent years towards the:

- 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, aerobics, fitness classes, cycling, swimming, running, etc.
 - installation of sports surfaces that help to reduce injuries and increase player comfort, e.g. sprung wooden floors, plexipave tennis courts.
 - installation of improved spectator facilities, e.g. retractable seating, shaded viewing areas.
 - Universal design of facilities to encourage usage by as many people as possible, e.g. use of ramps, unisex toilets with change tables, single storey buildings to allow for wheelchair access, Braille signs, etc.
 - utilisation of indoor sporting facilities such as Leisure Centres with swimming pools for games and aspects of the training and recovery program for a range of different sports.
 - installation of lighting or higher standard of lighting to allow games and training to take place in the evenings.
 - development of environmentally responsible practices such as solar hot water, recycled water systems, etc to reduce the impact of sports facilities and their users on the environment.
 - development or upgrading of facilities and equipment so that they meet the safety requirements of their designated sport, e.g. extension of netball courts to meet recommended run-off distances.
 - master planning of recreation reserves and leisure centres 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 to encourage family use of facilities.
- 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, children’s programs, women’s day time social competitions, master’s games, etc.
 - greater emphasis on social competitions mid week during the evenings as opposed to structured competition on a Saturday afternoon.
 - greater use of facilities by personal fitness trainers and their clients.
 - 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 new schools.
 - greater demand on sporting facilities for special events and tournaments.
 - greater demand for lifestyle/non-traditional forms of sport, i.e. games that can be played on the street or indoors, e.g. street soccer.
 - co-location of several sporting facilities to form recreation precincts to maximise limited resources and to cross-market activities.
 - understanding of the relationship between physical activity participation and improved health, wellbeing and social connectedness.
 - expectation by the community that facilities, programs, services and management will be of a reasonably high standard.
 - expectation that facilities will be available during a range of time slots throughout the week, including weeknight, early morning and weekends.
 - expectation by user groups that draws, ladder, information, etc about local sports competitions are available via the internet.

9.0 Vision and Planning Principles

A vision and planning principles have been developed to help guide the Merrigum Recreation Reserve.

9.1 Vision

Merrigum Recreation Reserve will provide a range of sustainable and enjoyable sport, recreation and social opportunities for the entire community to encourage health, wellbeing and social connectedness.



Figure 5: Merrigum Lions Club Park

9.2 Planning Principles

The planning principles adopted as part of this Master Plan have been developed based on feedback obtained through surveys and key stakeholder interviews. These principles are as follows:

Planning Principle	Wherever possible, Merrigum Recreation Reserve will support and encourage an initiative that:
Community Need	Identifies and responds to community need.
Health and Wellbeing	Contributes to the health and wellbeing of the community.
Quality	Improves the quality of leisure opportunities and facilities available.
Multi-Purpose Design	Is designed in such a way to be used for a range of different purposes and allows for potential growth.
Complementary	Complements existing opportunities and facilities at the Reserve and in Merrigum rather than duplicating them.
Safety	Improves safety for players, spectators and others.
Improved Operating Systems	Reduces burden on volunteers or allows for more efficient ways of operating.
Diversity and Equity	Encourages a diverse and equitable range of leisure opportunities.
Preservation of Natural or Cultural Environment	Ensures preservation and enhancement of the natural or cultural environment.
Partnerships	Develops partnerships in order to maximise leisure opportunities.
Universal Design	Ensures that facilities are designed in such a way so that can be used by as many people as possible.

10.0 Facilities and Infrastructure Overview and Needs Analysis

10.1 Sports Oval



Figure 6: Sports oval at Merrigum Recreation Reserve

The oval at Merrigum Recreation Reserve is approximately 165m x 113m (well above the minimum dimensions for a senior football oval - 135m x 110m) and is currently used by Merrigum Football Club for football training and games. It is also used each Sunday during the winter months by 30 young people who take part in the Auskick program.

In the centre of the oval there is a turf cricket pitch, although there is no cricket club currently based at the Reserve. The grass on the oval has been sprayed to eliminate paspalum and now the Legend Couch variety is beginning to take over. Top dressing occurs once per year.

Surrounding the oval is a fence with steel poles which is in adequate condition. Sponsorship signage is attached to the fence. There are three lights on the oval, with room for one more. These lights were installed three years ago and have been wired to come up to game standard if required in the future. The electrical supply to the Reserve was upgraded at this time too.

There is no underground drainage on the oval. In relation to irrigation, the current system features pop up sprinklers is 30 years old and does not provide full coverage of the ground. Nor does it have the capacity to improve its coverage. An additional pump was used this year to irrigate the oval.

The scoreboard is currently located on the north-west side of the oval. To help reduce volunteer requirements, the football club would ideally like to install an electronic scoreboard. The timekeeper's area is located in the bar area on the top level of the football / cricket pavilion. Ideally a new ticket box would be constructed when entrance to the Reserve are altered so that volunteers working in the ticket box can also watch the football.

10.2 Pavilion

The football / cricket pavilion is a two storey building located near the entrance of the reserve. Downstairs there are change rooms for the home team and the away team. The home team change room features two spaces which should ideally be joined to form one larger change space. The away team change room is very small and only features one shower and one toilet. Ideally it will be increased in size.



Figure 7: Football / Cricket Pavilion

On the ground floor, there is also a small trainer's room which could potentially be converted to a bar; a weights room and a secretary's office (used for storage as well). Umpire change facilities, also located on the

ground floor, feature three toilets which are also used by netballers and for storage.

The existing kitchen on the ground floor of the pavilion features a six burner stove, urn, dishwasher (household standard), food warmer, pie warmer, three refrigerators, microwave oven, fryer, wok, sink, storage space, benches and serving window for the kiosk. An upgrade is planned for the kitchen which will involve relocating the kiosk serving window to the centre of the exterior windows, moving cookers to the west end of the room, vermin proofing the room and installing wall to wall stainless steel.

Upstairs there is a bar, toilets (two cisterns in female toilet and one cistern and one urinal in male toilet) and a function / meeting area with a dance floor. The function area is able to cater for 100 people, but the football club would ideally like to increase its capacity to 150 people, as the number of people playing and supporting football and netball in recent years has grown and the space is no longer large enough for the various functions held in the pavilion. The function space is used for a variety of community events and celebrations as well as by organizations such as Goulburn Murray Water for meetings. An increase in the capacity of the pavilion to cater for 150 people is unlikely to have a negative impact on any other existing public or private facilities within the town as it still stays within its current 'market'. The Merrigum Community Hall, for example, has a capacity of 220 (and is used, and will continue to be used for football / netball club balls), the Senior Citizens Hall can cater for 60-80 people and the local pub has a capacity of 100.

A major issue is the lack of accessibility to the second level of the facility. There is an external staircase, but no ramp or lift. This issue needs to be

addressed as a matter of priority. Once a ramp or lift is installed, the doorways will need to be widened on the second level of the pavilion and disabled toilets will need to be installed.

The football / netball clubs is also keen for space to be made available in the pavilion to display memorabilia.



Figure 8: Function area on second level of pavilion

Outside the pavilion there is a small amount of undercover shelter, a BBQ area and also a caravan that acts as a bar.

10.3 Netball / Tennis Courts

There are five plexipave courts at Merrigum Recreation Reserve, two of which are line marked for both netball and tennis, and the remaining three just used for tennis. One of the netball courts has been altered to meet Netball Victoria regulations and is used for competitions. The other court does not meet regulations and is therefore only used for practice. It is believed that the courts were constructed approximately 50 years ago. They are in need of reconstruction.

In winter, the courts are used regularly for games and training by Merrigum Football Netball Club. However, as there are numerous age groupings within the netball competition, games start very early and don't finish until late. An additional court for competitions would be most useful for the Merrigum Football Netball Club. Users of the courts over the summer period include: junior and senior tennis teams from Merrigum, junior teams from Kyabram, other junior tennis clubs for finals matches, ladies taking part in a mid-week competition, local families for social tennis and Merrigum Primary School.

There is a need for an additional shelter at the west end of the courts to protect players, administrators and spectators from the elements. There are two training lights in the middle of the complex. The tennis club maintains that five courts are required for tennis competitions.



Figure 9: Netball / Tennis Courts

10.4 Netball / Tennis Court Pavilion

The rectangular brick netball / tennis court pavilion provides a basic meeting, kitchenette and storage facility for netballers and tennis players. It does not have toilets or showers. Instead, netballers use umpire change facilities in the main football pavilion or use the public toilets.

There is a veranda at the front of the building that provides a small amount of shelter for players, administrators and spectators. The facility is beginning to look tired and would benefit from some minor

maintenance repairs to the doors and cupboards, new tiles on the floor and freshly painted walls. The paving at the front of the building is uneven and needs to be replaced. Works are only to be considered if netball and tennis remain at this site.



Figure 10: Netball / Tennis Court Pavilion

10.5 Bowling Green

There are eight rinks on the turf bowling green. There is an additional area of land owned by the bowling club, immediately behind the green. This is sufficient in size for the development of an additional green, but

there is currently no demand for such a facility. The bowls club would, however, like to convert the existing turf green to a synthetic green to help reduce water bills and the amount of labour required to maintain a green.



Figure 11: Bowling Green

Lighting over the bowls green is adequate for the time being (new globes were installed last year), however, an upgrade will be required in the future.

The bowls club has an upgraded water system with a new pump, which has improved irrigation practices. There is a water tank on site, in addition to two storage sheds.

It has been suggested that the front bowling green be redeveloped as a hard court netball / tennis facility and that a synthetic bowls green is constructed on either the front or the rear green, with all user groups sharing the current bowls pavilion (after an upgrade). If this was to occur, the existing netball / tennis court area could be ripped up and developed as a soccer field. Whilst this may be the ideal scenario from the perspective of location and quality facilities, it may be hard to justify the cost.

10.6 Bowling Green Pavilion

The Merrigum Bowls Club pavilion features a kitchen, office, bar, store room, meeting area (also used for indoor bowls), external toilets (2 cisterns in female and 1 cistern and 1 urinal in male toilets) and external pergola. The store room is not large enough to store everything required, hence chairs and tables are often stored in the bar area. New vanities have recently been installed in the female toilets.

The club has recently applied for a grant for a new air conditioner, a fan for the bar area and a fan for the kitchen. It believes that it has a strong chance of funding success. In addition to club competitions, the kitchen is used each Thursday to prepare and serve meals for the community (at a cost of \$4 per person).

The bowls club has a different supply of water and power to the rest of the Recreation Reserve. One large concrete water tank is situated near the public toilet block.



Figure 12: Merrigum Bowling Club Pavilion

10.7 Tennis Rebound Wall

The tennis rebound wall allows people to practice their tennis skills either as part of a group activity or as a solo activity. This wall should be retained, pending an assessment of its structural integrity. It may be possible to install a concrete pad on the cricket practice net side, marked

with hopscotch, down ball or other similar ball games. This would enable children and parents to engage in additional informal physical activities either on match days or any other time during the week.



Figure 13: Tennis Rebound Wall and Cricket Practice Net

10.8 Cricket Practice Net

Currently there is no cricket club located at Merrigum Recreation Reserve, and the likelihood of a new club establishing itself is unknown. The existing cricket practice net is in a very poor state of repair and needs to be removed. If cricket is to re-establish itself at the Reserve in the future, there will be a need for new cricket practice nets.

10.9 Cycling / Walking Track

A sealed asphalt cycling / walking track has been constructed to connect the town centre of Merrigum to the Recreation Reserve and the primary school. It travels from Judd Park, behind the swimming pool, behind the skate park and between the oval and the school. There is no sign from the main street to indicate the start of the track or any details about its length, surface or route.



Figure 14: Cycling / Walking Track

Usage of this track could be increased if it was better promoted and signposted; if several seats were placed along the track to allow people

(particularly older people or families with young children) to have a rest; and if the track was regularly maintained to reduce weeds and high grass.

There is also a footpath along Morrissey Street connecting the centre of the town to the Recreation Reserve.

10.10 Play Facilities

Play facilities help to promote a family friendly environment and encourage community interactions. There is one formal play area at the Merrigum Recreation Reserve comprising of two climbing structures with a slide, various bridges and climbing apparatus, as well as a swing set. This equipment is constructed within an enclosed area containing soft fall. It is understood that the equipment is approximately three years old. It needs to be replaced when it reaches the end of its lifespan, in approximately 15 years time. Regular inspections of the play space need to occur to ensure that equipment complies to safety regulations and to ensure that soft fall is topped up to the required levels.



Figure 15: Play Equipment

The play area is located between the entrance of the Reserve and the Merrigum Lions Club Park. This park contains a large grassed open space area, a BBQ and picnic tables and seats. When the equipment reaches the end of its life, it would be opportune to redesign the play space so that it features more natural play elements, has softened edges and more seating. Consideration should be given at this time to the best location for the play space in the future, i.e. in its current location or on the land between the netball / tennis courts and the bowls pavilion. Additional play opportunities are located in nearby Judd Park and also at the primary school. The play space at the Lions Club Park should offer a different experience to play facilities located in Judd Park and at the school.



Figure 16: Parkland next to the Play Space

Another fenced area near the netball / tennis courts has also been designated as a play area for children. This is a very small area of land containing a tree and surrounded by a fence and childproof gate. It contains very little play value for children, and is essentially a yard in which to contain children so that they do not run away from the netball / tennis area.



Figure 17: Fenced area to contain children

The play space is subject to the City of Greater Shepparton's Smoke Free Zone policy whereby there is to be no smoking within 10 metres of play equipment. This policy is strongly supported.

10.11 Toilet Block

The brown brick toilet block located at Merrigum Recreation Reserve features two cubicles and a hand basin in the female section; and one cubicle, one urinal and one hand basin the male section. The toilet block

is only open on game days because it is the Committee of Management's role to maintain the facility and they do not have the volunteers or funds to undertake cleaning and inspections on a daily basis. Even though the Committee of Management consistently placed locks on the gate outside game days, these were removed by people, presumably with bolt cutters. It is suggested that a more prominent sign to the only Council managed public toilet block in Merrigum (at Judd Park) is installed to direct people to that facility. At the same time, it is recognised that the toilet block at the Merrigum Recreation Reserve is in poor condition and needs to be upgraded.



Figure 18: Public Toilet Block

10.12 Landscaping / Surrounds

Merrigum Recreation Reserve features scattered trees around the site, particularly along the walking trail, with heavier plantings north of the oval. In addition, the Lions Club Park at the entrance of the Reserve features a number of formalised plantings in a park setting; however, landscaping within the Reserve is minimal.



Figure 19: Landscaping around the Reserve

It is important that any trees or shrubs planted at the Recreation Reserve are, wherever possible, indigenous, native varieties which require minimal maintenance and can thrive in local conditions, but at the same time provide qualities such as shade or habitats for birds and

wildlife. From a personal safety aspect, such trees should have a canopy of 2.4m or higher, or if bushes are planted, they should grow to a maximum of 0.7m.

To help create a sense of arrival at the Recreation Reserve, a formalized entrance featuring low maintenance landscaping (rocks, logs, and drought tolerant plants) could be considered. The entrance may also feature some form of public art such as a sculpture. It may be possible to attract an artist in residence to work with the local community to develop some public art, or alternatively, a local artist may be commissioned to produce a piece of art. These ideas should be explored in further detail as such a piece of art has the potential for local people to develop a strong connection to a space or for a site to develop a sense of place.

10.13 External and Internal Roadways

The road outside the Recreation Reserve, Morrissey Road, is a sealed asphalt road with guttering and a footpath along each side. There are no turning lanes into the Recreation Reserve.



Figure 20: Internal Roadway

Within the Reserve the roadway is sealed near the entrance and gravel in other sections. The condition of the gravel road can deteriorate in wet weather.

The main entrance to the Reserve (next to the ticket box) is very narrow and needs to be widened to allow two cars to pass each other safely if it is to remain as the entrance. Alternatively, the second entrance, which is located to the east of the pavilion in the direction of the skate park could be shifted slightly to the west and developed as a formal entrance. If this occurs, traffic would be directed in an anti-clockwise direction around the Reserve, with a turning circle developed just before the road reaches the

pavilion. The current entrance would be closed on game days to all traffic except emergency vehicles. This would allow a safe pedestrian zone between the play space to the new entrance, incorporating the area around the pavilion.



Figure 21: Narrow entrance to Reserve

10.14 Car Parking

There are several areas currently used for parking at Merrigum Recreation Reserve.



Figure 22: Restricted car park area

Most football and netball players and spectators park around the perimeter of the oval. The roadway is particularly narrow between Morrissey St and the oval to the east of the pavilion and consequently parking is not permitted in this area. The grassed area behind the skate park is occasionally used as overflow car parking. This space could remain as a grassed area, or alternatively covered with gravel to form an additional car park if required.

Bowls club participants tend to park in front of the bowling green or on the grassed area that separates the bowling green from the netball / tennis courts.

There are two marked disabled car parking spaces next to the pavilion.

10.15 Signage

There is very little signage at Merrigum Recreation Reserve, other than sponsorship signage. It is recommended that a sign be constructed at the entrance of the Reserve to highlight what activities take place at the site and who to contact for bookings or further details.



Figure 23: Signage along front entrance of Reserve

Due to the small size of the Reserve, there is no need to install additional signage to indicate the position of facilities such as the public toilets, as each facility is highly visible.

Disabled car parking signage will be required at the site.

10.16 Water Access

The Recreation Reserve has a water right of 6 MEG and the bowls club has a separate allocation. Water is sourced from the dam and from run-off from the street. The dam is shared with the school. There is a water tank located near the public toilet block, but none attached to any of the pavilions to collect rainwater from roofs.



Figure 24: Dam and pump shed

11.0 Community Needs

Community needs were identified through a range of different mechanisms including:

- Community Surveys – surveys letterbox dropped out to all households in Merrigum and provided in front of the Merrigum Post Office and at the Recreation Reserve one day too. In addition, surveys were mailed out to all members of the Merrigum Bowls Club. One hundred and forty-three (**143**) surveys were completed.
- Key Informant Interviews – interviews with **7** users of the Reserve, City of Greater Shepparton Councilors and staff; and other key stakeholders:
 - Cr Dennis Patterson, City of Greater Shepparton
 - Cr Kevin Ryan, City of Greater Shepparton
 - Mel Sporry, City of Greater Shepparton
 - Sharman Stone's office (Mary)
 - Paul Weller, MP
 - Maurie Greely, Department of Environment and Primary Industries
 - Merrigum Tennis Club (written submission)
- Literature Review – analysis of two (**2**) previous studies and policies.



Figure 25: Netball courts showing water pooling, old fence and addition built onto courts to meet regulations

A summary of community needs follows:

Issue / Facility	Need	Community Survey	Key Informant Interviews	Literature Review
Sports Oval	Need to install more seating around the oval	✓		
	Need to install a new electronic scoreboard	✓		
	Need to improve playing surface of the oval	✓	✓	
	Need to replace irrigation system on the oval and improve drainage	✓		
	Need to upgrade the lighting on the oval to enable night football or soccer	✓		✓
	Need to install new goal posts	✓		
	Need to ensure that the oval is watered over the warmer months as well as over winter	✓		
	Need to replace fencing around the oval	✓		
Football / Cricket Pavilion	Need to incorporate universal access into the pavilion by installing a lift or ramp, widening doors, installing a disabled toilet, etc.	✓	✓	
	Need to construct more shelter for viewing of football matches – both attached to the pavilion as a verandah, as a balcony upstairs and around the oval	✓		
	Need to upgrade the kitchen / kiosk – possibly to a commercial kitchen standard and with three phase power	✓		
	Need to upgrade and modernize the look of the pavilion	✓		✓
	Need to increase the size of the social area upstairs	✓		
Netball / Tennis Courts	Need to construct larger area for storage of equipment	✓		
	Need to erect a new fence around the perimeter of the netball / tennis courts.	✓	✓	
	Need to erect a shelter with seating at the west end of the netball / tennis courts.	✓	✓	
	Need to resurface both netball courts and to ensure that both meet regulations and are well drained	✓	✓	
	Need to install more seats around the netball / tennis courts	✓		
	Need to upgrade netball court lights	✓		✓

Issue / Facility	Need	Community Survey	Key Informant Interviews	Literature Review
	Need to consider relocating netball courts to the front bowls green	✓		
Netball / Tennis Court Pavilion	Need to undertake some general maintenance of the netball / tennis pavilion, e.g. tiles on the floor, painting and general repairs to cupboards and doors.	✓	✓	
	Need to replace the paving outside the netball / tennis Pavilion.		✓	
	Need to extend the existing pavilion or develop a new pavilion to incorporate change facilities for netballers and tennis players	✓		
Lawn Bowls Green	Need to develop a synthetic bowls green	✓	✓	✓
	Need to install new lighting on the bowling green	✓		✓
	Need to construct a new fence between the bowling club and the Lions Club Park and also at the northern end	✓		
	Need to construct sun shades at bowls pavilion end of the green	✓		
	Need to install aluminum seats around the bowling green			
Lawn Bowls Pavilion	Need to enlarge lawn bowls pavilion to incorporate a larger storage area and a larger bar	✓		
	Need to install new tiles and a vanity unit in the female toilets	✓		
	Need to install larger notice boards	✓		
	Need to improve the serving outlet to the BBQ shed	✓		
Walking Track	Need to rid the walking track of weeds and improve overall maintenance.	✓		✓
	Need to install additional seats along the walking track.	✓		
	Need to install trail head signage at the beginning of the walking track (main road near senior citizens hall) to indicate the starting point.	✓		
	Need to seal the walking track or place blue metal dust on it	✓		
	Need to extend the walking trail into the school grounds	✓		
	Need to develop a continuous circuit around oval linked to footpath along Andrews Road	✓		
	Need to plant trees along the walking track			✓
Playground	Need to increase the size of the play space and install additional equipment	✓		✓

Issue / Facility	Need	Community Survey	Key Informant Interviews	Literature Review
	Need to relocate play space closer to netball courts	✓		
	Need to install seating in the play area	✓		✓
	Need to ensure that children can access the play space safely without the risk of being hit by a vehicle	✓	✓	
	Need to install lighting in the play space	✓		
Toilet Block	Need to upgrade toilet block, incorporate baby change facilities and improve maintenance	✓		
BMX Track	Need to develop an area where young people can ride BMX bikes.	✓		
Entrance	Need to improve safety of entrance to the Reserve	✓	✓	✓
	Need to relocate entrance	✓	✓	
	Need to improve the appearance of the entrance	✓		
Internal Roadway	Need to spread a layer of gravel over the internal roadways.	✓		
	Need to widen the roadway between the oval and the main road	✓		
Car Parking	Need to improve / develop additional car parking spaces at the Reserve	✓		
	Need to designate disabled car parking spaces near the pavilions		✓	
Signage	Need to install a sign at the entry to the Reserve outlining activities available on site.	✓		
	Need to install directional signage around the Reserve to key facilities	✓		
	Need to install signage to direct people to the public toilets at Judd Park on non-game days	✓		
Open Space	Need to install more seating around the Reserve	✓		
	Need to retain the remnants of the original vegetation	✓		
	Need to plant more trees around the perimeter of the Reserve	✓		
	Need to maintain the Reserve in both summer and winter (mowing)	✓		
Events	Need to run additional activities at the reserve such as gentle exercise or Tai Chi	✓		✓
	Need to run events at the Reserve such as concerts, picnic day, sports events, hobby events, markets, auction days, etc.	✓		✓
Emergency Centre	Need to establish the Recreation Reserve as an emergency centre and place of assembly	✓		
Transport	Need to utilise a courtesy bus to take people home after events at the Reserve	✓		

Issue / Facility	Need	Community Survey	Key Informant Interviews	Literature Review
Public Address System	Need to play music over the public address system while events take place at the Reserve	✓		
Maintenance	Need to improve maintenance of all facilities and grounds at the Recreation Reserve	✓		
Grandstand	Need to construct a grand stand for viewing sporting events	✓		
Management	Need to investigate new management arrangements with Greater Shepparton City Council and Department of Environment and Primary Industries		✓	



Figure 26: Scoreboard



Figure 27: Master Plan Community Consultation

12.0 Management and Maintenance

12.1 Management

Merrigum Recreation Reserve is currently managed by a Committee of Management appointed by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI). This Committee is made up of representatives of the various user groups of the Reserve.

Given the limited resources of the Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the demands placed on predominantly aging or very busy volunteers for maintenance tasks such as mowing and line marking, many DEPI appointed committees of management have relinquished their management rights in favour of Council undertaking this role. For this to occur, each group must be willing for this new arrangement to occur and to express their support via a letter to DEPI. DEPI will then advertise the proposed change of direction in the Government Gazette. If no major objections are received, DEPI will appoint the City of Greater Shepparton as the management body (providing that Council is willing to undertake this role).

It is understood that Greater Shepparton City Council is currently undertaking a review of its fees and charges policies and lease arrangements with sport and recreation committees of management and clubs; hence is not in a position to enter into discussions with the Merrigum Recreation Reserve Committee of Management about changed management options at this stage. However, it is important that the Merrigum Recreation Reserve Committee of Management actively participates in Council's review and clearly represents its needs and views as required.

In the meantime, it is important for the Committee of Management, so that it continues to operate successfully and sustainably in the future, to have or to develop:

- A vision for its future
- Strong leadership
- Strong governance structures with succession planning in place
- Appropriate plans in place to guide operations, e.g. business plan, annual plan, operational plan, maintenance plan, replacement schedule
- Appropriate policies in place to guide decision making, e.g. hiring agreements, sponsorship guidelines, etc
- Risk management policies and procedures, e.g. fire, working with children, insurance, etc
- Identified and addressed all health, safety and regulatory requirements, e.g. food handling regulations, sports field dimensions, etc
- Regular evaluation processes
- Effective two-way communication with stakeholders
- A focus on providing quality customer service
- A good understanding of the needs and expectations of participants and potential participants
- Strong networks with other relevant partners, e.g. Greater Shepparton City Council, schools, state sporting associations and other community groups
- A welcoming environment where people of all abilities and ages are encouraged to participate
- A range of programs to attract both competitive and casual / social players

- Well run competitions and events
- Well managed and maintained facilities and equipment
- Sufficient volunteers to assist with tasks
- Effective volunteer / staff recruitment, management and retention processes in place
- Sufficient funds to meet operational expenses
- Sufficient funds set aside to maintain and replace facilities and infrastructure
- A low environmental footprint

12.2 Maintenance Roles and Responsibilities

Maintenance of the sports facilities at Merrigum Recreation Reserve is currently carried out by volunteers with some assistance from the City of Greater Shepparton.

Typical maintenance requirements for the Merrigum Recreation Reserve include:

- Mowing playing fields (usually once per fortnight)
- Fertilisation of oval twice per year
- Aeration of oval twice per year
- Weed control once per year to reduce broadleaf weeds
- Promote growth of couch in spring
- Over-seeding with rye grass each autumn for winter cover
- Strategic top dressing every 2-3 years
- Line marking playing fields

- Synthetic cricket wicket preparation (if cricket is re-established at the site)
- Pest control
- Sweeping netball / tennis courts
- Resurfacing netball / tennis courts
- Litter collection
- Public toilet maintenance and cleaning
- Playground maintenance
- Tree / garden maintenance
- Replacement of lights
- Repairs to internal roadways
- Cleaning, painting and carrying out of basic repairs to built structures such as pavilions, player / spectator shelters, storage sheds, scoreboards, coach's boxes, time keeper's boxes, ticket boxes, fences, gates, goal posts, seats, etc.
- Graffiti removal
- Affixing sponsorship signage to fences
- Fixing of blocked / corroded drains and septic systems
- Repairs to hot water systems
- Repairs to heating / cooling systems and kitchen equipment
- Inspections of sports facilities, playgrounds and surrounds on a regular basis (as determined by DEPI, CoGS and sporting bodies, based on their risk exposure in terms of safety; asset preservation and community / legal expectations).

13.0 Action Plan

Recommendations have been identified for Merrigum Recreation Reserve based on needs identified by user groups and other potential users of the site via:

- community surveys
- one-on-one interviews with community members
- interviews with key stakeholders
- literature reviews
- site inspections

Developments have been included if the proposed works:

1. are consistent with the vision and planning principles developed for the Reserve.
2. have been demonstrated through a number of sources such as community plans, community consultations, surveys, etc, as needed by the community.
3. are consistent with the grading of the reserve and the type of infrastructure and facilities expected within the grading.
4. will help to maintain and / or increase participation in sport and recreation opportunities.
5. are likely to benefit the broader community (from a social, physical, economic and / or environmental perspective) and involve the community in operations or management.
6. create improved access for people of all abilities, ages, genders, etc.
7. increase the opportunity for the site to be used for a variety of different and / or new activities.
8. are likely to increase safety of users and reduce risk management issues.
9. are likely to allow the site to meet industry standards, regulations and legislation.
10. reflect best practice and current industry trends
11. are likely to decrease the impact on the environment and natural resources, e.g. installation of water saving devices, double glazing on windows, etc.
12. are likely to be financially sustainable in the long term and take into consideration whole of life funding costs, including development of replacement schedules.
13. are likely to decrease operational costs.
14. are likely to reduce the demands on volunteers time (for activities such as mowing, watering, line marking, etc).

- 15. will rectify existing infrastructure that is currently in a very poor state or beyond repair.
- 16. are likely to attract external funding.
- 17. are within the resource capacity of the community to achieve, i.e. plans are cost effective, user groups have sufficient resources to make the required financial contribution, user groups can provide some in-kind labour, user groups can assist with project management, suitable plans have been developed, etc.
- 18. enhance the appearance and usability of the site, e.g. improved landscaping, heating / cooling, marked car parking bays, etc.
- 19. involve a number of partners to assist with funding and / or operations, management and maintenance.
- 20. do not duplicate existing facilities.

Proposed timeframes are as follows:

High: 1-3 years High-Medium: 4-7 years Medium: 8-10 years Low: 10+ years

Note that many of the proposed works are conditional upon receiving external grants and local funding contributions. All of the indicative costings are based on commercial rates and are current costs, but could be reduced significantly through the use of in-kind materials or labour, where it is possible and legal to do so. Most of the larger items of work will need to be put out to commercial tender. Prices will vary according to the materials used and the actual size of certain developments. Council's certified contractors may be slightly more expensive than other contractors.

	Facility / Issue	Works	Responsibility / Potential Partners	Priority	Key Planning Principles Relationship	Indicative Costing (Ex GST)
1	Management	Liaise with Greater Shepparton City Council and Department of Environment and Primary Industries to clarify management and maintenance roles and responsibilities for the Reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merrigum Recreation Reserve Committee of Management • Greater Shepparton City Council • Department of Environment and 	High	Improved operating systems	Committee time

	Facility / Issue	Works	Responsibility / Potential Partners	Priority	Key Planning Principles Relationship	Indicative Costing (Ex GST)
			Primary Industries			
2	Football / Cricket Pavilion	Incorporate universal access into the pavilion which could include, but is not limited to, installing a lift or ramp, widening doors and installing a disabled toilet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Merrigum Football / Netball Club Greater Shepparton City Council 	High	Community need Safety Universal design	Lift: \$100,000; Door widening and disabled toilet: \$20,000
3	Netball / Tennis Courts	Rebuild two hard court netball courts and five hard court tennis courts that meet regulations and are well drained. At the same time, erect a new fence around the perimeter of the netball / tennis courts; erect a shelter with seating at the west end of the netball / tennis courts; and install more seats around the netball / tennis courts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Football / Netball Club Merrigum Tennis Club 	High	Safety Community need	Court upgrade: \$220,000; Fence: \$10,000; Shelter: \$3,000; Seats: \$2,000.
4	Entrance and Internal Roads	Relocate entrance to gates near the swimming pool; construct new ticket box; undertake some landscaping near the entrance; and realign internal roads so that there is a pedestrian zone between the playground and the pavilion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Merrigum Football / Netball Club 	High	Safety	New entrance: \$2,000; New ticket box: \$1,000; Landscaping: \$1,000; Road realignment: \$26,000
5	Signage	Install a sign at the entry to the Reserve outlining activities available on site; directional signage around the Reserve to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Recreation Reserve Committee of Management 	High	Quality	Signage: \$5,000.

	Facility / Issue	Works	Responsibility / Potential Partners	Priority	Key Planning Principles Relationship	Indicative Costing (Ex GST)
		key facilities; signage to direct people to the public toilets at Judd Park on non-game days; trail head signage on the walking track; and directional signage on the walking track.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Shepparton City Council 			
6	Lawn Bowls Green	Develop a synthetic bowls green; construct a new fence between the bowling club and the Lions Club Park and also at the northern end; construct sun shades at bowls pavilion end of the green; and install aluminum seats around the bowling green.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Bowls Club Merrigum Lions Club 	High	Community need Improved operating systems	Synthetic bowls green: \$180,000; Fence: \$10,000; Sun shades: \$6,000; Seats: \$4,000
7	Netball / Tennis Pavilion and Toilets	Extend the existing netball / tennis pavilion to include change facilities for netballers and tennis players. Incorporate external accessible toilets (featuring baby change facilities) into this building, which are open on game days and for other community events. Replace tiles outside pavilion and undertake basic maintenance inside the building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Football / Netball Club Merrigum Tennis Club 	High	Community need Improved operating systems Universal design Diversity and equity	Pavilion extension: \$130,000; Tiles: \$3,000 Internal upgrade of building: \$2,000
8	Sports Oval	Improve playing surface of the oval; replace irrigation system; and improve drainage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Football / Netball Club 	High	Safety Improved operating systems	Upgrade playing surface and improve drainage \$25,000; Irrigation system: \$25,000
9	Walking Track	Develop a continuous circuit around the Reserve linked to the footpath along	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Recreation Reserve Committee of 	High-Medium	Health and wellbeing	Walking track: \$10,000

	Facility / Issue	Works	Responsibility / Potential Partners	Priority	Key Planning Principles Relationship	Indicative Costing (Ex GST)
		Andrews Road and extended to Merrigum Primary School; undertake additional tree planting; and cover with granitic sand. This path should provide a link from the play space to the netball / tennis courts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management Greater Shepparton City Council Merrigum Primary School 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity and equity Preservation of the natural or cultural environment Partnerships 	Tree planting: \$2,000
10	Football / Cricket Pavilion	Redevelop and modernise the pavilion to expand the social area upstairs to cater for 150-160 people; upgrade the kitchen / kiosk; install phase three power to the kitchen; upgrade the sewerage system; construct a balcony upstairs; construct more covered shelter on the ground level to allow for viewing of football matches; construct a larger storage area; and upgrade the change room areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Football / Netball Club 	High-Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community need Quality Multi-purpose design Safety Complementary 	Design: \$10,000 Pavilion upgrade: \$120,000 Sewerage upgrade: \$15,000
11	Lawn Bowls Pavilion	Extend the lawn bowls pavilion to incorporate a bigger bar and more storage and an improved serving outlet to the BBQ shed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Bowls Club 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community need Quality 	Lawn Bowls Pavilion extension: \$50,000; Serving outlet: \$6,000
12	Sports Oval	Upgrade the lighting on the oval to enable night football or soccer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Football / Netball Club 	Medium	Improved operating systems	Lighting upgrade: \$33,000
13	Sports Oval	Install an electronic scoreboard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Football / Netball Club 	Medium	Improved operating systems	Electronic scoreboard: \$10,000

	Facility / Issue	Works	Responsibility / Potential Partners	Priority	Key Planning Principles Relationship	Indicative Costing (Ex GST)
14	Sports Oval	Install more seating and shelter around the oval and more seating along the walking track.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Football / Netball Club Greater Shepparton City Council 	Medium	Community need	Seating: \$4,000
15	Sports Oval	Install new goal posts on the sports oval and netting behind the goal posts at the bowls club end of the oval.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Football / Netball Club 	Medium	Safety	New goal posts with padding: \$8,000; Goal post netting with poles: \$20,000
16	Playground	Install seating in the play area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Lions Club Merrigum Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Greater Shepparton City Council 	Medium	Health and wellbeing Diversity and equity Partnerships	Seating: \$2,000
17	Landscaping	Plant more trees around the perimeter of the Reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Land care groups 	Medium	Preservation of the natural or cultural environment	Tree planting: \$3,000
18	Playground	Redesign place space once it has reached the end of its life so that it features more natural play elements, has softened edges and more seating. Consider relocating playground to area between netball / tennis courts and bowls club pavilion if there is sufficient demand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Recreation Reserve Committee of Management 	Medium - Low	Safety	\$40,000
19	Car Parking	Formalise car parking along the south side of the oval by sealing road and marking car	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Recreation Reserve Committee of 	Low	Safety	Car parking: \$30,000

	Facility / Issue	Works	Responsibility / Potential Partners	Priority	Key Planning Principles Relationship	Indicative Costing (Ex GST)
		parking bays between the new entrance and the pavilion. Installing some shelter for spectators in this area. Consider placing gravel over the area of open space near the skate park to ensure maximum utilisation of existing space.	Management			
20	Sports Oval	Replace fencing around the oval.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Football / Netball Club 	Low	Safety	Fencing: \$23,000
21	Netball Courts	Upgrade netball court lights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Football / Netball Club 	Low	Safety	\$25,000 (training level for one court)
22	Bowls Green	Install new lighting on the bowling green.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Bowls Club 	Low	Safety	\$27,500
23	Toilet Block	Demolish existing toilet block when it reaches the end of its life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Recreation Reserve Committee of Management 	Low	Improved operating systems	\$5,000
24	Events	Organise or facilitate additional activities and events at the Reserve such as gentle exercise classes, Tai Chi, markets, concerts, picnic days, sports events, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrigum Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Greater Shepparton City Council 	Ongoing	Community need Health and wellbeing Complementary Diversity and equity Partnerships	Should be cost neutral wherever possible or perhaps cash flow positive
	TOTAL					\$1,218,500

A number of the community needs mentioned relate specifically to maintenance type work, e.g. better maintenance of the walking track, internal roads, the toilet block and the Reserve in general. These have not been included in the action plan as they are not deemed to be capital works. However, it is still

important to note that the community desires a higher level of maintenance than that provided. If it is not possible to maintain facilities to the standard desired due to lack of resources, this may need to be communicated to the community. Alternatively, if a higher standard can be achieved, this should become a priority for the Committee of Management and the various user groups of the Reserve. It may be possible to seek some additional resources in the community to assist with maintenance, e.g. working bees involving specific groups or individuals.

Other community needs not supported at this stage include:

Facility / Initiative	Suggestion	Rationale for Not Supporting Development
Transport	Need to utilise a courtesy bus to take people home after events at the Reserve	This service is unlikely to have high usage and would be cost prohibitive in terms of purchasing / leasing a bus, particularly as community or commercial mini buses are not currently available in Merrigum. Finding volunteer drivers may also be difficult. Suggestion was made by one person only.
Public Address System	Need to play music over a public address system while events take place at the Reserve	The purchase of a public address system to play music over is not considered to be a high priority. Portable systems could be used as required. Consideration also needs to be given to noise pollution for nearby residents.
Grandstand	Need to construct a grand stand for viewing sporting events	Grandstands are expensive to construct. Recommendations already exist to construct an undercover viewing area attached to the pavilion.
Playground	Need to install lighting in the play space	Lighting not considered essential in the play space as the predominant demand for such facilities is in daylight hours.
	Need to relocate play space closer to netball courts	The existing play space also forms part of a township park (Merrigum Lions Club Park) and therefore should be retained in its current location near the main road. The internal road plans, proposed circuit trail around the Reserve and the relocated entrance developed as part of the Master Plan should provide improved safety in the play area.
BMX Track	Need to develop an area where young people can ride BMX bikes.	Whilst this facility has considerable merit, there is insufficient space within the boundaries of the Reserve to construct a BMX track. Liability and maintenance responsibilities associated with a BMX track may also be beyond the capacity of the Recreation Reserve Committee of Management to undertake. Discussions should occur with Greater Shepparton City Council and Department of Environment and Primary Industries regarding the promotion or expansion of the existing skate park to cater for BMX riders, or to identify

Emergency Centre	Need to establish the Recreation Reserve as an emergency centre and place of assembly	another parcel of land suitable for this activity. No need to develop the Recreation Reserve Pavilion as a designated emergency centre or place of assembly as the risk of bush fire, flooding or other disasters is relatively low. If such an emergency was to occur, a temporary emergency centre or place of assembly may be established at the Recreation Reserve or at another public facility in town, e.g. the community hall or Merrigum Primary School.
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Figure 28: Pavilion and Catering Caravan



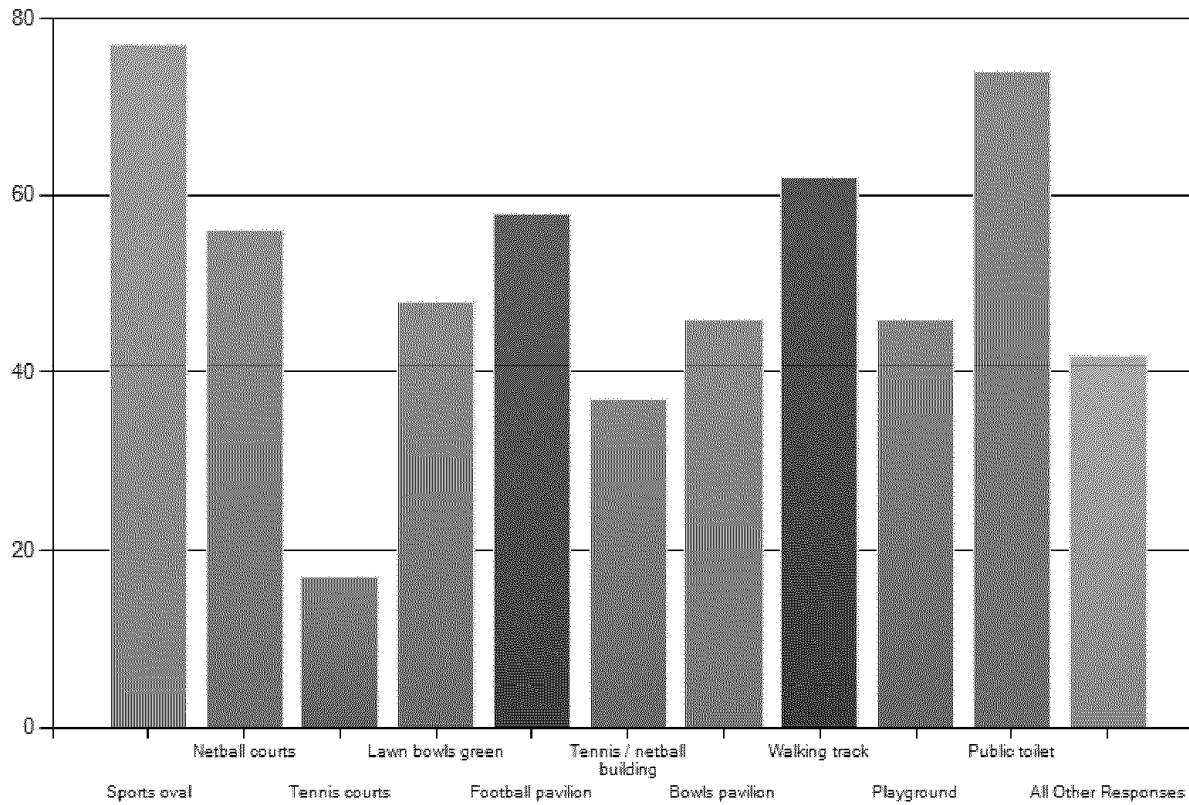
Figure 29: Merrigum Lions Park

14.0 Appendix

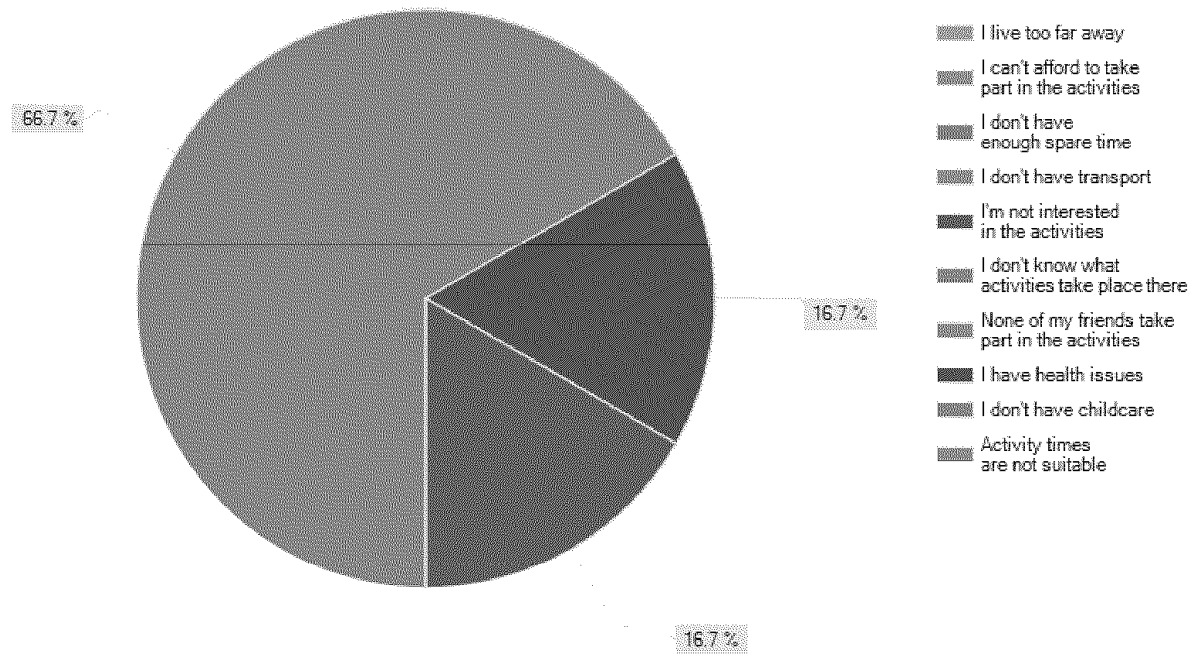
14.1 Survey Analysis

A community survey was distributed by Merrigum Primary School to households within the town. A total of 300 surveys were sent out and 22 returned (either directly to the Post Office or to the project team on Saturday 29 June 2013). Residents visiting the Post Office or Recreation Reserve on this date were also encouraged to fill out the survey by members of the project team. A total of 23 surveys were completed in front of the Merrigum Post Office between 7am and 10am, and a further 58 at the Merrigum Recreation Reserve between 10.30am and 1.00pm. Additional surveys were sent out to all Merrigum Bowls Club members. Another 40 surveys were completed and returned. In total, 143 surveys were analysed. The results of this survey are as follows:

Which (if any) of the following facilities at Merrigum Recreation Reserve do you or your family currently use?



If you don't use the Recreation Reserve, what is the main reason for this? Tick one only



Other responses:

- Too old and not interested (3)
- Too busy (1)
- Language difficulties (1)

What type of improvements would you like to see at the Recreation Reserve?

Walking Track

- Walking track to be sealed all the way.
- Bush walking track should be kept mowed in summer because of snakes! I only use track in winter because of the snake factor
- Easier access from school grounds to walking track
- Vegetation on walking track
- Walking track
- Paved circuit for kids to ride scooters, bikes, skateboards and rollerblades
- Continuous circuit around oval linked to footpath along Andrews Road would be perfect
- Additions to walking track areas
- Trail head sign with the map on it (including distance)
- 3 plank seats along the walking track - just off the track.
- Sign to walking track from main road near senior citizens.
- Track to be built up with blue metal dust.
- Footpath from the main street to start of track.
- Keep the walking track maintained for weeds and bushes trimmed - especially summer
- Walking tracks (grass high in summer - snakes)
- Working bee for walking track
- Walking track upgrade and improvement.

Playground

- Seating for old kids in the playground when they are supervising the young kids.
- Improved safety to playground (vehicles)

- Bigger playground be able to be blocked better (safety)
- Upgrade playground
- Need playground closer to netball courts
- Bigger playground
- Lighting in park and children's playground area

Lawn Bowls

- Enlarge bowling club rooms.
- New green on bowling club
- Artificial green to replace existing bowling green
- New lighting for bowling green
- Bowls synthetic surface
- A new boundary fence between the bowls club and park.
- Artificial bowling green
- New sun shades at bowls pavilion end.
- New lights over bowling green.
- New shades at bowling club pavilion end.
- New store room in club house of bowling club pavilion.
- New serving outlet to BBQ shed for guests and members at Bowling Club.
- New tiles and vanity unit at female toilets at Bowling Club.
- Better lighting over bowling green
- New fencing at both ends of Bowling Club.
- New boundary fences at North and South ends of Bowling Club grounds.
- Security fence around the Club.
- Improved storage space and a better bar.
- Complete upgrade of all facilities and more maintenance of buildings.
- Artificial green, replace lights.
- Better lighting for green
- more shade areas.
- New bowls pavilion,
- new lights,
- new green,
- shade area around the green.
- More shaded areas around bowling greens

- wooden seats replaced by aluminium seats.
- Aluminium seats to be placed around bowls green.
- Better fences around Bowls Club so children and animals cannot wander in from park.
- Shade cloth areas around the green for better protection.
- Permanent fence at north end of park and fully enclosed Bowls Club.
- Aluminium seats and
- improved shaded areas around the bowls green.
- Improved night lights for social bowls.
- Improved fence north side of Park/Bowls area to keep children and animals out.
- Better lights for night bowling.
- Shade cloth around the greens - protection from sun.
- Better shade for bowlers.
- Security fence around bowling greens and pavilion.
- Aluminium seats around green and under cover.
- Security fence around bowls green.
- Improved notice boards - bigger.
- Brighter lights for night bowling.
- More shaded areas on all sides of greens.
- Secure fences on north and south side of greens.
- Better lights for night bowling.
- Shaded areas.
- Aluminium seats replacing wooden seats.
- Good size notice boards.
- Informative signs.
- More shaded areas.
- Better lights at bowling greens.
- New fence on both south and north end.
- Better shade areas around the bowling green.
- Better toilets
- Toilets upgrade near bowling green.
- Bowling club. New fencing north and south boundaries.
- New fencing required north and south boundaries of the Bowling Club.
- Shade for bowlers.

Football Pavilion

- Improve access for wheelchairs in football club rooms.
- Upgrade football club room/kitchen.
- Shelter needed in front pavilion to watch the footy
- Shelter to watch the football
- Enlarge pavilion
- Extended pavilion
- Lift in pavilion
- Upgrade rooms/facilities
- New footy rooms
- Football clubrooms need wheelchair/pram access/toilets as it is pretty dangerous at the moment.
- Three phase power for canteen (upgrade)
- More undercover area around pavilion
- A roof over canteen area
- Roof over canteen that you can sit on
- Just little improvements to facilities
- Improvements to the pavilion, upstairs & downstairs
- Improvement to footy rooms
- Wheelchair/Pram access
- Football rooms more accessible for disabled
- More cover around oval
- Pavilion needs a facelift, make it look more modern
- More undercover area near pavilion
- Increase size of footy pavilion
- Better access for people with disabilities into the pavilion
- Disabled access to pavilion
- Disabled access for clubrooms
- Extended upstairs area
- Football pavilion upgraded (possibly a veranda, wheel chair access)
- Larger social rooms (upstairs) disabled access, commercial kitchen areas
- Storage for equipment
- Disabled access
- Extend pavilion
- Better club rooms
- More shelter around the football ground
- Disabled access upstairs.

- More undercover shelter
- Lift/ramp to get upstairs
- All abilities access to social rooms e.g. proper ramp
- New football club rooms
- Canteen upgrade
- A better upstairs/balcony area
- Balcony upstairs
- More shelters for when it rains
- Upgrade of upstairs pavilion
- Disabled access upstairs
- Renovations to rooms and upstairs
- Disability access to upstairs
- Disabled access
- Disabled access
- Shelter for public viewing.
- Expanded football amenities.
- Priority wheelchair & pram access with toilet and change facilities
- Improvement to Football/Netball clubrooms
- Disabled access to Football/Netball clubrooms

Netball Change Facilities

- Complete complex for netballers and tennis players - change rooms with toilets, etc.
- Change facilities/showers for netballer users
- Toilets closer to the netball courts and change rooms for netballers near courts
- Toilets in the netball club rooms
- Netball rooms
- Own club rooms and change rooms for netball
- Netball club's own courts/dressing rooms, showers etc.
- Change rooms and toilets for the netball club to use and have their own facilities
- Better toilet facilities closer to the netball courts.
- Netball change rooms/shower/toilet.
- Change rooms for netball
- Improve on toilets and showers for netballers. Also change rooms near courts, which will make it easier for them.
- Improved netball amenities
- Netball change rooms (showers/toilets)
- Netball change facilities
- Netball clubrooms

- New netball clubrooms
- New Netball Club rooms with toilet and shower included
- Change rooms for netballers
- Netball change facility with toilets & shower
- Better Netball change rooms and toilets
- Change rooms and showers for Netballers
- New change rooms with more toilets and showers for netballers
- New netball club rooms
- Improvement to Netball change rooms.
- Netball club rooms with toilets and showers
- The Netball Club to have their own rooms - change rooms, toilets and showers.

Tennis Club Rooms

- Upgrade on tennis club rooms.
- Toilets available at tennis rooms which are used by tennis & netball people
- Netball/tennis club updated

Public Toilets

- Better toilets
- Better toilet facilities
- Toilets
- Increase number of toilets
- Upgrade existing toilets
- Need to upgrade public toilets
- Baby change facilities
- Better toilet facilities, maintained regularly and opened daily
- Upgrade toilets
- Keep the public toilets at the Recreation Reserve open for public
- Improve toilets at netball/footy/bowls (yuk!!)
- Update of toilet facilities
- Better toilets,
- Need toilet paper, toilet brush, stainless steel mirror, Bin and paper towel in toilets.
- Better public toilets (aware there are better ones in Judd Park).
- Better public toilets
- Cleaner toilet
- New public toilets

- New Public toilets
- Better toilet block
- Improve on public toilets
- Improve public toilets
- Better Toilets
- Improved Toilets
- New toilets
- Toilets and change facilities
- Public toilets to be improved.
- Upgraded public toilets, with proper maintenance.
- Better public toilets and proper maintenance of them.
- Improved public toilets - kept clean and maintained.
- Improved public toilets
- Appealing public toilets - do we require more?
- Improved public toilets.
- Better public toilets.
- Better service of public toilets
- upgrade of all the toilets.

Netball / Tennis Courts

- Bring second netball court up to requirement of 3m run off so 2 games could potentially run simultaneously freeing up senior netballers so they can see senior footballers play
- Better netball courts
- New netball courts
- New courts x2
- A stand alone netball court
- New fencing around the current tennis/netball courts
- New fencing around tennis courts.
- More seats around netball courts
- Old unused bowls green to be used for a designated netball court sharing above lighting
- Netball/Tennis court upgrades
- Would like to see stand alone netball courts,
- Better courts
- Better fences around netball courts and a better room for netballers
- New netball courts

- New netball surface, larger shelter for players and supporters
- New netball courts
- Need new netball courts with lights - can't be fixed anymore
- Stand alone netball courts (plexipave) Ideally one good quality one
- Smooth netball court surface with no pot holes
- Smoother courts with no puddles
- Netball court lights
- Seats at Netball courts
- More lights for Netball/Tennis training.
- New netball court surface
- Better courts
- Better drainage to remove water from netball/tennis courts after rain.

Oval

- Better fencing
- More seating around footy grounds
- More seats around footy ground
- More seats around the football ground
- Improve scoreboards
- Improve lighting
- Electronic scoreboard
- New goal posts
- Replace oval irrigation system
- Entrance ticket box to pool end
- Improve playing surface
- Seating around footy oval.
- More seating
- More seats
- Better drainage on ground
- Improve drainage on oval
- More water earlier in the year to promote grass spread
- Upgrade existing lighting so night football games are correctly lit
- Upgrade watering system on oval
- Better lights so there is a good chance of Kyabram Soccer Club being able to play night games.

Parking / Roadways

- Better parking

- New entry (wider)
- New gate entrance away from park.
- Clean up or widen roadway between oval and main road.
- Move gate to other end of oval
- Entry to Footy oval moved to other end of ground
- Improve traffic flow
- Safer entrance to park
- Improved access for cars at football and major events.
- More parking space for cars.
- Better public entrance to Recreation Reserve.
- Better entrance to the sports grounds

Fencing

- Swimming pools fence needs work (people are jumping over fence near gate and actual gate on east side which is especially dangerous when no one is there!

Signage

- Large sign on gate showing all sports played at the Rec.
- Sign on fence showing sports played at rec.
- New signs for visitors to locate bowling and netball clubs and tennis clubs.
- Clearer signage for reserve (football oval, netball courts and bowls)
- Clear signs to public toilets in Judd Park (didn't know they were there)

Open Space / Surrounds

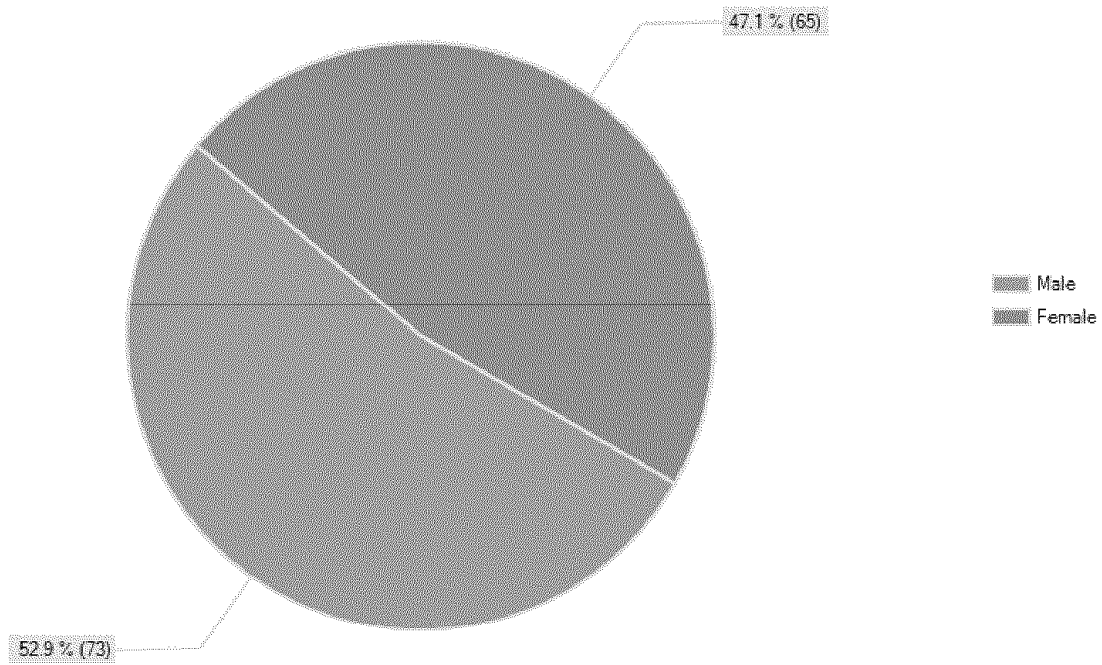
- Area completely mowed summer and winter
- I like it as it is, because of the Recreation Reserve we still have a remnant of the original vegetation of this part of the Murray-Darling Basin; few other places have this.
- Trees around perimeter of Recreation grounds
- More seating

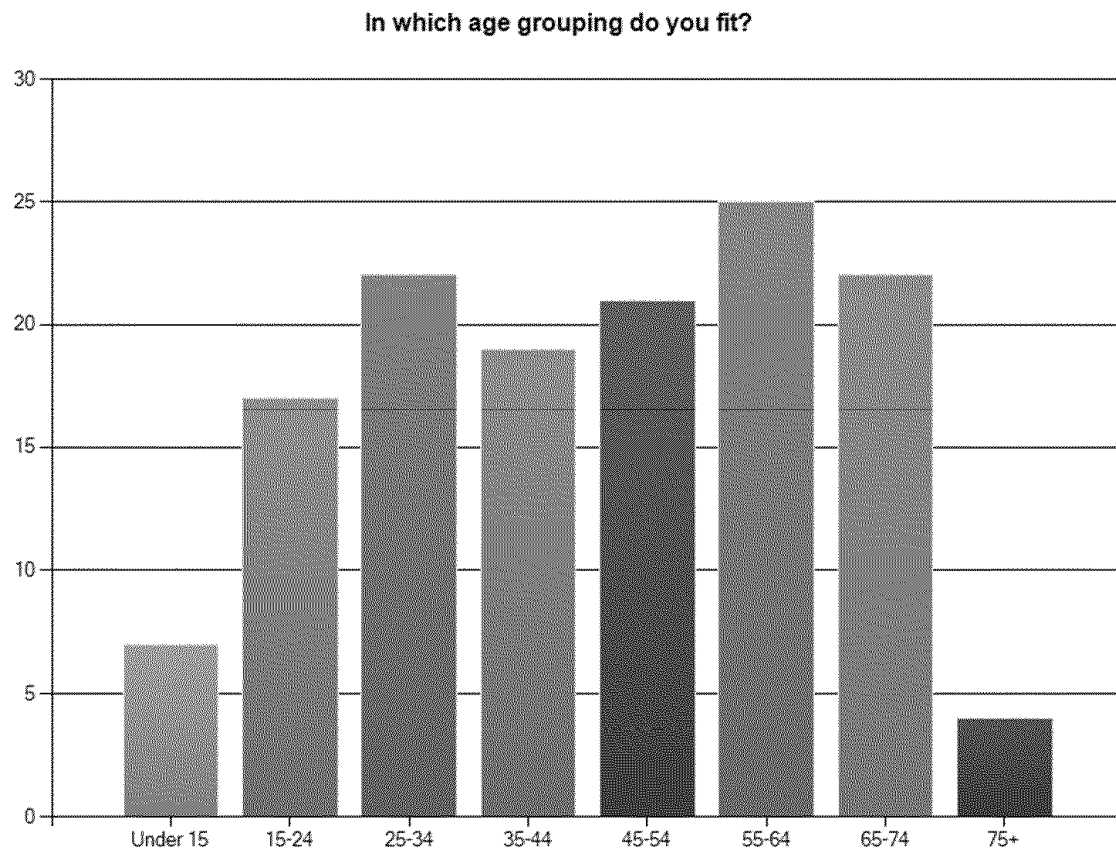
Other

- Courtesy bus to nearby towns - take people home after having a few drinks
- BMX or Motorbike areas
- Better uniform
- Grandstand

- I think the recreation reserve is excellent. What we need are services and shops and businesses
- Market days - activities for teenage children & younger kids,
- Auction days - Ask local people for their craft/stalls of different things maybe some spiritual or psychic stuff.
- It would be great to see some community events, e.g. concerts, picnic day, sports events, hobby events, etc on the oval/dam/track etc
- Set up emergency centre and assembly
- All sporting groups working together and sharing club rooms
- A sound system with music playing through speakers to enjoy while we sit and take part in activities.
- Gentle exercise i.e. Tai Chi or similar.
- better maintenance of the whole sports grounds.
- better maintenance of all facilities.
- Upgrading of all the sports areas

What is your gender?





14.2 Potential Funding Sources

Funding Program and Website Address	Organisation	Grant Amounts	Opening Date (of current or previous round)	Closing Date (of current or previous round)	Details
Community Facility Funding Program – Building Community Infrastructure – Major Facilities http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/home/grants/all-grants/community-facilities	Department of Planning and Community Development	Up to \$650,000 for projects costing more than \$500,000 (excluding GST). Funding on the following basis DPCD \$1 : Local \$1 for rural areas	The 2014-2015 Community Facility Funding Program is currently open	5 June 2013 (for project proposals) Projects are to be completed by 31 May 2016	Grants to improve places where communities meet and interact. Applications should focus on building or upgrading community sport and recreation facilities that are innovative, effectively managed, environmentally sustainable and well-used. Project proposals require significant justification such as feasibility studies.
Community Facility Funding Program – Building Community Infrastructure – Minor Facilities http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/home/grants/all-grants/community-facilities	Department of Planning and Community Development	Up to \$100,000 for projects costing up to \$500,000 (excluding GST). Funding on the following basis DPCD \$2: Local \$1 for rural areas		5 June 2013 (for project proposals) Projects are to be completed by 31 December 2015	Funding will support projects that provide: Upgrades to outdated and non-compliant facilities, e.g. change facilities for junior or female use; shared paths and tracks; sports surface development; increased participation capacity through lighting developments; projects for young people and families such as playgrounds and skate parks or BMX tracks; program and meeting space; more accessible and inclusive facilities; projects promoting efficient and sustainable use of Victoria's natural resources for community sport and recreation facilities. Application must

					be supported by Council.
Community Facility Funding Program – Building Community Infrastructure – Planning http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/home/grants/all-grants/community-facilities	Department of Planning and Community Development	Up to \$30,000. Funding on a \$2 for \$1 basis.		Planning to be completed by 31 December 2015	Aiming to assist communities to plan for future community sport and recreation provision through better information collection, community consultation and strategic planning.
Country Football & Netball Program http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/home/grants/all-grants/country-football-and-netball	Department of Planning and Community Development	Up to \$100,000 Funding on the following basis DPCD \$2: Local \$1 for rural areas	Applications accepted on an ongoing basis	Applications to be submitted by 31 May 2013	Funding to assist grass roots country football and netball clubs, associations and umpiring organisations to develop facilities in particular areas of need including: football, netball and umpire facilities, shared community, club and social facilities, multi-use facilities or lighting.
Country Action Grant Scheme http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/home/grants/all-grants/country-action-grant-scheme	Department of Planning and Community Development	Up to \$5,000	1 July 2013-31 December 2013	5 March 2013	Grants to increase the skills of coaches, officials and managers and improve the accessibility and operational capacity of community sport and recreation organisations in rural and regional Victoria

Active Club Grants http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/Funding-Opportunities/Funding-Schemes/Active-Club-Grants.aspx	VicHealth	Up to \$2,500	Currently closed	6 December 2012	<p>For sports injury prevention & management equipment, essential sporting equipment, portable shade and volunteer and club training.</p> <p>These grants aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage and increase participation opportunities in physical activity for those who are currently inactive or traditionally encounter barriers to participation, by providing equipment or training ● Improve the safety of sporting and active recreation environments and reduce the likelihood of injury while promoting physical activity.
Putting Locals First Program: Project Planning http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/community-programs/putting-locals-first	Regional Development Victoria	Up to \$30,000 Funding on the following basis RDV \$3: Other \$1 for rural areas	Applications can be submitted at any time		Activities that could be supported include: feasibility planning for infrastructure projects; initial work to bring together a range of organisations and groups; short term work testing the viability and support for an innovative response to a local community problem or issue.
Putting Locals First Program: Improved Local Infrastructure http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/community-programs/putting-locals-first/local-infrastructure	Regional Development Victoria	Up to \$300,000. Funding on the following basis, RDV \$3: \$1 Other for rural areas. Over \$300,000 to maximum of \$500,000 RDV	Applications can be submitted at any time.		Funding to support investment in priority infrastructure that meets local needs. Examples include: civic revitalisation initiatives; building or upgrading shared community facilities; pathway projects connecting communities and attracting visitors; innovative water projects that improve the use of recycled water at community facilities.

		\$2: \$1 Other excluding land			
Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program http://www.frrr.org.au/cb_pages/small_grants_for_small_communities.php	Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal	Up to \$5,000	Next round will open on 1 August 2013	End of September	Not-for-profit organisations can apply for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities living in small rural and remote locations in Australia, contributing to their development in social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas. Applications from sporting organisations need to clearly demonstrate a benefit to the wider community.
Community Matching Grants Scheme http://www.greatershepparton.com.au/residents/grantsandfunding/communitymatchinggrants/	City of Greater Shepparton	Up to \$2,500	1 July 2013 Round 2 opens 14 December 2013	25 July 2013	Funded projects must be able to demonstrate that they are inclusive, have wide community support, and, where appropriate, are sustainable following Council's funding. Funding may be used to conduct events such as a celebration or social gathering, artistic or cultural projects, projects which address environmental needs or community building projects such as creating or rejuvenating a community asset.
Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) http://www.regional.gov.au/regional/programs/rdaf_round_three-	Regional Development Australia	\$50,000 - \$500,000	Rounds 3, 4 and 5 are Closed	Closed	Grants are available for priority infrastructure in towns with a population of 30,000 people or less. Grants of between \$50,000 and \$500,000 are available to eligible applicants. Local governments and not-for-profit organisations with an annual income of at least \$500,000 (averaged over the most recent two years) are eligible to apply for Regional

<p>guidelines.aspx</p>					<p>Development Australia Fund Round Three. Other organisations may participate in the program as a member of a consortium led by an eligible applicant.</p> <p>RDAF supports projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in regional priorities • Support local economies • Facilitate strong and dynamic communities, and • Leverage partnership funding. <p>Strong preference will be given to projects that have partnership contributions. Preference will also be given to projects where these partner contributions include cash. In-kind contributions will be accepted as partner contributions.</p>
<p>The Community Fund http://www.thecommunityfund.com.au/apply-for-grants/</p>	<p>The Community Fund Goulburn Valley</p>	<p>Between \$5,000 - \$20,000</p>	<p>3 June 2013</p>	<p>29 June 2013 Applications outside this period will be accepted under exceptional circumstances, and will be limited to a maximum of \$2,000.</p>	<p>Key areas where support is provided include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Rehabilitation • Aged Care Programs • Education, Youth and Child Development Programs • Indigenous /Cultural and Ethnic • Disability Services • Crisis support for Families and Children • General Community and other Welfare Services

<p>McEwen Foundation Grants Program http://www.frrr.org.au/cb_pages/mcewen.php</p>	<p>Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal</p>	<p>Up to \$15,000</p>			<p>For projects and activities that offer a clear benefit for rural communities in the wider Goulburn Valley.</p>
<p>The Fairley Foundation http://www.fairleyfoundation.org/profile.html</p>					<p>Activities or programs are wholly funded by the Foundation or jointly funded in cooperation with other philanthropic organisations, Greater Shepparton City Council or government bodies. Mutual Trustees manage and administer the funds, and administrative support is provided to the Senior Advisor by an Administrative Officer.</p> <p>The Foundation does not generally accept applications for funding.</p> <p>The Foundation is targeted at schemes that will make a lasting difference to organisations and individuals.</p>

Other potential funding sources include Department of Environment and Primary Industries Public Safety on Public Lands grant which may cover costs such as funding for disabled access. Other potential sources of funds or in-kind labour include Landcare, Merrigum Primary School, service clubs or through crowd funding websites such as Team Bus: <http://teambus.com.au/>.

14.3 Proposed Site Plan

