

# **ATTACHMENT TO AGENDA ITEM**

**Ordinary Meeting**

**21 June 2016**

**Agenda Item 6.9      Deakin Reserve Advisory Committee - 2015 Annual Report**

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# Deakin Reserve Advisory Committee Annual Report 2015

The Deakin Reserve committee of management is an advisory committee of the City of Greater Shepparton Council.

The committee consists of Chris Smith (Chairman), Don Kilgour (Secretary), Greg Beer, Ian Howard, John Hyde, Paul McGrath, Ian Fitzsimmons and Mark Lambourn as appointed community committee members, along with Cr Jenny Houlihan as a Councillor appointee to the committee, with Heath Chasemore and Tim Zak representing the Council's Recreation and Parks branch.

The committee met seven times for the year as a full committee and three times with the user group.

It has been another busy year for the committee as the Reserve continues to meet the standard expected of a leading regional sports facility.

The reserve is generally in very good condition and is being kept clean and looked after.

## **Activities and achievements for the year are as follows:**

### **Arena and cricket wicket area:**

The arena and wicket area were in excellent condition for the AFL match and the cricket finals in March and for the 20/20 competition along with the twilight competition.

The arena was handed over for the football season in first class condition with the wicket area well grassed. The committee saw the benefit of the policy of having Council staff solely responsible for the covers being placed over, or removed from the wicket area during the football season. The arena staff did a top job during the winter months, with a result that saw the whole arena probably in the best condition ever for the football finals. The committee appreciates the understanding of Cricket Shepparton, when cricket has to vacate the arena for a number of weeks prior to an AFL match.

### **Ground use procedure document:**

With changes to the structure of junior football in 2013, the committee instituted a new policy to allow junior teams to be able to train and play on Deakin Reserve. The resultant changes to our ground use procedure document for 2014 were continued in 2015 allowing the junior teams that have become a part of the Deakin Reserve based senior clubs to have some use of the reserve. The clubs adhered to the new arrangements, which worked well.

They provided for the resident football clubs to have all their teams (including juniors) train on the reserve on two evenings per week. The only other training session allowed during the week was for the Auskick program on Friday evenings.

There was also an allowance for the Deakin Reserve based juniors to play a limited number of matches on the reserve during the season.

### **Junior Football finals:**

The last two weeks of the junior finals series were held on the Reserve. Grand final day saw the senior footballers of the future relishing the opportunity to play on the best arena in Northern Victoria. The two football clubs based at Deakin Reserve were very helpful in making their facilities available to junior football.

### **Grandstand meeting room:**

Cricket Shepparton is now using the room as its headquarters and has established a trophy cabinet and some office furniture in the room. The Shepparton Football Club uses the room on match days and training nights. The room is also used by netballers on match days. The Deakin Reserve Committee uses the room for its monthly meetings. User bodies have the opportunity to use the room which must be booked through the Council sports facility booking office.

### **Hot Dog Stand:**

Over the last five years the Committee has urged the Shepparton Football Club to refurbish their Hot Dog / BBQ stand. The club had hoped to be able to replace the stand with an additional facility on the end of their clubrooms. It now appears that the addition will not be built, necessitating the upgrade of the present facility in its current position.

### **Arena seating:**

The former MCG seats on the Southern wing have been replaced by aluminium backed seats. Council also erected extra aluminium seats along the scoreboard spectator bank, and provided a 3 metre sealed surface for the area in time for the AFL match. More spectators are using this area since the installation of the new seating. It has been necessary to replace a few broken single spectator seats which have been vandalised.

### **Public Toilets:**

A new toilet block has been erected at the Western end of the reserve, next to the western shelter. The block was placed high on the spectator bank, to better

cater for disabled patrons. It was completed by the date of the AFL game. The "temporary" toilets were then removed. As some of the new building is hidden

by the Western shelter, it will be necessary to improve the signage to the toilets to make the spectators at big events aware of their existence.

### **Internal Roadway:**

The committee is delighted that the reconstruction of the roadway into the reserve from Harold Street along the Northern boundary fence, has greatly improved the look of the area.

### **AFL Match:**

For the first time a sporting event at Deakin Reserve was televised live around Australia when Hawthorn played North Melbourne, in the official pre-season competition, on Sunday 8th March. The event was very successful and the AFL and the competing clubs praised the presentation of the arena and the reserve. The C.O.G.S. arena staff were congratulated on their performance in preparing the arena for the match. There was also some refurbishment of the coach's boxes including the installation of air conditioners and carpet. Some painting and tiling was also carried out in both football clubrooms. Due to the success of the event, the AFL has scheduled another televised pre-season match at Deakin Reserve at 2.00pm on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016 when Geelong will play Essendon.

### **Disabled Parking:**

Three new disabled parking bays have been provided next to the Shepparton Bears clubrooms, providing easier access to the disabled areas in the western shelter. A new ramp will also be provided to complete the project.

### **New fencing:**

In association with Notre Dame College, a new fence has been erected along the Northern boundary of the reserve, greatly enhancing the newly re-constructed roadway area.

### **Grandstand Plaque:**

A plaque which had been removed from the front wall of the grand stand 40 years ago to make way for a doorway, was found after it had been stored for safe keeping.

The plaque had been unveiled at the opening of the stand in 1962. It officially named the stand the J.G.B. McDonald stand, in recognition of the service to Shepparton of the former Premier of Victoria and Member for Shepparton Sir John McDonald.

The plaque was re furnished by Council and attached to the grandstand wall. The replacement of the plaque received plenty of media attention.

**Netball change rooms:**

The committee has supported the planning for netball change rooms. C.O.G.S has applied for a Government grant to support the project.

**Power upgrade:**

A project to upgrade the incoming power supply to the reserve has been completed.

**Project funding:**

The Committee has applied for funding for a master plan to be commenced to set in place the requirements of the reserve for the future.

**Committee membership:**

. The committee welcomed Cr. Jenny Houlihan as the Councillor Representative on the committee. Cr. Houlihan has been an enthusiastic member and has provided councillors with important information on the committee's activities and deliberations.

**Notre Dame meeting:**

Committee chairman Chris Smith and Secretary Don Kilgour met with Notre Dame College Principal John Cortese and some college staff to discuss matters of interest between the two bodies. It was a very cordial meeting with an agreement reached that further meetings will be called if any matters arise that effect both entities.

**Looking to the future:**

The Deakin Reserve committee, as an advisory committee of the City of Greater Shepparton Council, is responsible for ensuring that the reserve is managed to provide the best outcomes for the user group and the community. The committee will continue to plan and make recommendations on any projects that require either funding, or council support or attention. We look forward to being able to complete a "Master Plan" for the reserve. The committee will continue to meet regularly with the user group and will always be available to discuss issues with user bodies as required.

**Don Kilgour,  
Secretary  
Deakin Reserve Advisory Committee.**