

## *Royal Park-Buninyong: Community Hub and Sports Precinct Proposal*

Friends of Royal Park\_Buninyong Sustainability and Buninyong Soccer are working with the City of Ballarat in seeking **\$4.75 million** to transform Buninyong's Royal Park Reserve into a sustainable community hub and sports precinct, providing opportunities for local health and wellbeing improvements plus social outcomes for communities in and around the Buninyong area.

***'The intent of the plan is to transform the site and maximise community participation, whilst continuing to strengthen community partnerships.'***



The 5 components of the project are:

1. A new sustainably designed Community Hub - \$2 million
2. Soccer Infrastructure - \$2 million
3. Community Garden, path network and landscaping - \$250,000
4. Power upgrade, access and car parking - \$250,000
5. Entry level Little Athletics infrastructure - \$250,000

The **sustainably designed community hub** proposed will be a show case of how we can provide improved **shared space** for current users including the **Community Garden, Landcare**, various **health groups** such as **pilates/yoga** and allow for expansion for new users such as **Little Athletics, disability services** and **arts**. Buninyong **Soccer** Club needs a new permanent home and the club's development mirrors the continued growth in popularity of the game locally.

The hub will also be able to support to major local events such as the **Smart Building and Living Expo** and the **Australian Road Cycling Championships**.

### The Benefits:

- Predicted to generate 32 jobs
- Estimated to increase the Ballarat economy by \$4.2 million
- Increased physical activity for local residents
- Increased female and junior participation
- Increased community connections and local partnerships
- Increased community safety and perceptions of safety.

### Partners and Supporting Associations:

Friends of Royal Park\_Buninyong Sustainability  
 Buninyong and District Community Association  
 Leigh Catchment Group - Landcare  
 Buninyong Primary School  
 Football Federation Victoria  
 Cycling Australia

Smart Building and Living Expo  
 Buninyong Soccer Club  
 Meet on the Mat/Equilibrium Wellbeing  
 Ballarat Soccer Association  
 Ballarat Cycling  
 Ballarat Little Athletics

### Strategic Alignment:

**City of Ballarat:** The Ballarat Strategy: *Our Vision for 2040*; Council Plan 2017-2021; Active Women and Girls Strategy (2018); Recreation Strategy (2014).

Royal Park Masterplan (2016)

**State:** Active Victoria – A Strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria 2017- 2021

# Appendix: Additional Information

## **Context:**

Royal Park in Buninyong has been managed by the Friends of Royal Park over the last 10 years. The space is recognised throughout the region as a hub for community environmental work, hosting regular events, Smart Building and Living Expos and training seminars. The proposal provides an opportunity to strengthen sustainability-based work at the site whilst enhancing sporting facilities by incorporating additional infrastructure to extend participation.

## **Overview:**

Completed in 2016, the development of a new Master Plan for Royal Park involved local community, stakeholder and resident engagement. Key to the success of the plan was the partnership work undertaken by the Friends of Royal Park and the Buninyong Soccer Club to develop a plan which could benefit both sporting and non-sporting members of the community.

**Soccer Infrastructure:** The redevelopment proposal aims to provide a permanent home for Buninyong Soccer Club via the creation of two new soccer pitches (x1 synthetic / 1 turf), new lighting and irrigation and associated infrastructure.

**Community Garden & Landscaping Infrastructure:** The proposal seeks to transform the existing garden space into an educational and participation site. The area will feature raised garden beds with paved surrounds and gravel access paths to ensure all abilities access. Provision is also made for a food forest, rainwater tanks, composting facilities, tree removal and replacement across the reserve and a comprehensive path network.

**Reserve Infrastructure:** To ensure the reserve is able to efficiently operate, the proposal includes additional funding requests for an overall power upgrade, and car parking and access work.

**Little Athletics Infrastructure:** Currently not operating in Buninyong, the introduction of Little Athletics to the site would be achieved by the installation of start-up equipment, hard landscaping, equipment storage and fencing.

The installation of a new synthetic pitch will enable numerous additional users to be active in the space throughout the week and will extend the scope of sporting activity beyond soccer into the future.

This project will also be popular with non-sporting community as it will provide some much-needed investment into Royal Park. Friends of Royal Park have done a terrific job managing the site over the last decade, but the facilities are tired and in need of fresh investment.

The project focuses on transforming Buninyong's Royal Park through the construction of a new multi-purpose community hub and the addition of new community and sporting reserve infrastructure.

**NATURAL PLAY**



Timber deck and logs - possibly salvaged from trees to be removed  
 Mounds and tunnels to create an unliking play space with opportunity for imaginative and independent play  
 Carved logs seats - possibly salvaged from trees to be removed from site  
 Carved tree stump  
 Sand pit including suitable seating rocks  
 Outdoor chalkboard

**COMMUNITY GARDEN**



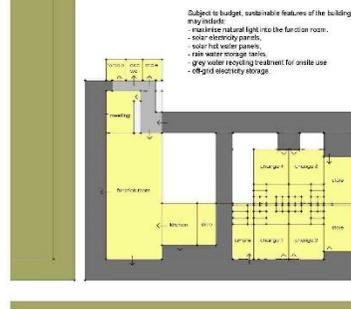
Espalier Apple trees provides efficient fruit production  
 Vegetable garden beds  
 Raised planter boxes - provides for elderly and disabled gardeners  
 Community wood shed even (at Albany). This would provide a community focus for cooking and sharing food from the community garden and support and provide sheltered spectator viewing during sports events  
 Pod seats and tables

**WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN**



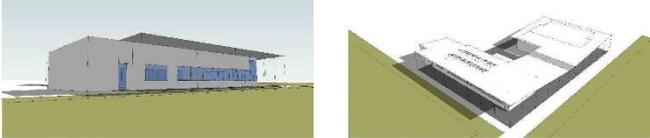
Car park with rain garden and native including native and indigenous planting provides multiple environmental benefits  
 3.0m high chain mesh fence to be used for ball control only - not to exclude public access to the reserve

**FENCING**



Preliminary floor plan by Morton Durell Architects  
 Scale: 1:500 @ A1

**COMMUNITY BUILDING**



3D sketch of proposed building

3D sketch of proposed building

**DESIGN EXAMPLES**  
 ROYAL PARK - BUNINYONG

**DRAFT**

Prepared for: City of Belmont  
 Date: 16 February 2016  
 Scale: Not to Scale  
 Drawn: HJ / JH  
 Drawing No: 1.020\_02 Rev A

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