

  
Korumburra Vic 3950  
22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

#### Submission – Tennis Facilities Plan

I am a member of the Bena Tennis Club, the President of the Outtrim Tennis Club and have been involved in tennis in this area for many years. Bena plays in the South Gippsland Mid-Week Ladies Association and Outtrim plays in the Allambee Mirboo & District Tennis Association.

The 14 sites identified as the best opportunity to be maintained is accurate and do provide enough tennis courts for participants that are playing competition tennis in South Gippsland at present. The courts at these 14 sites should be supported by the Shire to some degree. Smaller communities work hard to maintain their courts by mowing lawns, repairing fences, spraying weeds, cutting back trees, maintaining toilets, clubrooms or sheds associated with the courts. As seen in the Tennis Plan the different ownership of these facilities means that some courts will require more assistance than others.

Tennis courts are often one of the few facilities in these communities. If a community can manage to maintain their tennis courts year after year without any Shire assistance as is the case at Bena, then these communities deserve a helping hand when the maintenance becomes more than the club funds and members capabilities allow. All the courts in the Shire that are now considered unplayable is due to the communities no longer having an active interest in those facilities over a long period therefore communities that care for their assets deserve some assistance.

The changes to the way Tennis Victoria are applying Affiliation Fees has change recently and is a huge disadvantage to smaller clubs. The need to be affiliated is a now a questionable one for many clubs and players. Each player used to pay an annual affiliation fee but this has now been changed to clubs paying per court, with 1-4 courts on the same scale, supposedly an easier way to increase player numbers. This has increased the fee payable considerably for smaller clubs leaving them feeling like they are getting nothing for their money. There is an exemption from this higher affiliation fee if a club has a turnover of less than \$1000- but for Bena this is not the case because of the club room hire which only covers the associated running costs anyway. As for Outtrim the affiliation fee is not an issue because the courts are only hired from the Recreation Reserve therefore the club turnover is not over \$1000-. Tennis Victoria is very focused on metropolitan or large regional type facilities and has no idea that smaller country towns have no way of increasing their player numbers when the population isn't there in the first place.

I assume that the information in the Tennis Facilities Plan relating to association administration is not for the Shire to get involved in. In the Plan it was stated that three associations operate in South Gippsland stating it was difficult to get information. It was suggested that the three known associations combine for easier administration. This could not be further from the truth with my experience. The two associations that I am involved in run smoothly and is not a huge task by those willing to take on the role. Allambee association actually have a rotating administration where by a different club takes on the running of the association for a 12 month period. The Mid-Week Ladies operate with a representative from each club and a rotating president & secretary position that has to be filled by each club in turn. Both these administration models work very well and shares the

role among the clubs. If the Associations were to combine the administration would be a much larger job and then would cause a problem finding people willing to take on these positions. The associations also have to pay an affiliation fee to Tennis Victoria which is increasing year by year and obviously has to be on charged to the participating clubs, once again eroding smaller club finances.

Tennis Facilities Plan was possibly just trying to compare South Gippsland with a much larger area where they have a Municipal Facility with a paid facilitator. South Gippsland doesn't warrant something like this at this stage or in the foreseeable future. Sporting clubs need to be run by the people wanting to play the sport not the Shire, which is what is unique about country sporting clubs.

The larger clubs like Leongatha and perhaps Korumburra that offer different competitions such as night competitions may feel they have limited volunteer administrators and this could impact on the way the club operates and the ability to encourage new players. Perhaps it is worthwhile for these clubs to consider putting a paid administrator in place to organise these competitions but this would have to be covered by the fees that players pay which could be quite achievable.

Leongatha has a great facility that serves the community very well, Korumburra courts obviously need some work and if the other 12 sites are kept operational, it will suit the needs of tennis in South Gippsland for the next 10 years.

South Gippsland tennis players love the fact that we all belong to clubs and travel to each other's facilities and enjoy the different playing surfaces and hospitality that is on offer.

I urge you to maintain the 14 sites identified and assist where needed in keeping these courts in a satisfactory playing condition.

[REDACTED]

██████████  
██████████  
Ferndale, Vic 3821.  
May 21, 2017

Mr. Tim Tamlin  
Chief Executive Officer.  
South Gippsland Shire Council,  
9 Smith Street  
Leongatha Vic 3953

Dear Mr. Tamlin,

Please accept my submission to refurbish the TRIDA tennis courts under the guidelines of the South Gippsland Shire Council's Draft Tennis Facilities Plan 2017.

Trida and the immediate surrounding community have no sporting facilities. We can not think decommission, we must be thinking progressively and how these courts when refurbished will benefit the community. It is a matter of "if you build it, he will come". (*Field of Dreams, 1989*).

Tennis is part of our modern Australian culture, and although your report tells of a decline in the participation in the sport, it does not reflect the popularity of this wonderful social game. The 2017 Australian Open final match between Federer and Nadal achieved Channel seven's highest ratings for a decade, and it's third most watched match ever (*The Australian Newspaper, 30 January 2017*). This men's single final also topped both AFL and NRL 2016 grand final television viewership. (*The Herald Sun Newspaper, 3 February 2017*). So rather than watching on screens communities need decent courts to play on.

Tennis afternoons, mid week mornings, social nights all conjure memories of ice cold lemon squash and rounds of quartered sandwiches. I believe that it is time to reconnect with our strong history of being a tennis nation.

Tennis is cross generational, requires little outlay for equipment and all levels can join in. Tennis promotes good health, exercise as a positive pastime, social interaction and provides reputable role models for our younger generation.

Trida and the surrounding community lack a recreation area that all ages can enjoy. I have spoken to local families and they are optimistic for the club. They believe that improved facilities will encourage use and aim for regular lessons and games.

I would appreciate that this request is taken most seriously and I hope for a positive outcome.

I can be contacted on mobile ██████████ or email ██████████

Yours sincerely

██████████

Hi there,

A submission has been made to the Council for the possible refurbishment of the Trida Tennis Courts.

I understand a tennis court audit has been conducted and feedback has been requested.

Others have submitted interest for the Trida courts and crossing fingers we may be able to secure funds to have these courts returned to a playable state.

I live [REDACTED] and have often been asked about its use. Many are interested.

It would be a shame for such good courts to disappear; they are in reasonable condition and with some TLC would be a wonderful asset to this community.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] (rate payer)

22nd of May, 2017

Director of South Gippsland Shire  
Shire Offices,  
Leongatha

To the Director,

I am making a submission to the South Gippsland Shire in relation to the Trida Community Tennis Court (PR2031 8/5/17).

In 2014, I wrote to the South Gippsland Shire (see attached letter) about the tennis court at Trida on behalf of local residents to register their interest in discussing the future of the Trida Tennis court.

The contents of the Draft 2017 Tennis Plan identifies that the Trida Courts will not be improved due to a "lack of demand." This statement is misleading and I would like to know how can the demand be assessed if the community has not been consulted? As far as I am aware the Consultant did not contact me as a follow up from my letter or any other community member to discuss this issue. Residents were concerned in 2014 that if the courts were closed, there will be no community hub for Trida. This still remains a concern with other community facilities some distance from the community.

Residents from Trida, Ferndale and Seaview (Baw Baw Shire) have expressed an interest in using these courts if they were improved. They has been an increase of residents moving to the Ferndale, Seaview and Trida areas and this trend is likely to continue with the improved access with the sealing of the remaining section of the Grand Ridge Road in Trida by the South Gippsland Shire.

Some other issues raised by Trida residents in 2014 which still have not been addressed by South Gippsland Shire include:

1. Erection of a Trida Community sign by South Gippsland Shire to mark the southern boundary of Trida. This was discussed with Shire Officers and a Councillor in 2016 and still no sign has been erected. If this is not on the Council community sign list, could it please be added. &
2. There have been ongoing issues with ragwort, blackberries and ivy in Trida requiring the Shire attention. Where there are weeds on properties, there are also often significant weeds on road sides along the Grand Ridge Road.

If you would like to discuss the tennis court, community sign or weeds I am sure that Trida residents would be interested to meet with Councillor Officers or Councillors.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Email: [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

**BENA TENNIS CLUB INC. No. A8230**

C/- 118 Fitzgeralds Road  
BENA 3946

President: Ronda Castle  
Secretary: Lyn Leppin  
Treasurer: Wendy Green

ABN 71 054 490 610

Attention Ian Murphy,  
South Gippsland Shire Council  
[submission@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:submission@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

Re: Draft 2017 Tennis Facilities Plan

Thank you for providing us with a copy of the above Tennis Facilities plan.

Bena Tennis club has been identified in the Tennis Facilities Plan as one of the 13 clubs with a Rating 3 competition facility which has good potential to be maintained for the future.

Although one of the smaller towns in the Shire, we are a very active and successful club who has maintained our courts to a high standard over many years. We have regularly fielded 2 teams in the Mid Week Ladies competition in both the Spring and Autumn seasons. This is more than some of the larger neighbouring towns. We have a very active committee and all of our players take their turn in mowing lawns and attend to basic maintenance.

The actual court surface is in good condition but we have encountered a problem of late with the grass surrounds of the courts. We built a retaining wall and improved drainage late in 2012 with the help of a Shire Community Grant but were unable to stretch our resources to resurface the surrounds of the courts at that time. These grass areas are causing some safety concerns. They urgently need to be resurfaced in a similar material to the courts for the safety of the competition players and social participants.

The grass area is also deteriorating due to increased rabbit population that digs holes making the surface very uneven and unsafe for users. The holes and divots exacerbate the drainage problem which makes the surface even worse. Since we have had one of our teams participating in the highest level of the Mid Week ladies competition, unfortunately we

have had several injuries to players over recent times because of the uneven surface. We would like to prioritise safety at our courts and the only way to do this is to replace the grass surrounds of our courts. The existing asphalt area at the base of the courts is no longer in line with the Tennis Australia recommendations. Sealing the ends would resolve this. Initial quotes for this work from ABC Driveways and Mike Rowley Constructions are in the vicinity of \$12,000 plus GST for asphalt.

We have always paid our affiliation to Tennis Victoria for the safety and support of our players and committee. The restructure of the Tennis Victoria membership has been a huge disadvantage to our small Club having to now pay per court which equates to \$560 and rising each year. Almost half of our income now goes just to retain our affiliation.

The Bena Tennis complex is one of the few remaining facilities in the "Hamlet" of Bena. The rooms are hired by the CWA and Bena Produce Swap for their meetings. The well equipped and maintained Clubrooms are also hired by community members for social functions.

Our small community enjoys the social interaction that the tennis club provides. We feel we need assistance in making our courts into an all year, all weather and up to date facility. We have over 25 Casual Court Hirer members who regularly use the courts for a social hit at their leisure. We are very proud of our Club and facilities and believe it is an integral part of our Community.

We are making this submission to highlight the importance of our tennis courts for Bena and in the hope that we can work together to make the necessary improvements allowing us to continue to play tennis safely into the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Lyn Leppin*

LYN LEPPIN  
Secretary

[REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]

LYN LEPPIN

Secretary

[REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]

Hi Ian,

I am writing to you re Tennis draft. I have been away & just got home. I notice that you have listed TOORA tennis courts in the same category as Leongatha & Foster plus others that are in very playable condition. I have a suggestion for Toora. There are some men who play Bocce around the courts on the grass. It would be great if 1 court could be made into a sand Bocce court. There are already club rooms there. The courts get very wet in the winter & if you go off the court you bog into the ground. I was the Pres in 2014/16. It was impossible to get new members due to condition of the courts. The Toora Tourist Park has a very good court. I believe that the facility is very suitable for a proper Bocce court as there are men already playing & enjoying the exercise & social interaction. Bocce is a great game for all abilities. I know they had 1 man in a wheelchair & 2 that have mobility problems. Worth looking at as there isn't a Bocce court in this area. I am very interested in all community activities. I have worked with community groups for the last 50 years. Cranbourne Sth & now Sth Gipp.

Thanks .

[REDACTED]



**WELSHPOOL TENNIS COURT**

The Welshpool Community over many years past ran a very successful tennis club and who maintained the courts and surrounds. Overtime as with many small communities these clubs closed mainly due to the exodus of population due to many reasons.

The Welshpool Memorial Hall Committee of Management for DSE have endeavoured to keep the local tennis courts usable for passive use, so as not to lose a valuable resource. That in the event of a local tennis club can be formed they can be used. We have two new tennis nets in our possession that have not been fitted due to inappropriate use by unknown persons.

We have also fitted new fences around the courts, there still needs a few jobs but overall they are usable.

The Welshpool Memorial Hall Committee are against any move to dismantle the courts asset to the Welshpool Community but there has been some discussion as to making the court area into a car park and building new courts at the Arthur Sutherland Reserve that would service Welshpool and Port Welshpool centralising sporting events into one area.

This idea would have to be explored with the Welshpool & Port Welshpool Communities but our courts would not be removed until the new courts were finished.

The Welshpool Tennis Courts are covered by public risk insurance under the Welshpool Memorial Hall Committee of Management to the best of our knowledge.

Att - Ian Murphy  
Recreation Officer  
South Gippsland Shire Council

We, the Mardan Tennis Club Inc. are writing to you in regards to the South Gippsland Shire Council Tennis Facilities Plan - Draft March 2017.

Firstly, we wish to advise that after studying your drafts information, we noticed that the local Junior Tennis Association ( Mirboo North & District Junior Tennis Association Inc.) was not listed as one of the tennis associations that operate within the South Gippsland Shire, as we are unsure of why this thriving Junior Tennis Association was not included in the 2017 Draft, we have listed some of their details. This year the Junior Tennis Association consisted of 20 junior teams, with approximately 80 - 90 players across three sections, and as such would probably be considered as one of the major tennis associations for usage participation within the South Gippsland area.

This year several of our Mardan Tennis Club members occupied committee positions on both the Junior ( Mirboo North & District Junior Tennis Association Inc. ) and Senior ( Allambee, Mirboo & District Tennis Association Inc. ) Tennis Associations, being involved in these committees and helping to organize the local competition made us realize how important these smaller tennis clubs are to maintaining a successful competition. Due to the number of registered teams in both associations, we recognized that it is imperative that some smaller clubs, like Mardan Tennis Club continue to be viable as their tennis facilities are required to accommodate the overflow of Saturday competition matches.

Our Mardan Tennis Club facility is frequently utilized as we have continuously entered tennis teams each season in both the Junior and Senior Tennis Associations. In recent times the Mardan Tennis Club has been proactive with their endeavours to upgrade our local court facilities. A grant from South Gippsland Shire Council enabled our club to remove a dangerous overhanging cypress tree from the tennis grounds and fund the interior plastering of our club room. We also outsourced sponsorship from Bendigo Bank to help run Junior tennis clinics and to purchase equipment for our junior training sessions. Lastly, the grant from the Mirboo North Times allowed us to finally complete the renovations to our club room and upgrade the kitchen facilities.

Keeping the Mardan tennis courts going is of utmost importance to our local community. Not only does it enable a training and competition facility for our junior and senior tennis teams, it also offers a resource for junior tennis clinics, community group events and social recreation functions.

We feel in collaboration with the Mardan Hall, the Mardan tennis courts will offer a centralized community hub facility for future locals and encourage families to be more active in sport.

Therefore, on behalf of the Mardan Tennis Club Inc. , we wish to forward this submission to have our local tennis courts be recognized as a viable facility to be developed for future use, and welcome any information on upgrade funding that might become available in the future.

Please feel free to contact our club anytime on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Kindest Regards,  
Mardan Tennis Club Inc.

[REDACTED]  
Secretary.

## NYORA RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE

ABN: 24537062009

President: Brett Hume. Tel; [REDACTED]

Secretary/Treasurer: Glenda Hume. Tel; [REDACTED]

C/O Post Office Nyora,  
Victoria 3987.  
nyorareserve@bigpond.com

### Re: Draft Tennis Facilities Plan 2017

The Nyora Recreation Reserve committee has for the past summer been active in trying to increase the casual use of our tennis courts.

To achieve this we have established a user pays system that is managed through the local general store.

A small survey of casual users indicated that they would be willing to make a contribution to the maintenance of the courts for greater access, particularly over the summer holiday period.

To this end the take has been very limited with only a few day casual and seasonal users registering with us.

The mid week ladies tennis comp is very active and is the main stay of the courts use over the year.

Our Master Plan, released in July 2016 makes the following recommendations for the tennis courts:

***13.1 The maintenance recommendations are provided to improve the courts playability and maximise the pavement's lifespan. Without regular maintenance the courts are likely to develop more problems and deteriorate rapidly requiring major works well ahead of the expected timeframes. The maintenance works should include the consistent removal of algae, dirt and leaf litter as it collects and periodic professional grooming of the court surfaces. Maintaining the drainage infrastructure to ensure it operates efficiently is also recommended.***

#### ***13.2 Resurfacing of the facility.***

The maintenance aspects were given a high priority with the resurfacing a low priority.

The CoM has purchased a Karcher high pressure rotating cleaning unit for continued cleaning of the playing surface. This will be carried out at least once per year.

We are also planning to repair the various cracks within the playing surface over the next 12 – 18 months.

We hope over the next 3 – 5 years that there will be an increase in both competition and casual users of our facilities such that we could then seek grant assistance to resurface the playing area.

This would most likely be done in combination with a similar works programme for our netball courts.

This year we are improving the mains power supplies to the reserve and we will be incorporating additional capacity for the future provision of lights (medium to long term) for the tennis courts.

Although the current usage is low the courts are in reasonable condition and with the current level of maintenance we envisage that we can provide a usable and effective facility for the foreseeable future.

Kind Regards,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the President.

President.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 May 2017 10:30 AM  
**To:** Ian Murphy  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re Draft Tennis Facilities Plan  
  
**Categories:** Miscellaneous

Hi Ian

As a tennis player of the Local competitions for the past 35yrs as well as active Member of the Nichols Road Tennis Club and Baromi Tennis club at Walter J Tuck Reserve I would like to respond to the Facilities plan.

I note there was no mention of the Mirboo and District Junior Tennis Association which is the main feeder competition to the Allambee Mirboo and District Tennis Association.

I also acknowledge some courts and facilities are not required as the current Secretary at Nichols Road our courts I believe are not required as there are courts at both Mardan and Mirboo North as well as Mirboo which service our Local area well.

Tennis has slowly been dying for no other reason that there has not been any Maintenance or support for committees at Tennis courts since the Amalgamation of Shires. Where as in the past the Local council were good supporters of community courts as small hamlets would have a hub to socialise and come along too. You will always find large venues and crowds of people keep people away and small community hubs in farming areas are great outlets for those less inclined to participate with the masses.

Mardan Tennis courts are a case in point where the voluntary committee have been actively been trying to improve the courts within the hamlet with no success or real support from the shire. This is a great hub locally and by having no support the volunteers again get tired of the ongoing back and forth with council and walk away. Maybe that is what the Shire is aiming to do!! And all they are doing is trying to improve a run down facility for the benefit of local kids and in the interests of continuing a once great Community Tennis Association in Allambee Mirboo and District Tennis Association. Rural kids have less opportunity because of distance especially when parents are working on their farms! I agree some facilities in townships should be rationalised but they should be built smarter and include a Rebound wall and a Basketball ring for all round use, encouraging more activity.

Tennis is also one of the cheapest forms of sport still around. And children should be encouraged more as it is not wealth dependant as a lot of sport is. Social tennis is very good at Walter J Tuck Reserve as we see many people playing with mates on a Sunday or after work in summer just because its there and they are in great condition. This should be encouraged.

By not maintaining Tennis facilities at all in our community centres or hubs is naturally a recipe for the death of Tennis and community involvement.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Secretary  
Nichols Road Tennis Club