

Below: The Traralgon outdoor pool during construction in 1958.

Looking Forward, Looking Back Traralgon Outdoor Pool



The future is bright for some of Latrobe City's most iconic sport and recreation venues, with major upgrades and new infrastructure in store across the region.

In this edition of our major recreation projects newsletter, we take a look at the history of these facilities and the exciting changes ahead.

Six Latrobe City projects have been funded by the state government through the Latrobe Valley Authority's \$85 million sports and community initiative.

For more information and to subscribe to the newsletter visit www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/GRAC.

Below: Concept plan for the new aquatic centre.





Latrobe Valley Sports and Community Initiative

Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre (\$46 million)

- New indoor aquatic centre at Hubert Osborne Park
- Eight lane 50 metre indoor pool
- 500 seats for spectators
- Indoor water play zone
- Warm water therapy pool
- Learn to swim pool
- Spa and sauna areas
- Café and retail area

Traralgon Sports Stadium (\$17 million)

- Four court expansion to the existing Traralgon Sports Stadium at Catterick Crescent
- New show court with 1500 seating and the capacity to increase to 3000

Morwell Recreation Reserve (\$9 million)

Including \$5million from the Federal Government

- Football Centre of Excellence
- Multi-use synthetic oval
- New netball courts
- New change rooms
- New cricket and netball pavilion
- Keegan Street Oval re-alignment and upgrade
- Main Oval Lighting upgrade

Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Complex (\$1.7 million)

- Soccer Centre of Excellence
- New synthetic pitch
- Change room upgrades

Ted Summerton Reserve (\$3.5 million)

- Cricket Centre of Excellence
- New indoor centre with four synthetic wickets
- Training and meeting spaces

Traralgon Tennis Centre (\$400,000)

- 14 courts resurfaced
- New perimeter fencing

Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre



Above: The old gas works in operation at the site of the Traralgon pool. Photograph courtesy Traralgon Historical Society.

Did you know...

Prior to construction of the Traralgon outdoor pool at Hubert Osborne Park, the area was occupied by a gasworks site.

The operation ran from the 1890s through to the late 1950s and was demolished in the early 1960s after the construction of the pool in 1958.

Like so many of these old gaswork sites across regional Victoria, they take a bit of cleaning up for the land to provide for its next stage.

The site for the new GRAC is no different and works are underway to understand the levels of leftover contamination and what needs to be done to rectify it.

Below: A paddock neighbouring the gasworks site. Photograph courtesy Traralgon Historical Society.





Left: Long-serving pool supervisor Bob Billows cleaning the Traralgon pool during his tenure.

Looking back

The Traralgon outdoor pool has been a feature of the town's landscape for 60 years. Completed in December 1958, with the official opening held in March 1959, the pool has been a summer haven for generations of Latrobe Valley locals.

Bob Billows (pictured) was one of the site's greatest champions as a long serving supervisor.

Appointed for the 1962/63 summer season, Mr Billows stayed on as supervisor for almost a decade, in addition to teaching local children to swim and dive.

His passion for swimming and aquatics was passed down to his family, with his grandchildren also involved at the pool for a number of years.

Below: An aerial view of the Traralgon outdoor pool in 1964.



Looking forward

The \$46 million Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre will replace the Traralgon outdoor pool, ushering in a new era for swimming and recreation in the region.

Latrobe City Council's long held desire to deliver a state-of-the-art aquatic centre has come to fruition with funding from the state government through Latrobe Valley Authority.

Council has shared exciting plans and designs for the centre, with construction due to start in March next year.

What's happening now?

- Design and construct tender under evaluation - closed on 23 August
- Geothermal heating options being investigated
- Construction due to start March 2019
- Relocation of the Traralgon Croquet Club underway

Below: Latrobe City Mayor Darrell White OAM and Latrobe Valley Authority CEO Karen Cain show off concept plans for the new Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre.





Above: An early interior of the Traralgon Sports Stadium in the 1970s. Photograph courtesy Traralgon Historical Society.

Did you know...

The Traralgon Sports Stadium played host to basketball matches in the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

One of the most memorable games ever played in regional Victoria took place at the venue when the Australian Opals crushed India by 100 points in their opening match en route to the gold medal.

Looking back

The Traralgon Sports Stadium opened in May 1964 and has served as a base for indoor sport in the town for more than half a century.

Now home to the Traralgon T-Birds and Latrobe City Energy basketball clubs, the centre has hosted high-profile events including the Commonwealth Games, State Championships, NBL Blitz and more over the years.

Looking forward

The Traralgon Indoor Sports Stadium will be redeveloped and expanded for multi-purpose use, allowing the centre to host large-scale events such as regional, national and international events. The existing foyer and administration areas will be overhauled, including construction of additional courts and amenities for netball, basketball, badminton and other indoor sports.

A four court extension to the stadium, complete with spectator seating, will ensure the venue remains a leader in regional Victoria.

What's happening now?

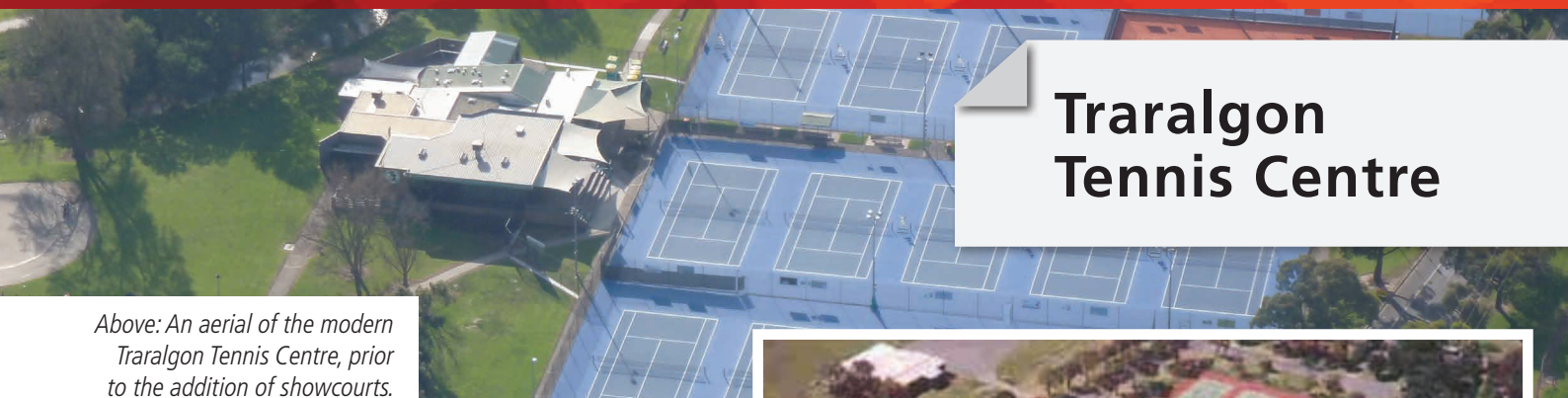
- Design and construct tender under evaluation - closed on 16 August
- Construction to start March 2019

Traralgon Sports Stadium



Overhead photographs of the Catterick Crescent sporting precinct from 1946, 1988 and 2017 compared against concept plans for the \$17 million site makeover.





Traralgon Tennis Centre

Above: An aerial of the modern Traralgon Tennis Centre, prior to the addition of showcourts.

Did you know...

Many household names of the tennis world played at Traralgon in their junior years.

The club's annual ITF Junior International has hosted the likes of Roger Federer, Richard Gasquet, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, Eugenie Bouchard, Nick Kyrgios and Alex Zverev in just over 25 years of competition.

Victors at this event walk away with a uniquely Australian memento, in the form of an iconic Acubra wide brim hat.

Looking back

Traralgon Tennis Association has been through wholesale transformation since it was established 40 years ago.

The red and green court aesthetic has given way to the blue plexicushion surfaces the club now enjoys, with two new showcourts, grandstand seating, clubhouse extensions and more added to the centre over the years.

The club has a long history of community and elite use, with major tournaments like the ITF Junior International and ATP Challenger Tour events embedded in its calendar alongside regular social and community competitions.

Below: Traralgon Tennis Centre at one of its early ITF Junior Internationals.



Above: An overhead shot of the old centre. Photographs courtesy Traralgon Tennis Association.

Looking forward

The latest batch of upgrades to the Traralgon Tennis Centre included a \$400,000 resurfacing of 14 courts and replacement of perimeter fencing, were completed by Latrobe City Council in May.

The club will now be in a strong position to bid for even bigger events - up to and including Davis Cup and Federation Cup ties - strengthening Gippsland's claim as the regional sporting capital of Victoria.



Did you know...

The Keegan Street Reserve, which will be re-aligned and redeveloped as part of the \$9 million Morwell Recreation Reserve project, was originally owned by some of the town's first gun cricketers.

The Keegan family were among Morwell's earliest settlers from Scotland – with Phillip and Mary's children among the first enrolled at the Commercial Road Primary School.

James, Phillip (jnr) and Thomas Keegan were all involved in football and cricket for Morwell, with the latter pair noted as taking regular bags of wickets for the Tigers after their establishment in 1885.

Following Phillip and Mary's deaths, their land was broken up and sold with the area now known as Keegan Street Reserve designated for permanent recreational use.

Source Morwell Cricket Club.



**Above: An old photograph from Keegan Street Reserve looking back toward the Hazelwood Power Station.*

Looking back

The 'new' Morwell Recreation Reserve was established in the early 1920s, and has hosted a number of high profile events through the years.

World Series Cricket came to town in 1978, when the Cavaliers played an Australian XI, and seven years later, Sri Lanka played a Gippsland representative side at the venue.

Morwell Recreation Reserve

In recent years the AFL has staged pre-season matches in Morwell, including an Essendon versus Richmond match in 2005 which brought in the ground's biggest crowd of 12,000.

It has become a major venue for football, housing a Centre of Excellence for TAC Cup side Gippsland Power, which has produced numerous AFL stars over the years.

Jarryd Roughead, Scott Pendlebury, Leigh Brown, Bob Murphy, Dyson Heppell and Tim Membrey are among the list of names to have been drafted to the AFL from Gippsland Power.



**Above: A shot of Morwell Football Ground in 1925/26.*

**Below: The present day Morwell Football Ground.*



Looking forward

The Morwell Recreation Reserve will build on its status as a leading footy facility through a \$9 million development.

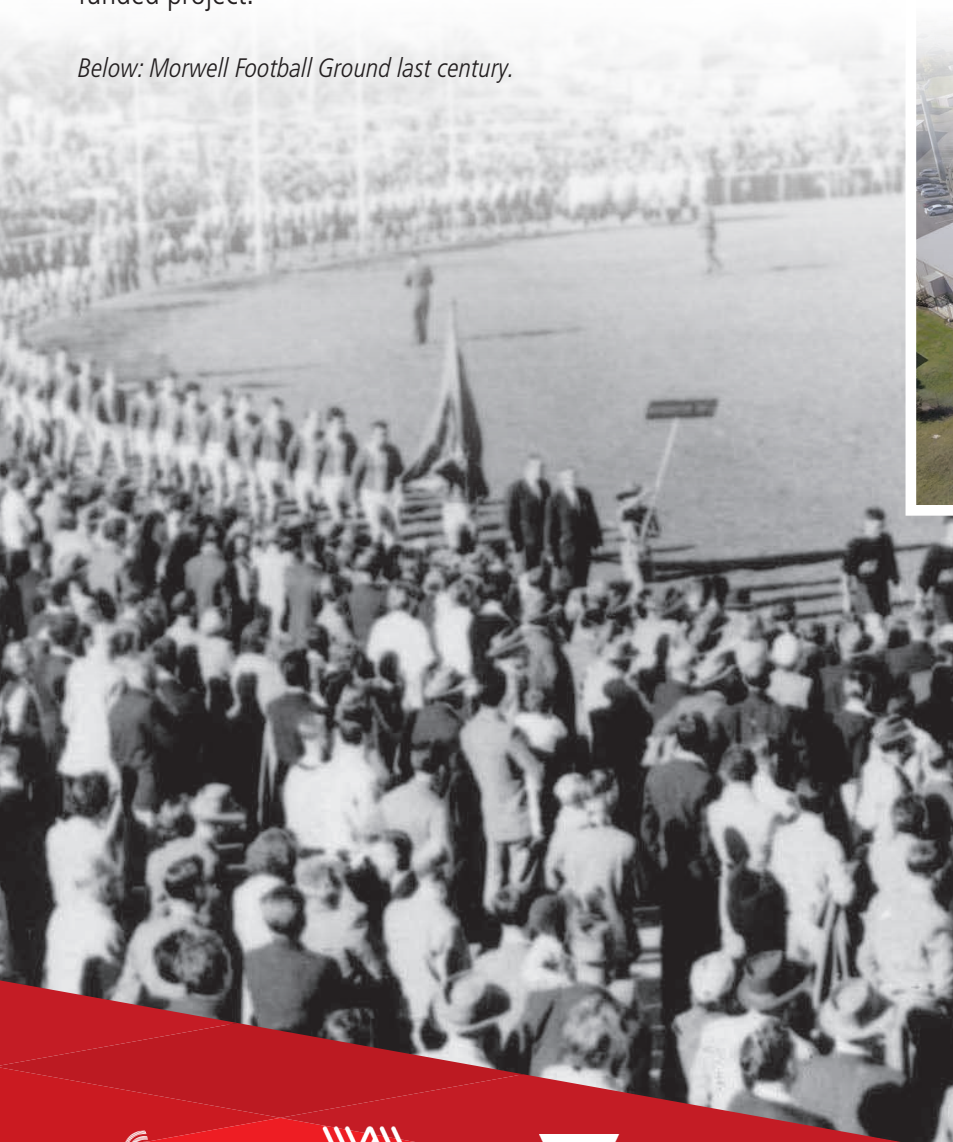
Works will include construction of a multi-use synthetic oval and upgrades to the existing facilities, change rooms and AFL Gippsland offices, increasing capacity for football locally and at the elite level, with the ability to host AFL and AFLW matches.

New netball courts have been completed and a new multipurpose pavilion is almost complete.

Keegan Street Reserve will also be upgraded and the oval re-shaped to alleviate drainage issues and provide quality facilities for the community.

The state government has provided \$4 million and the federal government \$5 million for the \$9 million co-funded project.

Below: Morwell Football Ground last century.



What's happening now?

- Netball court resurfacing project completed
- Shared cricket netball pavilion under construction
- Design contract awarded for synthetic oval project
- Concepts drawn up for new AFL Gippsland offices
- Contract awarded for design work on Keegan Street Reserve
- Local contractor appointed to upgrade lighting on the main oval

**Top Right: Present day Morwell Recreation Reserve.*

**Bottom Right: Recently redeveloped netball courts and the multipurpose pavilion currently under construction.*

**Photographs courtesy Gippsland Technical School.*





Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Stadium

Above: The grandstand at Falcons used to be filled regularly when the side played in the NSL and upper state leagues.

Did you know..

The present day Falcons 2000 Soccer Club has been through many iterations in its short history.

Born in 1961 as the Italian Australian Social Club of Gippsland (IASCO), the club's original intent was to represent the Latrobe Valley's Italian community in the local soccer league.

In 1964 the club rebranded to Morwell Falcons, and after 13 years in the local fray joined the Victorian Provisional League in 1977.

The Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Stadium (LCSES), as it is now known, was developed in 1981 when Latrobe City Council offered the Crinigan Road site to the club to spread its proverbial wings.

After failing to qualify for the National Soccer League in 1989, following their second state title triumph, Falcons eventually joined the peak Australian competition in

1992/93 when Preston pulled out of the top flight.

In 1996 the club was again renamed, this time to Gippsland Falcons, to better represent the broader region, then later became Eastern Pride.

Falcons achieved some success in the NSL, reaching the finals in 1994/95, and was the early home of A-League legends Archie Thompson and John Hutchinson in their formative years.

The modern Falcons 2000 was re-born from the ashes of the NSL powerhouse which folded at the turn of the millennium, and now competes in the Latrobe Valley Soccer League.

Looking Back

The LCSES was opened in 1981 and was the centre of soccer in Gippsland when the Falcons were in full flight in the NSL through the 1990s.

The site was privately owned for a number of years as Falcons faded from the national spotlight, before Latrobe



Above: The Falcons clubrooms were state of the art for regional Victoria when they were first built. Photographs courtesy Morwell Historical Society.

City Council bought the facility back with a vision to reinstate its former glory.

Below: The Don Di Fabrizio stand during construction.



Looking forward

A \$1.7 million redevelopment of the LCSES will position the venue as Gippsland's soccer centre of excellence, providing a pathway for promising young athletes to elite sport through Gippsland FC and other high performance programs.

This will include construction of a synthetic pitch with lighting. Upgrades to grandstands, change rooms and club rooms are also being considered.

The centre has already returned to the spotlight with A-League and W-League matches featuring Melbourne Victory in the past 12 months, with further major events in store for the years ahead in line with the stadium's redevelopment.

What's happening now?

- Tenders for synthetic pitch contract closed 20 September, due for completion mid 2019
- Master plan completed
- Preliminary upgrades to change rooms and facilities completed

Below: The LCSES site will see some big changes in the near future. Photograph courtesy of Morwell Historical Society.



Did you know...

Ted Summerton Reserve played host to one of the great grand finals in Central Gippsland Cricket Association history in 2014, when Mirboo North came from nowhere to defeat Latrobe in the 100th and final over of their run chase.

Chasing 290, the Tigers fell to 8/204 before captain Rob Phoenix and Dale Banks put on 87 for the ninth wicket to scrape home.

Phoenix scored 125 not out to secure a personal 11th consecutive premiership, following nine with Moe – including a record breaking eight in a row - and one with St Kilda.

Looking back

Ted Summerton Reserve underwent a major redevelopment in 2011 with an \$11.7 million project to create a community recreation and education precinct.

The sporting reserve now incorporates Moe P.L.A.C.E (people, learning, activity, community, education) and the South Street Primary school in one precinct.

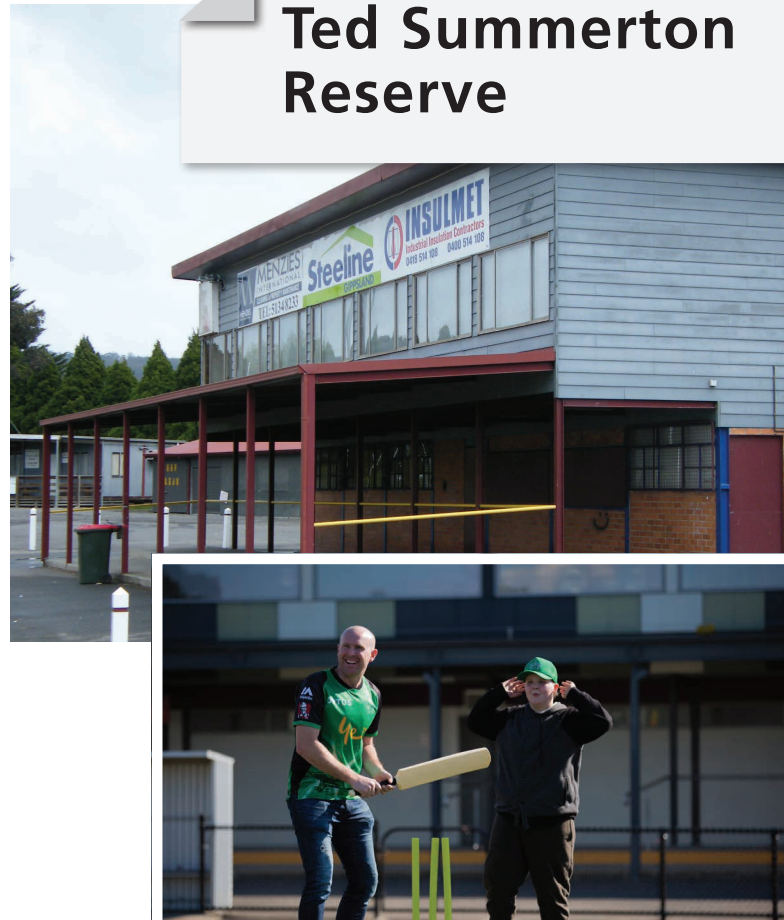
The project was funded by local, state and federal governments.

Looking forward

A \$3.5 million development at Ted Summerton Reserve will establish a cricket centre of excellence at the site – an indoor centre with multiple synthetic wickets and the opportunity for cutting edge training and coaching technology.

The precinct has also been earmarked for major cricketing events, including a Big Bash League game for points in January between the Melbourne Stars and Adelaide Strikers.

Ted Summerton Reserve



Above images: The old clubrooms at Ted Summerton Reserve, photograph courtesy of Moe Historical Society. Compared to a picture of the Melbourne Stars batsman Ben Dunk in front of the new Ted Summerton Reserve clubrooms

What's happening now?

- Concept designs created
- Tendering process agreed upon by Project Reference Group
- Completion expected late 2019

