



## Construction has commenced

*Demolition squad: Cr Dan Clancey, Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes, Cr Alan Macfarlane, Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing, Cr Darren Howe, Latrobe Valley Authority CEO Karen Cain, Latrobe City Mayor Graeme Middlemiss and Cr Dale Harriman lend a hand demolishing the drained Traralgon outdoor pool.*

### A flurry of major infrastructure works have begun across Latrobe City.

Work has commenced on the much-anticipated \$57 million Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre (GRAC) and \$19 million Traralgon Sports Stadium (TSS) projects amid a cascade of construction across the Latrobe Valley.

Lead GRAC contractor ADCO Constructions took control of the Breed Street site on 18 March, following the Traralgon outdoor

pool's last hurrah over the Labour Day long weekend, while lead TSS contractor Becon Constructions has been mobilising on site since 13 March.

Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes and Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing joined Latrobe City Mayor Graeme Middlemiss and fellow councillors to turn the first sod at the GRAC site on 22 March, kicking off an 18 month construction phase.

The decades-long community crusade for a world class aquatic centre is the headline act in a building bonanza across the Valley, with works on a cast of major recreation projects getting underway in earnest.

Morwell Recreation Reserve, Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Stadium, Ted Summerton Reserve, Traralgon Sports Stadium, GRAC and a host of community managed reserves are among the facilities now receiving a major facelift as part of the \$85 million Latrobe Valley Sports and Community Initiative (LVSCI), led by Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA).

"We are in a major phase of development of our City's leisure facilities and we know our community will be pleased to see momentum growing behind a series of key projects that will shape liveability and lifestyle in Latrobe for generations to come," Cr Middlemiss said.



## Latrobe Valley Sports & Community Initiative

### Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre \$57 million

- New indoor aquatic centre at Hubert Osborne Park
- Eight lane 50 metre indoor pool
- 500 seats for spectators
- 25m outdoor pool
- Water slides
- Geothermal heating
- Indoor water play zone
- Warm water therapy pool
- Learn to swim pool
- Spa and sauna areas
- Café and retail precinct

### Traralgon Sports Stadium \$19 million

- Four court expansion to existing Traralgon Sports Stadium at Catterick Crescent
- New show court
- 3000 spectator seats
- New multipurpose training and administration space

### Morwell Recreation Reserve \$9 million

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

### Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Complex \$1.7 million

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

### Ted Summerton Reserve \$3.5 million

- Cricket Centre of Excellence
- New indoor centre with five synthetic pitches
- Cutting edge training and coaching technology
- Four lane natural turf outdoor training area

### Traralgon Tennis Centre \$400,000

- 14 courts resurfaced
- New perimeter fencing

**COMPLETED**

"In closing the old pool, so many community members shared with us their special connections and memories of time spent at the facility—including one request for a section of the children's wading pool that their father built in the 1960s.

"So we are aware that we're building much more than a pool, we are building a place that will become special in people's hearts, that the community will embrace and create fond memories in."

A significant number of local jobs are expected to be created throughout the construction blitz, as well as some 275 ongoing operational and support roles at the completed LVSCI facilities.

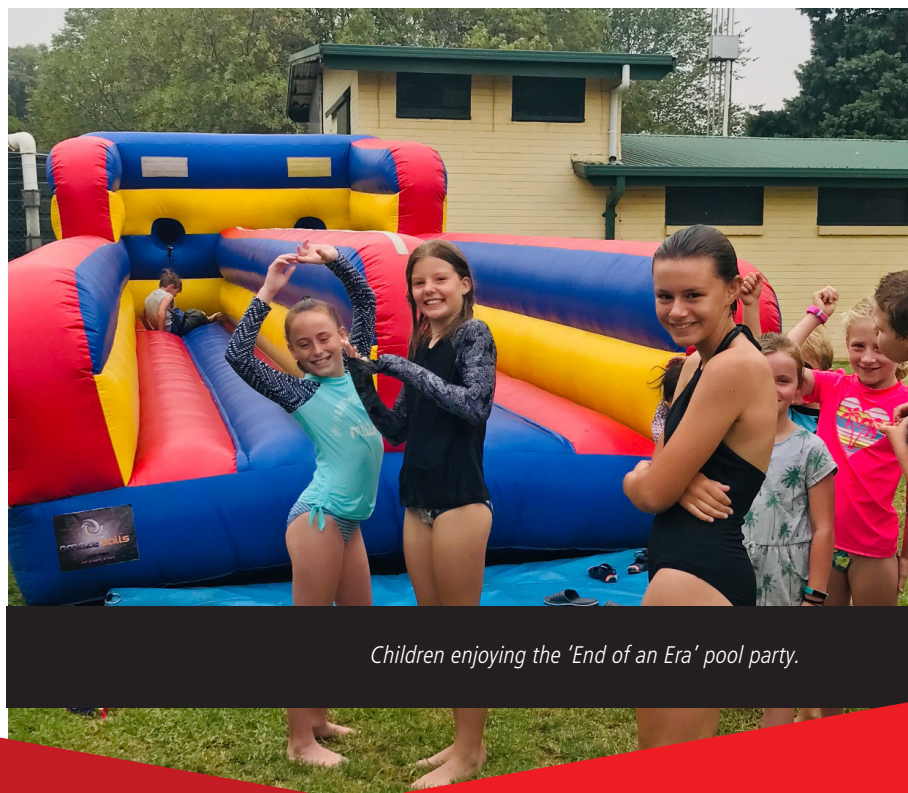
Discussions between lead TSS and GRAC contractors and local sub-contractors are well underway and the Industry Capability Network and GROW Gippsland have been engaged to ensure maximum opportunity for local work on these projects.

"The Latrobe Valley Authority is working closely with Latrobe City Council to ensure maximum opportunity for local workers to be involved in these major construction projects and we are committed to ensuring the best outcomes for the community as a result of these fantastic new facilities," LVA CEO Karen Cain said.

Up to 120 workers are anticipated to be on site at the peak of the GRAC building cycle, with completion expected in December 2020.

Both GRAC and TSS will use 90 per cent local content as designated Victorian Industry Participation Policy initiatives.

The State Government allocated \$46 million for GRAC and \$17 million for TSS, with the balance being funded by Latrobe City Council through Sport and Recreation Victoria's Community Sports Infrastructure Loan Scheme and a \$3 million Council contribution.



Children enjoying the 'End of an Era' pool party.

**The Traralgon Outdoor Pool was constructed in 1958 and has been a Latrobe Valley mainstay ever since.**

After more than 60 years of operation local residents bid a fond farewell to the family favourite with a free festival over the Labour Day long weekend.

Latrobe City's 'end of an era' pool party splashdown was a fitting send –off as swimmers of all ages and abilities converged at the iconic site one last time.

The festivities included paddle-boarding, bungee runs, an outdoor movie night, face painting, street games, jumping castles and of course, a dip in the pool for old time's sake.

The Traralgon Swimming Club has been a perennial powerhouse in the pool and the envy of country clubs for decades.

Re-established in 1957, pre-dating the Traralgon Outdoor Pool by more than a year, the club originally swam in a slimy five lane 'pool' fed by water from the Traralgon Creek.

Despite humble beginnings, wading through murky waters, TSC has clearly risen to the top over the past six decades.

Since 2000 the TSC has held an almost unwavering iron grip on top country swimming club for the past 20 years and enjoyed incredible success at state and national level.

It has produced a number of champion athletes, including Olympian Ash Delaney and Paralympian Emily Beecroft.

Remarkably, it has done so without access to a 50 metre pool, dedicated training facility or indoor heated facility for year-round swimming.

All that is set to change when the Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre is completed.

Traralgon Swimming Club president Jane Mitchell said the new aquatic centre would come as a major boon for its 250 members and 100 plus competitive swimmers.

"Whilst we have fond memories of the outdoor pool we think what we're moving on to will be far better," she said.

"The main thing for us is that it's going to be 50 metre water; that is such an essential for any swimming club to be successful.

"Obviously we have been very successful without it but it's something we've always lacked; our kids are very good at tumble turns because they've had to swim in 25 metre pools.

"Being able to train in a 50 metre will be wonderful for our swimmers, it may put them on a more even par with the city clubs."

Ms Mitchell also saw the potential for the centre to attract major events to the region.

"It'll be ideal for holding big events, we certainly see the potential fairly immediately to hold the country short course championships especially with the boom being able to divide the pool into two 25 metre (sections) would allow you to have a competition pool as well as a warm up / cool down pool at the same time," she said.

"It's going to be wonderful for competition locally, country and possibly something state-wide."

Most club members were unable to bid farewell to the outdoor pool due to a major swim meet coinciding with the 'end of an era' celebration.

However there was consolation in the form of another Gippsland Swimming Championships victory over the Labour Day long weekend in Sale.

For updates on the Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre visit [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/GRAC](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/GRAC)



*Children enjoying the 'End of an Era' pool party.*



*An aerial view of the GRAC site with earthworks taking place parallel to Breed Street.*



## After years in the pipeline construction has finally commenced on the Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre.

Past concepts, plans and iterations of the GRAC have come and gone over several decades prior to the \$46 million contribution from the State Government in March 2017.

Since this announcement, Latrobe City Council has worked with the community to re-design the centre to meet and in some cases exceed community expectations.

Council has committed up to \$11 million for this project to ensure every desired component can be realised in the final scope of the project.

It was a day of celebration on 22 March when Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes joined Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing to stand side by side with council to turn the first sod on this long sought project.

"We're ensuring the Latrobe Valley community has access to world class sporting facilities in their own backyard," Ms Symes said.

"The state-of-the-art aquatic centre and (Traralgon) indoor sports stadium will provide benefits to the region for generations to come."

Ms Shing also lent a hand with shovel and took a sledgehammer to the drained Traralgon Outdoor Pool to help launch the demolition process.

"The GRAC will be a huge boost for local pride, competition and liveability in the Valley and it's just one part of our record investment across the region," she said.

"Projects like this are creating local jobs, improving health and wellbeing and will also bring more world-class competition and events to Gippsland for locals to enjoy."

Fencing and site establishment are the initial tasks being undertaken by ADCO, with asbestos removal, demolition and piling ahead in the coming months.

Local resident and project reference group member Judi McLaughlin said it was exciting to see works underway on what she believed would be a facility fit for the entire community.

"It's fantastic. It's been a long time planning various incarnations of the pool but to finally see the ground being turned is great," she said.

"It will also give people who aren't swimmers a chance to use the facility. Toddlers, teenagers with the water slides and even non-swimmers who will use the therapy pools... it's not just for swimmers it's for the whole community really."

Ms McLaughlin said it was also a boon for local employment.

"There'll certainly be ongoing jobs but the jobs during construction it's always good for the community to see people employed," she said.

The 18 month build is expected to be finished by December 2020 for an early 2021 opening.

## Traralgon Sports Stadium

**The Traralgon Sports Stadium is undergoing transformative expansion and upgrade works with Becon Constructions now in control of the Catterick Crescent site.**

Council completed car park upgrades (pictured) in time for use at the Labour Day long weekend tournament staged at the venue before handing the site on to the builders for a \$19 million facelift.

Fencing and site hoarding followed by demolition will be the first tasks before work begins on the upgrade to the centre.

The works will involve a four-court extension to the existing stadium featuring a new show court and spectator seating.

The new courts will be constructed for netball, basketball, volleyball and other indoor sports in addition to an overhaul of the existing indoor stadium and administration areas.

The State Government contributed \$17 million for the project through the LVSCI.

An additional \$2 million secured by Council through Sport and Recreation Victoria's Community Sports Infrastructure Loan Scheme will mean an additional 1500 spectator seats, changing places facility and multipurpose room fitout can be achieved.

3000 seats will make it the largest indoor spectator facility in Gippsland and able to attract and host major events.

Completion is expected in mid-2020.

*Image: An artist impression of the Traralgon Sports Stadium*



For updates on the Traralgon Sports Stadium visit [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/TSS](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/TSS)

### ***What's happening now?***

- Car park upgrades complete
- Fencing, site hoarding and demolition is underway.



*Image: An aerial view of the Traralgon Sports Stadium including the recent car park extension.*

## Morwell Recreation Reserve

**The \$9 million transformation continues at Morwell Recreation Reserve as the old caravan park embarks on its reincarnation as a fully-fledged synthetic football oval.**

Earthworks and excavation are taking place to prepare the site for works on the synthetic field.

It follows the successful completion of new netball courts and a shared pavilion at the opposite end of the reserve and the installation of new light towers on the main oval.

The new facilities have already been well utilised by local user groups and visiting

AFLW clubs at the recent Collingwood versus GWS Giants clash.

The neighbouring Keegan Street Reserve is also receiving some love with local builders Langden Constructions appointed to design and construct new cricket nets.

Four lanes of synthetic nets are in design phase and preliminary drawings have been received for review.

The main pitch is also in line for an upgrade with the detailed design for natural turf and synthetic central wickets complete and out to tender.

Work is expected to begin on this project in May.

### ***What's happening now?***

- Earthworks and excavation are underway for the synthetic oval
- Keegan Street oval redevelopment out for tender
- Netball courts and shared pavilion complete
- New light towers installed

For updates on the Morwell Recreation Reserve visit [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/MRR](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/MRR)



*Image: Earthworks and excavation for a synthetic oval are taking place at Morwell Recreation Reserve.*

## Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Stadium



*Image: The new synthetic pitch at Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Stadium is almost ready for handover.*

### Works are in full flight at the Birds' nest as the brand new synthetic pitch takes shape at the Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Stadium.

The surface is down and line marking is complete with lighting currently being installed.

Junior soccer players are already enjoying the benefits of the all-weather surface with local training already taking place on the pitch.

Barrier netting to the south of the pitch is also being installed with a final handover to user groups to follow.

The synthetic pitch will allow year-round multipurpose use and enhances the venue's status as Gippsland's regional soccer centre for excellence.

The State Government provided \$1.7 million for upgrades to the facility as part of the LVSCI.



*Image: The existing site, prior to works existing*

### What's happening now?

- Surface is down and line marking is complete.
- Lighting currently being installed.

For updates on the Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Centre visit [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/LCSES](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/LCSES)

## Ted Summerton Reserve



*Image: Ted Summerton Reserve hosted a Big Bash League match this Summer and will soon feature a brand new Centre of Excellence.*

### The Big Bash may have come and gone but the excitement continues at Moe's Ted Summerton Reserve.

Hot off the heels of the historic fixture between the Melbourne Stars and Adelaide Strikers, Latrobe City is on the front foot when it comes to construction of the \$3.5 million cricket centre of excellence at the ground.

Local company Langden Constructions has been awarded the design and construct tender for the facility, with works due to begin in early April with works now underway.

#### What's happening now?

- Design and construct contract awarded.
- Works have commenced.
- Completion expected late 2019.

Once complete the centre will feature a state of the art indoor cricket training centre kitted out with cutting edge technology to facilitate high-level coaching and player education.

The centre will be multi-purpose, catering to a diverse cross-section of community groups and sporting clubs.

Four outdoor turf training wickets have also been included in the final design.

The project is due for completion in late 2019.

For updates on the Ted Summerton Reserve visit [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/TSR](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/TSR)



*Image: Big Bash League attracted the local community and visitors to Ted Summerton Reserve.*



## Traralgon Tennis Centre

The \$400,000 Traralgon Tennis Centre upgrade was completed in May 2018.

Works involved the redevelopment of 14 tennis courts and replacement of court perimeter fencing to ensure the facility could continue to accommodate internationally significant events and provide high quality facilities for local tennis players.

*Image: Traralgon Tennis Centre's \$400,000 upgrade has been well received by locals and visiting athletes.*



## Traralgon Croquet Club

A new croquet facility at Glenview Park has been completed and has been handed over to the Traralgon Croquet Club.

The multipurpose clubrooms and playing surface are due to be fully operational in coming weeks.

The previous site at Hubert Osborne Park will be utilised as part of the GRAC project.

*Image: The new Traralgon Croquet Club site.*