

Latrobe City *Sporting a new look*

A rapid series of major recreation projects has re-defined the Latrobe Valley as a Victorian juggernaut when it comes to sport and leisure infrastructure.

The recent completion of a \$19 million overhaul of the Traralgon Sports Stadium is the latest addition to the region's expanse of new and upgraded active recreation facilities.

It joins Morwell Recreation Reserve, Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Centre, Ted Summerton Reserve and Traralgon Tennis Club on the list of venues upgraded over the past three years, with the Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre still to follow.

Check out some of the latest highlights in this edition of our major recreation projects newsletter.

These projects are primarily funded by Latrobe Valley Authority's \$85 million sports and community initiative and the Victorian Government.



Top: Traralgon Sports Stadium
Middle: Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre
Bottom: Morwell Recreation Reserve



Traralgon Sports Stadium

COMPLETED

View of the showcourt with overhead function/viewing room.

The Traralgon Sports Stadium is bigger and better than ever following a \$19 million makeover.

Now featuring nine courts, a show court with 3000 retractable spectator seats, office space, training rooms, cafeteria and more, the revitalised centre is among the leading indoor facilities in Victoria.

Traralgon Amateur Basketball Association (TABA) enjoyed a brief re-introduction to training at the world class stadium and will be champing at the bit for full immersion post-COVID 19.

TABA is one of many user groups primed to take full advantage of the expanded centre and Secretary Jeff White said it was a major boon for local sport and active recreation at large.

"It's only going to help grow and develop our sport especially but also other sports that use the facility."

Participation will be at a premium once the facility returns to normal operation.

Expanded opportunities for training and competitions will ensure more court time for people across a range of sports, ages and abilities.

"With our rep(resentative) program we're hoping to see a lot more of our teams training side by side and on the same nights and develop more camaraderie," Jeff said.

"It will also enhance the development of our coaches because our coaching director will see more teams at once and how they're operating, training and what they're trying to achieve.



Take a virtual tour of the new Traralgon Sports Stadium with Latrobe City's Larry Sengstock by visiting <https://bit.ly/34h1xKP>



"Everything's been extremely positive; it's a great space. To have access to nine basketball courts in

regional Victoria is an outstanding achievement for Latrobe City and the region," Jeff said.

"The development should see some fast-tracking there both for the players and also the coaches."

The overhaul also positions TSS as a major player for event attraction.

Already the stadium has been earmarked for the 2021 and 2022 under 14 Victorian Country Championships, and the site meets all standards to host international level games and events.

As one of Basketball Victoria's elite training hubs TSS will ensure aspiring young players will have the very best chance to take their game to the next level – a pathway Jeff is familiar with.

His son Jack played United States college basketball at the prestigious Duke University under the renowned 'Coach K' and recently signed a deal back home with Melbourne United in the NBL.

Jeff said world class facilities available in the region would mean more opportunity for kids to follow in Jack's giant footsteps.

"The State Government's funding elite hubs and Traralgon's one of those. It's a great central point. I know with my son growing up it wasn't open enough so we had to travel to train. The stadium will be open more regularly and it will attract other sports," Jeff said.

"We want to encourage people coming into the area and supporting local business. It's a great asset to the community and hopefully it will see our sport along with others continue to grow and prosper."

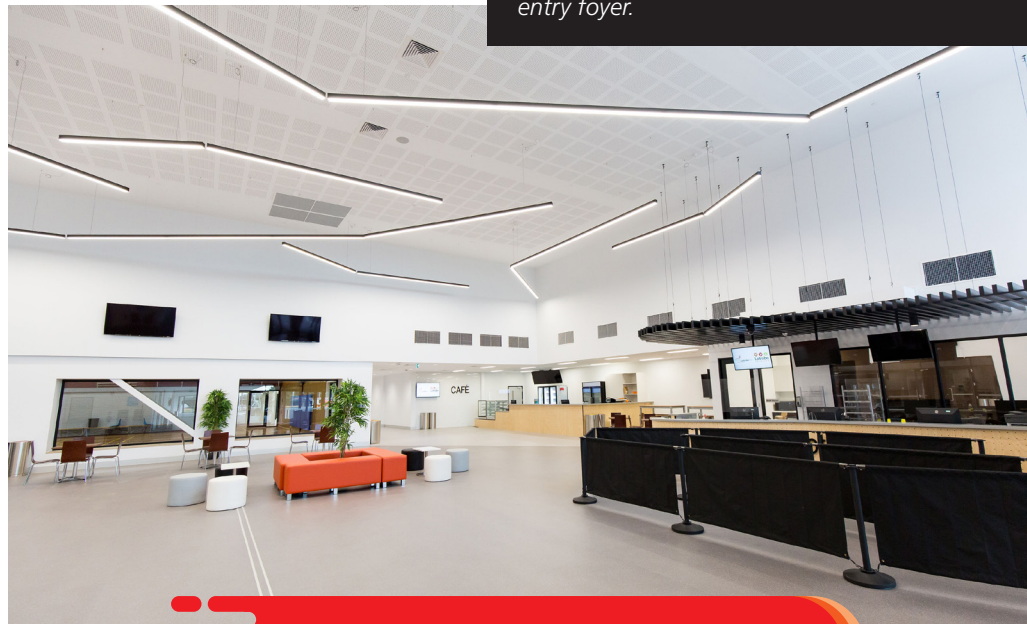
But it's not just a haven for the next Andrew Bogut, Chelsea D'Angelo or Jack White – the centre is, first and foremost, about community.

"We're a bunch of volunteers that put together a competition for the local community to use an asset provided by local council and the State Government... to keep people happy, healthy and give them a chance to play a game many of us do love."

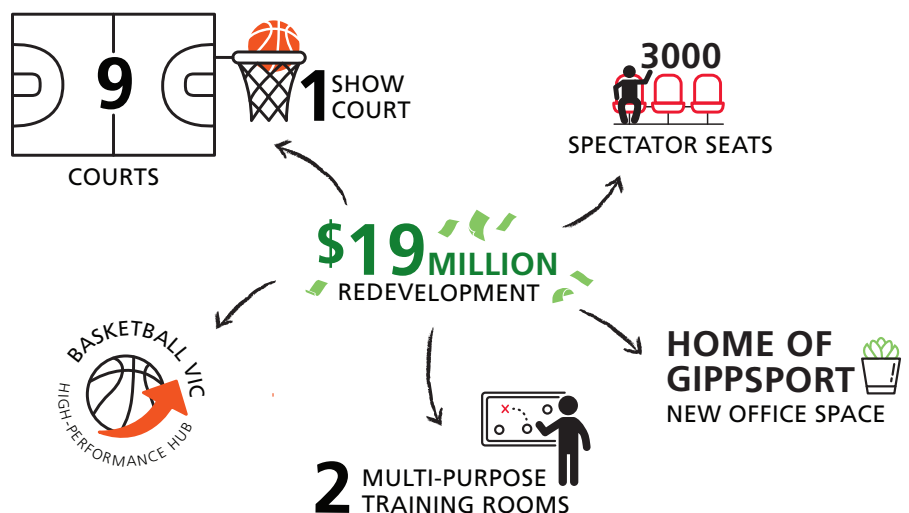
Now the passion for the game is well and truly matched by the quality of facility.

The \$19 million Traralgon Sports Stadium redevelopment was funded by \$17 million from the Latrobe Valley Authority's \$85 million sports and community initiative and \$2 million from Sport and Recreation Victoria's Community Sports Infrastructure Loan Scheme.

Below: Traralgon Sports Stadium indoor entry foyer.



FAST FACTS



Latrobe Valley Sports and Community Initiative



In progress



Complete



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 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 lane synthetic training wickets
- Cutting edge training and coaching technology
- Outdoor training area



Traralgon Tennis Centre \$400,000

- 14 courts resurfaced
- New perimeter fencing



Catterick Crescent on the rise

Traralgon Sports Stadium's next-door neighbour Catterick Crescent is also undergoing a major renovation.

New cricket training nets have been installed, the turf wickets have been re-aligned – complete with irrigation works - and a shared pavilion is taking shape on site.

The pavilion frame is complete, brickwork has been installed and the build is on track for completion in late August or early September.

This \$1.2 million project was co-funded by Latrobe Valley Authority and Latrobe City Council.

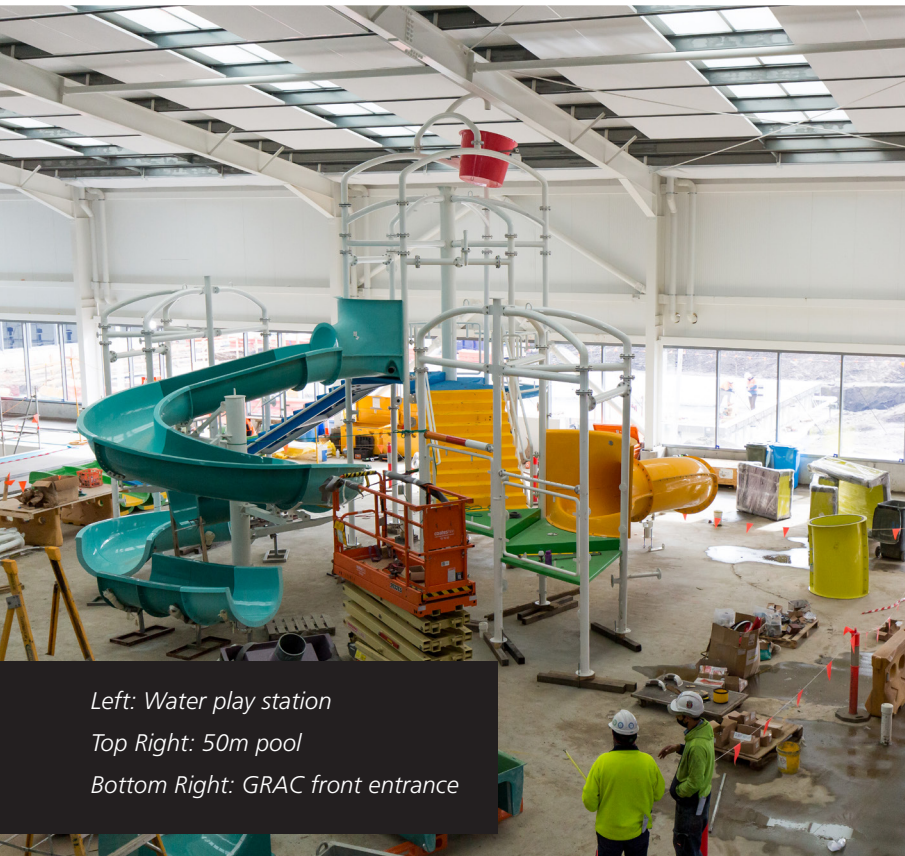
Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre



Top: GRAC pre-lockdown versus
Bottom: Current

The Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre is visual proof that time – and work – marches on amid lockdown.

An unbelievable transformation is nearing completion at Hubert Osborne Park as the \$57 million GRAC continues its monolithic erection at the site of the former Traralgon outdoor pool.



Left: Water play station

Top Right: 50m pool

Bottom Right: GRAC front entrance



Among the features currently cascading into existence is a pipeline of wet and wild wonders which will pool together to form a splashing aqua-play area.

Twin water slides will be installed in the coming weeks, snaking in and out of the main building before looping back inside the centre, with the slide tower to the east of the centre currently being clad in blue. Also on display is the construction of water guns, showers, floor jets, bubblers, tipping buckets and more contributing to an exciting hub for locals and tourists alike.

This area sits adjacent to the toddlers' pool and learn to swim / leisure pool as well as the main water slide runouts.

Fun and frivolity aren't the only features fast-tracking at the GRAC, with a frenzy of activity forging ahead under the lead of ADCO Constructions.

All five pools have now been installed with internal concourses poured along with screeding and drainage prior to floor tiling.

The outdoor 25 metre pool has been installed along with surrounding pipework and backfilling.

The spectator seating at the main 50 metre pool is under construction and will cater for 500 people once complete.

Glazing installation is continuing with works undertaken by Morwell Shop Fitters.

Road installation is occurring to the west and south of the centre with works by local company, Fowlers Asphalting.

A host of local contractors and suppliers have contributed to the project including:

- Moncur Civil
- Weldtek
- GBG Concrete
- Miller's Plumbing
- CME Installations
- Law & Somerville
- Carpet Country



Seen here is the makings of twin water slides which will snake in and out of the centre.



Geothermal work warming up

The Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre will be the first public aquatic facility in Victoria to incorporate a deep bore geothermal heating system.

An environmentally friendly, sustainable energy source, geothermal energy will assist in significantly reducing carbon footprint while also aiding in annual energy cost savings.

The production and injection bores have been completed - drilling works were conducted by local company Drilltec - and the pipework linking the bores has been installed.

The pump has arrived and is scheduled for installation in the production bore in September with the system set to be operational in October.

Local companies Laser Plumbing and AusGeothermal are working on the mechanical implementation aspect of this project.



The GRAC project is due for completion in late 2020 ahead of an early 2021 opening.

The \$57 million GRAC project is funded by \$46 million from the Latrobe Valley Authority's \$85 million Latrobe Valley Sports and Community Initiative, an \$8 million loan to Latrobe City Council from Sport and Recreation Victoria's Community Sports Infrastructure loan scheme and a contribution of up to \$3 million from Latrobe City Council.



To view an explanatory video about the geothermal system visit www.bit.ly/2m05orA



Left: Permaglass being installed in the injection bore.

Right: Pipework being installed in the ground.



Morwell Recreation Reserve

From the shiny green turf of the synthetic at the western edge to the blue hue of new netball courts in the east, the Morwell Recreation Reserve has undergone a transcendent transformation.

Throw in the reborn Keegan Street Reserve – with new grass ready to sprig through the spring – and you have a multisport complex the envy of any across Victoria.

A \$9 million renovation – funded by the federal and state governments – has all but been completed at the historic Gippsland site, and Tiger Town is abuzz.

“We’ve been using it as a point of difference. We use it as part of our business case. The facilities are best by far for football and netball going around,” Morwell Football Netball Club President Paul Spagnolo said.

As local company Langden Constructions applies the finishing touches by redeveloping the ageing

change room facilities the scope of transmutation draws sharply into focus.

Where once weary asphalt welcomed visitors by the Travers Street entrance, now stands a vibrant and enticing court complex, complete with a shared pavilion for cricket and netball.

A tired old caravan park abandoned by travellers and time has found new life as a full-size synthetic field compatible with sports of all varieties in all weather conditions.

Lighting upgrades have put excellence back in the spotlight, literally and figuratively, as Morwell hangs its hat on a truly world class precinct.

“We focus in on the Morwell Rec Reserve being the centre of excellence for AFL in the region,” he said.

“No doubt it’s helped bring AFL games; we had the Collingwood St Kilda and the Hawthorn St Kilda games earlier this year and we

hope for many more of those to come our way in the future.”

A wet and wild winter has already proven the worth of the synthetic addition to the ground – used ‘flat out’ by the club and neighbours Gippsland Power before COVID disrupted the season.

“They love it... the surface is great, the lighting is excellent and they really appreciate it – it caps off being the best facility in the area,” Spagnolo said.

“It’s a game changer for us. We would get chased off the main oval (due to wet weather), if we were playing this year it would be quite challenging being so wet. For us now we can change it around and reduce the load.”

As warmer months approach and, hopefully, a pandemic subsides, the Morwell Recreation Reserve is set and ready for re-emergence to enjoy a long stint in the sun.

The \$9 million Morwell Recreation Reserve project was co-funded by the federal and state governments.