

4.1 MOORABOOL SHIRE

Over half of Moorabool Shire's population lives in the township of Bacchus Marsh and its surrounds (approximately 19,032) (2021). Approximately 8,200 live in the suburb of Bacchus Marsh. This is likely to increase to approximately 13,600 by 2041 (Draft Open Space Strategy 2022).

The population projections for Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley small areas forecast an increase in population from 12,981 (2021) to 19,030 (2041). Refer to Table 2.

Table 2 Population projections - Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley combined.

LOCALITY	2021		2041	
	UNDER 15 YRS	OVER 15 YEARS	UNDER 15 YRS	OVER 15 YEARS
Bacchus Marsh	1,611	6,682	2,776	10,851
Maddingley	1,128	3,560	1,210	4,194
SUB TOTAL	2,739	10,242	3,986	15,044
TOTAL	12,981		19,030	

The forecast annual growth for Maddingley between 2016 to 2041 is 1.7%, which is less than the overall Shire average of 2.7%. Bacchus Marsh has forecast annual growth of 2.9%, slightly greater than the overall Shire average.

For Moorabool, the greatest percentage increases between 2016 and 2041 will occur in the following service age groups:

- Parents and home-builders (35 to 49 yrs) – 21.5%
- Young workforce (25 to 34 yrs) – 13.5%
- Primary schoolers (5 to 11 yrs) – 11%
- Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59 yrs) – 10.7%
- Seniors (70 to 84 yrs) – 9.3%

4.2 MADDINGLEY

For Maddingley, the 2016 data showed that females comprised 50.9% of the population and males 49.1%, almost identical to the greater Melbourne area average.

Average household size per dwelling remained at 3 persons between 2011 and 2016, higher than the greater Melbourne average of 2.6 persons.

For Maddingley, the greatest percentage increases between 2016 and 2041 will occur in the following service age groups:

- Parents and home-builders (35 to 49 yrs) – 21.5%
- Young workforce (25 to 34 yrs) – 13.5%
- Primary schoolers (5 to 11 yrs) – 11%
- Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59 yrs) – 10.7%
- Seniors (70 to 84 yrs) – 9.3%

4.3 BACCHUS MARSH

For Bacchus Marsh, the 2016 data showed that females comprised 52.3% of the population and males 47.2%, a divergence of 1.8% from the greater Melbourne area average.

Average household size per dwelling remained at 2 persons between 2011 and 2016, lower than the greater Melbourne average of 2.6 persons.

For Bacchus Marsh, the greatest percentage increases between 2016 and 2041 will occur in the following service age groups:

- Parents and home-builders (35 to 49 yrs) – 22%
- Young workforce (25 to 34 yrs) – 12.9%
- Seniors (70 to 84 yrs) – 11%
- Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59 yrs) – 10.8%
- Primary schoolers (5 to 11 yrs) – 9.7%

4.4 SOCIAL FACTORS

The analysis undertaken in the preparation of the Draft Open Space Strategy found that:

“**The demographics in Bacchus Marsh illustrate a relatively high proportion of people experiencing social disadvantage compared to Moorabool as a whole and slightly higher than for regional Victoria, however it is a community with average income levels, employment and tertiary education qualifications. It has a slightly higher proportion of households with children than for regional Victoria and people with a disability than for both Moorabool and regional Victoria.**”

4.5 SPORT AND RECREATION TRENDS

Participation rates or additional detail was not provided in the OS for Bacchus Marsh/ Maddingley. Therefore, this information was sourced from www.sportaus.gov.au and www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/ausplay

All data provided was for 2021.

Sport and recreation participation rates for Moorabool are:

- Adults – 89.2%
- Children – 72.4%

The top sporting and recreational activities for all genders in Moorabool are:

- Walking (recreational) – 39.9%
- Fitness / Gym – 25.2%
- Swimming – 15.3%
- Australian Football – 8.7%
- Running Athletics – 8.6%
- Bushwalking – 5.9%

The top sporting and recreation activities for Females in Moorabool are:

- Walking (recreational) – 52.6%
- Fitness / Gym – 28.7%
- Swimming – 17.1%

The top sporting and recreational activities for males in Moorabool are:

- Walking (recreational) – 24.3%
- Fitness / Gym – 20.8%
- Australian Football – 19.3%

4.6 SPORTS PARTICIPATION - MOORABOOL SHIRE

No sports participation data was provided for Moorabool Shire specifically, so the adjacent municipalities of Ballarat and Melton have been used to provide guidance.

The following Table 3 indicates an estimate of participation rates for Moorabool Shire based on an average of the data for the municipalities of Ballarat and Melton.

Table 3 Estimates of sports participation rates for Moorabool Shire, based on adjacent municipalities

SPORT	BALLARAT	MELTON	AVERAGE
Australian Rules Football	3.9%	4.6%	4.3%
Basketball	4.5%	3.5%	4.0%
Football/Soccer	3.8%	3.0%	3.4%
Tennis	4.0%	2.3%	3.1%
Cricket	3.9%	2.1%	3.0%
Running/Athletics	2.8%	Data not available	2.8%
Netball	3.9%	1.4%	2.5%
Golf	2.6%	1.9%	2.2%
Hockey	2.2%	Data not available	2.2%
Bowls	1.9%	Data not available	1.9%





4.7 SPORT AND RECREATION PARTICIPATION TRENDS - VICTORIA

AusPlay (www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/ausplay) data indicates that participation rates for non-organised sport and non-sporting physical activities have increased by more than 20% from 2001 to 2020 (vicsport.com.au).

AusPlay predicts that the non-club, social sports and physical activities that increased during the pandemic will continue to grow in popularity.

Top ten activities with increased participation in 2020 are:

- Walking (recreational)
- Running/athletics
- Cycling
- Bushwalking
- Swimming
- Yoga
- Golf
- Tennis
- Fishing (recreational)
- Mountain biking

4.8 SUMMARY

While not growing at the same rate as some of the other parts of Moorabool Shire, Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley will continue to experience demand for access to sporting and recreational open space. Changes to age profiles indicate the most significant increases in the 25 to 59 year age range.

Participation rates for all activities show a greater increase in non-organised activities, such as walking.

Sporting participation rates are potentially highest for a number of outdoor sports already represented at Maddingley Park – Australian football, tennis and Cricket.

Regardless of the demands of a growing population and an increasing demand for sporting facilities, Maddingley Park is not capable of accommodating additional facilities without the existing recreational and historical values being compromised. Redevelopment of new facilities on other sites within the Shire may be able to take some of the load off Maddingley Park.

Figures for the COVID restrictions period show a significant change to the normal activities and participation rates. It is likely that some activities will maintain the increased level of participation, while there would also be a return to traditional activities over time.

5.0 COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION



To inform the masterplan, consultation / engagement activities were undertaken to clarify the needs and wishes of the community.

This included:

- An online community survey.
- Individual discussions with key park stakeholder groups:
 - Bacchus Marsh Football Netball Club.
 - Bacchus Marsh Cricket Club
 - Friends of Maddingley Park
 - Obtaining a written submission from the Bacchus Marsh Lawn Tennis Club

Additionally, discussions were undertaken with regional sporting bodies representing the existing park users.

This included:

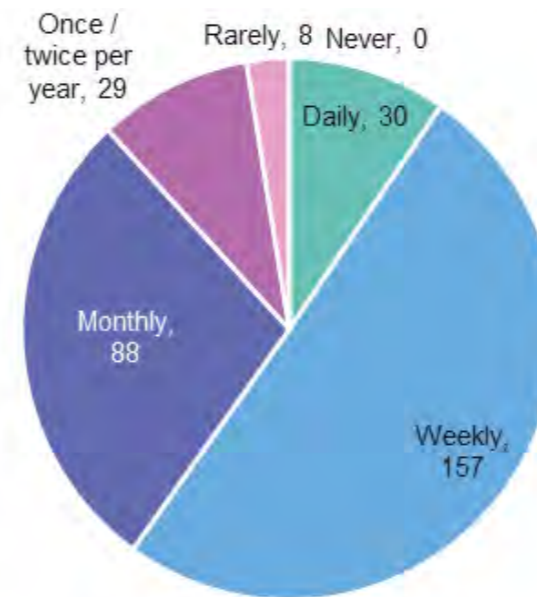
- AFL Goldfields.
- Tennis Victoria
- Cricket Victoria.

5.1 COMMUNITY ONLINE SURVEY

The on-line survey was active from the end of April to the end of May 2022, with 312 responses received.

The following section summarise the results of the multiple choice and rating questions. There were also opportunities for respondents to provide free form written feedback. A more detailed overview of the survey results is contained in "Appendix D - Community Survey Results" on page 71.

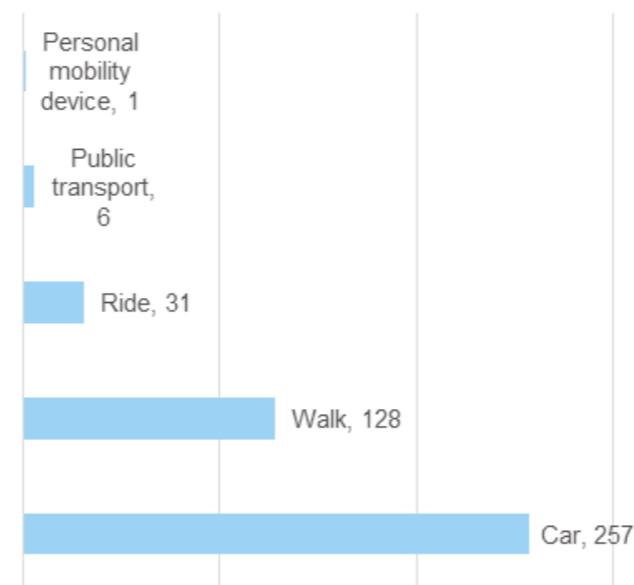
How often do you visit Maddingley Park?



How far do you live from Maddingley Park?



How do you typically get to Maddingley Park? (Multiple responses permitted)

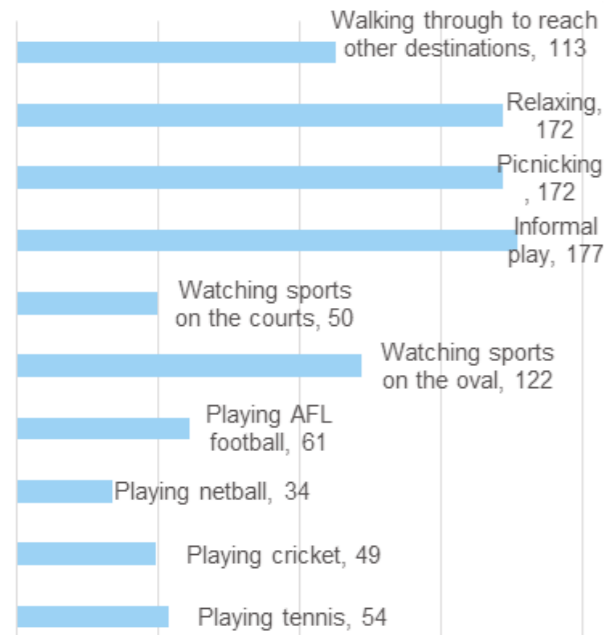


How long would you typically stay at Maddingley Park for?



What activities do you and your household use Maddingley Park for?

(Multiple responses permitted)



Regarding the number of parking spaces which are available to users of Maddingley Park:

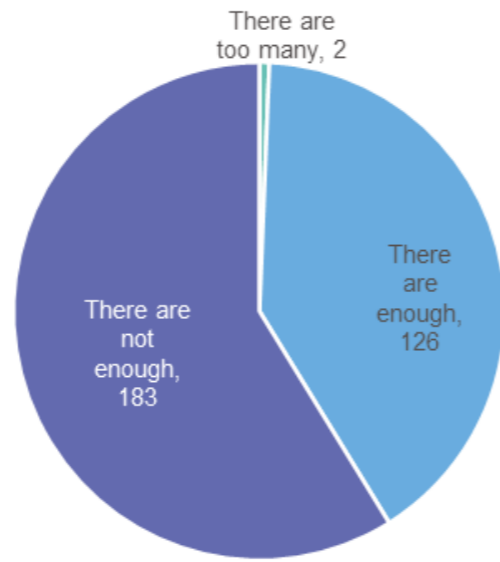


Table 4 How would you rate the overall physical condition of the parks recreational facilities?

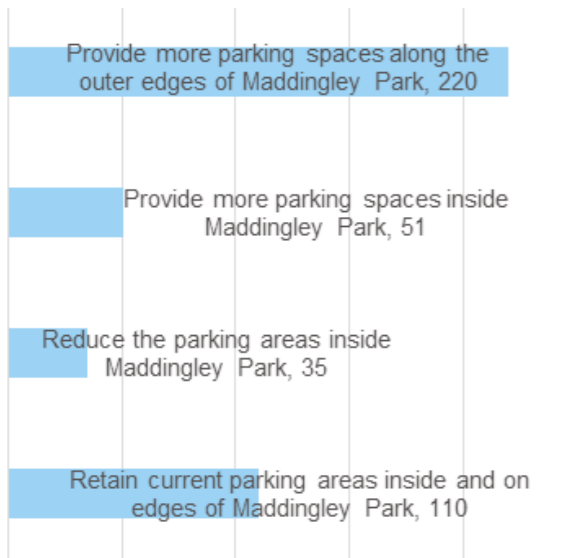
	Not Sure	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Playground	14	52	123	102	19
Lawn spaces	2	58	101	123	21
Tree canopy	5	32	106	126	35
Ornamental gardens	11	99	125	60	13
Picnic shelters	8	95	134	66	6
BBQs	39	97	117	49	5
Toilets	11	152	95	48	2
Pathways	1	44	120	122	19
Pathway lighting	53	103	96	49	7

Table 5 How important are the following recreational facilities to you / your household?

	Not at all	Slightly	Moderately	Very	Extremely
Playground	40	42	42	64	117
Lawn spaces	7	33	70	128	66
Tree canopy	13	39	57	119	78
Ornamental gardens	34	55	79	87	52
Picnic shelters	11	43	67	113	72
BBQs	28	66	78	77	55
Toilets	4	27	35	111	128
Pathways	3	32	70	120	78
Pathway lighting	15	49	62	103	73

How would you prefer to see car parking provided?

(Multiple responses permitted)



Regarding the heritage and historic features of Maddingley Park:

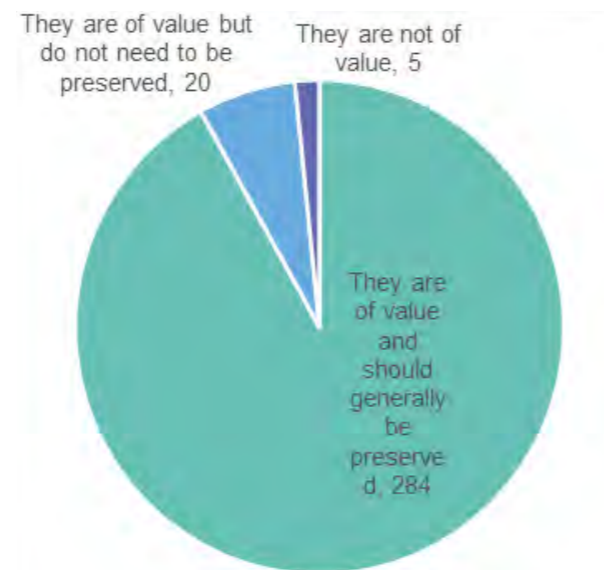


Table 6 How important are the following sporting facilities to you / your household?

	Not at all	Slightly	Moderately	Very	Extremely	Combined total: Very + Extremely
Netball	143	45	52	26	42	68
Tennis	120	54	67	33	29	62
Australian Rules Football	77	41	63	62	65	127
Cricket	110	40	53	35	57	92
Oval spectator areas	70	31	59	68	77	145
Court spectator areas	99	46	64	45	50	95

5.2 STAKEHOLDER GROUP ENGAGEMENT

The following feedback was received from discussions with key stakeholder groups with a significant interest in Maddingley Park.



5.2.1 BACCHUS MARSH FOOTBALL AND NETBALL CLUB (BMFNC)

Netball

The key points raised are summarised below:

- Just under half of the club are netballers.
- The netball facilities are now shared with European netball, with up to 32 people potentially on the single court and at the covered facility at the one time.
- The existing undercover facilities are located a significant distance from the main pavilion and the club/change rooms, and lack changerooms, toilets and medical facilities.
- The separation of the netball facilities from the main club facilities affects the combined club socially.
- The club's ideal outcome would be that the existing netball facility is retained as a training facility with a new court located near the corner of Station Street and Grant Street on space freed up by a new, consolidated pavilion and changeroom.

Australian Rules Football

The key points raised are summarised below:

- The buildings are problematic, primarily in relation to gender problems and DDA access. A key concern is the lack of female specific facilities in the pavilion and changeroom.
- There are only 2 showers, with one exit and the rooms are so small that you can't fit in medical tables. There is also a lack of storage
- Sometimes people use the public toilets in the middle of the park because the pavilion toilets are at capacity
- The outdoor deck concept works, but it's in the wrong spot for football viewing. People prefer to stand on the deck in winter as it is protected from the south to south-westerly winds. The deck is also great socially, but not the best spot to view the game as views are very easily get blocked.
- The brick stand is the best place to view football, but it is not comfortable as it is very windy and cold.
- The separation between football and netball facilities means that the club not unified physically and therefore socially.
- The heritage is seen as being important as the oval configuration was established around federation, with the old fence believed to be from the MCG. The River Red Gums are also seen as significant.
- The club understands that due to heritage constraints, the optimum arrangement of courts and buildings is not achievable.
- The club believes that they will need new rooms in about 3 years. Reconfiguring the existing facility may blow out the cost and make it unachievable in the timeframe needed. It may be more achievable to do something more affordable and less invasive.
- The club has some money to put into any redevelopment, but it would need to be achievable, in a prompt timeframe.
- Ideally, the club would demolish the building in the deck area, as it's the worst place to watch football from.
- They see a two-storey club facility as being viable, with a new netball court located in the southwest corner of the park.
- The netball club would be happy with that suggestion, with the current court maintained as a training facility, with some upgrades. In this scenario, the scoreboards could be used for netball too.
- The oval, layout and oval lighting are adequate.
- Most people park in the area along Grant Street.

5.2.2 BACCHUS MARSH CRICKET CLUB (BMCC)

The key points raised are summarised below:

- The club would like turf pitches to allow for participation in a higher standard competition.
- The oval orientation is a little off the ideal, but a new turf pitch could be oriented the right way, even if the oval can't be. The oval could be made smaller without affecting the club. They are currently moving cones in by 3m from the oval fence at the moment during matches.
- The cricket nets are in a poor state and need replacing. Adequate run up distance is required.
- The clubrooms and changerooms are old and have been updated over time as funds allow.
- The footballer's canteen is at the southern end of the oval, which is some distance for netballers wanting to use this facility.
- The football club uses canteen for food, and the deck bar for drinks. The cricket club uses the deck bar more due to the warmer seasons.
- The old pump shed between the oval and the netball courts used to be a canteen.
- The oval lights are suitable for practice but not great for games. Lighting is on their wish list as it would allow games to be played later.
- Advertising signage brings in a lot of revenue for the club and they would be reluctant to reduce or consolidate it.
- The club has concerns about whether a suggested "town square" space north of the oval would function and its impacts on the use of the nets. Also, there is no access to toilets in this location, if it were to cater for wider community use.
- The drainage of the oval is poor due to it previously being a grassed velodrome. They believe that the condition rating of the oval is poor.
- The representatives were supportive of the "softscape" of the park – the grass and trees and would like to see this improved. They are also supportive of a lake/wetland.
- Events in the park (e.g. the markets) have been "great", even when there are sporting matches on – "there's plenty of room so the park can accommodate everyone".
- They are also supportive of holding events on the oval (e.g. car show, carols by candlelight, concerts) when it's not in use for sporting matches. The proximity to the train station is really useful in facilitating access.
- Better social facilities would be good. Football and cricket seasons overlap a bit with training, but not so much in the use of the social spaces. They have a pretty good relationship with the football club and can share social spaces.
- They don't want the park and facilities to be a concrete jungle – they want it to be comfortable on hot days, so greenery and shade are important.
- The parking is just adequate, but it would be good to formalise it. There is a bit of an issue trying to fit all the cars for training.

Note: The Cricket Club is moving most of its operations to a new purpose-built facility at Racecourse Reserve. This new facility will have turf pitches, nets and lighting. It is anticipated by Cricket Victoria, that the facilities at Maddingley Park would be used at a junior level, playing on a synthetic pitch.

5.2.3 BACCHUS MARSH LAWN TENNIS CLUB (BMLTC)

The key points raised are summarised below:

- BMLTC has made financial contributions to the current shared facility of the two public courts/netball court, including lighting.
- BMLTC are concerned with any proposal to take their existing Court 7 and one of the public courts, and develop a new netball court, as this would leave the club two courts down on their existing provision.
- The netball club moved from two netball courts at the Bond St area of the park to one netball court at the current site. BMLTC are concerned that, in order to increase netball capacity, their assets are required to accommodate this. They question if the park is the right location to accommodate the required netball courts and supporting facilities.
- BMLTC note that the Shire recently relinquished two public tennis courts at Darley Park and query if a further reduction at Maddingley Park will meet public demand.
- The heritage clubhouse requires refurbishment, as it currently has no disabled access to clubrooms/toilets, and the street access is poor.
- The clubhouse kitchen needs replacing. With an updated kitchen and disabled access, the club would be in a much better position to hire out the facility creating a much-needed injection of funds.
- As a Sun Smart club, BMLTC see shade around viewing areas as a priority and their committee is currently working on grant applications and fund raising to assist with this.
- BMLTC are currently in discussions regarding the integration of the "Book a Court" system, with a council grant being secured to part fund this project. Further fund raising by members will be required.
- Courts 1-3 will need resurfacing in the next 2-3 years and all courts need ongoing maintenance.
- Water bottle filling stations are required for courts 8-10.
- BMLTC see the proposed shared use path (SUP) on the south side of Taverner St as a significant safety enhancement which should be prioritized.
- Formal marked bitumen parking bays should be constructed on the south side of Taverner St along with drainage improvements, in conjunction with the SUP.
- Security lighting should also be provided to the parking area on Taverner Street.
- BMLTC see their point of difference is as a lawn tennis club. They are one of the last lawn tennis facilities proximate to metropolitan Melbourne.
- The existing footprints for courts 1-3 and 4-7 do not allow for regulation court spacing.
- Bacchus Marsh Cricket Club

5.2.4 FRIENDS OF MADDINGLEY PARK

The key points raised are summarised below:

- Friends of Maddingley Park was established to help maintain the Park because it was apparent that Council wasn't providing adequate funding for capital works and maintenance.
- As the Maddingley Park Committee of Management no longer operates, the Friends group find it difficult to engage with Council in any initiative or to resolve issues.
- The rose garden is one of the main park features developed by the Friends group. It was built through community donations, of plants and materials, as well as monetary contributions. The rose garden, and another area of planting near the rotunda, are maintained by the Friends group. As a result, there is significant community interest in its future.
- The Friends had previously planted other garden beds, but these were removed by Council and grassed over.
- The Friends have a wish list of actions, which include plans to reinstate the paths and garden beds on the mound area.
- Recent Council plantings haven't contributed to the grand garden feel. The Friends didn't like the oak trees that council put in as the particular species doesn't provide a display of coloured leaves in autumn.
- The Friends support the recommendations of the draft Master Plan.
- Any upgrade of the parks ornamental landscape would require a dedicated caretaker.
- The Park is well used by children, with the playground being a particular attraction, so interactive water play may be appropriate. Additionally, something for teens would be good too, such as something challenging like climbing / flying fox. Teens should be encouraged to visit too and not be bored.
- With regards to new inclusions into the park, a children's garden could be incorporated into a new play area.
- The Friends support reinstatement of the sun dial. However, trees may have been planted where the sundial used to be.
- The idea of a wetland/ lake is highly supported, as is the potential for water harvesting to allow irrigation of park lawn and gardens.
- Loss of any part of the rose garden to allow for the expansion of netball facilities is not supported. Given its association with the community volunteers, its removal would mean loss of their support.
- The old kiosk near the rose garden is an eyesore without any benefit. It should be removed and the space used for something else.
- Car use conflicts with the recreational park uses. Additionally, the lawns are damaged. All cars should be kept out of the Park.
- Major pathways should be upgraded so that maintenance vehicles don't damage the surface.
- Entrances to the Park need improving. Many signs are an eyesore. The proposed signage and entry treatments in the draft Master Plan are supported.
- The toilet is not fit for purpose and needs to be replaced. Something near the entrances is supported, and ideally, in multiple locations. They need to be close to where the elderly and children are.

5.2.5 AFL GOLDFIELDS

The key points raised are summarised below:

Bacchus Marsh is a growth area for AFL and the oval at Maddingley Park is seen as a “premier” level facility.

With forecasted growth, additional AFL women's teams are anticipated.

Any proposals should future proof opportunities for women's and junior competitions. – Note: AFL Goldfields was not aware that the junior oval at Siberia is to be removed as part of the BMSP project. This would have implications for the provision of junior football at the park.

Despite the development of facilities at Racecourse Reserve, it is expected that the Bacchus Marsh Football and Netball Club would remain at Maddingley Park.

The inclusion of netball in the club provides a point of difference with few clubs in the region catering for both AFL and netball.

Under the AFL guidelines/hierarchy, the facility is defined as being of a local level. As such it should have adequate change, umpire and social facilities. Minimum change facility sizes are 50 to 75sqm. State level facilities require 90sqm per change room. - NB: the “local” definition for AFL is different to the Open Space strategy definition of “local”.

A minimum of 4 change rooms are required. This can be provided as individual spaces or as one large space able to be partitioned into 4 separate spaces when required.

150-200sqm is considered an appropriate size for social facilities. It should be noted that BMFNC is considered to be a large club with over 400 AFL members alone.

Consideration should be given to providing appropriate umpires meeting and change rooms. Flexible / partitionable spaces providing for gathering and meeting, with adjoining ensuites for males and females are ideal.

The current lighting, at 100lux, is suitable for play but not for spectating. 150lux is the AFL standard. Ideally, any new lighting should have adjustable lux levels.

The AFL contributes to the Country Football and Netball Program. Depending on annual funding cycles, funding for pavilion development may be available. Additionally, the AFL Australian Football Facility Fund has a program of grants up to a \$50,000 maximum, dependant on funding cycle.

5.2.6 CRICKET VICTORIA

The following observations were provided:

- Participation numbers have remained stable over the last few years (Apart from COVID).
- There are 3 women's clubs in the Moorabool area, a number described as “impressive”.
- The “Junior Blasters” cricket program has approximately 50 participants in Moorabool.

From a facilities perspective:

- The pavilion and change rooms are in a “dire” state and need replacing.
- The grass surface is in good condition, but a different type of turf to other ovals.
- The oval has an historic attraction. It is a nice character ground to play on, particularly with the historic fence and parkland.
- The lighting is inadequate for twilight matches.

What access to facilities at Racecourse Reserve means for the Cricket Club:

- If the Racecourse Reserve facility has turf pitches, then it will become the focus of play.
- If that is the case, then Maddingley Park oval would become more junior focussed, and a synthetic pitch would be appropriate.
- A junior club could cope with 3 practice nets – 1 community net and 2 dedicated club nets. Net run ups which don't utilise the playing surface are preferred if space allows. Nets should be located outside of the line of view of the batsperson along the pitch.
- Lighting upgrade for twilight matches is not required for junior play.

5.2.7 TENNIS VICTORIA - COUNTRY CENTRAL WEST

The following observations were provided:

- The number of lawn courts are progressively reducing across Victoria, primarily as a result of high maintenance need but also the demand for all season use.
- The lawn tennis season is typically 8 months in length, with most courts unavailable for use during winter.
- There is still a high level of demand for lawn courts, particularly with older people, given the softer surface is more forgiving on joints.
- The only remaining courts in the country central west region of a sufficient number to host a tournament are at Horsham and Bacchus Marsh.
- Most tournaments typically involve 50 to 300 players. However, the annual Country Week hosts 1,000 players.
- The “book a court” system will improve access for the public.

Tennis Victoria would like to see:

- No loss of courts.
- Improved DDA access and overall amenity throughout the court complex and pavilion.
- Improved clubhouse / pavilion facilities.
- Upgraded energy efficient LED lighting.
- Funding opportunities currently exist through the Venue Improvement grant