

Murtoa

Recreation Reserve



A community connected to its land and wellbeing

Yarriambiack Shire is in the heartland of the Wimmera Southern Mallee in North West Victoria. Covering 7158 square kilometres of land, Yarriambiack is a major agricultural and food producing region, as well as providing a broad range of opportunities in other industries including education, construction, retail and tourism.

Home to the original Silo Art Trail, Yarriambiack Shire continually strives for excellence and aims to serve its community through strategic, sustainable and innovative projects.



User Groups

- Murtoa Recreation Reserve Committee
- Minyip Murtoa Football Netball Club
- Lubeck Murtoa Cricket Club
- Murtoa Show Yards
- Murtoa Show Committee

Murtoa

Murtoa is known for its remarkable history, successful grain farming industry and its family friendly, laidback lifestyle.

Murtoa has an impressive range of amenities at its fingertips, many of which were established more than 100 years ago.

The proud history of Murtoa is seen throughout the town, and the Murtoa Recreation Reserve is no exception. With a proactive community working together, Murtoa's future is bright.

The importance for sport and recreation for Murtoa

Home to a number of key community groups, the Murtoa Recreation Reserve is a vital link in Murtoa's liveability. Utilised year-round, the Murtoa Recreation Reserve is the hub for the community and links residents across all ages in one space.



Winter sport sees hundreds of local community members transcend on the facility to watch the Minyip/Murtoa Burras play football and netball.



The facility provides the Lubeck Murtoa Mudlark Cricket Club's central location for the summer sport.



As the home of the annual Murtoa Show, the Recreation Reserve is a vital link in the significant event, Murtoa's Big Weekend that attracts thousands to town.

The Challenges

Murtoa Recreation Reserve is Crown Land owned by the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and operated through a local Committee of Management (Murtoa Showyards Reserve Committee).

The co-contribution required for funding is challenging for communities to raise the much-needed funds to upgrade the assets. Rural Council's have competing priorities for infrastructure.

With 18 communities and dozens of Council-owned sporting facilities across 20 sites, the challenge of prioritizing the 71 State Government owned facilities within Yarriambiack is complex in a highly competitive and finitely funded space.

Current facilities are second-hand... literally

Commonly referred to as 'The Whitehouse', the community hub at the Murtoa Recreation Reserve is a second-hand classroom that was relocated and refurbished in 2004 as a temporary solution. This facility is not only used by the official user groups of the Recreation Reserve, but is regularly used for private events such as corporate events, birthday parties, engagement parties and weddings.

The facility can hosts 100 - 120 seated guests, but the supporting facilities, such as the kitchen and toilets are not adequate to host large events. The Whitehouse was a problem quickly solved, but has since raised further challenges for all user groups.

Our Stories - John Hamilton

Secretary / Murtoa Showyards Committee

The Murtoa Showyards Committee is the overarching committee responsible for the facility and reporting to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). The Committee works alongside the other user groups to ensure the facility is user-friendly and fit for purpose. The ageing infrastructure has seen minor remedial works over the years, but is at a point where the entire Reserve requires significant redevelopment to ensure all user groups can utilise the space to the best of their ability.



"The opportunities at Murtoa Recreation Reserve are endless. The current Whitehouse has served a purpose, but now with our Masterplan, we're able to improve our facilities for not only sport and recreation purposes, but for the wider community and local economy."

John

Our Stories - Scott Arnold

President / Minyip Murtoa Football Netball Club



The Minyip Murtoa Football Netball Club utilise the Murtoa Recreation Reserve for nearly 10 months of the year, alternating with Minyip's facilities. Our current umpire and netball facilities do not meet the female friendly requirements.

The changeroom and netball facilities are sub-par, not fit-for-purpose and are at the stage that significant repairs are required to allow us to be considered for hosting finals and larger events.

Photo credit: Bart Turgoose

"There's nowhere in the Wimmera with water views – new facilities that overlook both the oval and Lake Marma has benefits for not only sport, but has business opportunities that aren't currently realized in town or the region. All user groups are on the same page and we're ready to move forward."

Scott

Our Stories - Brett Schmidt

President / Murtoa Recreation Reserve Masterplan Committee

The user groups of the Recreation Reserve have collaborated on the recently developed Murtoa Recreation Master Plan. The Master planning Committee were active contributors to the process and have clearly defined the future direction of the community space.

The Master Planning Committee ensured that all user groups had the opportunity to provide input and that future facilities were multi-purpose and future-proof.



"This facility is used year-round and has so much potential. The committees and community can only do so much fundraising and working bees to keep the Recreation Reserve and its buildings operational and safe, which is becoming more of a challenge every year. This Masterplan is future proofing our facilities and community for future generations".

Brett

Our Stories - Emma Hamilton

Secretary / Murtoa Show Committee



Photo credit: Murtoa's Big Weekend

The Murtoa Show forms part of the larger Murtoa's Big Weekend in October. The A&P Society has been in operation since 1881 and has utilised the Murtoa Recreation Reserve to host its ever-popular event.

Post-covid has seen a resurgence of local events and the Murtoa Show is no different. Providing a wide range of activities, attractions and competitions for all ages, the Recreation Reserve is the only location in town to host such an event.

"Our Show Pavilion is falling into disrepair needing expensive and extensive work to maintain the facility that is only used a couple of times per year. Pigeons are able to get into the Pavilion and make a mess, taking a lot of work from aging volunteers to get it ready for show day. A new Community Centre would be amazing for the Show and would be used as a Pavilion on Show day as well as for the luncheon and storage."

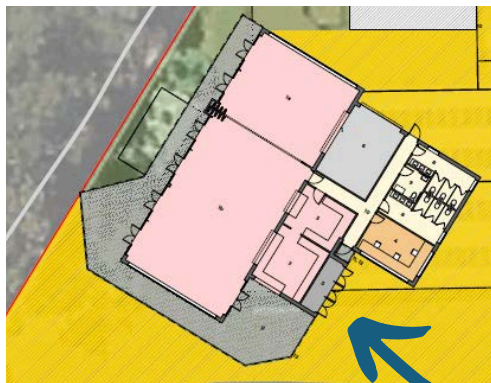
Emma

Facilities for the future of sport and the local economy

All user groups, led by the Masterplanning Committee are in agreeance that the future of sport, recreation and patronage at the Murtoa Recreation Reserve requires significant investment in functional spaces that take advantage of natural assets, such as Lake Marma.

The new Community Hub includes dividable multipurpose social space for 180 people, toilets, commercial kitchen/canteen, bar, cool room, storage, decking north side, spectator cover south side.

The new building would replace the existing clubrooms and Showgrounds Pavilion, making way for the second netball court.



The Masterplan

In March 2023, the Murtoa Recreation Reserve Master plan was adopted by Council, outlining a clear direction for improved facilities for sport, recreation, community events whilst providing an opportunity to increase the economic impact to the Murtoa and wider Yarriambiack region.

Concept Design Key

1. Proposed new Community Hub
2. Entry
3. Spectator Facilities
4. Oval and associated facilities
5. Existing Changerooms
6. Storage Shed
7. Cricket Nets
8. Parking / Open Space
9. Tree planting / Green Space
10. Netball Courts
11. Show Pavilion
12. New Netball Changerooms
13. Scoreboard
14. Cricket Wicket
15. Playground
16. Perimeter Fence
17. Public Toilets
18. Sales Booth
19. New Cricket Storage



The Solution

The Murtoa Recreation Reserve, especially the Community Hub known as the Whitehouse, urgently requires replacement.

The Master Plan details the projects that will be selected based on available funding, rather than prioritisation.

The Council and Murtoa community's top priority is the **Community Centre & Sports Pavilion, including Netball changerooms**.

This project involves construction of a new Community Centre and incorporating social space, kitchen, canteen, bar, female friendly changerooms facilities and amenities, umpire change and amenities, first aid room, admin office, accessible toilet / baby change, toilet facilities, storage room, landscaping, parking, solar panels, security, path lighting and shaded decking area overlooking Lake Marma and the Courts. This project is estimated to cost \$5 million.

- Upgrade AFL and Cricket Changeroom Facilities (estimate \$300,000)
- Upgrade existing ticket booth (estimate \$75,000)
- Upgrade spectator shelter (estimate \$275,000)
- Oval upgrades including irrigation, goal netting and synthetic turf wicket (estimate \$700,000)
- Murtoa Recreation Reserve Cricket Upgrade, incorporating a redevelopment to the two net cricket training facility and construction of an adjoining storage shed with power (estimate \$300,000)
- Upgrade scoreboard to an electronic scoreboard (estimate \$50,000)



Photo credit: Bart Turgoose

The Funding

With proposed project costs exceeding \$10 million, the staged redevelopment of the Murtoa Recreation Reserve requires long term goals and funding from all levels of government for success. With the entire Murtoa community behind this project, Yarriambiack Shire Council is committed to seeing this long term plan come to life.

The Murtoa Netball / Tennis Courts Upgrade Project has recently received funding through the Victorian Government Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, in collaboration with the Yarriambiack Shire Council, Murtoa Football Netball Club, and Murtoa Showyards Reserve Committee. This project is set to be delivered in the 2025-26 period.