

Engagement Report



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY

CAMPING UPLIFT FOR THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD - APOLLO BAY RECREATION RESERVE

The Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve (the Reserve) is a popular location used for sports, camping and events. The Reserve was established in 1868 and has had numerous land managers over its long life and remains at the heart of the coastal community of Apollo Bay.

Overview

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority) commenced management of the Reserve in December 2020. In early 2022, we began working on plans to upgrade the camping offerings and undertake a Masterplan process at the Reserve.

The project is funded as part of the Tourism Infrastructure Program – Flagship projects for the region that was announced in the Victorian Government’s \$465 million Victorian Tourism Recovery Package. These works are also supported by the Victorian Government’s Great Ocean Road Visitor Experience Uplift grant and Changing Places program.

This funding would enable the project to deliver:

- a \$2.9 million Camping Uplift project to introduce 20 new glamping pods (10 of which would be DDA compliant), new powered and unpowered campsites, and all-abilities facilities upgrades to the toilet and shower blocks, camp kitchen area and playground equipment
- a new [Changing Places](#) facility
- a Masterplan to assess the current and future needs of the Reserve.

To visit our website and learn more about the project, [click here](#).

To meet funding agreement and timeline requirements, the project was divided into two phases. The Phase One Camping Uplift project focused on delivering upgrades to the campground by the end of 2022 to support the busy summer season. The Phase Two Masterplan process involved a longer timeframe that commenced in 2022 and will continue into 2023. This timeline will allow the contributions of community, stakeholders, government agencies and endorsement processes.

This report summarises all engagement activities for the Reserve that occurred during the first half of 2022.

HOW WE ENGAGED, WITH WHO AND WHEN

January – March 2022: Camping Uplift project initiation

To inform the project, a Community Reference Group (CRG) was established in January 2022 and transitioned into the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) in April 2022. To develop a concept plan for the Phase One Camping Uplift project, a series of meetings were held with the Project Team, SRG and appointed designers and architects, Herbert & Mason.

The SRG is made up of representatives from the Reserve's sporting groups, 12-month permit holders in the Reserve's caravan park, the Colac Otway Shire Council, Great Ocean Road Health, the Apollo Bay Chamber of Commerce, Southern Otway Landcare network, disability consultants and an appointed representative from neighbouring Gambier Street.

The SRG members were asked about the project's aims and how the campground improvements would ensure it is a welcoming space for all to enjoy. SRG members said:

“The location of the pods needs to have accessible paths for access to other site facilities and also consideration for accessing the Apollo Bay township”.

When asked about the best location for the Changing Places facility, comments received included:

“Ideally the Changing Places amenity block would be located with other accessible facilities - ie playground, picnic/BBQ/kitchen facilities”, and “It would be good if the accessible facilities and playground were also visible from the tennis/netball courts.”

The first concept plan illustrated the proposed bathroom facility upgrades, the location for the Changing Places facility alongside a new all-abilities playground and camp kitchen, and proposed locations for the new glamping pods.



Concept Plan #1 released- March

Meetings were also held with the permitted campers of the caravan park. Permitted campers hold a 12-month permit to stay at the Reserve in a permanent caravan and annex for up to 180 days per year. Some campers at the Reserve have held permits for over 40 years. The Authority currently offers 56 permits.

Meetings with the permitted campers highlighted concerns around the Authority relocating 10 campers to other sites within the Reserve. This move would allow for the proposed new common area offering and enhanced playground and camp kitchen area.

Comments received during these meetings included:

“For us permitted campers who are impacted, will we be compensated to move sites, and how will it work?”

“How many people will use the Changing Places facility? Will it encourage more people to come through the park? Did (the Authority) look into the historical data of what was here before?”

The Project Team has provided updates to the permitted campers as information became available and held individual meetings with the impacted campers about relocation.



Proposed expanded common area

March – April 2022 – Concept Plan #2 developed and FAQ released

During the development of the first Concept Plan for the Camping Uplift project, it became evident that the Reserve’s neighbouring households on Gambier Street would be affected by the proposed upgrades. The major factors impacting these residents was the proposed glamping pods and additional camping to be located on the hillside closest to Gambier Street.



Around this time, other enquiries were made about the project’s aims and timing, and more broadly about the Authority as new managers of the Reserve. A series of questions about this project were also put to the Colac Otway Shire Council. Enquiries from community members included:

“How can works on Phase 1 commence when there is no masterplan?”

“Will GORCAPA commit to completing the proposed masterplan for the Rec Reserve before (not after) Phase 1 of the project?”

A FAQ document was created to address these questions and published on the Authority’s website. [To view the FAQ document, click here.](#)

Meetings with Gambier Street residents and homeowners commenced in April 2022. These residents and homeowners expressed a range of concerns around the visual, sound and behavioural impacts on their neighbourhood, as well as functionality of the pods for people living with disability.

Comments received included:

“The location of the pods on the hill are problematic due to the disabled campers who would be entirely dependent upon their carer to transport them - due to the steepness of the hill”

“The aims to deliver more accessible camping must take into account proper design principles to ensure the proposed accommodation (glamping pod) is properly designed for purpose - ie: adequate heating and cooling, disabled bathroom facilities, access paths through the reserve, proper provision of parking for guests and visitors”

“The impact on local traffic and pedestrians, amenity for residents in the township and immediate neighbourhood - not just Gambier Street, but also Cartwright Street, Noel Street, and Diana Street [needs to be considered].”

To address these concerns, the Project Team worked closely with the Gambier Street residents to update the Concept Plan and locate the glamping pods further down the hill. It was also agreed that no new campsites would be placed on the hillside until after the Masterplan process was completed.

Concept plan #2 was released at the end of May 2022 in time for the Masterplan engagement.

May – June 2022 – Masterplan engagement

While the Camping Uplift project designs and tender process progressed, engagement commenced with the wider Apollo Bay community for the site Masterplan.

Between May and June 2022, we sought feedback on the ‘Issues and Opportunities’ for a Masterplan at the Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve. The Reserve is home to the Apollo Bay Football Netball Club (ABFNC), Apollo Bay Cricket Club, Apollo Bay Tennis Club, the annual Apollo Bay & Otway District Agricultural Show and the Pony Club area on the other side of the Great Ocean Road. The Reserve also provides campgrounds alongside the Barham River.

Masterplan consultants, Integrated Site Design (ISD) worked side-by-side with our Project Team to identify the issues and opportunities from the local Apollo Bay community and key stakeholders. This information will guide the preparation of a Masterplan for the Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve.

Input was sought through community drop-in events, key stakeholder meetings and an online survey. The purpose of these activities was to create a platform to engage with the broader community on issues impacting the Reserve, seek their input on what’s important to them and identify options to address those issues. As part of this engagement, feedback was invited on the Phase One Camping Uplift project designs.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Authority held a range of community events between 29 May and 25 June 2022.

Community engagement event summary

Date	Event	Location
29 May 2022	Community drop-in session	Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve
1 June 2022	Community drop-in session	Apollo Bay Bakery
2 June 2022	Community drop-in session	Online
4 June 2022	Community drop-in session	Apollo Bay Market
24 June 2022	Community Infrastructure Plan engagement	Apollo Bay Golf Club
25 June 2022	Community Infrastructure Plan engagement	Apollo Bay Golf Club

Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve

On Sunday 29 May from 10.30 am – 12.30 pm, approximately 25 people attended the community drop-in session at the Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve (the Reserve).

Participants had conversations with the Project Team about the Phase One Camping Uplift project, ideas for what could or should be considered through the Phase Two Masterplan, timing of works and the role of the Authority. Participants engaged positively with a poster displaying information about the project and the online survey questions.



Apollo Bay Bakery

On Wednesday 1 June, our Project Team held a community drop-in event outside the Apollo Bay Bakery from 11 am to 1 pm.

A large A1 printed concept plan of the Reserve was the main display piece, along with a poster containing information on the Authority and the Masterplan process.

A 'Have your Say' postcard was also provided, inviting people to complete the online survey in their own time.



Apollo Bay market

On Saturday 4 June, a community drop-in event was held at the Apollo Bay Market from 9 am to 12.30 pm.

Across the 1 June and 4 June community drop-in events, our Project Team spoke with over 100 people and distributed more than 200 'Have your Say' postcards, directing readers to the online survey.

Many participants were happy to take a postcard, others preferred to look at the engagement materials at the events and discuss further in person.

Online session

An online drop-in session was held to provide the opportunity for participants to engage with the Project Team and provide feedback.

There were several registrations for this session, however no participants attended.

COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

In June 2022 the Colac Otway Shire Council released the draft Community Infrastructure Plan (CIP), which had been developed in collaboration with the Authority.

We worked together with the Council to host two community events at the Apollo Bay Golf Club on Friday 24 June from 4 – 6 pm and Saturday 25 June from 10 am – 12 pm.

More than 100 people attended these engagement sessions and learned more about the Draft CIP and the Reserve's Masterplan.

ENGAGEMENT PROMOTION AND PARTICIPATION

The Phase Two Masterplan engagement was promoted in numerous locations, including:

- Article in the local Apollo Bay News publication about the project and engagement opportunities
- Project information including engagement opportunities hosted on the Authority's website
- Engagement opportunities were promoted on the Authority's website

- Posters and postcards promoting the engagement were placed at key locations around Apollo Bay, including 15 shops along the main street.

Online engagement summary

Our social media activities reached 17,500 people (many of these would have received multiple posts), and 759 actively engaged with posts by clicking, sharing, commenting or reacting to the post.

Activity	Publish date	Channel	Engagement (clicks, shares, reactions)	Impressions
Website page – Have your say		Interim	-	433
Website page – Have your say		New	-	2
Social post – Community engagement open	20 May 2022	Authority Facebook	151	2365
Social post – Community engagement open	20 May 2022	Authority LinkedIn	30	382
Social post – Apollo Bay meet and greet	20 May 2022	Authority Facebook	228	6015
Social post – Apollo Bay meet and greet	20 May 2022	Authority LinkedIn	31	452
Social post – Apollo Bay meet and greet venue change	24 May 2022	Authority Facebook	52	1784
Social post – Apollo Bay meet and greet venue change	24 May 2022	Authority LinkedIn	9	250
Social post – Engagement reminder, drop in #1	26 May 2022	Authority Facebook	58	1854
Social post – Engagement reminder, drop in #1	26 May 2022	Authority LinkedIn	8	204
Social post – Engagement reminder, final drop in	2 June 2022	Authority LinkedIn	3	207
Social post – Engagement reminder, final drop in	3 June 2022	Authority Facebook	41	629
Social post – Final reminder, survey closing	1 July 2022	Authority Facebook	139	2738
Social post – Final reminder, survey closing	1 July 2022	Authority LinkedIn	9	212
Total			759	17,527

Dedicated conversations were held with the Reserve's user groups including the sporting groups (further details below) as well as Agricultural Show representatives, permitted campers and neighbouring Gambier Street residents to ensure their views were captured in the Masterplan process.

In addition to these groups, we also received feedback from the Sailing Club, Chamber of Commerce and many other community members who emailed in their thoughts on the future uses of the Reserve.

Engagement with local agencies has also been part of the process. This has included the Colac Otway Shire, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Barwon Water, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism and the local emergency service providers.

We worked together with the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation to deliver cultural heritage assessment.

ONLINE SURVEY

An online survey was hosted on the Authority's website from 17 May until 30 June 2022. The respondents were primarily permanent residents of Apollo Bay (65.5%) and clearly expressed the importance of the Reserve to the community (88%).

While 125 responses were received, it is important to note that the vast majority were from local residents directly affected by changes to the Reserve. The survey did not provide any distinction between user groups or identify those who are currently temporary permit holders of the Reserve's caravan park.

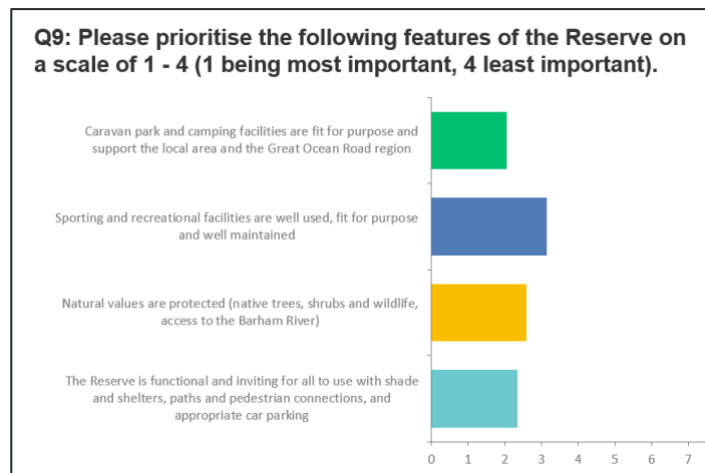
Of the 125 responses received via the online survey, the major age group identified within the range 41–60 (51%). The majority access the Reserve weekly (44%) and / or monthly (28%), with the primary reason for visiting being recreational purposes (53%), other than organised sport.

Other reasons for visiting the Reserve included recreational fishing, walking, dog walking, barbecue, picnic and playground facilities. The Agricultural Show, other events, Pony Club, camping and watching other activities are also mentioned.

Participation in sports activities included tennis (24%), cricket (5%), netball (17%) and AFL (15%). When asked whether the current sporting opportunities meet expectations (scored on a scale of 1 – 5 with 1 highest), the responses were positive with highest scored being AFL (2.26), followed by netball (2.61), cricket (2.51) and tennis (2.92). However, the Pony Club scored lower with 3.11.

When asked to prioritise the features of the Reserve, respondents rated all aspects of the Reserve with equal priority – caravan and camping facilities, sporting and recreational facilities, protection of natural values, and functionality and access.

Nearly half of the respondents (49%) placed a high level of importance on maintaining the sporting facilities and ensuring they are fit for purpose, while the caravan park scored the importance of maintenance as less important at 16%.



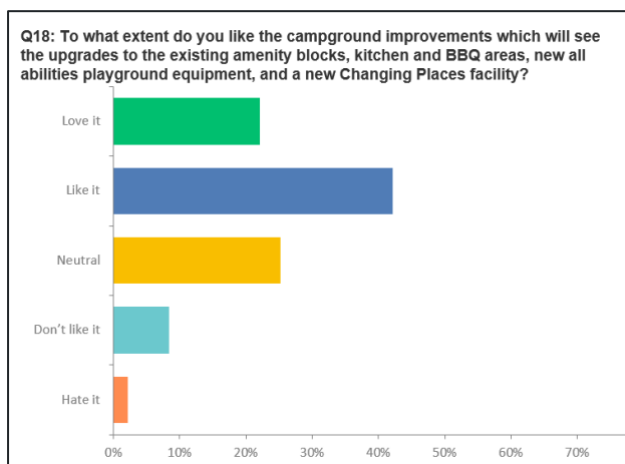
Most believe that the current recreational buildings, while located appropriately (72%), are not fit for purpose (67%). The majority feel that these buildings should be made available for other uses (82%).

“The Recreation park was purchased for the establishment and intention of recreation for children and community to have involvement in sporting activities, increase mental, emotional and physical health of community, give children somewhere to socialise and something to do - as regional towns often have minimal activities for their community.”

Following further consultation, the Authority was informed the reserve was not gifted to the community but was rather Crown land that was not allocated to private land ownership. The reserve remains as part of the Crown land estate.

Proposed campground improvements

Most respondents were in favour of the new campground improvements, 22% 'love it' and 42% 'like it', while a large section (25%) was 'neutral'. The glamping pods received mixed responses. While 10% 'love it' and 23% 'like it', another 23% were 'neutral' and 24% 'don't like it', with 20% 'hating it'.



“Apollo Bay is still very much a seasonal destination. These pods are not likely to get enough use throughout the year to be able to be kept in best possible condition. After 12 months they are likely to deteriorate without constant use and care and will eventually become an eyesore that would only be used at premium times of the year, summer, Easter and premium long weekends.”

The introduction of new camping sites was generally not supported by respondents, with 51% against sites on hillside, 52% against additional sites and 57% against additional sites in the overflow area.

When asked what sorts of accommodation options could be considered at the Reserve there was a clear indication that more types of accommodation options should be made available for seasonal workers (74%).

The Apollo Bay Chamber of Commerce also highlighted the importance of providing seasonal worker accommodation options and that this should be included in the Masterplan, supporting the online survey responses.

All environmental values were considered important, with planning for sea level rise, riparian zone, river and koala habitat the most highly ranked. Comments raised during the in-person engagement focused on improving the overall natural environment and facilitating community access to the river frontage.

The community engagement process to date clearly supported the overall importance of the Reserve to the broader community. While different stakeholder groups identified individual and group-specific issues, all highlighted the major role that the Reserve plays in the sporting and cultural identity of the town.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

In-person stakeholder meetings were held with consultancy representatives, Authority staff and a representative from the Colac Otway Shire Council.

Prior to these meetings, the Reserve's sporting groups were contacted to request written details of each club's operations to assist in the process.

On Sunday 29 June from 1 pm - 5 pm, in-person meetings were held with representatives from the Apollo Bay Football Netball Club (ABFNC), Apollo Bay Cricket Club, Apollo Bay Tennis Club and the Otway Riding and Pony Club.

Online Zoom meetings were held with the Apollo Bay Chamber of Commerce at 5 pm on 6 June and at 6pm on 24 June with a representative from the Apollo Bay Agricultural Society.

The Project Team also engaged with the local emergency service providers, including the Apollo Bay Police, Ambulance and CFA (Fire and Rescue).

A separate submission to the Masterplan process was made in writing by the Apollo Bay Sailing Club.

KEY POINTS RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS

Reserve management

Management of the Reserve was raised as an issue with the future management responsibility to be examined further.

Playground

Issues were raised by the sporting clubs in relation to quality and safety. A line of sight is not clear from the sporting facilities, which increases risks to children.

Skate park location

Community concern was raised over the future of the Apollo Bay Skate Park at its current location in town. The Reserve was proposed as a possible alternative location. The skate park was also a feature throughout the online survey responses.

Parking

Sporting clubs and the Agricultural Show Society highlighted the importance of maintaining on-reserve parking and the need to future-proof by restricting camping spots. Perimeter parking for football is considered essential for the continuation of traditional spectator practices, while parking for the Agricultural Show raises funds for the event.

Sporting groups

Sporting groups identified the need to upgrade the current facilities to provide much-needed storage space and to bring the change rooms and toilets up to required standards. This was also supported by strong online response.

Facilities and buildings

ABFNC members (with club funds) built the Reserve's social rooms in 1993. Maintenance and upkeep of facilities and grounds is undertaken primarily by the club, with assistance from others. There is currently no management agreement in place. Feedback from members highlighted that the facilities and buildings are inadequate and need to be upgraded.

Feedback also included the need for upgrades to the netball and tennis court surfaces and courts and modifications to bring them in line with current standards. The tennis club highlighted the importance of the historic clubhouse, built in 1921. It is a priority of the club that the clubhouse remains part of the club's operations. The club is happy with its current location but is open to discussion on moving it to another location on the Reserve.

Cricket club nets need major maintenance and additional net to comply with standards.

The Apollo Bay Sailing Club has requested consideration of storage space at the Reserve due to the club's inability to secure space elsewhere to date.

Otway Riding and Pony Club

The Otway Riding and Pony Club highlighted the importance of safe and adequate parking at the current location, exiting onto the Great Ocean Road. The Pony Club car park is open to the general public and has a large tree which impedes users from parking. The site is also home to a fill point and is used by Council as a dump site for construction materials. These factors all combine to impact the safe off-loading of horses in the space.

Feedback from the club further notes the lack of facilities, poor fencing and fields. The current lease agreement has lapsed and is currently under review by the Authority.

Agricultural Show Society

The Apollo Bay Agricultural Show Society (the Society) stated its importance to the welfare of the community. The Agricultural Show is a one-day event held in late March each year and attracts some

1,500 to 2,000 patrons. The event operates under the jurisdiction of the Victorian Agricultural Shows Ltd., with the last Agricultural Show being run in 2019.

The Society highlighted the importance of its relationship with the Apollo Bay Pony Club. The area currently occupied by the Pony Club contributes to the successful running of the Agricultural Show by providing a safe space for horses to be corralled, accommodation for participants and storage for show equipment such as horse jumps. The equipment remains stored at the Pony Club for use throughout the year. The Society also uses the Industrial Hall for storage.

Emergency services

Feedback from emergency services included the need for ambulance and disability access at the Reserve to be maintained.

Emergency services were contacted and while they have no major issues with the Masterplan, they wished to remain included in the process.

Colac Otway Shire Council comments and feedback

Representatives from the Colac Otway Shire Council attended stakeholder meetings and provided comments and feedback on issues raised from the Council and state sporting associations. The issues raised included:

- Netball and tennis courts area
- Cricket training nets area
- Road relocation and repositioning
- The ABFNC's proposed pavilion design, including comments from Colac Otway Shire Council, AFL Victoria, Cricket Victoria, Tennis Victoria and Netball Victoria.

These comments are made to assist in future proofing the Reserve and to provide compliant sporting facilities.

SPORTING CLUB NUMBERS AND SEASONAL USE

Apollo Bay Football and Netball Club (ABFNC)	
Members 2022	<p>Junior Netball – 65 Junior Football – 90 Senior Netball – 45 Senior Football – 60 Volunteer members – 30+ Social members, including sponsors – 200+</p>
Field and court use pre-season (October to March)	<p>The football oval is used two nights per week, on alternate nights to cricket training. The netball courts are used twice a week, on alternate days to tennis.</p>
Field and court use during season (March to September)	<p>Tuesday training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juniors Football 4 pm to 6 pm under lights • Seniors Football 5.30 pm to 7 pm under lights • Junior Netball 4 pm to 5.30 pm under lights <p>Wednesday training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Girls Football 4 pm to 5 pm (run by Apollo Bay P-12 College) <p>Thursday training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auskick Football program 5–10 years, 4 pm to 5.15 pm • Junior Football 4 pm to 6 pm under lights • Senior Football 5.30 pm to 7.15 pm under lights • Net Set Go Netball program 5–10 years, 3.30 pm to 4.45 pm • Junior Netball 4 pm to 5.45 pm under lights • Senior Netball 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm under lights <p>Saturday competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netball – six games • Football – four games • Nine home games each year (March to September) 8 am to 6 pm • Approximate attendance – 500 people and 70+ cars • Cars are parked the full distance around the oval and spill onto the side roads of the caravan park. There is no option for on-street parking on the Great Ocean Road, therefore it is essential that parking areas in the facility (at a minimum) be maintained, but ideally, increased to allow for future growth of the clubs. • A canteen is run the by the club in the main social room. <p>Apollo Bay P-12 College uses the ground and courts approximately four times each year for inter-school cricket, football and netball. Pre-COVID, the college also used the social rooms for Year 11 and Year 12 VCE exams</p>

Apollo Bay Football and Netball Club (ABFNC)	
	<p>in November each year and will hopefully use the facility for this purpose in November 2022.</p>
Social events and bookings	<p>Club social functions – six per year, on Saturday evenings.</p> <p>Events, parties and / or funerals booked by club members – three per year (approximately).</p> <p>Thursday night during season – the club makes meals 6 pm to 7.30 pm to serve approximately 120 adults and 30 children.</p> <p>Football Club Training Camps (October to February) – four clubs (approximately) visit Apollo Bay for a training camp Friday night to Sunday morning (30 to 50 people, approximately). They usually stay at the facility and use all the rooms, etc.</p> <p>First aid courses and meetings by other clubs/organisations – six per year (approximately), mid-week, daytime, in the social rooms.</p> <p>ABFNC Committee meetings held fortnightly during season (January to September), and monthly out of season, in the social rooms on a Monday or Wednesday evening (usually).</p> <p>The air ambulance lands on the oval and sometimes requires oval lighting. Any damage to the oval surface caused by the helicopter landing has, in the past, been the club's responsibility to rectify.</p>
Maintenance of buildings and facilities	<p>The social rooms were built in 1993 by ABFNC members/tradesmen, with club funds. The club converted and updated the change rooms in the late 1990s and early 2000s. All general maintenance upgrades and repairs to fences, buildings (inside and out), oval (weed spraying, pitch, pitch cover and dirt replenishment) and courts are completed mainly by ABFNC, with assistance from other clubs if requested. ABFNC contacts the Authority manager regarding all works and maintenance that the club undertakes.</p> <p>Currently, there is no agreement on how the facilities are managed. Going forward, the club recommends that a Committee of Management be appointed to oversee the Sport and Recreation part of the facility.</p> <p>The current layout of the netball/tennis courts is not ideal. Two netball courts and three tennis courts overlap each other. The courts need to be spread further apart to allow correct spacing between courts and eliminate the extra tennis pole sleeves on the game court.</p>
Shared facility arrangements	<p>ABFNC – April to September (with liquor licence)</p> <p>Apollo Bay Cricket Club – October to March (with liquor licence)</p>

Apollo Bay Football and Netball Club (ABFNC)	
	Tennis and netball courts, clubrooms and storage shed – there is no arrangement with this part of the facility. Both clubs use and share as required. Usage is agreed annually by the nominated club delegates.
Change room facilities shared use	Home team change rooms and toilets are used solely by the clubs during each club's season. Away team bathroom facilities are shared with camp ground visitors during holidays and long weekends, which is considered not ideal. The female toilet at the rear of the change room building is used by netballers during their season and is also shared with camp ground visitors.

Apollo Bay Cricket Club	
Members 2022	Blasters (5–11 years) – 15 Juniors – 35 Junior Girls – 15 Seniors – 50 Social members, including sponsors – 50 Life members – 20
Field use pre-season (September and October)	All grades – one night per week or Sundays (weather dependent). Use nets and small sections of the oval, depending on the surface after AFL games, but usually too rough for cricket so the club pays for rolling before use. Club does not use ground lighting.
Field use during season (October to March)	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U17 Juniors competition every second week, 4.30 pm to 8 pm • U14 Juniors training – nets and/or oval, 3.45 pm to 4.45 pm, depending on ground being used for U17 matches. • Seniors training – oval and nets, 5.15 pm to 7.15 pm, depending on ground being used for U17 matches. <p>Wednesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girl's training – oval and nets, 4 pm to 5.30 pm <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blasters Junior Cricket program 3.30 pm to 5 pm. • U14 and U17 Juniors training 4 pm to 6 pm, oval and nets shared. <p>Friday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U14 Juniors competition every second week, 4 pm to 8 pm. Oval lighting is used depending on light. <p>Saturday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors competition 9.30 am to 6 pm.

Apollo Bay Cricket Club	
	<p>Sunday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls competition every second week, 9 am to 12 pm. U14 Juniors can have Sunday games during the season, depending on ground availability around the league (Colac). Social rooms and change rooms are used for all the times listed above.
Social events and bookings	<p>The club has three to four functions for members or community groups – first aid courses, parties, funeral wakes during summer.</p> <p>Oval used by school for athletics and inter-school cricket matches four times a year (approximately).</p> <p>Club has dinner in the social rooms on Thursday evenings, after Seniors training – 30 people approximately.</p>
Maintenance of buildings and facilities	<p>Away team change room and toilet facilities cannot be used during summer as the caravan park uses them for park patrons. Change rooms/toilet facilities for the girls are also shared with park patrons. The club would like this arrangement changed so that the facilities are available only to the sports clubs.</p> <p>The club is responsible for all maintenance during summer, other than mowing the oval.</p>

Apollo Bay Tennis Club	
Members 2022	<p>Juniors – 40 (team players, social players, plus those receiving coaching)</p> <p>Seniors – 40 (team players, social players, plus those receiving coaching)</p> <p>Casual tourists – large (but unknown) number of casual tourists pay \$5 each to play using an honesty box system – approximately 10 per week in winter, rising to 40 per week in summer.</p> <p>Club membership is growing and is particularly strong in juniors.</p>
Length of season, including pre-season training	<p>The club plays social tennis and provides coaching all year round.</p> <p>The Polwarth League (two junior and two senior teams) runs from September to February.</p>
Tennis court use	<p>Monday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social tennis in the morning Tennis coaching in the afternoon <p>Wednesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social tennis in the morning <p>Friday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social tennis in the morning

Apollo Bay Tennis Club	
	<p>Saturday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis matches (in season) <p>The courts are available at all other times for club and casual players, with steady use during daylight hours, especially early evenings.</p> <p>There are also specific times for netball matches and practice – the tennis and netball clubs work closely to ensure that tennis and netball times do not overlap.</p> <p>The courts are also made available to the Agricultural Society for the annual show.</p>
Maintenance of buildings and facilities	<p>Tennis court foundations require rebuild in the next five years. The surfaces are cracked and deteriorating.</p> <p>A small increase in space is also required to bring the courts in line with current standards.</p>
Shared facility arrangements	<p>Three tennis courts/two netball courts shared with the netball club.</p> <p>The tennis clubroom is also used by the netball teams pending upgrade of the netball change room facilities. The tennis clubroom does not have toilet facilities. The club would like to be able to access the facilities at the camp ground/football club.</p>

KEY FINDINGS

- Local residents clearly expressed the importance to the community of the Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve and its sporting and cultural identity.
- The community rated all aspects of the Reserve with equal priority – caravan and camping facilities, sporting and recreational facilities, protection of natural values, functionality and access.
- The community is generally supportive of the caravan park improvements and consider them much-needed. However, there is some disagreement over the benefits of new camping sites and glamping pods.
- There is a clear indication that more accommodation should be made available for seasonal workers. This is strongly supported by the Apollo Bay Chamber of Commerce.
- Sporting groups identified the need to upgrade current facilities to provide much-needed storage space and to bring the change rooms and toilets up to required standards. The cricket nets, netball and tennis courts need to be realigned to conform to current standards. The Apollo Bay Sailing Club is seeking the inclusion of storage facilities for their safety boats, which are currently stored on private property. However, the club has no long-term tenure.
- It was recommended that a Committee of Management be appointed to oversee the sporting and recreational aspects of the Reserve.
- Feedback highlighted the importance of maintaining on-reserve parking, perimeter parking for football, and futureproofing the capacity of the Reserve by restricting camping spots.
- The Pony Club highlighted the importance of safe and adequate parking at the current location, exiting onto the Great Ocean Road. The club suffers from a lack of facilities, poor fencing and fields.
- The clubs raised issues in relation to the quality and safety of the playground, noting the line of sight from sporting facilities is not clear.
- Emergency services and disability access at the Reserve needs to be maintained.
- The community raised the possibility of relocating the Apollo Bay Skate Park to the Reserve if the current location in town is not successful.
- The Apollo Bay Agricultural Show noted its importance to the welfare of the community, which utilises all aspects of the Reserve throughout the show. The important role the show plays in fundraising for the community was also noted.