

Athletics Development Plan

2019



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Methodology	4
3. Strategic Context	4
4. Demographics of the City of Greater Dandenong	7
5. Demographic Influences on Sports Participation.....	7
6. State Sporting Association Membership Data.....	8
6.1. Athletics Victoria	8
6.2. Little Athletics Victoria	8
7. Athletics Facilities in the City of Greater Dandenong	9
7.1. Overview	9
7.2. Distribution of Athletics Facilities within Region	11
8. Club Background	12
8.1. Club Programming.....	13
9. Casual and Event Usage.....	14
10. School Athletics Participation.....	15
11. Discussion	16
11.1. Club Development Opportunities and Growing Participation.....	16
11.2. Support from State Sporting Associations	17
11.3. Partnerships with Other Community Facilities and Clubs	18
11.4. Amalgamation of Athletics Clubs	18
11.5. Venue Management and Equipment	18
11.6. Priority Facility Improvements	19
11.7. Future of Booth Reserve Athletics Venue.....	20
11.8. School Participation	21
11.9. Cross-Country and Social Athletics Programming	21
12. Recommendations.....	23
12.1. Club Sustainability	23
12.2. Sports Development.....	24
12.3. Programming and Events.....	24
12.4. Infrastructure Improvements:	25
12.5. School Participation	26
12.6. Cross-Country and Social Athletics Programming	26

Appendix 1 – Ross Reserve Master Plan	28
Appendix 2 – Club Workshop Notes	29
Appendix 3 – State Sporting Associations and Sporting Groups Notes.....	35
Appendix 4 – School Survey Responses	39
Appendix 5 – Specialist Athletics Equipment	45
Appendix 6 – References	46
Appendix 7 - City of Greater Dandenong Demographics	47

1. Introduction

Athletics teaches fundamental movement skills that are critical for many sports such as Australian Rules Football, Soccer, Rugby, Basketball, Hockey, Baseball, Cricket, Tennis, in fact almost every sport requiring running, jumping and throwing.

Athletics has a low participation rate within City of Greater Dandenong (CGD). To remedy this an Athletics Development Plan has been established to determine the appropriate support required for current and future provision of athletics within our municipality.

2. Methodology

This Athletics Development Plan involved an analysis of athletics facilities, school activities, non-structured/casual activities and clubs within CGD. Tasks undertaken included:

- Site visits to both athletics clubs and facilities within CGD and a visual walk-through audit of facilities.
- Face-to-face interviews with all athletics clubs within CGD.
- Consultation with Athletics Victoria, Little Athletics Victoria, Special Olympics and School Sport Victoria.
- Online survey sent to all Primary and Secondary Schools within CGD.
- Analysis of membership and demand for the sport of athletics.
- Identification of key issues and development of proposed actions.
- Preparation of a draft plan including prioritised recommendations.

3. Strategic Context

Active Victoria – A Strategic Framework for Sport and Recreation in Victoria 2017-2021: Vision for sport and active recreation is: “*A strong and connected sport and active recreation system that helps make Victorians healthier, creates economic growth and jobs, builds community cohesion and contributes to our liveability.*”

Sport and active recreation in Victoria will be:

- More active
- More diverse and inclusive
- Robust, flexible, sustainable and affordable
- Broad-based and connected
- Collaborative.

Athletics Victoria Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Athletics Victoria's mission is *"for athletics to be the premier recreational and competitive participation sport in Victoria."* Their five strategic functions are:

- Community engagement
- Excellence of delivery
- Thought leadership & learning
- Brand & Innovation
- Sustainable business model.

City of Greater Dandenong Imagine 2030 Project was designed to find out what people have in common, what opinions and aspirations they share about the future and what topics people might work on together. It laid the groundwork for integrating Council's own four-year strategic Council Plan 2017-21 with the Community Plan, and the review processes thereafter. The relevant aspirations are:

- Sport and recreation opportunities will be affordable, diverse and accessible to all, especially for young people, families and those less well off than others. There will be opportunities for people of all backgrounds and ages to take part.
- Local sports and recreation clubs will be thriving centres of social activity and gathering across all cultures and generations.

City of Greater Dandenong Council Plan 2017-2021 is based on what Council understands to be most important in people's lives, their hopes and aspirations and what kind of City of Greater Dandenong is desired for the future.

Strategic objectives:

- A vibrant, connected and safe community
- A creative city that respects and embraces its diversity
- A healthy, liveable and sustainable city
- A city planned for the future
- A diverse and growing economy
- An open and effective Council.

The Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 outlines Council's key actions and initiatives to improve health and wellbeing across the municipality. The relevant objectives and actions are:

- 1.1 Create places for people to enjoy and actively participate in their local community including open space and recreational opportunities.
 - 1.1.3 Provide facilities and programs that are accessible for all age groups.
- 3.1 Improve the health and wellbeing of all residents through collaborative planning and enhancing health promoting services and opportunities.
- 3.1.2 Identify opportunities to increase participation in sport and recreation activities for under-represented members of the community.

Activate – Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2014-2019: The strategy has been developed to guide Council in the provision of facilities, services and programs designed to increase participation in sport and active recreation in the City of Greater Dandenong.

Our vision is to build active, healthy and successful communities in City of Greater Dandenong through increased participation in sport and recreation and the provision of well planned, accessible, affordable and sustainable facilities.

This can be summarised as:

more people – more active – more often

Key themes:

- Creating active and engaged communities
- Providing improved access to indoor recreation facilities
- Maintaining access to outdoor sporting facilities
- Providing informal recreation opportunities
- Supporting structured sporting opportunities and club viability.

The CGD Sports Facilities Plan 2015 provides recommendations on the needs of sport in CGD particularly the need to create multi-use and flexible spaces and provide facilities for males and females. The Plan provides direction for the development of a range of standards of facilities allowing some facilities to cater for higher standards of competition while enabling others to be more flexible in providing for multiple sports and general community access. The plan outlines a capital improvement program to upgrade 33 reserves to cater for the sport and recreation needs and to provide environments that are responsive and welcoming to all people.

The CGD Sports Facilities Plan – Implementation Plan 2018: The Plan outlines the current state of sporting infrastructure within the municipality and provides direction on priorities moving forward.

The Implementation Plan by sporting reserve for athletics infrastructure lists the following priorities:

Table 1: Sports Facilities Plan – Implementation Plan 2018 – Athletics Priorities

Reserve	Project	Priority
Ross Reserve	Athletics track replacement	High
Ross Reserve	Athletics and soccer pavilion redevelopment	Medium
Booth Reserve	Athletics pavilion upgrade	Medium

4. Demographics of the City of Greater Dandenong

The current population of City of Greater Dandenong is estimated at 170,900 and projected to increase to 205,000 by 2028 (as of Feb 2018).

One in five residents have limited fluency in spoken English – highest level in Victoria. Seventy per cent of 12 to 24 year-olds speak languages other than English at home and 1,500 young people have limited fluency in the use of spoken English. Languages other than English spoken by over two-thirds (70%) of residents –highest in the state.

Nearly one in three (31%) families with children have no parent in paid work –highest Melbourne.

30% of residents participated in 30 minutes or more of physical activity on four or more days each week - the second lowest proportion in the State.

Refer to Appendix 7 for a full listing of demographics.

5. Demographic Influences on Sports Participation

Age, gender, income, ethnicity and education are key determinants of participation in sport. The demographic profile within City of Greater Dandenong suggests a low propensity to play organised sports based on a number of characteristics:

- 64% of residents are born overseas
- 70% speak languages other than English
- A relatively high unemployment rate (10.2% in mid-2017, compared with 5.9% across Melbourne)
- 30% of residents participated in 30 minutes or more of physical activity on four or more days each week - the second lowest proportion in the State.
- The second most disadvantaged municipality in Victoria based on the SEIFA index of disadvantage.

The implications of the demographic profile means there will be significant benefits to the population if sports participation can be increased among residents born overseas of non-English speaking countries living in an area with high unemployment rates and low incomes.

However, significant interventions may be required to achieve potential increases in participation in these areas.

6. State Sporting Association Membership Data

6.1. Athletics Victoria

The following table outlines the Victorian competing membership figures over the past five seasons, based upon the 2016-2017 Athletics Victoria Annual Report.

Table 2: Athletics Victoria Membership Figures

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Open	2213	2212	2164	2306	2215
U20	380	355	343	400	360
U18	642	646	640	645	610
U16	778	778	749	723	736
U14	684	651	635	620	566
Total	4697	4642	4530	4694	4487

6.2. Little Athletics Victoria

The following table outlines the Victorian membership figures of the past four seasons. City of Greater Dandenong clubs' sit within the Southern Metro Region.

Table 3: Little Athletics Victoria Membership Figures

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Gippsland Country Region	1,752	1,833	1,781	1,901
Northern Country Region	2,886	2,715	2,633	2,694
Western Country Region	1,640	1,507	1,369	1,531
Eastern Metro Region	3,930	3,855	3,570	3,618
Northern Metro Region	3,162	3,064	2,899	2,929
Southern Metro Region	4,215	3,801	3,490	3,682
Western Metro Region	3,133	3,157	2,930	3,067
Total	20,718	19,932	18,672	19,422

Note: This report was unable to source Masters Athletics Victoria data.

7. Athletics Facilities in the City of Greater Dandenong

7.1. Overview

There are two athletics facilities on Council land in the City of Greater Dandenong. These are located in Dandenong North and Noble Park.

Table 4: Features and Clubs at Athletics Facilities

Suburb	Reserve	Club/s	Features
Dandenong North	Booth Reserve	Dandenong Little Athletics Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Narre Warren Little Athletics Club ○ Doveton Park Little Athletics Club ○ Endeavour Hills Little Athletics Club ○ Hampton Park Little Athletics Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 400m grass running track incl. 100m grass sprint track. ○ 3 long jump sand pits with run-ups. ○ High Jump pad. ○ 7 shot put and discus pads. ○ Pavilion and storage areas.
Noble Park	Ross Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Springvale Little Athletics Club ○ Dandenong Springvale Athletics Club ○ Dandenong Masters Athletics Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 400m synthetic running track (9 lane) incl. 100m sprint track ○ 2 long jump sand pits with run-ups. ○ High Jump pad. ○ 3 shot put and discus pads. ○ Pavilion and storage areas. ○ Floodlighting.

Neither of the facilities listed meet the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) standards therefore they are unable to host Athletics Victoria events.

We currently have two athletics facilities for 170,900 members of City of Greater Dandenong community (Feb 2018 data), which is a provision ratio of 1: 85,495. Athletics Victoria and Athletics Australia have not undertaken a Facility Plan at this time. However, by way of comparison the Hume City Council's Athletic Sports Plan (2015), based off 2014 population data provided an athletics track provision ratio of 1: 61,852. Table 5 details the level of provision of facilities per person, based upon 2014 population data.

Table 5: Hume City Council Athletic Sports Plan (2015): Athletics Facilities Provision Ratios

LGA	Number of known athletics facilities	Synthetic / Grass	2014 Population	Current athletics track provision ratio
Mitchell Shire Council	2	2 grass	39,079	1: 19,540
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	2	2 grass	41,860	1: 20,930
Hume City Council	3	3 grass	185,555	1: 61,852
Brimbank City Council	3	2 grass 1 synthetic	192,844	1: 64,281
City of Whitehorse	2	2 synthetic	164,766	1: 82,383
City of Casey	3	2 grass 1 synthetic	281,229	1: 93,743
Moonee Valley City Council	1	1 synthetic	118,340	1: 118,340
Melton City Council	1	1 grass	126,440	1: 126,440
Moreland City Council	1	1 synthetic	163,217	1: 163,217
Whittlesea City Council	1	1 synthetic	186,368	1: 186,368
Wyndham City Council	1	1 synthetic	192,337	1: 192,337

Table 01: LGA Athletics Track Facility Provision

7.2. Distribution of Athletics Facilities within Region



Aerial map of Athletics Victoria recognised regional facilities in relation to City of Greater Dandenong facilities.

Following analysis of all facilities located in the south east and east of metropolitan Melbourne, the Ross Reserve Athletics venue is considered a regional venue (Refer to above aerial map). The Ross Reserve Athletics venue is the only synthetic venue in the City of Greater Dandenong, with the closest Athletics Victoria recognised regional facilities located at:

- Duncan McKinnon Reserve, Murrumbeena
- Dolomore Reserve, Parkdale
- Knox Park Reserve, Knoxfield
- Casey Fields Athletics Centre, Cranbourne East
- Ballam Park Athletics Track, Frankston.

8. Club Background

The current health of the clubs is mixed across the municipality. City of Greater Dandenong (CGD) currently has four clubs incorporating two Little Athletics Clubs, one Senior Athletics Club and a Victorian Masters Group.

Table 6: 2017/18 CGD Athletic Clubs Membership Figures

	Male	Female	Total
Dandenong Little Athletics Centre	42	33	75
Dandenong Springvale Athletics Club	10	10	20
Springvale Little Athletics Club	91	78	169
Victorian Masters Athletics	42	12	54

The Dandenong Little Athletics Centre, aligned with Little Athletics Victoria, is based at Booth Reserve and consists of the following clubs:

- Doveton Endeavour Hills LAC
- Hampton Park LAC
- Narre Warren LAC

All of these clubs are theoretically from the City of Casey municipality as Booth is located on the border between the two municipalities, with 80% of participants residing in the City of Casey.

The Centre's main challenges include member recruitment, retention and officials and coaches training and recruitment. The Centre and club's participants that operate within have been gradually declining over the past three years.

Dandenong Springvale Athletics Club is the only Athletics Victoria aligned club in the municipality. It has a small membership of 20 participants in 2017/18. The participation numbers have been fairly consistent over the past few years since becoming independent from the Haileybury Athletics Club in September 2016.

The club is focused only on track events as a result of the facilities at Ross Reserve. The main challenges are also member recruitment, retention and people to assist with management of the club.

The Springvale Little Athletics Club continues to have strong membership. The club is well managed with a large competent management committee. Recruitment and promotion are the main challenges for the club.

Victorian Masters Athletics at Ross Reserve, Noble Park is one of approximately 14 venues which are under the control of the state body, Victoria Master Athletics. As membership and collection of subscriptions is handled by the state body, technically there is no specific club. However when members register they usually elect to show a venue as their “home venue”. It is important to note that members can choose to attend any venue for training.

Based on 2017 membership data, 68.5% of members were from municipalities outside the City of Greater Dandenong, including Casey, Monash and Kingston.

None of the clubs currently provide specific all abilities programming. The Casey-Dandenong Special Olympics operate predominantly within the City of Casey, however as a regional all abilities program they service the Dandenong local government area community. Opportunities may exist for existing clubs to create partnerships to increase participation from people with disabilities.

8.1. Club Programming

Table 7: Ross Reserve Summer Tenant Club Usage

Day/Time	Program/ Activity	Age Category	Gender	Hours	Registered Participants
Monday 4-7pm	Springvale Little Athletics (Training)	U6-U16	Both	3	169
Monday 4-6.30pm	Dandenong Springvale Athletics Club (Training)	U14-Open	Both	2.5	20
Tuesday 4-7pm	Springvale Little Athletics (Training)	U6-U16	Both	3	169
Tuesday 4-6.30pm	Dandenong Springvale Athletics Club (Training)	U14-Open	Both	2.5	20
Wednesday 4-7pm	Springvale Little Athletics (Training)	U6-U16	Both	3	169
Wednesday 6.30-8.30pm	Victorian Masters Athletics (Training)	30yrs+	Both	2	14
Thursday 4-6.30pm	Dandenong Springvale Athletics Club (Training)	U14-Open	Both	2.5	20
Friday 3-9pm	Springvale Little Athletics (Competition)	U6-U16	Both	6	169
Saturday 3-9pm	Springvale Little Athletics (Competition)	U6-U16	Both	6	169
Sunday 10-12pm	Dandenong Springvale Athletics Club (Training)	U14-Open	Both	2	20
			Total	32.5	939

Note: Based on 2017/18 data.

Table 8: Booth Reserve Summer Tenant Club Usage

Day/Time	Program/ Activity	Age Category	Gender	Hours	Registered Participants
Tuesday 4-8pm	Dandenong Little Athletics Centre (Training)	U6-U16	Both	4	75
Wednesday 4-8pm	Dandenong Little Athletics Centre (Training)	U6-U16	Both	4	75
Thursday 4-8pm	Dandenong Little Athletics Centre (Training)	U6-U16	Both	4	75
Friday 4-8pm	Dandenong Little Athletics Centre (Training)	U6-U16	Both	4	75
Saturday 7am-1pm	Dandenong Little Athletics Centre (Competition)	U6-U16	Both	6	75
Sunday 7am-1pm	Dandenong Little Athletics Centre (Competition)	U6-U16	Both	6	75
			Total	28	450

Note: Based on 2017/18 data.

9. Casual and Event Usage

Currently over 50 bookings are received by schools and associations to conduct athletic training programs and athletics carnivals at Ross Reserve, as per the below table. Schools using the facility are from City of Greater Dandenong and surrounding municipalities.

Table 9: Athletics Carnivals at Ross Reserve

	CGD Groups/Schools		Non-CGD Groups/ Schools		Total Participants
	Number of Bookings	Number of Participants	Number of Bookings	Number of Participants	
2018	18	6,510	2	700	7,210
2017	14	5,931	3	750	6,681
2016	16	8,340	1	300	8,640
Total	48	20,781	6	1,750	22,531

Note: 2018 as of 1/9/18

Table 10: Athletics Programs at Ross Reserve

	CGD Groups/Schools		Non-CGD Groups/ Schools		Total Participants
	Number of Bookings	Number of Participants	Number of Bookings	Number of Participants	
2018	18	1,280	11	330	1,610
2017	30	1,830	3	90	1,920
2016	14	595	10	724	1,319
Total	62	3,705	24	1,144	4,849

Note: 2018 as of 1/9/18

The Booth Athletics venue has limited casual and event bookings for athletics programs and carnivals, as per the below table. Schools using the facility are primarily from surrounding municipalities.

Table 11: Athletics Carnivals at Booth Reserve

	CGD Groups/Schools		Non-CGD Groups/ Schools		Total Participants
	Number of Bookings	Number of Participants	Number of Bookings	Number of Participants	
2018	1	180	4	860	1,040
2017	0	0	3	530	530
2016	1	160	5	980	1,140
Total	2	340	12	2,370	2,710

Note: 2018 as of 1/9/18

Table 12: Athletics Programs at Booth Reserve

	CGD Groups/Schools		Non-CGD Groups/ Schools		Total Participants
	Number of Bookings	Number of Participants	Number of Bookings	Number of Participants	
2018	0	0	0	0	0
2017	0	0	0	0	0
2016	5	90	0	0	90
Total	5	90	0	0	90

Note: 2018 as of 1/9/18

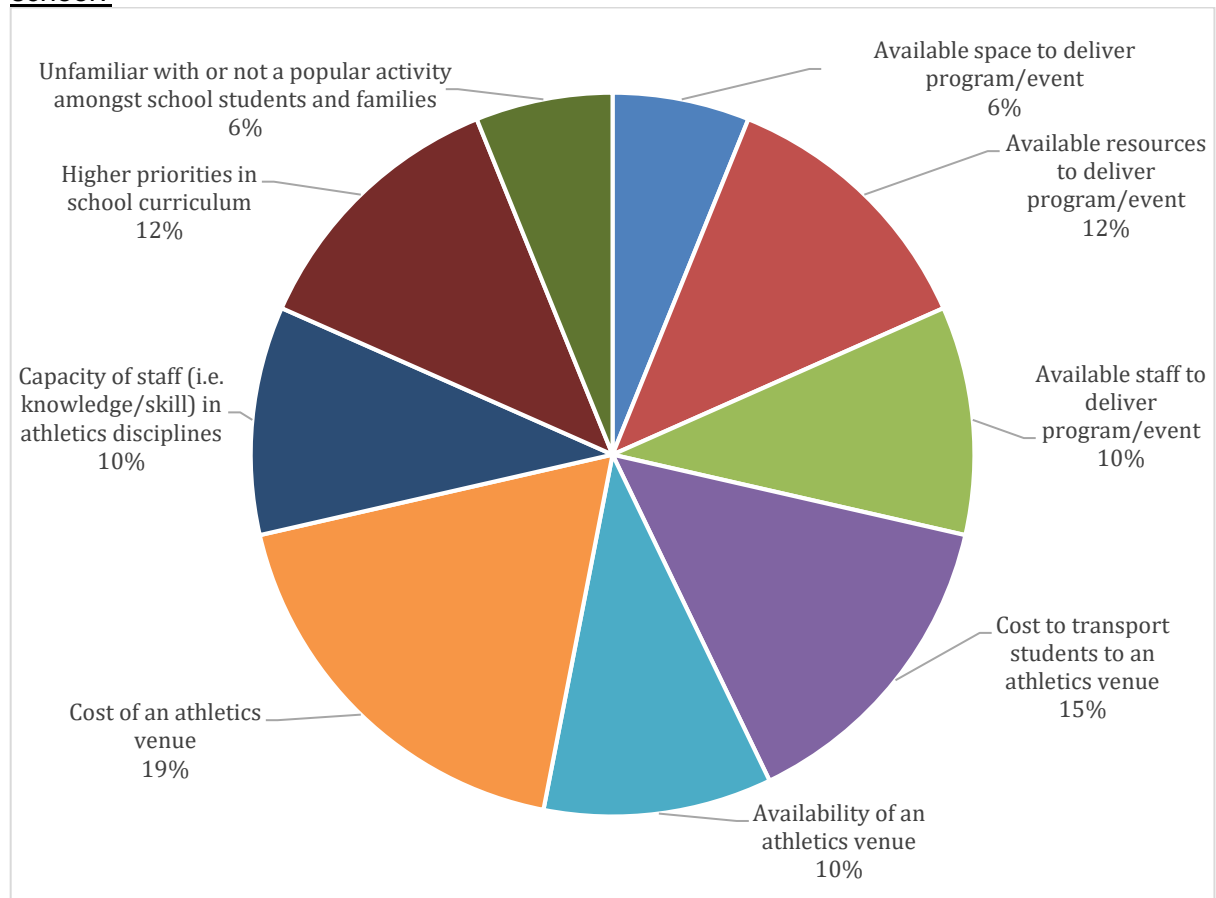
10. School Athletics Participation

45 primary and secondary schools located within the municipality were invited to participate in an online survey to provide their insights into the current level of participation by their schools and the level of support required in the future. 30% of schools responded to the survey, all of which conducted an athletics carnival and/or program at their school.

This is a summary of the findings:

- Only two of the respondents ran their program and/or carnival at Ross Reserve Athletics venue with the majority conducting events at their own school. 71% of respondents took part in School Sport Victoria athletics events.
- The majority of schools conduct their programs in March (28.5%) or August (28.5%).
- 92% of schools conduct an athletics program as part of the school's curriculum.
- The major challenges/barriers to delivering a program/carnival was the cost of the venue as detailed in graph 1 by 19% of respondents. The cost of transport to athletics venues is the second major barrier at 15%.

Graph 1: What are the challenges/barriers to delivering a program/carnival at your school?



11. Discussion

11.1. Club Development Opportunities and Growing Participation

Little Athletics Victoria, Athletics Victoria and Masters Athletics Victoria provide little to no support to clubs in regard to growing participation based upon feedback from the CGD clubs. Little Athletics and Athletics Victoria’s priorities are about increasing participation in school athletics programs, however, these programs are only trial programs at this stage, with limited reach and no plans (at the time of writing the report) to create linkages with clubs.

The main challenge facing all clubs is the recruitment and retention of members. The following opportunities and ideas could be considered:

- Linkages with Schools: Numerous schools within the municipality conduct an athletics carnival or program. This could provide an opportunity for clubs to partner with these schools to assist in the delivery of these programs/events.

- Promotion: Clubs need to sell the benefits of why a particular sport is worthwhile participating in and the health and wellbeing benefits it can provide for a given community. There is significant choice for people in regard to sport and recreational pursuits. What appeals to different audiences such as women or young people?
- Understand your membership: What do they want? What do they need? How satisfied are they? What could be improved? Is it value for money? What are the barriers/challenges? How do you address these to assist in recruiting and retaining members?
- Are there other sports/clubs that may consider athletics in their off-season? The benefit of this approach is that they are a captured audience who are already interested in sport.
- Taking part in sport is a choice and making it easy, convenient, flexible and non-committal is the key. Consider location, facility type, timing and cost which are all important considerations for making sport accessible.
- Clubs working together to promote the sport rather than individual clubs.

There is a large number of cultural groups in the City of Greater Dandenong. Council could assist clubs to work closely with organisations that support specific cultural groups to develop athletics related programs and activities, use the sport as a social avenue for creating a sense of 'community' within cultural groups to aid its members wellbeing and to increase promotion of the sport among their members.

A significant gap within clubs is the ability to provide opportunities for all abilities programming to increase inclusiveness of people with disabilities and any person requiring support or assistance. Education and awareness are the main barriers affecting clubs and the community from providing and accessing opportunities. Athletics Victoria and Little Athletics Victoria have resources available to educate and support clubs on how to be more inclusive whilst also how to promote/encourage those populations within the community to connect with Athletics clubs.

There are opportunities to offer schools the chance to utilise athletics facilities during the day when they are normally idle, combined with the prospect of promoting the club environment and coaching and competitions to school students.

11.2. Support from State Sporting Associations

The level of support from Athletics Victoria and Little Athletics Victoria is fairly limited based on the feedback from the athletics clubs within the municipality. Both organisations are under-resourced and have limited ability to provide direct support to the clubs. Masters Athletics Victoria is managed by volunteers who work closely with Athletics Victoria, however due to the non-club structure there is no support provided for venue members.

Each state sporting association appears to focus on club and elite level structured competition, rather than the future of the entire sport and how to develop athletics outside of the traditional model. In addition there is no support provided to club development and ensuring clubs are sustainable.

11.3. Partnerships with Other Community Facilities and Clubs

There are a number of opportunities for athletics clubs to engage and partner with groups, organisations and other clubs within their communities. These partnerships have the potential to grow memberships, gain sponsorship and to offer athletics to those within the community that have not or would not normally get this opportunity. This may include partnering with leisure facilities, other sporting clubs, schools and community groups.

Rather than wait for the people at these other clubs to contact the athletics club, there is opportunity to develop specific 'come and try' or special days, competitions and social events targeted to these club environments.

11.4. Amalgamation of Athletics Clubs

One option is to amalgamate all of the Athletics Clubs into one umbrella club with multiple activities and catering to various needs. This approach may allow for greater participation as it would cater for athletes of all ages, with the entity to be affiliated with both Little Athletics Victoria and Athletics Victoria.

A similar approach was adopted by the Yarra Ranges Athletics Club who was incorporated in 2012 when the former Little Athletics Club, known as Lilydale and Yarra Ranges Littles Athletics, affiliated with both Little Athletics Victoria and Athletics Victoria. Little Athletics caters for athletes from 5 to 15 years, while Athletics Victoria caters for athletes 12 years and up. This has created a very inclusive and family orientated environment, where the over-riding emphasis is on participation. The club has since grown from strength to strength experiencing strong performances at events state-wide.

This option would provide the larger club an opportunity to offer athletics competition and training year-round with the ability for all members of a family to participate in athletics, either as an athlete or official. It would also provide an opportunity for the resources and management structures to be centralised thus reducing the burden on individual club volunteer management. It is important to note that any amalgamation would need to be carefully managed in order to be successful.

11.5. Venue Management and Equipment

Athletics requires specialist athletics equipment to conduct programs and events, including hurdles, high jump equipment and throwing equipment. This is generally brought in from other locations or hired from the clubs and as such the quality of the equipment can vary. Bench marking undertaken of similar regional venues shows other municipalities provide equipment available for hire by users and clubs. This process allows better management and efficient use of these assets and would provide greater ease of access to clubs, casual and event users. Clubs currently hire their equipment to third party users as a fundraising opportunity. It is important to note that clubs currently own and are thus responsible for the maintenance and capital replacement costs associated with the management of their equipment. If the

equipment was centralised and owned by Council, Council would be responsible for the maintenance and capital replacements costs, saving the clubs this cost. Clubs' and third party hirers would pay a levy or fee for use of the equipment. This levy/fee would be a significant saving to clubs compared to the capital replacement costs incurred by clubs under the current equipment management model in the long term. Thus allowing clubs to redirect equipment management costs savings elsewhere.

When schools hire the Ross Reserve Athletics venue a member of one of the clubs is required to assist with set up, access to equipment and troubleshoot any issues. Whilst this provides an opportunity for clubs to charge a fee for service and/or create a link between the school and the club, the reliance on volunteers can be challenging. Other municipalities benchmarked provide a Council event staff member to assist with these tasks and ensure that the event is conducted safely and effectively. This additional service is provided through a user pays process.

There is a need to move away from seasonal tenancy arrangements for athletics tenants. The benefit of this is to allow all-year round participation and activation of athletics. One option to be considered is providing the potential amalgamated club with a long-term lease which could have a clause requiring the club to facilitate opportunities to increase participation in athletics disciplines to the broader community. The other benefit of this approach is that it fosters the tenant club/s to look after the facility to a higher standard than seasonal tenants.

11.6. Priority Facility Improvements

It is critical for the long term sustainability of athletics that the Ross Reserve Athletics venue be developed to meet IAAF standards (Category two). To achieve these standards the following upgrades are required:

- **Reconstruction of the Athletics Track**

The track is currently uneven due to the foundation sub-grade being inadequate to support the synthetic surface.

- **Athletics Only Venue**

Currently soccer is played on the grass field in the centre of the athletics track. This prevents the development of the venue to IAAF standards as a hammer throw cage and javelin pad cannot be installed.

As per the Ross Reserve Master Plan a synthetic soccer pitch is proposed to be built next to the Athletics Track, alongside the creek. This will be serviced by a new pavilion, pictured in Appendix 1. The intent would be to move this tenanted soccer club to this adjacent new venue.

A survey and concept plan of the venue needs to be completed to ensure that all athletics features can be accommodated for effectively.

○ **Pavilion Upgrade**

The current facilities have a number of issues which need to be addressed including:

- change rooms do not meet female and junior friendly standards
- lack of storage space
- social rooms and change rooms are situated in independent buildings which are adjacent to each other
- there is no first aid room
- inadequate kitchen/canteen space.

○ **Venue Surrounds**

The surrounds of the athletics track need works to improve usability of the space. Currently there is tiered standing space which presents a hazard to users deeming it inaccessible. There is a significant lack of seating and shade around the track and the interior track fence needs upgrading.

There is a need for a reliable public address system which services the entire venue for event purposes.

○ **Signage and Wayfinding Improvements**

Signage and wayfinding are essential to increase awareness, usage of facilities and membership of clubs. Well designed and located signage and wayfinding offers:

- the potential for the general public to know the club or facility is available for use
- who to contact regarding athletics opportunities
- information about what each club/facility offers and specialises in
- the types of programs and services the club offers.

A review of all athletic facility signage is required, both at the club sites and in the reserve near the club and from adjacent streets directing people to the club/facility. Signage should ensure that clubs and facilities are easy to find and provide good quality, accurate information regarding the services offered.

Signage should be supplemented with offsite information including the nature, surface and accessibility of all facilities, programs offered and target groups.

11.7. Future of Booth Reserve Athletics Venue

Due to the level of participation in athletics across the municipality and the lack of City of Greater Dandenong residents utilising the Booth Reserve Athletics venue, it is difficult to justify having two athletics venues within the municipality, particularly when 80% of Dandenong Little Athletics Centre participants (using Booth Reserve Athletics venue) reside within the City of Casey. Alternatively Council acknowledges the historical value this athletics site has provided the surrounding CGD residents and the suitability the site offers to little athletics.

The venue consists of a grass track with ageing infrastructure which is near the end of its service life. The pavilion does not meet female and junior friendly standards and requires significant redevelopment to allow it to be used by other community groups.

Due to these factors and the level of participation it is difficult to justify capital improvement of the pavilion and athletics facilities. Ideally it would be preferable to consider amalgamation with the clubs at Ross Reserve or move to this venue. Ross Reserve is located 6.1 kilometres from the athletics facility at Booth Reserve.

A master plan for Booth Reserve is recommended to be completed to understand the potential use of the athletics facility site if the athletics club is relocated. As part of this process the community would be consulted.

11.8. School Participation

It would be reasonable to state that the majority of schools conduct an athletics program or event for their students. All schools who responded to the survey confirmed that they conduct a program, however the major barriers/challenges faced are related to cost (64% of respondents). Often these costs cannot be absorbed by the schools and are passed on to families.

Athletics venues in other municipalities do not charge schools within their municipality to use their venues. The current fees for schools located within City of Greater Dandenong are \$41 per hour and \$61.50 per hour for schools located outside this municipality.

Available resources to deliver programs and/or events in schools was also a concern, along with the competing demands of higher priorities within the school curriculum. Athletic State Sporting Associations have a role to play in providing schools with resources, education and support to deliver programs within schools, similar to other key Victorian sporting associations.

11.9. Cross-Country and Social Athletics Programming

City of Greater Dandenong Participation Study 2015 identified that Running/Jogging was the third most popular sport and active recreation activity in City of Greater Dandenong with a participation rate of 15%. With casual/social participation at this level provides a significant base for programming opportunities to engage with this population.

Currently none of the athletics clubs participate in the cross-country discipline, however School Sport Victoria conduct cross-country competitions for schools located within the City of Greater Dandenong.

As part of the capital improvement works being conducted at Ross Reserve over the coming years a 'tan' style running/walking track will be constructed within the reserve. This will provide a safe and accessible running track for use for casual and organised events. Council also needs to consider whether other locations located within the municipality would be suitable for these events also.

There is currently no 'Park-Run' sites located in the municipality and no known trial running groups. City of Greater Dandenong could look to host or alternatively attract Community 'Fun Run' events to the municipality to encourage participation in casual/social athletic pursuits. These events may create a pathway into formal structured athletic clubs. Annually the YMCA deliver a twilight fun run, however this is reliant on successfully receiving grant funding to deliver.

12. Recommendations

12.1. Club Sustainability

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
12.1.1	To work with all Athletics Clubs located within the City of Greater Dandenong to consider amalgamation, and the retention of both Ross and Booth Reserve facilities with support from Council Officers. Increase the term of tenancy (long term lease) for a potential amalgamated club to provide increased activation and participation at the facility year-round.	Sport & Recreation Team; Clubs	High
12.1.2	Provide guidance to clubs to increase participation in Athletics.	Sport & Recreation Team	High
12.1.3	The development of linkages with schools to provide a mutually beneficial relationship.	Clubs; State Bodies	High
12.1.4	The development of linkages with other sporting clubs to provide cross-training opportunities in athletics during the off-season.	Clubs	High
12.1.5	To develop improved understanding and engagement of club volunteers to all people and abilities.	Sport & Recreation Team; State Bodies	High
12.1.6	Provide guidance on ways to promote athletic sport participation opportunities to residents.	Sport & Recreation Team	High
12.1.7	Provide guidance on ways to manage clubs more effectively.	Sport & Recreation Team; State Bodies	High
12.1.8	Provide information regarding fundraising opportunities to assist financially.	Sport & Recreation Team; State Bodies	High
12.1.9	Provide guidance on ways to ensure the club culture is inviting and inclusive.	Sport & Recreation Team; State Bodies	High
12.1.10	Advocate to State bodies to assist with the provision of club improvement programs and leadership training.	Sport & Recreation Team	High
12.1.11	Advocate to State bodies to assist with promotion of clubs to the broader community.	Sport & Recreation Team	High

12.2. Sports Development

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
12.2.1	Assist clubs develop a structure for all athletics (track and field) coaching activities across all participation levels.	Sport & Recreation Team; State Bodies	Medium
12.2.2	Facilitate increased opportunities for people to become accredited officials.	Sport & Recreation Team; Clubs; State Bodies	High
12.2.3	Facilitate increased opportunities for people to become accredited coaches.	Sport & Recreation Team; Clubs; State Bodies	High
12.2.4	Advocate State bodies to provide increased development opportunities to clubs and schools.	Sport & Recreation Team	Medium
12.2.5	Investigate opportunities with the Special Olympics for increased participation and engagement.	Sport & Recreation Team	Medium

12.3. Programming and Events

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
12.3.1	To allow the athletics events to be conducted and both track and field disciplines to be accommodated, the Ross Reserve Athletics facility needs to only cater for athletics. The soccer pitch needs to be removed and the tenant club moved to play on an alternative pitch. This will allow for additional field equipment, including the hammer throw cage and javelin throw pad to be installed along with throw cages for the shot put and discus disciplines. This is a minimum requirement to enable the facility to meet IAAF standards (Class 2 Certificate).	Sport & Recreation Team	High
12.3.2	Number of athletics venues: Due to the declining number of participants, particularly from the City of Greater Dandenong, it is difficult to justify keeping two athletics venues in the municipality. It is recommended that the Ross Reserve be the primary municipality venue. The Booth Reserve venue could be redeveloped for different sports that lack available grounds.	Sport & Recreation Team	Medium
12.3.3	Modification of program/event formats: More sports are looking for shorter and more accessible formats that are convenient and efficient to maximise retention whilst providing an attractive option for new participants. Clubs need to develop initiatives to provide new avenues for recruitment and retention.	Clubs; State Bodies	Medium

12.3.4	Purchase of specialised athletics equipment for event/club hire (refer to appendix 5).	Sport & Recreation Team	Medium
12.3.5	Implement an Events Officer Council position to assist with set up, access to equipment and troubleshoot any issues with events. Role could also manage bookings for this site.	Sport & Recreation Team	Medium

12.4. Infrastructure Improvements:

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
12.4.1	<p>Reconstruction of Athletics Track (Ross Reserve): The athletics track at Ross Reserve is the only synthetic surfaced track in City of Greater Dandenong and would be considered as a regional facility considering its proximity from other regional athletics venues. The surface of the track is uneven as a result of the sub-grade found underneath the synthetic surface. An initial geotechnical investigation has been completed and has guided the level of works required for reconstruction. The uneven track has resulted in a surface which is undulating making it inadequate for competition. In addition the maintenance cost to council is significant at \$40,000 per annum.</p> <p>The reconstruction will bring the facility up to IAAF standards (Class 2 Certificate) and will include additional track equipment for field sports, allowing the facility to be fully utilised for track and field events.</p>	Sport & Recreation Team	High
12.4.2	<p>Pavilion and Venue Surrounds Redevelopment (Ross Reserve): The existing pavilion at Ross Reserve does not meet female and junior friendly standards and DDA requirements. The pavilion needs to be redeveloped to include, as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unisex Change rooms with adjoining amenities • Accessible Change room and amenity (with hoist and change bed) • Increased storage space • Commercial kitchen space • First Aid Room • Modern social space. <p>It is recommended the tiered seating area be removed and the installation of new shade and seating around the athletics track be introduced. Ramp access from the pavilion to the track is required to provide ease of access to the venue. Currently there are no shade structures.</p>	Sport & Recreation Team	High

12.4.3	Signage and Wayfinding Improvements (Ross Reserve): Signage and wayfinding improvements are required to assist with directing the community and visitors to the Ross Reserve venue. Signage should ensure that clubs and facilities are easy to locate and provide good quality, accurate information regarding the services available at the club/facility.	Open Space Team	Medium
12.4.4	Floodlighting Upgrade (Ross Reserve): Upgrade of the floodlighting at the venue to 200 lux levels is required to enable events to be conducted in the evenings.	Sport & Recreation Team	Medium

Capital Works	Projected Cost
Reconstruction of Athletics Track (Ross Reserve)	\$2.2 million
Pavilion Redevelopment & Surrounds (Ross Reserve)	\$6 million
Signage and Wayfinding Improvements (Ross Reserve)	\$100,000
Floodlighting Upgrade (Ross Reserve)	\$800,000

12.5. School Participation

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
12.5.1	Remove the hire fee for schools within City of Greater Dandenong for Ross Reserve Athletics venue (excluding any additional equipment hire, club room cleaning requirements and CGD event staffing). This will promote usage of the venue by CGD schools and could lead to greater participation.	Sport & Recreation Team	High
12.5.2	Advocate to state sporting bodies to assist with programming, education and resourcing of schools to assist in the delivery of programs and events.	Sport & Recreation Team	Medium

12.6. Cross-Country and Social Athletics Programming

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Priority
12.6.1	Investigate strategies to increase participation in cross-country.	Sport & Recreation Team	Medium
12.6.2	Investigate strategies to increase casual/social athletics pursuits such as minor and major events.	Sport & Recreation Team	Medium

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Ross Reserve Master Plan



Appendix 2 – Club Workshop Notes

Dandenong Little Athletics Centre

Workshop held Thursday 19 April 2018 at Booth Reserve, Athletics Pavilion.

Strengths

- Number of shot put / discus – design for number of kids
- Storage
- Facility
- Timeframe of program
- Passionate / strive for excellence – management
- Increase representation in state competitions
- Friendly environment / inclusive / culture
- Foster performance / participation focus
- Social / all abilities / multicultural
- Streamlining processes

Promotion

- Lack of profile
- Signage on Clow Street
- Schools – leaflets (with 3 clubs)
- Website
- Facebook
- School newsletter is hit and miss
- Signage
- E-Newsletters from schools
- Word of mouth
- Offer – 2 x trials
- Query LA – clinics in schools
- Doveton show promotion
- Invitation to kids

Facilities

- Viewing
- Shelter
- Drainage – drain full
- Grass track
- Pavilion upgrade – (LED, facelift)
- Tower (leaning)
- Seating

Council Help

- Links to multicultural groups
- Promotion
- Programming funding support
- Liaison / communication (consistently)
- Understanding casual booking expectations
- Open communications / sharing
- Winter application for pavilion only

Challenges / Areas for Improvement

- Retentions/turn over, potential for amalgamation with other CGD clubs discussed.
- Cost - \$150 per year – disadvantaged groups
- Parent involvement – education
- Parents working weekends
- Saturday school for multicultural groups/ESL
- Split families
- Officials / tech training / recruitment – cost
- Centre coach – looking to pay coach
- Other sports
- Spread of management
- Schools use in March – so out of sync with clubs
- Grass track
- Shelter
- Links / partnerships with winter clubs
- Cross country
- Equipment replacement – lack of funds
- Grants are difficult
- Attract parents – get kids (multicultural considerations)
- Breaking down barriers
- Connect with multicultural department

Media and Communications

- Team app
- Facebook
- Website
- LA email

Masters Athletics – Ross Reserve Home Venue Members

Meeting held on Thursday 3 May 2018 at Ross Reserve, Athletics Pavilion.

Facilities

- Most venues are just track
- Not the infrastructure for throwing
- Multilingual signage needed

- Track and flooding / drainage issues present
- Track surface needs improvement
- Facilities need to be improved

Improvements

- Recruitment
- Promotion
- Promotion that it is a Safe environment (social / physical activity)

Promotion

- Flyers at festivals
- Word of mouth
- Query policy change in Council promotion (i.e. Council able to promote Clubs individually to the community)
- Advertising with other sports
- Multilingual
- Further Involvement in CGD festivals

Social Athletics

- Park runs (increase female participation)
 - Timing
 - Safe environment
 - Social
 - Flexible
- Social running groups

Membership

- Predominantly Anglo (90%) membership via state (home venue nominated) 12-14 venues
- 60 registered home venue members (mainly track)
- Recruitment slow
- 30-35 per session every Wednesday night all year round
- Some events combined
- Existing competitors from Australia
 - Masters remain at both

Club

- Coach not priority
- Financially viable
- User pays
- Low cost
 - \$4/night - club
 - \$35/year - state fee

Springvale Little Athletics Club

Meeting held Thursday 24 May 2018 at Ross Reserve, Athletics Pavilion.

What Works Well?

- Friday competition program – 2-2 ½ hour session
 - Each child has 3-5 events with 20-30 minutes individual activity
- Good committee structure and base
- Financial
- Governance structure
- Support
- Liaison CO/LAU
- Inclusiveness/participatory based

Current Provision

- October-March (3 week break over Christmas) competition Friday night
 - (Non-compulsory training Monday. First three months relay training in addition)
- One-off season cost to cover local carnivals
 - All regional/state user pays South Metro Region
 - Track and Field Regionals (not able at RR)
 - Relays – can be hosted Regionals
- Cross-Country
 - April-August
 - Affiliated with Bayside CC - still under club
 - Can't be hosted at RR as no ability for 3km loop off road
 - U6-8: 1km
 - U9-11: 1.5km
 - U12-14: 2km
 - U15+: 3km

Facility Improvements

- Advertising of facility/signage
- DDA – Track and Field and Pavilion
- Functionality pavilion
- Speakers/PA system for right around the track
- Enough storage and ramps to track
- Water fountains
- Shade structures
- Track surrounds
- ESD

Areas of Improvement

- Lack of coaching } with more child activity
- Lack of volunteers }
- Workload across committee roles
- Old athletes to return to mentor/coach
 - Community demands
 - Timing
- Retention
 - Pathways
 - Incentive
 - Self-conscious/peer pressure
- Pathways to senior/transition
- Engagement schools
 - Participation

Participation

Schools

- Mainly Primary Schools
- 15+ schools carnivals
 - Cost factor
 - Equipment
 - Travel
 - Members present to assist
- Benefit to club
 - Finance

Disabled-Physical

- Lack of programming
- Knowledge

Promotion

- Community events
- Some schools
- Some social media (communications internally)
- Some web
- Some word of mouth
- Name of pavilion/facility would be ideal
 - Naming conversation

Springvale Dandenong Athletics Club

Meeting held Thursday 26 April 2018 at Civic Centre (Dandenong)

- Two years ago the club separated from the Haileybury Athletics Club (part of the Old Haileybury Athletics Club).
- Currently have three coaches.

- Limited committee membership with essentially only the President active.
- Main Issues:
 - Recruitment/Promotion (lacking resources & funding)
 - Administration Structure/Engagement – members do not want to contribute at this level or do not have the capacity to assist.
 - Financial viability
 - Future of the club. Options are:
 - Status Quo
 - Amalgamation with Little Athletics Club
 - Cease to operate
- Existing Ross Reserve facility does not meet needs. “Strong Clubs have AV/IAAF accredited facilities.” Throwing areas are needed.
- Previous recruitment strategies:
 - Little Athletics Club (limited)
 - Word of mouth
 - Limited school engagement
 - Limited social media
 - Letter-box drop
 - Newspaper advertisements

Appendix 3 – State Sporting Associations and Sporting Groups Notes

Special Olympics – Victoria Branch

Meeting with Simon Rodder, Special Olympics Victoria Office (Brunswick) on Wednesday 23 May 2018

- Currently the Dandenong Casey Titans Special Olympics Club runs programs but predominantly in the City of Casey. There is an opportunity to affiliate with an existing club to assist in creating pathways for participation.
- Issues with Little Athletics structure from an accessibility perspective:
 - Long 2.5hr session
 - Competition focused, opposed to participation
 - Lack of modified equipment
 - Lack of education of club coaches and administrators on how to accommodate for all abilities
- Issues with Athletics Victoria structure from an accessibility perspective:
 - Multi-class classification process
 - Cost for classification
 - Lack of education of club coaches and administrators on ways to accommodate for all abilities
- Lack of school engagement with athletics (i.e. no pathways from schools to clubs).
- Need to look at greater engagement opportunities with Special Schools and Disability Services.
- Opportunity to design and implement an accessible community program.

Little Athletics Victoria

Phone Meeting with Anthony McIntosh on Tuesday 29 May 2018

Participation trends

Holding its own with 18,000 per annum, 100 centres, participation increase when Olympics is on. Sport is run very well. Has a robust and sound base. Very passionate volunteers running it.

It is easy to join and participate. High participation numbers in 5-12 years, Under 16 is highest. Cross over with AV from U12. LAV is a familiar atmosphere. Officials at AV are fully accredited and no connection, therefore a competitive experience.

Competition model, with participation at heart and developing motor skills.

Issues/Concerns

1. Length of time the program runs for (can be long waiting time)
2. Volunteer officials
3. Kids become disengaged
4. Turnover is higher

Support to clubs from Little Athletics Victoria

Region structure – provide event assistance, they run the regional event, support the centres with operations, official progression, coaching assistance, play a role in regional championship - teams are full.

Cash grants not normal.

Regional development fund – centre operation and equipment purchase and coaching support.

Registration fees – insurance, timing equipment (and software for all centres), online registration database (entry system and membership database).

SRV/LAV/VicSport in past six months are undertaking a project to improve support to centres.

Capacity of centres to deliver a standardised program across the state. Differences in terms of maintenance costs. All weather use ability.

Coaching and officials subsidised courses across the state.

Marketing via digital media etc. to raise profile focused on parents. A campaign for each centre (4-5km radius). To all members, provide news worthy messages , tribalism.

Four state championship events. Track and field (March), multi, cross country (July), relays

Participation is seasonal, with cross country is not as heavily invested in.

Transition between Little Athletics Victoria (LAV) and Athletics Victoria

Whole of sport approach tried nationally 3-4 years ago. LAV started as a rebellion as a breakaway for kids to be involved in athletics. For modified kids sport. However work strongly together.

School programming

Community kid's athletics, trial program, VicHealth, term 2 currently partnering with Athletics Australia and VicHealth and LAV delivering the program. CALD and disability community previously not touched.

Doesn't have the need to go through the traditional club structure.

Has coaches, curriculum, and resources. Can be run anywhere with no specific resources. Weekly basis for an hour. Emerson School trial. Also about increasing physical participation. Program to develop fundamental motor skills.

Looking for opportunities to run the program with other disability schools.

Community has changed, opposed to LAV program.

Inclusiveness in Centres

- Modified equipment (not generally needed, centre by centre depending on need), grass track is an issue.
- Role model/ambassador for multi-class programs.
- Generally parent of child can deliver and educate officials/club leaders.
- Develop a support network.
- State champs have multi-class program.
- Promoting multi-class opportunity.
- Steer away from multi-class at centre level and join in with everyone so as to not pigeon hole them.
- Sport can be tailored.

CALD/Indigenous

- Don't do enough; don't have anything in foreign languages. From a marketing perspective.
- Need momentum and need to come as a cohort.

Yarra Ranges have a combined junior and seniors (LAV & AV).

The perception of some Little Athletes and families of senior athletes is that it is not attractive:

- Social
- Programming
- Progression is dropping off
- Scheduling around other sports
- Can move along with the cohort/friendship groups
- Mentoring/buddying arrangements needed. Social glue.

Athletics Victoria and Little Athletics Victoria:

- Duplication of championship events
- Transition processes b/w bodies
- Joint board meetings
- National leadership challenge
- Scheduling of LA and AV events.

Athletics Victoria (AV)

Meeting with Kirby Ellis, Civic Centre (Dandenong) on Tuesday 29 May 2018

- Participation is trending downwards.
- AV is currently surveying their membership to get a better understanding of needs.
- Recreational running is on the increase.
- There is a perception that competitive athletics is too elitist.
- Clubs are opposed to the 'Park Run' concept as they see it as a competitor.
- There is no current support or funding available from Athletics Victoria for clubs.
- AV deliver a coaching course, however this is not subsidised and is user pays.
- Concern about the attitude of AV staff and willingness to understand issues and improve the sport.
- Dual membership option available between Little Athletics Victoria and Athletics Victoria.
- AV are not currently delivering any school-based programs or support to schools.
- AV are supportive of amalgamation of athletics clubs for long-term club sustainability.
- Limited promotion of sport to the community - only via websites, social media and newsletters.
- Have seen growth in para-athletes, despite lack of awareness in para opportunities.

School Sports Victoria (SSV)

Meeting with Jude Maquire, Ian Landy and Ricky Thompson, School Sport Victoria (Coburg) on Wednesday 30 May 2018

- Elitist model, focused on identifying the top athletes.
- They see the role of schools to provide the participatory/education focus.
- Appropriate modern facilities are critical to venues hosting regional and above athletics carnivals.
 - Venues also need to be able to accommodate both track and field events. Shade structures around the venue are critical as well as access to drinking fountains and adequate numbers of toilets.
 - A venue representative is critical at all SSV events to be able to provide equipment and trouble shoot issues.
 - An operational canteen also needs to be provided.

Appendix 4 – School Survey Responses

Question 1: Name of School

The following schools completed the survey:

- Dandenong South Primary School
- Emerson – Junior/Senior School Campus
- Emerson – Middle School Campus
- Haileybury College
- Heatherhill Primary School
- Keysborough Primary School
- Keysborough College – Acacia Campus
- Keysborough College – Banksia Campus
- Mt Hira College P-12
- Noble Park English Language School
- Silvertown Primary School
- St Elizabeth’s Parish School
- St John’s Regional College
- Yarraman Oaks Primary School

Question 2: Do you run an athletics carnival and/or program at your school?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	14
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		14

Question 3: What time of the year do you run your program/carnival?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
January	0.00%	0
February	0.00%	0
March	28.57%	4
April	0.00%	0
May	0.00%	0
June	0.00%	0
July	7.14%	1
August	28.57%	4
September	14.29%	2
October	0.00%	0
November	0.00%	0
December	7.14%	1
Multiple	0.00%	0
N/A - we do not run a program/carnival	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	14.29%	2
TOTAL		14

Question 4: Which school years participate in this program/carnival?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Prep	35.71%	5
Grade 1	35.71%	5
Grade 2	42.86%	6
Grade 3	64.29%	9
Grade 4	64.29%	9
Grade 5	64.29%	9
Grade 6	64.29%	9
Year 7	28.57%	4
Year 8	28.57%	4
Year 9	21.43%	3
Year 10	21.43%	3
Year 11	21.43%	3
Year 12	21.43%	3
Junior School Only (Prep-grade 6)	21.43%	3
Senior School Only (Year 7-12)	28.57%	4
N/A	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 14		

Question 5: Do you conduct an athletics program as part of the school's curriculum?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.86%	13
No	7.14%	1
TOTAL		14

Question 6: If you answered Yes to Q5 – Where do you conduct your program/carnival?

Response Type	No. of responses
At School	11
Ross Reserve Athletics Venue	1
Casey Fields Athletics Venue	1

Question 7: If you are conducting a program/carnival how is this made inclusive for all?

No.	Responses
1	Program design makes it inclusive - no standing still is goal - especially with junior school.
2	Standards based program, every child joins in across the school.
3	We use the older students to help out the younger.
4	Every member of every class competes at every athletics discipline. PP-G2 compete in modified athletics (egg/spoon, under/over hurdles etc.), whereas G3-6 complete the disciplines as they are meant to be completed. e.g. discus, long jump, hurdles, shot put etc.
5	All students are expected to join in PE classes in the athletics unit and it is targeted to various abilities. Students are encouraged to participate in events at the Athletics carnival
6	The types of activities and events are individualised for each student's needs. The expectation of the learning outcome for each student is different.
7	We plan to separate the students into junior, middle and senior so students can get tailored coaching. The challenge we have is finding coaches who have experience in working with children with special needs. We have formed a relationship with Glenhuntly Athletic Club with the aim of transitioning students into mainstream athletics and cross country.
8	I run it in my PE lessons.
9	It is a compulsory event.
10	Modify activities and distances.
11	Everyone is included in their age event and children rotate through the activities. They score points for their house in each activity.
12	We have a range of events that cater to all abilities and use a range of different equipment that is inclusive to all.
13	House carnival and practice for SIS carnival in August.

Question 8: Does your school take part in School Sport Victoria athletics events (district or regional)?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.43%	10
No, (please specific why)	28.57%	4
TOTAL		14

Responses for 'No':

- a) ELS, hence not aligned to SSV, nor do I desire to be due to the cost associated to being a member of SSV. Students are only with us for 12 months maximum and their time for SSV begins in their mainstream environment.
- b) These events are on the weekend, making it hard for the students to get to the event. Many of our students do not have regular access to a car or have a willing caregiver to take them to these events.
- c) Lack of commitment.

Question 9: What are the challenges/barriers to delivering a program/carnival at your school? (Main issues only)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Available space to deliver program/event	21.43%	3
Available resources to deliver program/event	42.86%	6
Available staff to deliver program/event	35.71%	5
Cost to transport students to an athletics venue	50.00%	7
Availability of an athletics venue	35.71%	5
Cost of an athletics venue	64.29%	9
Capacity of staff (i.e. knowledge/skill) in athletics disciplines	35.71%	5
Higher priorities in school curriculum	42.86%	6
Unfamiliar with or not a popular activity amongst school students and families	21.43%	3
Total Respondents: 14		

Question 10: Any other comments on how we may be able to support athletics in schools?

No.	Responses
1	Support cost of school staff or coaches to be qualified through Athletics Australia courses.
2	Regular clinics interaction/communication between Little Athletics and the school to create smooth pathway.
3	No.
4	I will be looking at potentially including athletics in our term 4 after school sport program should we be successful in a grant.
5	Allow access to the Athletics tracks at no cost.
6	It would be great to access facilities in the Dandenong area.
7	Free clinics in school.
8	<p>Free teacher PD.</p> <p>Someone to run free athletics lesson sequences during PE sessions to assist teachers.</p> <p>We currently do this with AFL and basketball and feel very supported.</p>
9	Please don't offer a canteen loaded with junk food which is so contrary to our curriculum which promotes nutritious foods.
10	I did the Athletics coaching course online last year and it was fantastic, as it gave you practical fun games and activities to teach different athletic events.

Appendix 5 – Specialist Athletics Equipment

The following equipment is recommended to be purchased by Council and hired out to Clubs and facility users. Indicative costs are included based on 2018/19 pricing:

Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Sub Total
High Jump mat (6 x 4 x 0.7m)	1	\$9,197.60	\$9,197.60
High Jump stands	1 pair	\$848.07	\$848.07
High Jump crossbars	1	\$131.56	\$131.56
High Jump measuring device	1	\$382.54	\$382.54
High Jump Slatted frame (24 sqm)	1	\$3,254.65	\$3,254.65
High Jump moveable mat protection welded cover (24 sqm)	1	\$16,116.99	\$16,116.99
Hurdles	60	\$315.75	\$18,944.99
Hurdle trolleys	2	\$2,038.16	\$4,076.32
Starting Blocks	8	\$291.46	\$2,331.69
Starting Block racks	1	\$671.98	\$671.98
Lap counter with bell	1	\$663.88	\$663.88
Finish line post and ground socket	1	\$107.27	\$107.27
Timekeepers stand (for 12 people)	1	\$4,588.49	\$4,588.49
Winner stand (for 12 people)	1	\$2,185.96	\$2,185.96
Discus throw cage (mobile)	1	\$9,658.71	\$9,658.71
Discus set (0.75/1.25/1.5/1.75/2kg)	1	\$459.72	\$459.72
Hammer Throw cage and ground sockets	1	\$15,684.26	\$15,684.26
Shot put set (1/2/3/4/5/6/7kg)	1	\$313.80	\$313.80
Javelins set (400/500/600/700/800/900g)	1	\$693.51	\$693.51
Throw markers (set of 25 markers)	1	\$607.12	\$607.12
Distance markers	10	\$196.33	\$1,963.32
Team bench mobile roofed	1	\$5,424.42	\$5,424.42
Distance measuring panel	1	\$793.42	\$793.42
Steel measuring tapes	1	\$54.65	\$54.65
Rakes with handles	1	\$44.53	\$44.53
Broom for running track (100cm width)	1	\$60.72	\$60.72
Steeplechase barrier	1	\$935.11	\$935.11
Total Cost			\$100,238.81

Note: Costs based upon quote received from Helo Sports (August 2018). Also note that items and quantities listed may change subject to discussion with clubs and event organisers needs prior to purchase.

Appendix 6 – References

Year in Review 2016/2017, Little Athletics Victoria

Year in Review 2015/2016, Little Athletics Victoria

Annual Report 2014/2015, Little Athletics Victoria

Annual Report 2013/2014, Little Athletics Victoria

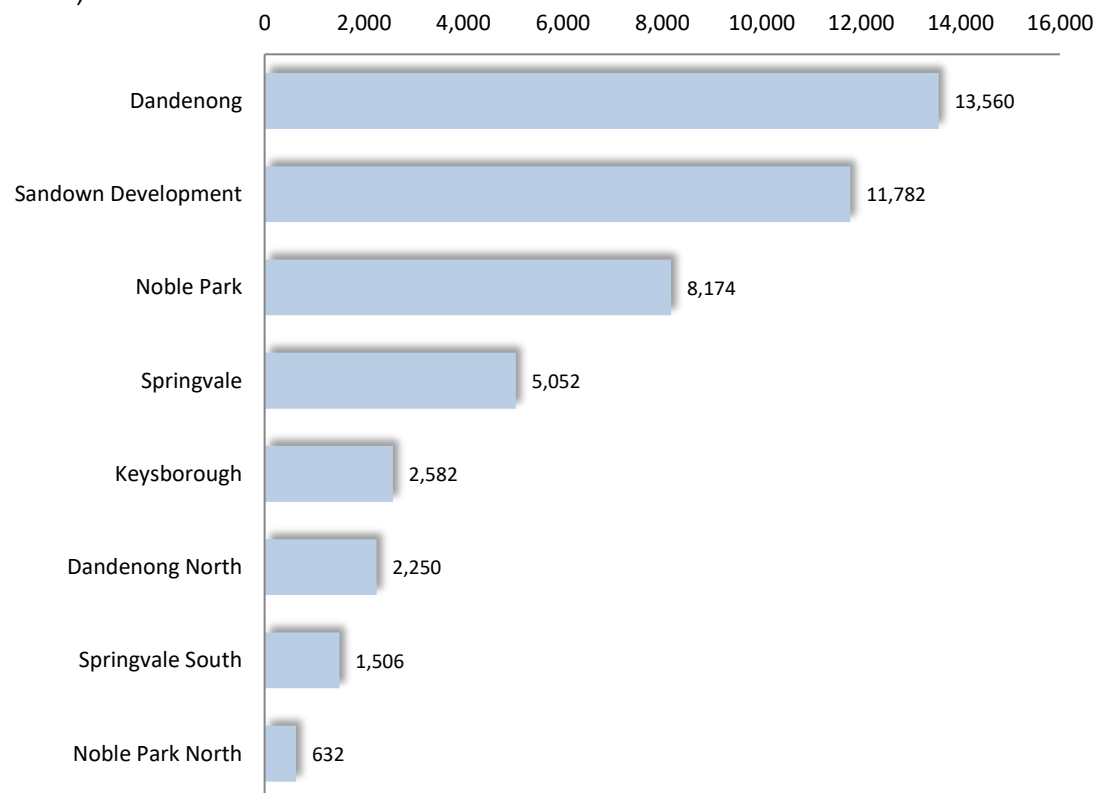
2016-2017 Annual Report, Athletics Victoria

Appendix 7 - City of Greater Dandenong Demographics

Population

City of Greater Dandenong is approximately 129 square kilometres. The current population is estimated at 170,900 and is projected to increase to 205,000 by 2028.

The following graph is the forecast resident population change per suburb (as at Feb 2018).



Cultural Diversity and Settlement

- Most culturally diverse community in Australia
- 64 per cent of its residents born overseas
- Residents from 157 different birthplaces
- In the year 2016/17, 1,806 migrants settled in City of Greater Dandenong, the fourth highest number in Victoria. Among them, humanitarian migrants numbered 388 – fewer than half the 750 who settled in City of Greater Dandenong in 2010/11 – though still the sixth highest number in Victoria.
- Over 1,840 asylum seekers - 25% of all asylum seekers in the state.

Fluency and Literacy in English

- Languages other than English spoken by over two-thirds (70%) of residents – highest in the state.
- One in five residents have limited fluency in spoken English – highest level in Victoria.
- Estimated 26% of residents have very limited English literacy.

Education

- 28% of local prep. pupils were vulnerable on one or more aspects of development – highest in Victoria.
- 83% of prep. pupils participated in a pre-school program - third lowest in Melbourne.
- In 2016, 13% of 20 to 24 year-olds left school before year 11, compared with 8.3% across Melbourne.
- 18% per cent of 20 to 24 year-olds neither in paid employment nor enrolled in education - second highest level in Melbourne.

Unemployment & Incomes

- Unemployment rate: 10.2% in June 2017 - highest in Victoria and twice metropolitan level.
- 8,839 residents are unemployed - a rise of 1,375 people, or 21%, since mid-2011.
- Individual incomes of \$476 - 71% of metropolitan level and lowest in Melbourne.
- Nearly one in three (31%) families with children have no parent in paid work – highest Melbourne.

Housing

- In 30 years to 2017, local housing purchase costs trebled in real terms.
- Local housing prices rose from 3.2 years of average household income in 1996, to 8.1 years in 2016.
- Proportion of rental properties affordable to Centrelink recipients fell from 97% in 2001, to 5% in 2018.
- Nearly two-thirds (68%) of renters in City of Greater Dandenong faced financial stress after paying their rent - the second highest level in Melbourne and substantially higher than the corresponding metropolitan level of 53%.
- According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1,942 persons in City of Greater Dandenong are homeless, representing 1.2% of residents. The number and percentage of homeless persons in City of Greater Dandenong were the highest in Victoria.

Families

- In 2016, the teenage birth rate in City of Greater Dandenong was twice the metropolitan level, at nine births per 1,000 women aged 15-19, compared with five per 1,000 across Melbourne.
- 82% of residents who gave birth in 2014/15 were born overseas.
- One-parent households account for 28% of families with dependent children, compared with 24% across Victoria.

Health

- Adjusted disability rate is 7.2% - seventh highest in the state.
- 15% of City of Greater Dandenong residents consumed take-away meals at least once per week - the third highest in Victoria.
- 30% of residents participated in 30 minutes or more of physical activity on four or more days each week - the second lowest proportion in the State.

Gender Equity

- Women in City of Greater Dandenong experience higher rates of limited English fluency, are less often in paid work and receive decisively lower incomes in employment than men. They account for six in seven sole parents, experience higher rates of mental illness, are more often assaulted in the home than males, and are twice more likely to feel concerned for their personal safety at night than men.
- 36% of residents expressed opposition to gender equity in a VicHealth survey – highest in Victoria.
- In 2016/7, the rate of incidents of violence within families, recorded by police in City of Greater Dandenong, was 65% higher than the metropolitan level and the highest rate in Melbourne.

Youth

- Seventy per cent of 12 to 24 year-olds speak languages other than English at home,
- 1,500 young people have limited fluency in the use of spoken English.
- 13% of 20 to 24 year-olds in City of Greater Dandenong had left school before completing year 11 ('left school early') - compared with 8.3% across Melbourne.
- 2,516 15-24 year-olds are neither employed nor enrolled in education – a rise of 535 or 27% on the number of disengaged young people in City of Greater Dandenong five years earlier. Local disengagement rates rise with age, from 7% among 15-19 year-olds, to 18% among those aged 20-24 years.
- In 2016, 40 births were recorded among women aged 15-19 years in City of Greater Dandenong, representing a rate of 9 births per 1,000 women of that age – almost double the corresponding metropolitan level of 5 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19.

Older Residents

- 17,000 aged 70 years or more. In the decade to 2028, this number may increase by 4,600.
- 73% of residents aged 70 or more were born overseas –the largest proportion in Victoria.
- Over half of residents aged 70 or more speak languages other than English at home.
- Over one-quarter (29%) of residents aged 70 or more has limited fluency in the use of spoken English.

- At \$554, the median income among City of Greater Dandenong residents aged 55-59, and therefore approaching retirement, was the lowest in Melbourne in 2016.
- The ratio of Aged Pension recipients to persons aged 65 years or more in City of Greater Dandenong was 78% - the second highest in Melbourne. By contrast the ratio of Aged Pension recipients to older persons in metropolitan Melbourne was 64%, reflecting a lower dependency upon the pension for income support among these residents.

Indigenous Residents

- Indigenous residents are half as likely to own or be purchasing their homes (33%) as the general population (61%).
- 63% of indigenous families with children in City of Greater Dandenong were one-parent families –more than twice the level of 27% among the general population.
- Early birth rates were relatively high among young indigenous women, with 7.7% of 15-24 year-old indigenous women in City of Greater Dandenong having borne a child, compared with 3% of non-indigenous women of that age.
- Among young adults, aged 20 to 24 years, 43% had left school early – over three times the corresponding level of 13% among non-indigenous young adults.
- 4% of indigenous residents aged 25 to 44 years hold a degree or higher qualification in 2016, compared with 33% of people within the same age range.
- Unemployment rates are 22% among indigenous residents - compared with 10% among the general population.

Overall Disadvantage

- The 2016 Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage, based on the findings of the 2016 Census, ranked City of Greater Dandenong as the second most disadvantaged municipality in Victoria, after Central Goldfields. This is the same ranking as for 1996, 20 years ago.