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**EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS CELEBRATED AT AVENEL RECREATION RESERVE**

Strathbogie Shire Council recently celebrated significant upgrades to the Avenel Recreation Reserve.

The upgrades include new cricket nets, a second asphalt netball court and stage 1 of a skate park for the users of the Avenel Recreation Reserve to enjoy.

The redevelopment has been funded by a \$100,000 contribution from Strathbogie Shire Council, \$17,500 from the Victorian Government, \$17,500 contribution from the Beddison family, as well as generous donations and in-kind support from Avenel Action Group and the local cricket club.

Member for Northern Victoria, Ms Jaclyn Symes attended the Avenel Recreation Reserve to join in the celebrations and said she was very grateful to be involved.

“Avenel is a fantastic community that really gets behind each other and have put in a lot of hard work and years of advocacy to get to where they are today,” Ms Symes said.

“I’m very happy to be involved and to have contributed in my small way, but I would like to give the credit to this community; I think they should be very proud of themselves.”

President of the Avenel Action Group, Jeff Moran said the skate park in particular will be a very welcome addition to the Avenel Recreation Reserve.

“We need things in Avenel that are going to cater for the younger demographic other than the traditional activities which require teams and organisers. The skate park will allow kids to come down in their own time and use it as a meeting place in a safe and accessible area,” Mr Moran said.

Hughes Creek Ward Councillor Malcolm Little said he was delighted to host the event and looks forward to seeing these facilities utilised by Avenel and surrounding communities.

“These projects have really raised the bar for recreation in Avenel, transforming the reserve into a multi-sporting complex,” Cr Little said.

“I’d like to thank everyone who has contributed to these upgrades, from the generous donations and in-kind support, to the hard work of the Avenel Recreation Reserve Committee and its President Gary Green.”

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