



MEDIA RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, 10 OCTOBER, 2018

Huge funding announcement for Avenel multi-use activity precinct

Avenel and surrounds has recently celebrated a \$99,500 funding announcement from the Victorian Government's Pick My Project initiative for a multi-use activity precinct.

The funding will go towards completing Stages 2 and 3 of the project, which will transform what is currently one skate board ramp into a multi-use precinct for skating exercise and wellbeing.

The skate park concept was initiated several years ago by four young Avenel residents, who got in contact with Strathbogie Shire Council.

Soon enough, the Avenel Action Group and the wider Avenel community were on board, with Council backing the project all the way.

Located at the Avenel Recreation Reserve, Stage 1 of the skate park was funded by \$20,000 from the Avenel Action Group, \$50,000 from Strathbogie Shire's Infrastructure Reserve Fund and \$5000 from the Strathbogie Shire Community Grants Program.

Mr Stephen Garner, father of one of the boys who initiated the skate park discussions, was heavily involved in the planning and said it was great to see Council and the local committees support the idea.

"Not all kids play football or cricket, so it is great to have a passive recreation space for the skate park where young people can socialise with friends," Mr Garner said.

"Lots of kids have scooters, bikes and skateboards, but with not many footpaths in Avenel, local kids had nowhere to ride."

President of the Avenel Action Group, Jeff Moran said the precinct will encourage a burgeoning younger demographic in Avenel to engage in non-organised multi use outdoor activities.

"With a growing younger demographic, this facility will provide additional activities and resources other than the traditional team games of football, netball, cricket and tennis," Mr Moran said.

"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."

Hughes Creek Ward Councillor Malcolm Little said Council was very pleased to hear Stages 2 and 3 of the activity precinct received funding.

"This has been a huge community effort and we're so thrilled that Avenel has been rewarded for their hard work," Cr Little said.

“The activity precinct will be in a great central position in the town and will promote the social and physical wellbeing of our ever-growing younger demographic.

Developing this kind of key infrastructure is vital to strengthening and growing our communities and enhancing the regional living experience.”

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