

Moss Vale and District Basketball Association Inc.

Into the future

The journey to a modern multipurpose indoor sporting facility expanding Moss Vale and District Basketball Association Inc (MVDBAI) to serve the needs of the Southern Highlands and enhance the sporting hub of Lackey Park. (Sporting Hub as proposed by Wingecarribee Shire Council. (WSC). The First stadium was a single championship court, with two smaller cross courts, opened in Parkes Rd in 1970 with an estimated shire population of 18,000, in 1983 a duplicate stadium was constructed with a Shire population estimated at 24,000 (this stadium also served Badminton, Volleyball, Netball and Indoor Soccer during the period up to 2011 when Basketball fully utilized the facility 5 nights a week.) In 2019 we still only have two championship courts, fully utilized by a single sport, and a WSC population of an estimated 52,000. The current facility is fully owned and operated, predominately on a volunteer basis, by MVDBAI, including the vacant land that is the proposed site of the new complex.

The volunteer team consists of

Christopher Alleyn – Chairman MVDBAI, former Assistant GM St Michael’s Golf Club, business owner (hospitality), Manager Fitzroy Inn Mittagong

Simon Taufel – former No 1 International Cricket Elite umpire, Head of Umpiring Cricket Australia, Board member PCYC Southern Highlands, Board member Sydney Cricket Ground Trust and Bradman Foundation.

Peter Mitchell – Business Owner Accomplished Development Services, town planner various councils and now private developer

Paul Barcicki – Board Member MVDBAI, Life Member MVDBAI, Shift Superintendent Boral Cement Berrima.

WSC support through Councilor Ian Scandrett.

MVDBAI Board support.

State Government support from Sitting Liberal Member Ms Pru Goward.

Federal Govt MP Mr Stephen Jones

In 2012 MVDBAI secured an Interest free loan to the sum of \$500,000 from WSC, to be repaid over a 15 year period, the purpose to improve the facility in Parkes Road by removing all asbestos, recladding the stadium, insulating roof and some walls, raise the mezzanine roof and develop a spectator viewing area and club rooms, renovating amenities in the old (circa 1970) stadium, provision of retractable championship backboards on court 1. Works were commenced and completed in 2014 with additional funding from donors, businesses and the association reserves. The works totaled some \$650,000.

At the same time lobbying and negotiation commenced with all levels of government with the aim to establish an indoor multipurpose sporting facility on MVDBAI land adjacent to the stadium in Parkes Road with some interaction with Lackey Park, the proposed WSC sporting hub. Lackey Park is also being consider as a site for the Bradman Trust expansion project.

In 2014 Local State MP, Ms Prue Goward granted MVDBAI \$50,000 to carry out financial and feasibility studies on the project.

In August 2016 Otium Planning Group carried out the feasibility and financial studies and revealed strong support for the project. Copy of study link or attachment. The concept was to develop a three, possibly four, court multipurpose stadium on the MVDBAI land adjacent to the current stadium, including considerable office space, function rooms, canteen, multipurpose rooms, permanent and mobile seating, car parking, viewing area over championship court and Lackey Park ovals. The structure was to be modern, aesthetically pleasing, environmentally friendly, low maintenance and energy efficient. Consultation took place with many other local sporting groups, the focus group including Ian Campbell - SHFA, Scott Lee - SH Hockey, Matthew Burke - MV Dragons.

Various management and business partnerships options were proposed and examined.

Applications for various grants and financial support continued with all levels of government. NSW Cricket indicated an interest in being involved and offered financial support as part of the Bradman Trust development at Lackey Park. Basketball NSW has helped in lobbying for funds and proposed future facility management arrangements. MVDBAI's contribution to the project would be land valued at ~\$1.7m, WSC were approached for approx. \$2.5m to make up the 25% co-contribution required for infrastructure grants. WSC agreed to \$300,00 that would be spent on carparking and infrastructure. State and Federal Government members indicated strong support if the additional co-contribution could be achieved. MVDBAI applied to invoke the hardship clause under the grant application conditions to alleviate the 25% requirement.

In 2017 and 18 additional grants were applied for to fund court 2 (Circa 1970), floor replacement, wall lining, scoreboard upgrades, storeroom improvements unsuccessfully. Some of these improvements were eventually funded from MVDBAI reserve funds, approx. \$250,000 still required, we also applied to upgrade goals in 2015, 2016 unsuccessfully.

In 2018 a further \$110,000 was invested in improved amenities including coaches store room, referees change room and amenities, renovation of court 1 (circa1983) amenities, financed from MVDBAI reserve funds.

In 2018 MVDBAI approached WSC for additional funding, in the form of an additional interest free loan for \$120,000, to be added to the end of the current loan, to proceed with DA application and research requirements for the new Multi Purpose Indoor Sporting Facility. WSC agreed to \$60,000, adding three years to our loan repayment, but reducing annual repayment. Research began through Peter Mitchell on how to best spend the additional WSC funding toward developing the Development Application.

Prior to our first Board meeting 2019, Liberal State Member Ms Pru Goward had announced her retirement from politics. Labor candidate for Goulburn, Dr Ursula Stevens, had contacted Chris Alleyne to enquire on the project and advice MVDBAI that the matter had been raised with the Labor Party.

At February Meeting 2019 the motion to progress the project utilizing \$50,000 of the additional funding was passed.