

Ballarat Regional Football (Soccer) Facility underway



Above: City of Ballarat Portfolio Councillor Ben Taylor at Morshead Park, at the site of the future Ballarat Regional Football (Soccer) Facility

Work is underway on the \$1.28 million second stage of the Ballarat Regional Football (Soccer) Facility.

The second stage of the project includes the construction of one synthetic soccer pitch with lighting and associated infrastructure.

The project has been made possible thanks to \$1 million from the Victorian Government and funding from Council's capital works program.

The synthetic pitch and lights will provide the local soccer community with a facility to undertake training and match play regardless of wet or dry weather conditions.

The synthetic pitch will not require any watering, mowing or fertilising and will also collect rain water which will be delivered to the water storage tanks for the adjoining turf soccer pitches.

Work is expected to be completed by spring 2010.

The development of the Ballarat Regional Football (Soccer) Facility is an outcome of the Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility Feasibility Study which was prepared in 2008 by Council, Sport and Recreation Victoria and Football Federation South West Victoria.

The Ballarat Regional Football (Soccer) Facility is one of Council's major sporting precincts. Council has already committed \$400,000 to the initial stage which included power upgrades, design of clubroom extensions, installation of an automatic irrigation system for existing turf pitches and survey and design of all future stages.

Cenotaph war memorial receives restoration funding

Ballarat's Cenotaph memorial on Sturt Street will be restored with a \$10,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Restoring Community War Memorials program.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Tony Robinson visited Ballarat in April to announce the grant. Funds were also nominated for the Ballarat Avenue of Honour Committee for painting and restoration of the memorial wall and rotunda.

Officially unveiled on 24 November 1949 by the then Governor of Victoria General Sir Dallas Brooks, Ballarat's Cenotaph is a memorial to those left behind during war-time and carries the inscription 'Our Glorious Dead'.

An important central gathering place for ceremonies honouring Ballarat's service men and women, the sandstone landmark underwent substantial restoration 15 years ago when the foundations were under-pinned and the sandstone surface cleaned and re-pointed.

The memorial receives ongoing general cleaning and an annual condition assessment as part of an ongoing conservation program.

The grant was awarded to the restoration project based on a grant application prepared by the Ballarat branch of the Air Force Association with assistance from the City of Ballarat's Parks and Waterways department.

Conducted by Paul Hunt Preservations, restoration works include sandblasting and repairing the stonework, the cleaning of decorative elements and the removal of copper corrosion, micro-plant material and green residues from bronze surfaces.

The restoration is expected to be completed this month.



Above: (L to R) Air Force Association members Max Beaumont, Tom Roberts and Stan White; Minister for Veterans' Affairs Tony Robinson; Ballarat Mayor Cr Judy Verlin; City of Ballarat Manager Parks and Waterways Graeme Pike and Member for Ballarat East Geoff Howard