



Victoria Park, Ballarat



**Victoria Park Visioning
Stakeholder Interviews
2012**

Prepared by Sharon Sykes

Stakeholder / Organisation Summary

The following summary includes the outcomes of discussions with a range of users, organisations and stakeholders with an interest in Victoria Park, including:

- Ballarat Cricket Association
- Ballarat Regional Athletics Centre
- Fly Fishers and Ballarat Anglers
- Wendouree Archery Club
- Loreto College
- Victoria Park Soccer Club
- Ballarat Adult Riding Club
- Eureka Orienteers
- Ballarat Environmental Network
- Ballarat Race Walkers
- Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club
- Ballarat Football League
- Ballarat High School
- St Patricks
- Ballarat Triathlon Club
- Ballarat Association Schools
- Ballarat Bicycle User Group
- Ballarat Pony Club
- Ballarat Dog Obedience Club
- Urquhart Park Primary School

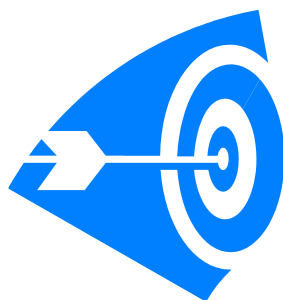
Name of Club / Organisation	Ballarat Cricket Association
Membership Information	<p>42 junior teams, 74 senior teams, 2 junior female teams and 20 girls in teams, 1 female senior team, 1 veterans team.</p> <p>Juniors have nearly doubled in the last 5 years with all membership showing increases.</p> <p>It is expected that membership will continue to increase, hopefully in veterans as well.</p>
Facilities Used	<p>11 turf grounds at Victoria Park, every ground is used on a Saturday morning, with both Saturday and Sunday usage.</p> <p>Cricket Victoria runs events and there are also schools events and competitions.</p> <p>Cricket Association maintains and pays for all pitch replacements. Council maintains the grounds.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>Oval 6 is tiny, no pitch, mainly used for dogs.</p> <p>Ovals 11-13 have no fences and are frequently vandalised. The nets behind oval 11 are dilapidated.</p> <p>Grounds are too dry – insufficient irrigation / water supply.</p> <p>Concerned about the dangers / risk of flying balls when cricket is being played in the park and other users are wandering by...</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Victoria Park is a large space – it is very special.</p> <p>It is unique to see so many cricket grounds in one park, however with some improvements, there could be another 3 grounds (If oval #11 could be fenced, maybe another cricket ground would be available).</p> <p>Increasing water supply would be desirable.</p>

Name of Club / Organisation	Ballarat Regional Athletics Centre
Membership Information	<p>The Ballarat Regional Athletics Centre used to be the largest regional club in Victoria, no longer due to increasing fees and travel requirements. Members come from Bacchus March to the western state border. Anticipate an increase in membership with increased support and changing culture of athletics.</p>
Facilities Used	<p>Runners use Victoria Park and the Lake - they have an 11km run.</p> <p>The Association uses Lake Wendouree, Lake Burrumbeet and the University for cross country; it does not currently conduct any organised event in Victoria Park.</p> <p>It is believed that the YCW – Harriers have an organised run in the park.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>Concerns about safety particularly in the south-east corner of the park through the pine plantation – in terms of personal safety and also the condition of the path with tree roots coming through the track surface and overhanging branches. Also lack of lighting makes Victoria Park unsafe.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Victoria Park is very special because of the trees, facilities as destination and the interactions of lots of people doing different things in the park.</p> <p>Victoria Park would be great for a cross country track, running and walking events, etc. (2 laps of the park = 10km). Various circuits could be created of various distances.</p> <p>Improve lighting, path surface and width of perimeter path and increase the amenities in the park.</p> <p>Resolve the traffic management issues in Victoria Park for walking and running events, including the speed of traffic and park entrances.</p>



Name of Club / Organisation	Fly Fishers and Ballarat Anglers
Membership Information	<p>Ballarat Anglers host 9 clubs with a membership of 800-900.</p> <p>Fly Fishers comprise 150 members. Recreational participation in fishing is very high when the dams are stocked.</p> <p>Future membership is expected to increase with the drought being over and in anticipation of better facilities. It is noted that membership might account for only about 20% of the total number of fishers.</p>
Facilities Used	<p>Victoria Park is used by the anglers for 1-2 events each year to encourage recreational fishing. About 500 people take part. (Fisheries stock the lake with trout.) The lakes are also used for 3-6 schools programs each year that are conducted by the Anglers (e.g. Fishcare, a program funded by DPI).</p> <p>Fly Fishing members would use the ponds 2-3 times per week and have been doing so for the past 2-3 years. Members also use the casting jetty at Lake Wendouree.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>Portable toilets are needed for events because there are not public toilets in the vicinity of the ponds.</p> <p>For fly fishing competition a casting facility would be required. The primary practice area for the fishers was Victoria Park when Lake Wendouree was dry.</p> <p>Fly casting competition is held April-October with monthly competitions. Fly waters are Lake Burrumbeet, Lake Newlands and Hepburn. In other areas, casting ponds are also used for model boats and practice for informal fishing activities.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Inform the community about the existence of the ponds and fishing could also be better promoted.</p> <p>Improve the facilities around the ponds – the closest oval to the ponds (oval 11) could be used for casting competition. Casting pools of 55x30ft and 150-250ml deep could attract a high level competition to the park. Improved facilities would enhanced the value of the park for recreational and competitive fishers.</p> <p>The ponds need improved maintenance – removal of some of the weed.</p> <p>Victoria Park is like an English Common and is best left under-developed. It is good to ride bikes, play ball games, walk the dog and exercise – a real ‘hidden gem’. Could be promoted more.</p> <p>Safety needs to be increased with better traffic management, especially for events.</p>

Name of Club / Organisation	Wendouree Archery Club
Membership Information	<p>Oldest club in Victoria, started as an RSL archery club. Club shoots all four archery disciplines (outdoor target, clout, indoor target, field).</p> <p>Membership is 7 juniors and 26 adults (with 5 life members), total of 33 in Feb 2012. Membership update to 38 total in June 2012.</p> <p>Membership has increased due to come'n'try days and a new coach and it is expected that with after school programs, family participation and certainty around better facilities, membership will continue to increase in the future.</p> <p>Members come from Ballarat / Wendouree, Linton, Creswick, etc.</p>
Facilities Used	<p>Archery does not use Victoria Park but would like to.</p> <p>Started at Wendouree Reserve then moved to Prince of Wales Park. Agreement is in place until 2013 then club may need to relocate again. Indoor archery is based at the airport. Shooting occurs mid-week and on Saturday and Sunday.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>Require a new home, has considered 12 sites – seeking central location ideally with indoor and outdoor facilities together. Favour Victoria Park. A one-off state title was held in Victoria Park in 1997.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Area proposed by the archery club in Victoria Park is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corner Gillies and Winter Street (south-west corner) – an area measuring 250m (n-s) and 200m (e-w). • Archers would shoot towards the south. • Industrial activity surrounds this site that currently has sheep grazing. • Three archery sports would be together – indoor, clout, target. • Would require a small building (50x10m) for storage and indoor shooting. • Tournaments would be held at this site. • Trees along the southern boundary would act as buffer and wind break with fencing to increase safety. • Propose pine log fencing to keep area safe and free from vandalism but allow public access to the site.



Name of Club / Organisation	Loreto College
Facilities Used	Minimal use of Victoria Park by College, fortnightly PE classes if the school oval is being used by another class. An occasional running group might use the park.
Challenges / Issues	<p>The College needs to make arrangements in advance with Council – this makes the ‘on-the-spot’ decision to use the park very difficult.</p> <p>The grounds at Victoria Park are in poor condition, there is no shelter and the toilets are not used by the College.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>If the oval (#1) could be marked with distances for running (e.g 400m) that would make it very useful.</p> <p>Opportunity for College to negotiate an agreement with Council to maintain the oval and use during school hours. This would create a better quality playing field for the community at all other times (a win-win). Concerns about who would be responsible for vandalism.</p> <p>Park should be safer – eg. close gates at night, make road crossings into the park safer.</p> <p>Park could be more comfortable with more seats and clean and safe toilets.</p> <p>Improve the connection between Lake Wendouree and Victoria Park – two major recreation spaces in Ballarat.</p> <p>Victoria Park is currently under-utilised – its values include variety of recreation and sport and that it has a ‘bush-like’ feel.</p> <p>Interpretive information about the park history and the plantings would be desirable.</p> <p>Year 10 Community Service Program could use Victoria Park for their activities (community contributions, working with others / park tours and interpretive activities) if the park was safe and well signed.</p>



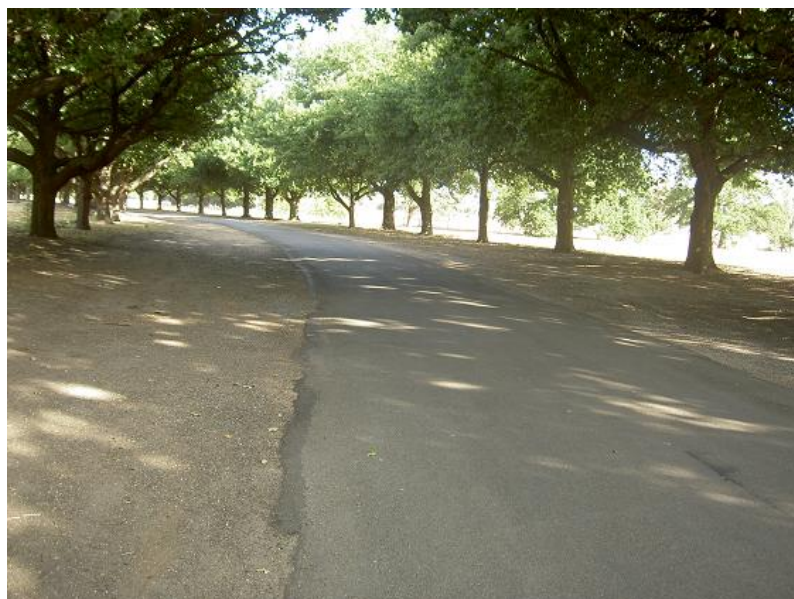
Name of Club / Organisation	Victoria Park Soccer Club
Membership Information	<p>Affiliated with FFV through the Ballarat and District Soccer Association. Currently has 13 junior teams (153 members) and 4 senior teams (60 members) - of these teams 4 junior teams and 1 senior team are female.</p> <p>Club has experienced increase in membership due to female participation increasing, international success in the sport and increased awareness and popularity of soccer. Anticipate ongoing increase in membership although club is 'capped' at 240.</p> <p>Members generally come from the western area of Ballarat – club recruits in local schools. Other nearby facilities are in Pleasant Street, Wendouree and Forest Road.</p>
Facilities Used	<p>Club has winter tenancy at Victoria Park, sharing the clubrooms with the cricket club (summer tenant) and dog club (year round tenancy). Pre-season commences in February – the club uses the park away from the cricket users.</p> <p>The club is operating to maximum with 5 pitches in use (2 senior and 3 junior) in the areas shown as ovals 4 and 5, and 1, 2 and 3. These fields are used for normal home and away matches, small sided games for U7 to U11 and a soccer carnival 1-2 times each season.</p> <p>Grounds are shared with other one-off events such as schools and Frisbee, etc.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>Sharing with schools is difficult because of the wear and tear on the grounds. No access to water for irrigation makes this hard.</p> <p>There are no facilities for girls – the current clubrooms are inadequate. There is a concern that the plans that are currently being discussed for a new community building have insufficient change facilities for the number of teams.</p> <p>Lighting is inadequate with only one area currently being lit.</p> <p>Club struggles to fit in enough grounds from the available space.</p> <p>No shelter or facilities near ovals 1, 2 and 3.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Better sporting facilities – ground surface, clubrooms and lighting.</p> <p>Year round tenancies for all clubs to have social activities during off-season.</p> <p>More soccer pitches and ability to leave some soccer goals up permanently for public access.</p> <p>Better storage for users.</p>

Name of Club / Organisation	Ballarat Adult Riding Club
Membership Information	<p>50 members, membership is capped at 50. There is increasing interest in riding with adults returning to the sport and more people living on large blocks owning horses.</p> <p>Members come from all areas including Gordon and Beaufort</p>
Facilities Used	<p>The club uses Victoria Park on the 4th Sunday of each month between February and November for a monthly rally. Two competitions are conducted each year.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>Different rules between Pony clubs and Adult riding clubs leads to the dressage arenas not being approved for adult riding competition.</p> <p>The agreement with the pony club for use of Victoria Park is better now that there is certainty with fees.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Equestrian riding outside of the designated area would be great – a bridle trail like at Hyde Park in London.</p> <p>Public toilets separate to clubrooms for casual access, or improved access to toilets in pony club clubrooms.</p>



Name of Club / Organisation	Eureka Orienteers
Membership Information	<p>40 families – events are state-wide and club is affiliated with Victorian Orienteering and Orienteering Australia.</p> <p>Membership stable and expected to remain stable. It is noted that most members are also participants/members in other sports such as running, cycling, etc.</p> <p>Members come from all over including Geelong and Daylesford.</p>
Facilities Used	<p>There is no specific home base for the club – 30 maps and venues are used across the state.</p> <p>Victoria Park was originally a base for the club for teaching children in particular. There are 20 markers around the park for casual orienteering. Also schools event (300-400 students) as a basic program run 1-2 times per year in Nov/Dec.</p> <p>Lots of schools in walking distance to the park use the park and markers casually – not sure what the extent of this is.</p> <p>2005 Deaf Olympics - Victoria Park hosted the orienteering sprint events.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>Some of the markers have been vandalised – it would be good to have an agreement with Council about the maintenance of the markers.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Keep the park open and accessible – don't close it off for clubs.</p> <p>Access to the park for schools in 'precious', particularly given the number of schools on the edge of the park.</p> <p>Improvements to the park (e.g. equestrian area, pine plantation, sheep yards, saleyards, etc.) may provide more points for markers.</p> <p>Important that we leave Victoria Park as we find it!</p> <p>Green areas in Ballarat are shrinking – we could expand Victoria Park into the Saleyards area.</p> <p>Great for cycling – criterions.</p> <p>The area of the old velodrome needs to be resolved.</p> <p>Question whether the extent of roads through Victoria Park is necessary – limit through roads and access? Perhaps less entry and exit points...</p>

Name of Club / Organisation	Ballarat Environmental Network (BEN)
Challenges / Issues	<p>BEN defends Victoria Park from development that is in contrast to the purpose of the park reservation. Sport should not be played in the park and buildings and fenced areas also should not be permitted. There should be no permanent commitments in the park.</p> <p>The pine trees should be reviewed and all trees should be inspected regularly.</p> <p>In the southern area of the park, there is lots of native vegetation (kangaroos grass and orchids) – this should be protected.</p> <p>The biggest threat is mowing at the wrong time of the year – there is a lack of technical knowledge about this.</p> <p>Council needs to remove the Lake-weed dump from the south-west corner.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Important that Victoria Park is there!! It is highly valued and good just to sit in the park.</p> <p>Need to honour the crown reservation for the park. Suitable improvements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands – assist with flood mitigation, could create a dual retarding basin and wetland, locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the 2 existing ponds in the park ○ velodrome area from run-off ○ sheep grazing area • Native grasslands / Blackwoods • Preservation of amphibians and frogs (vegetation in lakes) • Replacement plan for trees – make decisions about natives vs exotics...



Name of Club / Organisation	Ballarat Race Walkers
Membership Information	<p>Affiliated with Athletics Victoria (as a specialist group) – started as a club in 1995.</p> <p>Up to 50 members – family oriented club</p> <p>Membership has increased over recent years because there has been a good program of 10-12 activities per year.</p> <p>Membership is forecast to continue increasing due to the structured programs, affordability of the sport and the club is actively recruiting through little athletics, schools, etc.</p>
Facilities Used	<p>Current home is North Gardens – it is closed off to hold one race per month on a Sunday morning with training twice per week in the late afternoon.</p> <p>The club currently does not use Victoria Park although major competitions have been conducted in the park in the past.</p> <p>Special events include Victorian Championships, Victorian Country Championships, Masters, etc.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>Cannot conduct events in Victoria Park because the road course would necessitate some temporary road closures in the park. For example to have a 1km course, gates 1 and 2 would need to be closed.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Good quality smooth and sealed surface near toilets that is 1 km in length. Club would require exclusive use of such a pathway for 2 hours maximum per month. This could increase if championships were held (e.g. 2 x 4 hours per year additional).</p> <p>General walking and casual training is popular in Victoria Park.</p>



Name of Club / Organisation	Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club
Membership Information	<p>Affiliated with Cycling Victoria, the Cycling Club has approx. 250 members involved in cycling, mountain bike riding and BMX.</p> <p>A standard Wednesday competition is 50-70 competitors.</p> <p>Cycling is increasing in popularity and is it expected that recreational cycling will continue to increase into the future.</p>
Facilities Used	<p>The criterion event has been run in Victoria Park by the Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club for at least 20 years. The 1.1-1.2km circuit around Poplar Avenue, Quercus Avenues and Plane Avenue is used every Wednesday evening 5-7pm between October and March.</p> <p>This location is good because of the limited use of the ovals nearby. A road closure permit is in place for this time period.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>The circuit is in poor condition and sometimes there are fewer riders because of the condition of the roads.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Retain the criterion circuit – could consider another route if roads were sealed and in good condition.</p> <p>Could run events year-round if track was in better condition. Potential for state level events as well.</p> <p>Need a good quality bitumen surface of at least 4m wide.</p> <p>Reduce vehicle access in the park – this might increase the popularity of cycling – reduce the ‘short-cut’ use of park roads.</p>



Name of Club / Organisation	Ballarat Football League
Membership Information	Membership has increased and is expected to continue to increase as female junior netball participation gathers momentum.
Facilities Used	<p>Each club has its own home ground, so no projected use of Victoria Park for competition, however many clubs use Victoria Park for pre-season training. It is estimated that up to 6 clubs might use Ovals 1, 2 and 3 casually for this purpose. Use of tracks and pathways and also the mullock heaps are popular for clubs.</p> <p>Lightning premiership is played at adjacent school grounds in early April (St Patricks) – two ovals in Victoria Park are used for U10 and U12.</p>
Challenges / Issues	No goal posts in the park.
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Maybe Victoria Park may be available for football to be played in the long term – possible lightning premiership...</p> <p>Best use of Victoria Park would be summer season / pre-season training and also for relief training in winter (maybe the oval # 11/12 area).</p>

Name of Club / Organisation	Ballarat High School
Facilities Used	<p>The school has its own sporting facilities (4 ovals and 3 indoor courts) and does not use Victoria Park for formal sport programs.</p> <p>Year 9 uses the park for some social programs, some science classes and studies the park as a community focus.</p> <p>The school might casually use the tracks for running.</p>
Challenges / Issues	Victoria Park has a poor reputation for safety and attracting undesirable behaviour. School has concerns about student behaviour in this area.
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>If ovals were irrigated they could be more popular for use – school sports and round robin could be played in the park. Consider netball courts as well.</p> <p>Fitness stations along the path would be good.</p> <p>More facilities near the ponds would be desirable.</p> <p>Consider a venue for concerts and events (rotunda, etc.).</p> <p>If the ponds were bigger that could be used for some outdoor education (rowing, etc.).</p>

Name of Club / Organisation	St Patricks College
Facilities Used	<p>Have conducted a 'road relay' in the past in Victoria Park. Moved to Lake Wendouree in 2011 because of a clash with soccer.</p> <p>College uses park oval #10 for after school cricket program, some school activities and the park generally for some classes in science and leadership.</p> <p>Some school sports are conducted in the park including soccer and cycling.</p> <p>The whole school participates in an event called 'Edmund Rice Day', a 15km walkathon about the park and lake.</p> <p>Park is close to College and well shaded.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>Park lacks facilities and infrastructure.</p> <p>Ovals are not well maintained.</p> <p>Park is unsafe at night.</p> <p>It is difficult to contain people in the park during activities.</p> <p>The college is not sure when the park gates will be open or closed.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>The College is interested in an agreement with Council to maintain oval #10 for school and after school use, with the oval being available for community use at other times. It would be set up for oval and rectangular sports. The College approached Council about this in 2009-10 and is still interested.</p> <p>Victoria Park is like Fawkner Park, Central Park or an English Common.</p> <p>More shade would be great.</p> <p>If facilities were higher quality with irrigated sports fields, they would be better used and tournaments and competitions could be held.</p> <p>The park would benefit from more activity.</p> <p>Improved landscape – maybe irrigated.</p> <p>Traffic management is needed – slow the cars.</p> <p>Improved facilities could include: clubrooms, more toilets and shelter.</p>

Name of Club / Organisation	Ballarat Triathlon Club
Membership Information	<p>Affiliated with Triathlon Victoria.</p> <p>Membership of 60 (50 senior and 10 junior).</p> <p>Membership has declined due to a lack of facilities – when the group cannot train at the same location, there have been breakaway groups starting up. The club is hopeful that with better facilities in a single location, they may experience membership growth in the future.</p>
Facilities Used	<p>At Victoria Park, the club has run a ‘duathlon’ fortnightly (a run and ride event) between November and April on a Tuesday evening.</p> <p>Individual members use both Victoria Park and Lake Wendouree year-round for swimming and running.</p> <p>Lake Esmond is used for swimming.</p> <p>It is challenging to find a suitable venue for full triathlon competition.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>Unable to arrange road closure in the preferred area of the park to run the duathlon.</p> <p>Cannot use Lake Wendouree for swimming because the group cannot get permission.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Would like to see Victoria Park as a venue for triathlons.</p> <p>Requirements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer road circuit of better condition roads with no speed humps. • Lake that was proposed in early plans of the park. • Traffic management controls in the park using gates to block vehicle access at designated times.

Name of Club / Organisation	Ballarat Association Schools
Membership Information	<p>7 schools participate in the interschool sport after school program: Mt Clear and Ballarat High Schools plus independent schools.</p>
Facilities Used	<p>Victoria Park pathways used very little because there was difficulty getting gates closed at 4pm for a road relay.</p> <p>Victoria Park ovals and rectangular fields used for soccer and cricket. School ovals also used.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>Conditions of playing surfaces is poor and so usage has been fluctuating.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Seeking single venues for a range of sports/games. Victoria Park could provide this with better quality playing surfaces.</p> <p>Facilities near grounds should include toilets and drinking fountains.</p>

Name of Club / Organisation	Ballarat Bicycle User Group
Membership Information	<p>Affiliated with the Bicycle Network Victoria (which has links to the Victorian Bicycle Advisory Council, VicRoads and Department of Transport), club membership is 150. This is expected to grow as cycling becomes more popular.</p> <p>It is predicted that the cycling population will double in the next 5 years as alternate transport and health benefits are promoted.</p> <p>Members are road cyclists, commuters, recreational cyclists and school students.</p>
Facilities Used	<p>Victoria Park is used by commuting cyclists to pass through. The bike path along Winter Street connects Ballarat West to central Ballarat. Victoria Park is popular for recreational cycling and general exercise and fitness.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>Lack of amenities.</p> <p>Trees in poor condition.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>The Ballarat Cycling Strategy is in year 4 of its 5year life and the next implementation plan is being prepared. Council support for this new 5 year plan will be critical.</p> <p>Need a tree replacement program.</p> <p>Victoria Park is an important major destination – it is important that it be retained for the growing population in Ballarat as new subdivisions and smaller block sizes emerge.</p> <p>Victoria Park is important to the Ballarat community as open space.</p> <p>There should be no major developments in Victoria Park.</p> <p>More amenities are needed to complement park use, like another toilet block.</p> <p>Maybe another lake? – Opportunity for more wildlife if there are more habitat areas provided. Water is very complementary in the park.</p> <p>An extra path across the park for people seeking a shorter circuit or who are reluctant to go through the pine tree area.</p> <p>Café near the main play/toilet area for tourists and other people (maybe a small café or even a coffee cart as there are other café facilities only a short walk away).</p> <p>Connectivity of all of the excellent facilities in Ballarat is important - Victoria Park / Lake Wendouree with Ballarat West and Alfredton.</p>

Name of Club / Organisation	Ballarat Pony Club
Membership Information	<p>Affiliated with the Barwon Zone of the Victorian Pony Club Association. Pony Club has maximum members of 80 (capped at this number) and there is awaiting list of 10-15.</p> <p>In addition, 15 casual and private people use the pony club grounds.</p> <p>20 Friends of Ballarat Pony Club (eventing adult riders) who are active in facility upgrades.</p> <p>Members come from Ballarat and as far away as Maryborough, Bacchus Marsh, Myrniong, Beaufort, Stretham, Meredith, Elaine, etc.</p>
Facilities Used	<p>The Pony Club has a lease with Council for use of the 43 acre Victoria Park Equestrian Precinct in the southern portion of the park.</p> <p>University of Ballarat VET course uses the facilities approx. 18 times per year for a fee, and the Ballarat Adult Riders have an agreement with the Pony Club to use the facilities also for an annual fee.</p> <p>Pony Club conducts a rally each month and 9 events each year. Estimated 3,500 attendances to the site each year.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>The leased area is too large for a voluntary organisation to maintain. While standard working bee tasks are OK, there are other jobs that require specialised skills such as spraying, tree pruning, etc. These tasks are beyond the ability of the voluntary committee to undertake. Assistance is needed.</p> <p>Need toilets and showers for major events.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Pony Club is keen to share its facilities. Happy to see the fencing reviewed to maintain safety while maximising public access and sharing of the site.</p> <p>Victoria Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to basics, maintain the park as it is. Take the approach: repair it or remove it!! • Remove low tree branches along pathways. • The more people use it, the better maintained and more family friendly it will be. • Sport gives the park 'life'. • There is freedom of space for 'free' play where people should feel safe.

Name of Club / Organisation	Ballarat Dog Obedience Club
Membership Information	<p>Affiliated with Dogs Victoria (Victorian Canine Association), the club has 700 members with a core group of long term people and many others that come and go.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% are juniors from 7 years old • 50% are adult members • 25% are veteran/senior up to 85 years old <p>The club projects increasing membership as people stay at home with rising fuel costs and have time to walk their dog. Also the publicity about dangerous dogs and the need for a well-trained dog is attracting people towards dog obedience and training.</p> <p>Most members come from Ballarat and the Greater Ballarat area and as far away as Smythesdale, Creswick, Geelong, Ararat and Pyrenees.</p>
Facilities Used	<p>Victoria Park is used for Obedience, Agility, Fly Ball, Tracking, Tricks, Puppy Pre-School and Responsible Dog Ownership.</p> <p>Ovals 6, 7 and 8 south of Military Avenue and an area near Gillies Street are used year-round for the range of activities which are scheduled most weekdays and weekends. The club also uses the clubroom and has an annual tenancy agreement.</p> <p>Trials are conducted for most disciplines each year.</p> <p>Night activity can occur in the building forecourt area now that lights have been installed on the front of the clubroom.</p>
Challenges / Issues	<p>The club is concerned about the clubroom upgrade displacing the club and they are not sure how much they might be required to pay.</p> <p>The problem with sharing the clubroom is that the other users do not clean areas such as toilets very well.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>General upkeep of the parkland could be improved.</p> <p>More bins are needed.</p> <p>More areas for dogs to run off the lead in a secure space (e.g. the old velodrome area – a fenced dog park idea).</p> <p>Security lighting of the park at night would make it safer.</p> <p>The tree avenues are very special!</p>

Name of Club / Organisation	Urquhart Park Primary School
Enrolment Information	With a growing school enrolment >350, the school playing areas are becoming restrictive.
Facilities Used	Victoria Park has been used by the school for kite festival, fun run and cross country (1-2 times per year), environmental science program and exploring wetlands (3-4 times over a 6-week period) and general walking/fitness activity.
Challenges / Issues	<p>Getting Council permission to use Victoria Park can be a big issue for the school (red tape!). School has the impression that the Council doesn't want them to use the park. ("It shouldn't be this hard to arrange activities that promote health and wellbeing for children.") Shortage of toilets makes it hard too particularly for the younger students.</p> <p>Ovals in poor condition, not suitable for PE classes.</p>
Opportunities for Victoria Park	<p>Condition of ovals could be better and more equitable when compared to ovals such as City Oval.</p> <p>With better facilities and more streamlined booking process, school could use Victoria Park for things such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE program a short walk from the school to a nearby oval. • Community events including kite day, picnics, etc. • Winter sports program for primary schools to promote healthy lifestyles and activities such as orienteering, etc.

