

ANNUAL REPORT

2021/22



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& PARA



Our vision:

To build active local communities

Healthy Clubs, Healthy People

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Organisation details:

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CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Valley Sport continues to lead the way, guided by our values of; sustainable business, stronger clubs, inclusive participation, expert knowledge, partnerships, and innovation, following the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure our sports clubs continue to thrive.

Our philosophy is stronger than ever given the challenges our region, like others, faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our grassroots sports clubs provide positive health outcomes for all ages, they help teach the important Australian values of volunteerism, cooperation, leadership, teamwork, meeting challenges, defeating adversity and pursuing excellence. Valley Sport has taken these aspects in their stride to provide club support at a time when it's needed most.

Our two biggest achievements in the club support space for 2021-22 were, 243 individual club support cases were completed by our team, which is the highest level of this service provision by our team ever recorded. This equates to approximately 46% of all clubs across our catchment. 21 Club Development workshops were delivered online and in person as circumstances allowed and we were able to train a total of 175 club volunteers from 121 clubs.

A partnership with Tackle Your Feelings saw Valley Sport deliver five mental health education workshops, providing community AFL coaches with the tools to understand, recognise and manage their response to any signs of mental health decline.

Our success is directly linked to the hard work of our team. We have made great progress this year, and I'd like to thank every team and board member for their energy, commitment, consistency and innovation in driving sport and recreation locally to the best it can be.

'A Games like no other, in a place like no other' will see us work in partnership with key stakeholders to lobby the Victorian State Government to see our region be included in the Victorian 2026 Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Games will leave a lasting legacy for all Victorians, particularly those living in regional

Victoria including investment in world-class sporting infrastructure now and into the future – and we want to ensure our region is included in this legacy.

In the second half of 2022, we will be launching some new initiatives for club volunteers including our own Mental Health program thanks to Australia Post's community funding program designed to be accessible to all clubs named "On The Front Foot". We are also developing several new resources and training offerings for our local sport and recreation volunteers to help them with their resilience as the sector rebuilds post couple of years major disruptions.

We welcomed 2 new staff members Heath Wharton and Tom Van De Berg and said farewell to Emma McQueen after two years of service. We wish Emma all the best in her new position, remaining in the sport sector in her new Local Government role.

This year we welcomed Monique Bryant and Matilda McCluskey as Board Members and say farewell to board chair Natalie Irvine. I'd like to thank Natalie for her leadership, sharing her business acumen and innovative ideas to drive ValleySport to look to new ways to diversify business operations and remain financially strong, whilst focussing on our sporting community that face the biggest barriers to participation. I'd like to wish Natalie all the best in her future endeavours.

Whilst we acknowledge the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had, we look forward and continue to strive to rebuild community sport at the fundamental level to ensure our clubs can thrive.

Thank you all for another excellent year.

Belinda Conna
Chairperson

STATISTICS

on our programs,
events and workshops



CLUB DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS



137,841

People reached through
our online platforms

11

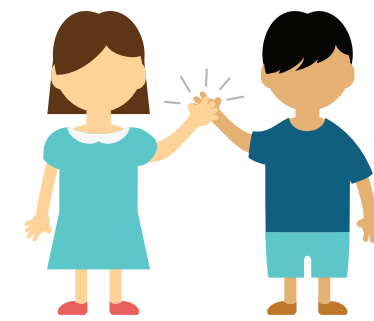
E-newsletters and
COVID-19 updates sent



107
PARTICIPANTS
Club Development
Workshops

102
CLUBS
engaged in Club
Development
Workshops

51%
**OF CLUB
VOLUNTEERS**
trained were female



19 CLUBS
engaged in
Mental Health
Programs

68 Club
volunteers
trained



2 Responsible Service of
Alcohol Courses delivered



14
Club volunteers
trained

4 Physical Activity
Programs delivered

101 Active
participants



3 **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
PROGRAMS**
for people with a disability



3
Large AAA
events planned
but cancelled
due to COVID-19

19
Online
Attendance
at AAA
forum

148
All Abilities
participants



SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAMS

2,564
School Sports
Program
Participants

243

Clubs provided
with one-on-one
club support

78 **GUIDED
CONVERSATIONS**
with Clubs dealing
with rolling COVID
shutdowns in 2021

11 CLUBS
involved in School Programs

6 Funding Agreements
with Stakeholders



OUR ORGANISATION

Board Members

Belinda Conna
Chairperson

Matilda McCluskey
Vice Chairperson

David Booth
Board Member

Colin Gleeson
Board Member

Monique Bryant
Board Member

CASE STUDY

Shepparton Jaguars Soccer

Johnny visited our office in February 2022 for a discussion regarding the potential of forming a group of local soccer players known as the Shepparton Jaguars into a competitive soccer club. Johnny is a member of the team made up of young boys from mainly African backgrounds, they had been training twice a week in Shepparton. This group had begun training purely for fun and fitness in the beginning, but over recent years the group had become interested in playing organised games.

Staff Members

David Quinn
Executive Officer

Nattalie Joinbee
Business Development Manager

Kayla Ryan
Program Manager

Jacqueline Napolitano
Project Officer

Tristan Zito
Project Officer

Nick Ludington
(Resigned Aug 2021)
Project Officer

Lucy Marino
Project Officer

Tom Van De Berg
(Commenced Aug 2021)
Project Officer

Heath Wharton
(Commenced Aug 2021)
Project Officer

Emma McQueen
(Resigned Dec 2021)
Project Support Officer

Kate Nichols
School Sport Coordinator

Sheree Brown
Finance/Bookkeeper

However, without any affiliation to a club they had no way of competing in any local competitions, they had previously played a few practice games sporadically but nothing ever formal.

Our team worked with this group of young men and put all options on the table to see what the team were willing to try to make this potential opportunity to play club soccer a reality. Johnny and the rest of the team were set on starting up their own club/team if they could and asked for our assistance to see if, and how, this could be achieved.

After doing some research we were able to identify that the Bendigo Amateur Soccer League (BASL) were the most suitable option as they had introduced a new competition for the 2022 season. This competition was the League 2 Men's Competition and allowed for standalone teams to enter, this meant that the Jaguars could enter the competition and didn't need to field other teams such as reserves, women or youth. As it was already February, and the competition was set to start in April they were unlikely to have enough time to get everything sorted to start a club from scratch before the season begun.

We supported Johnny and the team to meet with BASL to discuss the situation and their interest in joining their new competition, BASL were happy

to collaborate and eventually concluded that Strathdale Soccer Club would be happy to auspice the Jaguars and allow them to operate under Strathdale's club name as the Shepparton Jaguars.

Once we had confirmed that they had the go ahead from Strathdale and the BASL it was a priority to organise a more permanent facility for them to train and play at. In collaboration with Greater Shepparton City Council, we were able to assess what options were available regarding a home venue for the team.

Through those discussions we were able to secure them a spot at Vibert Reserve as their new designated home venue. We supported the club with all the required paperwork from council and booked in Vibert Reserve for two trainings per week and home games for the season. Shortly after booking in their facility and confirming all other entry requirements to participate in the 2022 BASL competition, the Jaguars were ready for their first game. The team has kept in touch with the club over the season and has been able to provide ongoing advice and support to their team operations to give them every chance of success as an affiliated team.

We look forward to continuing to work with Johnny and the Shepparton Jaguars to assist in creating a standalone club that can continue to participate in organised competitions into the future.

Goulburn Valley Sports Assembly Inc. trading as:



Valley Sport is proudly supported by:



Valley Sport supports the following local Governments:



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