

GANNAWARRA SPORTING CLUB DINNER - CASE STUDY

Background

Sporting clubs across Gannawarra play a vital role in supporting the wider community during and after emergency events. As a result of the 2022 flood event, strengthening connections between Gannawarra sporting clubs and building capacity of clubs to support their respective communities has been a priority. Building on the success of the 2024 Sporting Club dinner which had a strong mental health and wellbeing theme, Council hosted a follow up event on 25 March 2025. Held at the Koondrook Recreation Reserve, the 2025 event brought together a mix of local sporting clubs and community leaders. The focus of the evening was to build capacity and sustainability of the sporting sector and the volunteers who work tirelessly to support their communities. The evening was hosted by TV Sports Presenter, Brihony Dawson. Keynote presentations were delivered by The Grants Guy and Laura Bradley from Sports Focus. Both keynote speakers shared tailored advice and tools to support ongoing sustainability of local sporting clubs. A question-and-answer session of panel experts, including Sport and Recreation Victoria, supported local clubs in the areas of grant sourcing, grant writing, club development and culture. The evening also marked the launch of the Gannawarra Fair Access Policy, which guides Council's commitment to reduce the barriers women, girls and people of all cultures and socio-economic demographics experience in accessing community sports. The Gannawarra Sporting Club Dinner was supported by Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) as part of the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Program.



What did the event deliver?

- 60 people attended
- 23 sports clubs represented
- Brihony Dawson, TV host and sports presenter hosted the evening
- The Grants Guy keynote presentation
- Sports Focus presentation on local Club Development program, supported by flood recovery funding for Kerang Football and Netball Club, Cohuna Golf Bowls Club and Leitchville Football Netball Club
- Official launch of Gannawarra Fair Access Policy
- Office for Women in Sport and Recreation video recording played at event
- Long Paddock Food Store provided a buffet dinner
- Mack and Mills Event Styling supported the venue set up
- 3 local businesses provided 7 lucky door prizes

Event Aims

- Build capacity of local sports club to develop strategic plans and source and apply for grant funding
- Acknowledge the role sporting clubs play in supporting Gannawarra communities
- Promote and highlight the work of local sporting clubs and volunteers
- Launch the Gannawarra Shire Council Fair Access Policy
- Support local businesses through catering and event styling



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Supported by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee

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What did the event achieve

- 38.4% of attendees responded to the post-event survey
- 100% of survey respondents rated their experience at the event as an 8 or above
- 100% of survey respondents said the event gave them the opportunity to connect positively with others
- 100% of survey respondents said the event allowed them to gain some tips for developing successful grant applications
- 90% of survey respondents said they would recommend evenings such as this one to their families, friends, and colleagues
- Council and Sports Focus received a number of direct enquiries from sporting clubs following the event



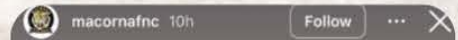
More than 60 people, representing various Gannawarra-based clubs and organisations, gathered last night for the second annual Gannawarra Sporting Club Dinner, held at the Koondrook Recreation Reserve.

Hosted by television host and sports presenter, Brihony Dawson, the evening doubled as the launch of the Gannawarra Fair Access Policy and provided the opportunity for community members to come together to connect and gain skills and knowledge to strengthen the Gannawarra sporting sector into the future.



Feedback

- “A great investment in local sport and recreation and community resilience”
- “Food was amazing, speakers were on point”
- “Brihony was a great MC”
- “What a fantastic event”
- “Great to have sporting representatives from across the Shire together to connect, learn and build capacity for the future together”
- “The host was terrific”
- “Keep up the good work, it was a great night”



Learning all we can about Grants tonight



@thegamawarra @sportsfocus83 @thegrantsguys



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