



BLACKTOWN
KEY VENUES

YEAR IN REVIEW

2016/17



CONTENTS

Chairman's Message	02
CEO's Message	03
Blacktown Venue Management Ltd Board	04
Blacktown Venue Management Ltd Board of Directors	05
Blacktown Key Venues	06
Blacktown Key Venues Management Staff	08
Health and Safety	09
Vale Emeritus Mayor Charlie Lowles OAM	10
Vale Councillor Leo Kelly OAM	11
Blacktown Football Park	12
Home is where the Park is	14
Well played Jack Taylor	16
Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney	18
Kicking goals for diversity	20
Athletics	22
Community events	26
Play ball!	28
Cricket	30
International Goalkeepers Academy	32
Rugby League	34
Softball	36
Western Sydney Wanderers Football Club	38
Joe McAleer Reserve	40
Blacktown Aquatic Centre	42
Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope	44
Blacktown Tennis Centre Stanhope	46
Emerton Leisure Centre	48
Mount Druitt Pool	50
Riverstone Swimming Centre	52
Aqua Learn to Swim	54
Looking Forward	56

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As Chairman of Blacktown Venue Management and on behalf of the Blacktown Venue Management Board of Directors it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2016/17 Key Venues Year in Review.

Blacktown City is a sporting city and Council's commitment to providing opportunities across all levels of sport and recreation is clearly demonstrated by the formation of Blacktown Key Venues last year.

Blacktown Key Venues oversees 10 major sports and leisure facilities across the City: Blacktown Football Park, Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney, Joe McAleer oval, Blacktown Tennis Centre Stanhope and the cities 5 leisure and aquatic facilities: Blacktown Aquatic Centre, Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope, Emerton Leisure Centre, Mount Druitt Pool and Riverstone Swimming Centre.

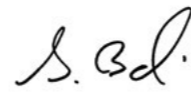
Key Venues goals are clear: deliver first class activity and program choice, promote Blacktown City as the leader in sport, recreation and leisure and gives every visitor and customer a safe and memorable experience.

The Blacktown Venue Management Board and I are proud of what we have created in just 2 years of operation. The masterplan review and plans to bring an International Centre of Training Excellence to Blacktown is well underway. Blacktown will continue to be the benchmark of sport and leisure in Western Sydney.

As a Board we are proud to be part of overseeing services that are an integral part of the community. I would like to thank the Board for their dedication, commitment and service over the past 12 months.

I also gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of Blacktown City Council, its Councillors and its officers.

Thank you to the Key Venues management team for an outstanding year marked by many milestones and achievements. I look forward to working with you and our outstanding staff across all venues to make the next 12 months even better!



Stephen Bali
Chairman
Blacktown Venue Management Ltd



CEO'S MESSAGE

What another incredible year it has been for the Blacktown Venue Management team!

Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney hosted over 12 international teams. Including the Rugby League Tonga Side, the Doosan Bears Korean Professional Baseball Team for their second consecutive spring training camp, the Bangladesh National Cricket team and the Red Terriers Professional Japanese Softball side.

Joe McAleer Oval, and curator Kieran Meurant won Cricket NSW best facility in the State. The Sportspark hosted home games for both the inaugural AFL Women's Competition GWS Giants and the T20 Women's Sydney Thunder.

Softball NSW celebrated 70 years and hosted the 70th Gilley's Shield Open Women's Softball Competition.

Our leisure and aquatic facilities had an exceptional year as well with Emerton Leisure Centre winning 2017 Australian Aquatic and Recreation Facility of the Year. Blacktown Tennis Centre Stanhope celebrated their first year of operation, and Blacktown Aquatic Centre finished refurbishments in late 2017.

Riverstone Swimming Centre unveiled their new play space. Mount Druitt Pool had another successful season.

The new Aqua Learn to Swim program has brought consistency in programming to our venues and has proven a great success with over 7,500 students enrolled in the program that is offered across all 5 of our aquatic and leisure facilities. Sharon Faulkner won Austswim NSW's "Best teacher for adults".

Key Venues' facilities delivered sport, recreation, leisure and fitness outcomes to over 1 million visitors across the City's 10 major sport and leisure facilities. Both our facilities and team received several accolades throughout the year.

I would like to personally thank the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Blacktown Venue Management Directors for their guidance over the past 12 months and look forward to the year ahead.



Kevin Jones
Chief Executive Officer
Blacktown Venue Management Ltd



BLACKTOWN VENUE MANAGEMENT LTD BOARD

Blacktown Venue Management Ltd is a company wholly owned by Blacktown City Council managing Council's Key Venues portfolio as a valuable asset for the Greater Western Sydney Community.

BLACKTOWN VENUE MANAGEMENT VALUES

- Integrity
- Leadership
- Selflessness
- Impartiality
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty

BLACKTOWN VENUE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- To maintain, manage, operate and promote any venues and facilities identified as 'Key Venues' as quality local, regional, national and international standard facilities as applicable and servicing all levels of sport, recreation and leisure
- To maximise local community participation in the sporting, recreation and economic opportunities provided by Council's Key Venues
- To develop, enhance, utilise, maintain, operate and promote Key Venues facilities and infrastructure in such a manner as to enhance user satisfaction, community involvement and the standing of the Blacktown community
- To promote the City of Blacktown through the operation and the use of Key Venues
- To conduct its activities to provide long-term social and economic for the City of Blacktown

Our efforts are underpinned by people who are committed to the highest standards of professionalism and integrity and deliver professional and quality services to the community.

BLACKTOWN VENUE MANAGEMENT LTD BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Cr Stephen Bali
Chairman
September 2014 – Present



Kerry Robinson
Deputy Chairman
2013 – Present



Cr Tony Bleasdale OAM
Director
Director 2011 – Present



Cr Susai Benjamin
Director
2016-present



Cr Brad Bunting
Director
2017 – present



Christine Deaner
Director
2016 – Present



Dr Jim Taggart
Director
2016 – present



Daryll Clout
Director
2016 – present



Cr Leo Kelly OAM
Director
2016 – 2017

Blacktown Venue Management Ltd Chairman

2014 – Current	Cr Stephen Bali	2009 – 2011	Cr Charlie Lowles OAM
2012 – 2014	Cr Len Robinson	2004 – 2009	Cr Leo Kelly OAM
2011 – 2012	Cr Alan Pendleton OAM	2002 – 2004	Cr Alan Pendleton OAM

BLACKTOWN KEY VENUES

Following a Council restructure in December 2014 Blacktown Venue Management Ltd assumed oversight of Blacktown City Council aquatic and leisure centres, 1 oval and 16 Tennis Courts in addition to managing Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney.

Key Venues brings together 10 of Blacktown City's premier sport and leisure facilities.

The venues themselves are diverse ranging from Council's flagship sports facility Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney to the award winning leisure and aquatic centres in Blacktown Aquatic Centre, Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope and Emerton Leisure Centre. Rounding up the aquatics facilities are the City's 2 seasonal swimming pools, Mount Druitt and Riverstone. Blacktown Tennis Centre Stanhope also completed its first year of operation.

Blacktown's first grade cricket and premier league football teams utilise the facilities of Joe McAleer Oval and Blacktown Football Park along with Anne Aquilina Reserve which is a hub for a variety of grassroots and school sporting activities.

Key Venues Goals

- Deliver first class activity and program choice
- Promote Blacktown City as the leader in sport, recreation and leisure
- Provide every visitor and customer a safe and memorable experience



LEGEND

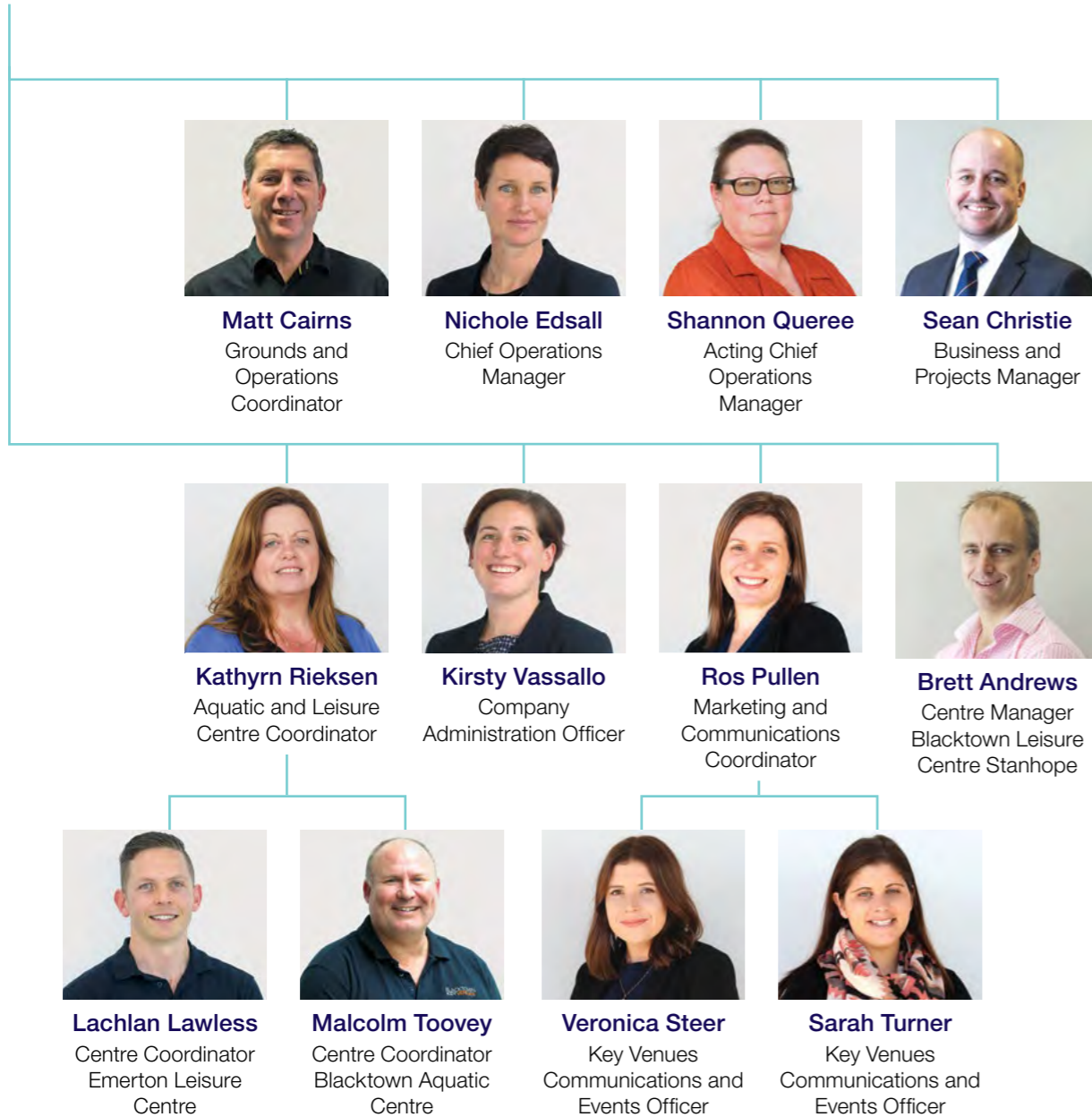
KEY VENUES

1. Riverstone Swimming Centre
2. Emerton Leisure Centre
3. Mount Druitt Pool
4. Joe McAleer Oval
5. Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney
6. Blacktown Football Park
7. Anne Aquilina Reserve
8. Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope
9. Blacktown Aquatic Centre
10. Blacktown Tennis Centre Stanhope

BLACKTOWN KEY VENUES MANAGEMENT STAFF



Kevin Jones
Chief Executive Officer



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Blacktown Venue Management Ltd is committed to Work Health and Safety (WHS) and follows Blacktown City Council's Work Health and Safety Policy (POL 100) as best practice.

This policy recognises due diligence must apply in managing work health and safety by providing a safe and healthy workplace for all workers and other persons.

Blacktown Venue Management Ltd in-line with Council policy is committed to:

- Reducing the frequency of lost time incidents
- Ensuring compliance with legislative requirements and current industry standards relating to WHS
- Providing and maintaining safe structures, fixtures, fitting, plant, substances, systems of work, healthy work environment, adequate welfare facilities and access to those facilities
- Providing for safe use, handling and storage of plant, structures and substances
- Providing and maintaining written procedures and instructions

- Providing health and safety information, instruction, training and supervision to workers, contractors/sub-contractors and their workers, volunteers and other persons

- Consulting with workers, contractors, sub-contractors, volunteers, labour hire workers and others persons on work health and safety issues and performance

- Providing support and resources to managers and workers to help them fulfil their legal work health and safety duties

- Disseminating information to all workers, contractors and their workers, sub-contractors and their workers, labour hire workers, volunteers and other persons

- Ensuring hazards in the work environment are identified, assessed and controlled

- Monitoring the health of workers and the conditions at the workplace to prevent illness or injury of workers

- Providing Injury Management

In addition to WHS policy, all Key Venues leisure and aquatic facilities work closely with Royal Life Saving

Australia and operate within the Guidelines for Safe Pool operation.

Blacktown Aquatic Centre, Emerton Leisure Centre and Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope, Mount Druitt Pool and Riverstone Swimming Centre have all received a 5 Star Water Safety Partner accreditation from Royal Life Saving demonstrating the facilities' commitment to aquatic safety standards. This is a result of independent audit that reviews procedures and facility features.

Our ongoing commitment to water safety and education is further demonstrated through the promotion of Royal Life Saving's 'Keep Watch @ Public Pools' initiative. This initiative has key messages for parents on how they need to supervise their children in an aquatic environment and tips for lifeguards on how to assist with supervision.

Emerton Leisure Centre received a score of 97.75% in the Safe Work NSW Audit – the highest ever result by Blacktown City Council.

Blacktown Venue Management successfully rolled out defibrillators across all its sporting facilities within Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney in 2017.



BLACKTOWN FOOTBALL PARK

Local football's finest are here to play

Our local and visiting football clubs love nothing more than to do their very best, at the very best venues – playing, growing and excelling in the sport they love.

We are delighted to have supported almost 1,000 events this past year by providing quality surfaces and amenities across two venues. Players, administrators and supporters continue to grow the game in Blacktown.

Blacktown Football Park

with facilities that include

- Synthetic field, complete with grandstand seating
- Amenities
- 2 natural turf fields
- Administrative offices housing Blacktown District Soccer Football Association (BDSFA)

Anne Aquilina Reserve featuring

- 4 natural turf fields with an amenities block

A wonderful place to play the beautiful game.



HOME IS WHERE THE PARK IS

Blacktown District Soccer Football Association lives here

The NSW Premier League, Blacktown Spartans are owned by the Blacktown District Soccer Football Association (BDSFA) and enjoy all the advantages that Blacktown Football Park offer. Benefits that filter through to every member of the association. And thanks to BDSFA's ongoing commitment to the game and talent development, more and more opportunities are being offered to participate and grow in this dynamic and popular sport.

Growing the sport has a lot to do with establishing strong foundations. With outstanding amenities for all home games, and training, the Association has been building for the future with:

- 23 affiliated clubs across all competitive age groups
- Spartans youth boys and girls
- Association Youth League teams for 13 to 16 year old boys
- Spartans National Premier League men and National Premier League women's teams, inspiring younger players

Additional programs have kept the kids **on course for excellence** thanks to:

- Spartans' skills acquisition programs for girls and boys, 9 years and older
- Academy programs for 7 to 11 year old boys and girls
- The monthly *Big Sister Little Sister* program launched in May which saw the Spartans 1st Grade women mentoring local Association girls
- Coach the Coaches courses by Spartans SAP Technical Director to help ensure players and those guiding them are developing

Lifting their game and raising the trophy are the goals to which the 23 BDSFA clubs aspire. Blacktown Football Park was the venue where:

- Blacktown City FC retained the Blacktown Mayoral Cup against the Blacktown Spartans based on aggregate scores over two meetings during the NSW premier league season
- All the finals action throughout the Association played out
- Association finals football played out across 7 curated pitches (1 synthetic and 6 turf) post the completion of stage 2 development at Anne Aquilina Reserve

Blacktown Football Park,
the place to be.



WELL PLAYED JACK TAYLOR

Blacktown legend's legacy

Jack Taylor devoted 38 years of his life to the service of Blacktown District Soccer Football Association as Secretary (1987), Executive Director (2007) and finally CEO of one of Australia's premier sports organisations. He hung up his boots this past year after helping BDSFA achieve so much for the wider community.

From playing for Bidwill Soccer Club in 1979 to literally changing the local landscape upon which this great game is played. Jack was the driving force behind securing a vital \$5 million in State Government funds, working with Council and putting valuable contributions from the district's players to work on his vision. That vision was what is now widely recognised as a top tier football venue – Blacktown Football Park.

While that may be recognised as a crowning achievement, Jack's tenure contributed to the extraordinary growth of the Association. BDSFA swooped upon the unprecedented enthusiasm and interest in the sport, swelling player numbers to 10,000 across 23 clubs. With Jack at the helm, BDSFA:

- Led the way in governance, participation and safety
- Put children first, instilling a child safety culture through NSW Working With Children compliance
- Equipped their venues with defibrillators
- Championed female participation
- Instituted the NSW government's model constitution and versions thereof among clubs

A life member of BDSFA since 1997, a recipient of both the Football NSW State award and Mayoral Shield, Jack is a shining example of service to one's community.

Thank you, Jack.



BLACKTOWN INTERNATIONAL SPORTSPARK SYDNEY

Greater Western Sydney is winning

One of Australia's most comprehensive sports precincts has earned a reputation for establishing and growing an inclusive culture of excellence from grassroots to the professional ranks. That's something the whole community can not only take pride in but actively enjoy. Over half a million athletes, spectators and officials having participated in 5,107 events here ranging from athletics, baseball and softball to Australian rules football, cricket and football, making Sportspark the Western Sydney sports capital.

All sports in all conditions flourish here because Sportspark caters to the needs of:

- Top flight track athletes –
 - The Athletics Centre features a 1500 seat grandstand and IAAF standard MONDO synthetic track
- Softball/Baseball players –
 - Each dedicated centre boasts a main diamond with grandstand and function room
 - A total of 4 softball diamonds and 3 baseball diamonds
- AFL/Cricket teams
 - Two beautifully curated ovals, one with a 2,500 seat grandstand and function facilities that set the scene for quality match-up in both high profile sports
 - An Indoor Practice centre for the cricketers and both outdoor turf and synthetic wickets. Howzat?!
- Football Clubs and associations
 - Access Blacktown Football Park with synthetic field
 - Access to Anne Aquilina Reserve's 4 full size soccer fields and amenities block
 - Home to specialist skills development including the International Goalkeepers Academy and Progressive Goal Keeping

Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney is still the beating heart of sports development and excellence providing world class facilities for all.

VISITATION



608,075

EVENTS



5,107



KICKING GOALS FOR DIVERSITY

Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney hosts Aussie Rules

Blacktown City boasts 177 nationalities speaking 169 languages and a passion for AFL. It's little wonder then, that Sportspark was selected as the venue for several national, international and local events where diversity stood out from the crowd. From grassroots talents through to seasoned professionals, AFL players came together in an environment fostering cultural enrichment, athletic development and a genuine love of the game.

This past year, thousands of spectators have been treated to an array of AFL talent on display at Sportspark including:

- AFL NAB Women's GWS Giants Home Games
 - Sportspark is now home to the GWS Giants and 4000 spectators turned out for their 2017 home opener against Fremantle, battling to a thrilling draw. With the popularity of women's AFL soaring, the sport makes for a wonderful family day out
 - Thrilling games at Sportspark will be the norm for years to come. The best junior female footballers gave it their all at the NAB AFL Women's Under 18s Championship in May. All hoping to catch the eye of coaches and recruiters, crowds were treated to fierce competition for the championship and a place in 2018's expanded 8-team league

- JLT Community Series – Sydney Swans v GWS Giants
 - A tightly contested derby saw the Sydney Swans squeak past the GWS Giants in March – and the rivalry continues!
- AFL Diversity Championships
 - Now in its 4th year, the championships were held for the first time in Blacktown. The event saw 300 players from across Australia come together, in April, under the joint banners of multiculturalism and Australian rules football
 - Upon the traditional lands of the Darug people, respect, skill and healthy competition was celebrated at Sportspark
 - All participants from coaches and umpires through to doctors and trainers contributed to an elite AFL program environment at facilities second to none
- AFL Intensive English Cup
 - Students from 14 Intensive English Centres (IEC) across Sydney and Wollongong descended on Blacktown for the 6th annual gala event held this past July
 - Many languages, so many cultures, one competition, all part of the AFL's engagement programs embracing migrants and refugees
- Sydney AFL season including the Final Series and the Grand Final
- Home to Western Magic and Blacktown Suns
- North Eastern AFL Competition games and finals

“Blacktown is proud to be a sporting city, and we aim to support athletes from grassroots all the way through to the elite level.”

Mayor Bali on why associations, teams and events choose Blacktown.



ATHLETICS

Staying on track to excellence

Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney Athletics Centre provides every advantage to budding stars, enthusiasts and elite athletes.

Once again, over 148,724 athletes and spectators were welcomed to the venue, enjoying athletic carnivals, training and community events. The performance and participation culture is why schools, clubs and professionals continued flocking to this accessible centre of excellence that places athletic endeavour, pride and achievement above all else.

The future of athletics is right here

As the venue of choice for school carnivals, Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney Athletics Centre offers elite level facilities for all aspiring athletes and athletics enthusiasts. Students took full advantage of the facilities over the course of:

- 79 primary and secondary school carnivals
- 27 zone carnivals
- 5 regionals carnivals



WHEELCHAIR SPORTS ELITE INTERNATIONAL MATCH-UPS

Summer down under series rolled into town

Spectators and athletes alike couldn't ask for a better preparation for the international 2017 GIO Summer Down Under series last Australia Day at The Rocks.

Paralympians and celebrated wheelchair athletes brought their A game from the track in Rio to Blacktown to settle scores and cement their legacies at the Sydney Skins Track Meet in January. Spectators were treated to a free, up-close glimpse into their preparation, explosive performances and professionalism.

Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney's Athletics Centre provided the settings and these extraordinary athletes did the rest.

Wheelchair Sport NSW

All athletes deserve the best coaching and development available and those participating in wheelchair sports could not ask for a more qualified NSW Institute of Sport coach than multiple gold medal-winning Paralympian, Louise Sauvage. The training and guidance these athletes access is crucial to elite accomplishments. Whether performing on the local track or the world's largest stage, the facilities offered at Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney provide the perfect setting for excellence.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

In it for the long run

The Westlink M7 Blacktown Running Festival ran for the third time, offering participants the opportunity to compete against each other and themselves across a variety of disciplines. The festival tested all manner of athletes over the Marathon, Half Marathon, 10km and 4km events as well as the walking events over 10km and 4km.

Whether simply taking in the sights or keeping their sights set on a personal best, runners made the most of the event here in Western Sydney's premier sports precinct.

Supporting each other

A community that comes together in support of those less fortunate is a community that cares about bettering the quality of life for all. In support of that notion, Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney hosted the annual Blacktown Relay for Life at the Athletics Centre. The event was a 24-hour fundraiser for the Cancer Council to assist with education, support and advocacy services whilst:

- Celebrating cancer survivors
- Remembering those who lost their battle with the disease and
- Raising much needed funds for treatments and a search for a cure

The Sportspark facilities and surroundings once again proved a perfect setting for a variety of open days, galas and athletics carnivals. Some to lend a hand, others in the pursuit of the fitness lifestyle and the spirit of healthy competition, all because the community cares.



PLAY BALL!

Home runs at baseball

Diamonds are for everyone or so it would seem as baseball players from the local scene to interstate powerhouses to International heavy-hitters took to Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney's Baseball Centre. As a former Olympic competition and training site, the Centre's three dedicated diamonds and grandstand facilities, once again, proved the perfect:

- Home
 - The Sydney Blue Sox based their 2016/17 Australian Baseball League campaign here, playing all home games and practicing at the Baseball Centre
 - Baseball NSW's preferred venue for a variety of competitions and championship play
- Host
 - The reigning champions of the vaunted Korean Baseball League, the Doosan Bears, returned to the Sportspark for their spring preseason training camp
 - Baseball NSW state and regional championships were contested at the Sportspark throughout the season
 - 2017 Junior and Senior Baseball State Championships featured 17 teams last April

- Winners' circle
 - Hills Little League won the Australian Little League Championships and represented Australia for the 2nd year in a row at the Little League World Series
 - Greater Western Baseball Association won their way to the Senior League nationals for the first time (BISP's local Association)
 - Cronulla represented NSW and then Australia in the Junior League World Series in Taylor, Michigan, USA
 - Australian National Junior Championships featured two teams from NSW
 - Team Australia took three Blue Sox players to the World Baseball Classic

The Baseball Centre will, once again, prepare players for the world stage as the sport returns to the 2020 Olympics in Japan, cementing Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney as a destination for excellence.



CRICKET


From pathways to elite

Recognised internationally for the pristine condition of the grounds and pitches, Sportspark once again attracted all manner of enthusiasts and participants in all forms of the game. This season at Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney saw:

- International guests
 - New Zealand's Canterbury cricket team selected the Sportspark as the preferred venue for its training and exhibition match against Cricket NSW 2nd XI
 - Bangladesh Coach, Chandika Hathurusingha led preparations for his nation's Test Series against New Zealand at the Sportspark facilities citing, **"the first-class facilities and excellent team of greenkeepers"**
 - Teams from Papua New Guinea, Pakistan and Hong Kong also got the most from the facilities in their pursuit of international acclaim

- The continuing evolution of Women's cricket
 - Sydney Thunder of the Women's Big Bash League played all their home fixtures at the Sportspark
 - Women's National Cricket League matches continued growing in stature at this popular venue
- Grassroots development for the love of the game
 - Cricket NSW local and regional school programs such as gala days and special skills sessions, made elite training methods accessible to students
 - Activities included skill sessions and gala days at venues where the young are encouraged to dream big

The main driver behind the continuous development of Sportspark's facilities and the game's status, is the pride and enjoyment that builds on the community's enviable sports culture.



"... it is great to see these outstanding athletes getting the support and attention they deserve through competitions such as the Women's Big Bash League. (They're) leading the way for up and coming stars of the future, and give Blacktown community a chance to enjoy high class cricket in their backyard."

Mayor of Blacktown City, Councillor Stephen Bali lauding the growth of women's cricket.

INTERNATIONAL GOALKEEPERS ACADEMY

More than a decade of dedicated defence

Former Australia goalkeeper and Hall of Fame inductee, Jim Fraser, dedicated 11 years to developing the talents of goalkeepers and strikers.

The last line of defence always comes first in a game where stopping goal attempts is often the first priority. In an environment that develops and nurtures high performance, it made sense that special emphasis should be placed on the art of goalkeeping. Notable successes have included:

- English Premier League, Bournemouth FC keeper, Jordan Holmes
- Former participants playing important roles in the Hyundai A-League
- Appearances by Academy alums in various European leagues
- A culture of excellence and inclusiveness in coaching at every level

After 11 successful years, Jim hung up his boots and handed his gloves over to top goalkeeping coach Ken Greenhead. Ken is carrying on the tradition and developing the future stars of tomorrow with 'Progressive Goalkeeping'.

Thank you, Jim.



RUGBY LEAGUE

Planned preparation unlocks elite performance

Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney continues to grow its reputation as a destination for elite athletes preparing to compete at the highest levels. Leading up to their important fixture in the Pacific International Rugby League Test, the Tongan team descended on Blacktown to complete the lead-up to their clash with Fiji.

Despite never having hosted an international calibre rugby league team, the Sportspark facilities accommodated team Tonga's every need as they set their sights on their '6 May' match-up. Boasting a group of players that all came from an elite NRL system, Mate Ma'a Tonga coach, Kristian Woolf, was clearly impressed with the facilities and the warm welcome.

Visiting Tongan players also represented Brisbane Broncos, Canterbury Bulldogs, Cronulla Sharks, Gold Coast Titans, Manly Sea Eagles, Melbourne Storm, New Zealand Warriors, North Queensland Cowboys, Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers, St George Illawarra Dragons, Sydney Roosters and Wests Tigers.

Championing the sentiments of Blacktown's sporting community, Blacktown City Mayor, Councillor Stephen Bali encouraged fans to show their support for the team's fan day and wish them well during their stay.

Regardless of sport, code and level of performance, athletes, officials and spectators alike are all welcome at Sportspark.



SOFTBALL

Pitching for the top

Recognising the quality of Sportspark facilities, high profile international teams returned to the Softball Centre in the hopes of taking another step towards the Olympic Dais.

Australia's softball legacy will continue to be built from the grassroots up as Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney supported another year of softball at every level.

- International

- The 2017 Softball Down Under series saw two Australian teams pitched against Japan and New Zealand national squads
- Japan's National team chose Sportspark to continue their summer training camp
- 7 other international teams from Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand and USA, were drawn to the world class softball facilities

- National

- The Women's Open Championship – 70th Annual Gilley's Shield, was contested in January with the NSW Firestars taking the honours
- Under 17s Championships were contested at the Sportspark with NSW claiming the 48th Esther Deason Shield

Acknowledging the world class facilities at Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney, Blacktown City Mayor, Councillor Stephen Bali lauded the quality of play adding, "I look forward to Australia continuing their campaign towards the 2020 Tokyo Olympics."

With the strength of Blacktown's sporting culture and the support offered to local leagues, the game and Australia's future in it are in exceptional hands.



WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Inspiring the football generation

Sportspark has proven central to the continuing growth of the game of football in Western Sydney, supporting leagues with top flight facilities in which to develop. Hyundai A-League heavyweights, Western Sydney Wanderers FC continue to provide the inspiration and expertise, weighing in with training and coaching sessions at Sportspark:

- A-League
- Wanderers Youth League training
- Women's league team training and games
- School holiday training clinics

Western Sydney Wanderers FC also chose to train and house their administration headquarters at Sportspark, further validating its high-performance credentials. And with Western Sydney proving to be the breeding ground for elite performance, it makes sense that the spiritual home of the Western Sydney Wanderers FC will be right here at Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney.

The development of their Administration and training base is well underway.

“Blacktown is the Western Sydney Wanderers FC’s spiritual home.”

Mayor of Blacktown City,
Councillor Stephen Bali.



JOE MCALEER RESERVE

Prepared to be the best

Joe McAleer or “Joe Mac” to the local cricket fraternity is Blacktown’s only single purpose, first grade cricket oval. Providing players, members, guests and spectators of Blacktown City and District Cricket Association and their first-grade cricket club Blacktown Grade Cricket Club with a first-class experience was the singular focus of Blacktown Venue Management.

The efforts did not go unnoticed.

Joe McAleer Oval was awarded Cricket NSW *Ground of the Year Award* for season 2016/17 – an honour it narrowly missed last year, Blacktown Venue Management’s first year in the role.

Not surprisingly, Joe McAleer Reserve facilities are pitch perfect and include:

- First grade cricket oval kept in pristine condition
- Club house, kiosk and change rooms for the convenience of all
- Sheltered spectator areas
- Turf Cricket nets
- Playground



Pitch-perfect conditions for developing talent

The Blacktown Warriors players, coaches and spectators thrived at “Joe Mac” with:

- The First-grade team finishing third in the limited overs fixtures while jumping to 12th in the two-day competition
- Development opportunities and trials for junior players
- All training sessions being held at the facilities
- Cricket NSW Academy fixtures being hosted at the ground

Players, officials and visitors from far and wide, were unified in their praise of the work done by the grounds team.

Joe McAleer Reserve, just one more way Blacktown supports sports excellence and excellent sports.

“I would like to commend Kieran Meurant and the Blacktown Venue Management team on receiving the Cricket NSW 2016/17 Ground of the Year for Joe McAleer Oval.”

Mayor of Blacktown City, Councillor Stephen Bali.

VISITATION



36,121

AWARDS



Cricket NSW Ground of the Year Award for season 2016/17



LOOKING FORWARD

Blacktown City Council is committed to several transformational projects which will meet the community's aspirations for the city. These projects identify key priorities for our community, including "breakthrough" areas to advance the long term strategy. Council, along with the other relevant stakeholders, will work towards delivering these projects, ensuring the vision is achieved.

Two key transformational projects scheduled for Blacktown Key Venues are the Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney Master Plan and the International Centre of Training Excellence.

Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney Master Plan

A 10-year visionary master plan will build on the international reputation of the Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney. Planned improvements include a public square hotel, athlete hostel, food and beverage facilities, transport, and traffic connections.

International Centre of Training Excellence

A technologically advanced facility for sports science and training which will form the centrepiece of the new Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney.

The facility will include an accelerated recovery centre full of leading edge rehabilitation equipment to assist in the speediest possible recovery.

Western Sydney is a ready-made sporting environment geared specifically towards developing and celebrating sustained sporting excellence.

BLACKTOWN KEY VENUES

Proudly managed by

**BLACKTOWN VENUE
MANAGEMENT LTD**

Proudly owned by

