

Hi, my name is Greg Pavic and I am a local resident of 35 years in this small pocket of Broadmeadows.

Before I start I must explain to you why I am request for a sporting recreational hub at Girgarre St Reserve Broadmeadows. I need to describe to you in detail as to why this needs to occur. This is not something that a local resident is pushing through because he is part of a sporting club, ethnic or religious community group or even some sort of organisation. No hidden agendas. None of that. This is because we need to provide direction for our children and young adults. Sport has always kept all the kids in this area on the right path. I am a witness to that.

It all starts off with the State Government selling off Meadow Fair North Primary School in 2009/2010. It was the straw that broke the camel's back. That sale had a massive impact on the kids/adults in the area and it can still be felt today, 11 years on.

The story of The Oval. Meadow Fair North Primary School. It was just a simple oval with a fence where kids could kick a ball against it.



All the kids in the surrounding areas around Meadow Fair North Primary school would be running down from Phillips St or Railway Crescent, crossing the famous train tracks of Dallas dodging the traffic on Pascoe Vale Rd, riding there on mongoose bikes from Rokewood Cres Meadow Heights, kids from behind the flats and off Ripplebrook Drive would jump the small fence at the oval from 5pm onwards. Depending on the seasons of the year, winter was generally soccer and footy whilst cricket & basketball were the summer sports however soccer was the number one game regardless of rain hail and shine. It didn't matter what ethnicity you were from, Australian, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish, Assyrian, Kurdish, Lebanese, Albanian, Bosnian, Maltese, Croatian, Vietnamese, or Indian. We had it all. The Oval brought us all together. The power of sport brought comradery amongst people of all ages, from the ages of 8 – 30. Till this day we still haven't forgotten the bond it's bought to this community.

The oval was in terrible condition, but as lovers of the Oval we tried to look after it ourselves. There were pot holes galore. Kids had sprained their ankles, torn ligaments and even broke arms on that oval, but the love for that dusty uneven pitch was something special. We'd steal soil from our parent's veggie patches to cover up holes on the oval and even went out of our way to buy buffalo seedlings and kikuyu seedlings to try and repair certain parts of the oval. Around about 2002 Meadow Fair North Primary school had neglected to take care of the oval which was a shame. After the principal's departure, Mr Colin McKenzie, the oval was not maintained by then current administrators.

After the closure of The Oval (sale of Meadow Fair North Primary School) for a period of time I'd see these kids sitting around slumped on the wooden benches under the old green gazebo at Girgarre St Reserve Broadmeadows, watching the 542 Bus drive past. Bored for months with nothing to do vandalism seemed to

be the new thing. It got there adrenaline up. They were stimulated. Smashing bus stop shelters was some sort of outlet for them. Gone were the days of these kids smashing the soccer ball against a simple fence and celebrating like Ronaldo, Viduka or Beckham or playing a nice cover drive like Mark Waugh and Brian Lara, smashing the tapped up tennis ball for a 6 down Girgarre St like Adam Gilchrist. Those days were just a distant memory.

After a period of time the vandalism came to a halt, one by one, the kids started to disappear. No one was at the park anymore. The only visible thing you could see at the park would be syringes, McDonald's wrappers. There were always random people playing basketball which did give some life to the park but some parents would rather have their kids stay indoors then send them to a park with syringes floating around the playgrounds or on the BBQ area.

Half of all mental health disorders in adulthood start by the age of 14, but most cases are undetected and untreated. With the closure of Meadow Fair North Primary Schools oval, who'd have thought that I would bear witness to kids falling off the rail? These kids were bright and great in sport and in school. I used to play at local soccer club and would take these kids to training. These kids had life in front of them. As adulthood crept up most of these kids had fallen off the wagon.

A number of these kids/young adults had started to mix with bad crowds and unfortunately if death didn't catch them then the jail system sure did.

It was a shame to see a few people being locked up, kicked out of home, bullied and nowhere to go. I won't go into full details but I remember a 14 year old boy was kicked out of home by his mother and stepfather and if it wasn't for myself and a few other people within this community God only knows what would have happened to that child. This oval was the sanctuary for everyone. If that 14 year old didn't have mature figures helping him out and trying to mentor him who knows what would have happened to him.

This little pocket that we live in was always known to be the best part of Broadmeadows. Jacana, Dallas, or the other side of Broadmeadows could not compare itself to this little pocket. Till this day that statement sticks. This little pocket is the hidden gem of Broadmeadows. There's just something special about it.

It's one of those few areas where houses don't get sold often and a number of residents have been residing there for more than 40 years. Even though it's ethnically mixed there is a great sense of community amongst us all. A number of well-educated people have prospered and come out of this community. From town planners, business owners, accountants, Government officers, people within the financial sector and a partner in one of the biggest insurance law firms in Australia.

After the sale of the Meadow Fair North Primary School and seeing the kids in the area bored and causing a few issues, I had contacted the previous Councillor and former Mayor, Mr Geoff Porter.

I had raised up a few issues with him regarding the situation in the area. I suggested to Mr Porter that it would be a great idea with the closure of the school oval if a set of soccer goals or even just a fence painted with a soccer goal on it be erected so the kids in the area could still carry on at least playing a bit of soccer in the park. The former Mayor had advised me that we could arrange for some goals but no fence would be required. I tried to explain to him, there was no point kicking a soccer ball/or any other ball at goal from one direction and then running 30 metres to get the ball behind the goal and repeating that same action over and over again. You'd only last less than 10 minutes at the park and that a fence behind the goal was crucial.

A month later the former Mayor calls me up and says congratulations Greg we have arranged for two goals to be fitted. The assumption and the anticipation that soccer goals would be erected. To the public's surprise, rugby goals were erected.

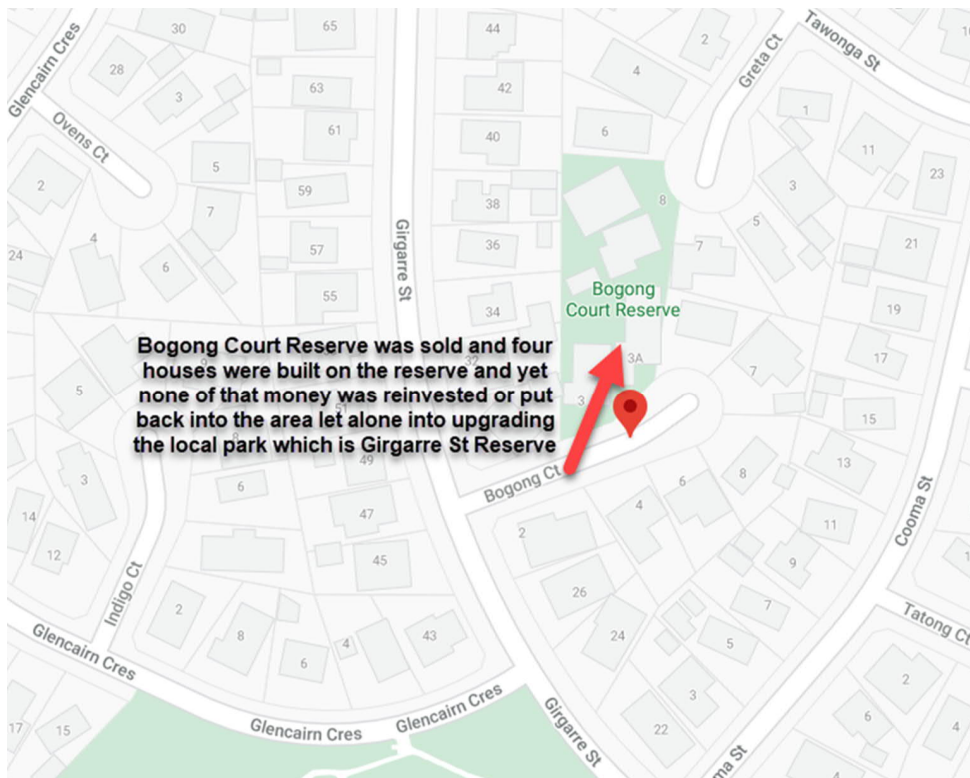
Wow. Was shocked and left speechless. I spent over an hour with the former Mayor at Girgarre St Reserve telling him the concerns of the area and issues that we have with the neglected young people and he went out of his way to waste rate payer/council money for a set of rugby goals which he called recreational goals. I'm sorry but till this day, those goals haven't been used or touched. Absolute waste!

Within the last couple of years the council finally did an upgrade of Girgarre St Reserve. It took the council almost 25 years to upgrade the playground.

There is so much potential for this park and so many things you could add or improve to the park and the council designs a playground that doesn't have a purpose. Don't get me wrong, I know everyone works hard, but I feel like these people in City Design teams across all of Victoria have never played in a park or even set foot in one.

Council had sold off Bogong Reserve over 15 years ago. Where was that money reinvested into? I can guarantee you that nothing was reinvested into Girgarre St Reserve. I won't accept that council reinvested that money into the roads and footpaths as that is the usual spiel. I can tell you that regardless of the sale of Bogong Reserve, this little pocket has been neglected for decades.

There are more than 500 houses in this pocket and you can definitely include Dookie Crt, Ripplebrook Dr, Hamilton St, Katunga Cres, Talgarno St, Railway Cres, Phillip St etc in this pocket. Over a 15 year period the council would have easily made between 6-7million dollars. And our return on rates would have been just a bit of tan bark at the park, while other suburbs within our municipality reap our hard earned dollar!



I'm wanting council to improve the park (Girgarre St Reserve) and the sporting infrastructure for a working class suburb with quite a low socioeconomic status. Considering the sale of Meadow Fair North Primary school, surely the state government could chip in and assist council as well.

Why is Broadmeadows being by passed? Is it because we're too ethnic? Is it because we're poor? I see Westmeadows, Gladstone Park, Greenvale, Craigieburn, Mickleham, Roxburgh Park and Sunbury always receiving some sort of upgrades and new facilities. Why are disadvantaged kids & young adults being disadvantaged here? No wonder Broadmeadows has a negative stigma when even the council itself by passes its residents. Let's not forget the high percentage of public housing nearby. Historically even in the early 90's this park was to become a golf course and even then that got scrapped. We've been feeling neglected by the City of Broadmeadows/City of Hume for over 3 decades.

Parents in the area couldn't afford extra circular activates for their kids, the cost of registration fees a just simply too high.

A number of these talented kids could not afford to play for local sporting clubs. I chose to pay out of my own pocket for some of these local kids to be involved in a local soccer club as I could see them enjoying that environment. Yes it meant I had to work harder but at the end of the day you want these kids to prosper.

Public infrastructure is the only outlet these kids/young adults could have.

Girgarre St Reserve could become a recreational hub for a number of disadvantaged kids and young adults in the area who are from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

For such a large park you're telling me that the council could only afford to put in a quarter of a basketball court instead of a full court? Mind you it took the council 20 years to update the basketball court. The original court was an OH&S issue so it was good to see that the council came to their senses to remove the old court but we won't need to visit that topic now.

With a recent influx of people from the subcontinent within the surrounding areas, this basketball court is being used as a cricket pitch. I love my cricket and I don't blame these young men playing cricket on the court but it's just sad seeing kids/young adults rocking up to the park wanting to play basketball and seeing that there are 12 guys playing cricket the kids/young adults just end up walking away and going back home.

Below is a photo of the park. I'm no architect but this is a suggestion that I'm putting to council. Let's turn Girgarre St Reserve into a sporting recreational hub for disadvantaged kids/young adults. Firstly, remove the Rugby goals. Waste of space. Set up AFL goals with a fence behind it. Drop in a synthetic cricket pitch/or cricket nets. Full sized basketball court. A mini soccer pitch similar to Sirius Secondary College has and finally a tennis court or two. Believe it or not, Broadmeadows doesn't have tennis courts. Dallas does, Tullamarine, Gladstone Park, Sunbury, Greenvale, Craigieburn etc, but we don't. Public tennis courts would have a great impact on these people. I know this is something that doesn't happen overnight as council would need to budget for a project like this and it could take years. But I say to you, please consider this for a neglected community. You will change young people's lives.



Attached below are parks within our municipality. As you can see in the images a number of the parks are well kept and have a number of facilities. All where asking for is to be finally included into the City of Hume and not be neglected for another 30 years because we come out from a low socioeconomic area. Sporting public infrastructure is the key.

I wish you and your families health wealth and prosperity and id like to thank you all for taking the time to read my grievances about our Broadmeadows.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Greg Pavic

Seth Raistrick Reserve 1678 Hume Highway, Campbellfield (2 courts, oval, playground, toilets)

Seth Raistrick Reserve Free Public Tennis Court (Campbellfield)

Free
Activity



2 asphalt courts within a fenced area. Toilets and an oval nearby. Facilities are available in daylight hours and no bookings are necessary.



Hepburn St Dallas (2 courts in very bad condition and very slippery)

Dallas Free Public Tennis Court (Dallas)

Free
Activity



2 courts in very bad condition and very slippery within a fenced area.



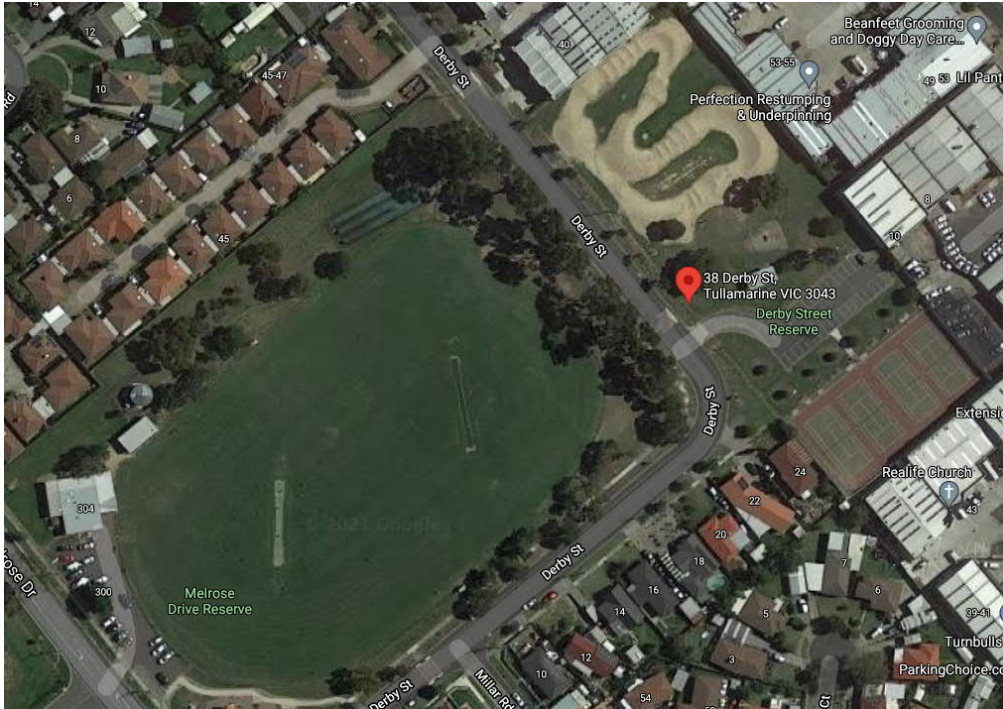
Derby St Reserve 38 Derby Street Tullamarine

Derby Street Reserve Free Public Tennis Court (Tullamarine)

Free
Activity



4 hardcourts in a fenced area. There are seats and bin outside the fence. A lot of old balls have been left there in case you don't have any to play with. There is a water tap at the nearby BMX track. Facilities are available in daylight hours and no bookings are necessary.

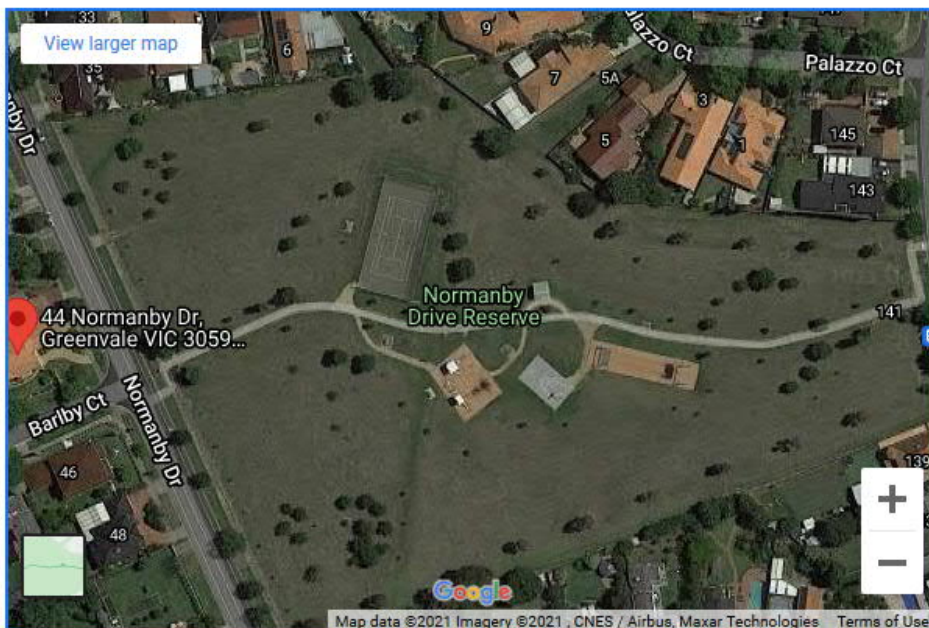


Normandy Drive Reserve Normandy Drive, Greenvale (1 court, basketball half-court)

Location & Map: Normandy Drive Reserve Free Public Tennis Court (Greenvale)

Address: 44 Normandy Drive, Greenvale

Map presented by Google





Greenvale Drive Reserve Greenvale Drive, Greenvale (1 court, basketball half-court, playground)

Greenvale Drive Reserve Free Public Tennis Court (Greenvale)

Free Activity



A single fenced hardcourt. Within the reserve, there is a playground, basketball court, outdoor gym, field with soccer goals at each end and a water tap.

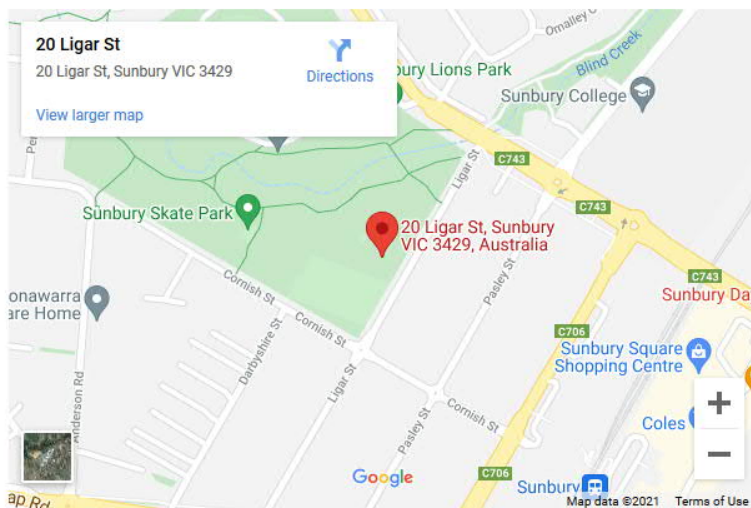


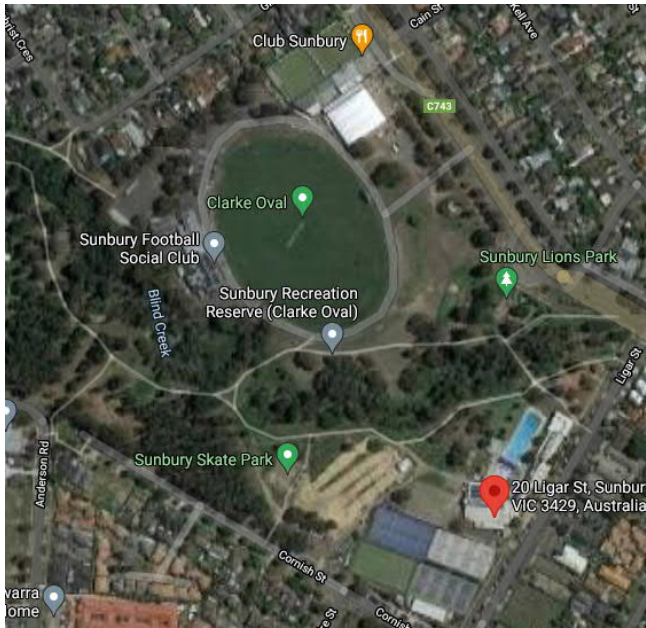
Sunbury Recreation Reserve Ligar Street, Sunbury
(3 courts north of the Sunbury Lawn Tennis Club and east of the BMX Track)

Location & Map: Sunbury Recreation Reserve Free Public Tennis Court (Sunbury)

Address: 20 Ligar Street, Sunbury

Map presented by Google





Malcolm Creek Park Serenity Way, Craigieburn
(1 court, basketball court and playground)

Malcolm Creek Park Serenity Way Free Public Tennis Court (Craigieburn)



A fenced area with a tennis court and a basketball court beside each other. There is an outline of a tennis court on the basketball court but no net on that side.



Mareeba Way Craigieburn
(1 court with a table in a shelter, BBQ and water tap) uneven court that pulls water)

Mareeba Way Free Public Tennis Court (Craigieburn)



There is a single tennis court with water tap, shelter with a single table and BBQ nearby.



Treehouse Park Grove Road Craigieburn
(A single tennis court and an adjacent basketball court. Synthetic turf)

Treehouse Park Free Public Tennis Court (Craigieburn)



A fenced area with a tennis court and a basketball court beside each other. There is an outline of a tennis court on the basketball court but no net on that side.

There is a water tap and playground next to the court.



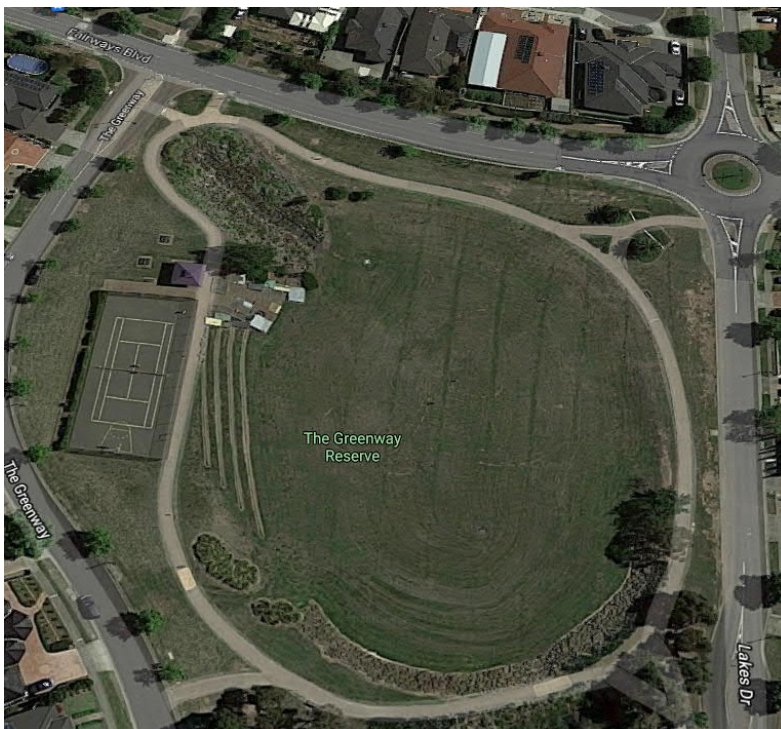


The Greenway Reserve Craigieburn
(Single tennis court with a basketball ring at one end)

The Greenway Reserve Free Public Tennis Court (Craigieburn)



A fenced tennis court with a basketball ring at one end. Shelter with BBQ plus unshaded tables and seats. There is no water tap.



Mickleham Memorial Reserve 685 Mount Ridley Road, Mickleham
(2 tennis courts)

Mickleham Memorial Free Public Tennis Court (Mickleham)



2 mod grass courts within a fenced area.

Annadale Park Moncton Way, Mickleham
(1 multi-purpose hardcourt)

Annadale Park Free Public Tennis Court (Mickleham)

Free
Activity



One multi-purpose hardcourt with tennis rebound wall at one end (with cricket stump and soccer goals) and basketball ring at the other end.