acknowledgements

Hands on Community Solutions would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, the other main users of the reserve and key stakeholders who provided detailed input into the development of this plan.

Also, to South Gippsland Shire Council for providing background information and support for this Master Plan, along with the financial contribution to complete the project.

To the individuals and community members whose input and advice has been essential to the development of this report.

The site assessment and technical information has been provided by 2MH Consulting, including the development of the site landscape plans.

appendix

1. Landscape Plan
2. Play Space Concept Plan

Hands on Community Solutions
Contact Details: Project Manager Michelle Harris - e: handsonsm1@bigpond.com m: 0458 145 596
In April 2012, the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve Committee of Management engaged Hands on Community Solutions, in partnership with 2MH Consulting, to complete a master planning exercise. This project investigates the potential for the facilities at the reserve and the adjacent area that leads to the Great Southern Rail Trail and town centre. This exercise included the need to work with the Committee of Management and other user groups to guide the development of the planning project.

Meeniyan is in South Gippsland, about 15km south-east of Leongatha (150km from Melbourne). The Meeniyan community has branded the town “the turning point” as it’s here where many tourists turn right towards Fish Creek and then on to Wilsons Promontory National Park. Visitors can also opt to continue to Foster before heading to the Prom. According to the 2006 Census, Meeniyan had a population of 425. There are a number of shops in Meeniyan that cater to the weekend tourist including local art and crafts, and cafes. Meeniyan also caters to its residents by providing a post office, newly built supermarket, newsagency and chemist.

The Meeniyan Recreation Reserve consists of a main oval and associated infrastructure, netball and tennis courts, public toilets, function centre, home and away changerooms, bowls club, old Guide Hall which is now used for MADS and Yoga, BBQ area, playground, cricket nets, archery facilities and open space.

The Great Southern Rail Trail runs past the reserve and one of the key elements of this project is to strengthen the link between these key recreation areas and the town.

The sportsground is located on Crown Land which is zoned PPRZ and managed by a Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) appointed Committee of Management. Buildings at the reserve are mainly owned by specific user groups and the focus for the committee is the main oval and surrounding areas.

User groups of the reserve are proactive and capable, contributing an enormous amount to the operation of the facilities. South Gippsland Shire Council provides an annual maintenance grant, grants for capital works projects and ongoing advice and support to the various committees. The Meeniyan Recreation Reserve is the primary recreation area in the town, along with the Meeniyan Basketball Stadium, Golf Club and local Primary School.

This Master Plan was jointly funded by Council, the recreation reserve committee and the Gardiner Foundation after it was determined that a master planning process would assist the committee to identify priorities and better plan for the future. Along with specialist technical advice in regards to some of the projects already identified, some other projects include the development of a Skate Park and playground area, and sealing works for the main roadways within the reserve.

There has been extensive consultation completed to develop this Master Plan. It is important to balance the needs of the user groups as there are so many activities being conducted at the reserve each week. It is important to be realistic when developing a Master Plan as the resources of a relatively small town like Meeniyan are limited. However, this Master Plan sets out a clear vision for the next 10 years to be implemented as funds become available.
The following Methodology was completed for this Master Plan project:

- A start up meeting was conducted with the Committee of Management and key user groups (April 2012)
- Research, consultation and an industry review was completed
- A detailed site inspection was completed, with technical staff
- Consultation was held with all users of the reserve to discuss the process and identify key issues and priorities
- A draft Master Plan was developed and provided to Council and the broader community for input
- The final Master Plan was adopted by the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

The following section contains a review of relevant reports, information and plans in relation to this project. The key findings from this literature are contained herein:

**Demographic Review**

South Gippsland Shire was created in 1994 from the amalgamation of four previous municipalities. It has an area of 3,300 square kilometres and a current population of just over 27,000. This is expected to reach 33,300 by 2036, which is an increase of almost 25% in 25 years.

In the 2006 Census, the total resident population of Meeniyan was 425 people. The resident population increased by 35 people between 2001 and 2006 at an average annual growth rate of 1.8%. By 2030, Meeniyan is projected to have 560 residents.

In 2006, the most significant age group in Meeniyan was people between 25 and 54 years highlighting a strong presence of families. The Census recorded 287 families in Meeniyan; 134 couple families with children, 120 couple families without children, 30 one parent families and three stated as Other.

The median weekly individual income for a person aged 15 years and over who were usual residents of Meeniyan was $402, compared with $466 in Australia. The median weekly household income was $837, compared with $1,027 in Australia. The median weekly family income was $1,073 compared with $1,171 in Australia. There were a total of 435 private dwellings counted in Meeniyan including 42 unoccupied private dwellings; 99% being separate houses and 1% were semi-detached, row or terrace houses, town houses with no flats, units or apartments or other dwellings.

**Literature Review**

**South Gippsland Shire Council - Recreation Plan**

This Plan was developed in 2007 and identifies some key principles for guiding the development of recreation facilities and reserves:

- A diversity of opportunities for physical and social recreation is provided in every community.
- A hierarchy of facilities matches the range of needs, competition standards, available resources, willingness and ability of the community to support these.
- The benefits of leisure participation and all available opportunities are widely promoted and acknowledged.
- The needs and aspirations of residents are monitored, and people with a disability, older adults and adolescents are included alongside all others.
- The contribution made by clubs, associations and committees are acknowledged.
- The necessary leadership and planning is provided to enhance social, economic and environmental benefits of recreation and sports for local communities.
- Land managers, clubs, committees and community organisations are engaged in recreation planning, provision and management processes.
In the Plan, Meeniyan was categorised as a Small Town and the following priorities were identified in regards to the Recreation Reserve:

- To create a better connection to the Recreation Reserve from the township via an off road trail, connecting the stadium, community and sporting facilities.
- To create stronger working relationships between the Recreation Reserve Committee and all users of the Reserve.
- Address risk issues associated with the cricket practice areas at the Reserve.
- There may be potential to use the forested area around the Recreation Reserve for walking, etc.

Meeniyan Structure Plan (2011)

It is proposed that Meeniyan will continue to be a small rural town that offers quality lifestyles for both the existing local and future residents. Meeniyan will continue to act as a regional centre in the Wilsons Promontory hinterland and provide retail, community and trades services to a range of smaller population settlements in the region.

Its tourism role will continue to grow with a focus on art, music, culture and food. Future commercial development should seek to strengthen and consolidate the intersection of Whitelaw and Geale Street as the commercial heart of Meeniyan. It is expected that future growth in Meeniyan will occur with the connection of town sewerage.

Meeniyan Community Plan

Vision Statement: Meeniyan is committed to remaining a desirable and liveable town of quality that provides for the needs of all its residents and visitors whilst retaining the small town atmosphere and spirit.

Meeniyan will continue to welcome new cultures and age groups, and to encourage opportunities for all people to fulfil their potential. This includes a commitment to encouraging opportunities for the young people in entertainment, education, employment and exercise. It will continue to support the cultural and artistic ambience of the community. It will work to support the planned growth of the town, with a stronger commercial centre encouraging a relevant and suitable increase of necessary services and businesses to provide for the community.

The Meeniyan golf course was not specifically listed as a priority or project area of the plan, however the key objectives support the retention and development of the course, as listed below:

- **Natural and Built Environment**: Objective: To protect and enhance the rural town that combines urban amenities, rural environment and atmosphere, and native flora and fauna.
- **Engaging our Youth**: Objective: To provide a range of opportunities for young people and their families, including education, employment, entertainment, and exercise (healthy lifestyle); to encourage youth retention in the area; to counter the “Online but disconnected”.
- **Town Infrastructure**: Objective: A strong, bustling community; desirable for growth; stronger commercial centre and more services aspect.
- **Tourism**: Objective: To have good amenities for locals and visiting tourists and to keep the town attractive for all.
- **Business Growth**: Objective: A tidy town with good quality developmental guidelines and sustainable businesses.

A review of the Community Plan was completed in October 2011. Key projects in the plan that relate to this Master Plan are:

- Walking Trail - stadium to recreation reserve and join to rail trail
- Tourist/Community Park including a rotunda and play area
- Seal the driveway around the recreation and bowling club
- RV Sewage Dump at Recreation Reserve
- Skate Park at the Recreation Reserve
South Gippsland Shire Council – Council Plan

Our Mission
To effectively plan and provide for the social, built, economic and natural environments that ensure the future well-being of South Gippsland communities.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1 – A VIBRANT, ENGAGED COMMUNITY
OUTCOME 1.2 HEALTH AND WELL BEING
A community that proudly supports a sense of place and identity and contributes willingly to an enjoyable, active, healthy and safe environment for all ages and abilities.
Strategies:
1.2.1 Active lifestyles: Provide and facilitate a range of recreational, sport, and leisure opportunities for all sectors of the community.
1.2.2 Community health: Minimise the community’s exposure to health risks by undertaking education, promotion and specific preventative programs and inspections.
1.2.3 Community safety: Support a safe living environment through a proactive response to public safety matters.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2 – A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT
OUTCOME 2.4 OPEN SPACES
Parks, reserves and recreation areas which reflect an empathy with the natural environment and provide enhanced biodiversity values.
Strategies:
2.4.1 Planning and design: Ensure natural values are incorporated into all management planning and design of open spaces in accordance with the Open Spaces Strategy.
2.4.2 Maintenance: Ensure open space management regimes are continuously monitored and maintained to protect their natural assets and maximise their long-term benefit to the community.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4 – APPROPRIATE INFRASTRUCTURE
OUTCOME 4.2 COUNCIL BUILDINGS/FACILITIES
Buildings and facilities which meet contemporary community needs and provide a sustainable cost/benefit.
Strategies:
4.2.1 Maintenance: Ensure the Council’s buildings and facilities are continuously monitored and maintained to a safe standard, maximising their long-term benefit to the community in accordance with priorities set through comprehensive asset management planning.
4.2.2 Funding: Plan to generate funds to ensure that sustainable asset maintenance, renewal and replacement are undertaken at the appropriate times.
4.2.3 Review: Regularly review and analyse all existing and proposed buildings/facilities on a commercial cost/benefit basis.
The Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) describes the financial and non financial resource requirements over a four-year period.

Great Southern Rail Trail
In response to community requests State Government abandoned railway lands were converted to Crown Land and set aside for public ownership - the lands are now administered by the DSE. A Committee of Management (COM), made up of community volunteers, has responsibility for protection, maintenance and improvement of the lands and with the assistance of South Gippsland Shire Council, designed and managed the trail construction and facilities.

The COM is responsible for maintenance, preservation and enhancement of the trail and natural vegetation; valuable assistance also comes from volunteers including The Friends of The Great Southern Rail Trail, schools, clubs and other groups. Funding to build the rail trail was received from a number of government departments.

The rail is a fine gravel pathway, mostly flat or gently undulating with moderate gradients from Fish Creek to Foster. The trail is suitable for walking, cycling, horse riding and wheelchairs. The total trail length is around 50 km, all completed except for 3kms.
A future extension to Yarram has recently been funded and possible links to Mt Nicoll, Wilsons Promontory and Nyora. The trail sections adjacent to Meeniyan are;

Minns Road - Meeniyan 6km, 2 hours walk - The railway crosses the Tarwin River on a trestle bridge near Meeniyan. The new rail trail bridge opened in March 2008.

Meeniyan - Stony Creek 3.5km, 1.5 hours walk - Flat trail, very easy walk. Starts in Meeniyan behind the petrol station. Here the trail begins the long diversion south that the railway took to Fish Creek in order to avoid the Foster hills. The trail is mostly surrounded by swamp scrub and lowland forest. The Stony Creek racecourse features on the left.

There is an opportunity to better link the Recreation Reserve with the Rail Trail to create better interest in both community assets. The land between the reserve and trail is managed by the Great Southern Rail Trail Committee of Management and the DSE advises that the land could be used to construct a pathway link between the two areas. This arrangement will need to be documented and finalised prior to a pathway being developed. Please refer to the Landscape Plan.

South Gippsland Shire Council- Paths and Trails Strategy 2012
The Paths and Trails Strategy identifies pathway projects throughout South Gippsland Shire which enables Council to plan for future resources on the highest priority projects.

The following observations have been about Meeniyan;

- The success of the Great Southern Rail Trail has resulted in a new appreciation for Meeniyan. Visitor numbers are increasing due to the break in trail further north to Koonwarra. As a result, people are seeing Meeniyan as a starting point for their journey to Foster.
- Tanderra Park creates a link from the rail trail into town. This Strategy includes proposals to allow riders into town via cycle lanes on the South Gippsland Highway from this point and around to the recreation reserve via Hanily St, forming a loop for cyclists.
- A proposed footpath connecting Welsford St to McKittericks St with the stadium.
- Meeniyan is generally well serviced with concrete footpaths along a number of streets.
- The recreation reserve is a well tread attractive space with a gravel path around the reserve perimeter.

Two projects have been identified in the Strategy which relate to this Master Plan. The Strategy recommends an upgrade of the pathway along Hanily Street. This Master plan has investigated this option a little further by creating a new entrance to the recreation reserve, linking the rail trail with the town centre. This was also the key intention of the Paths and Trail Strategy.

The project identified in this Master Plan will come at a cheaper cost and will link to the proposed Play Space area at the reserve. It is hoped the reserve will have strong links to the Rail Trail.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Facility Specifics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tarwin Valley Primary School</td>
<td>120 students. The school uses the Recreation Reserve for a range of sporting activities and events which include annual sports days and carnivals.</td>
<td>The school has access to the Meeniyan Stadium for its indoor activities and has an outdoor court and small grassed oval area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeniyan Golf Club</td>
<td>Is located 4 km out of town. Around 200 members and is well supported by local residents.</td>
<td>The 18 hole golf course is used for golf as well as recreational walking. The facilities include a large function area with commercial kitchen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Meeniyan Stadium                    | The single court stadium is located opposite Tarwin Valley Primary School, which has unlimited daytime access to the facilities. Community use is varied and is outlined adjacent. The facility is ageing and there is limited spectator space. Given that a stadium exists in town, there is no need to duplicate this type of facility at the reserve. | Junior basketball on Monday and Friday from February - May and again from August - November from 4 - 7pm.  
Senior basketball on Tuesday and Wednesday from November - March 7 - 9pm.  
Volleyball has stadium Tuesdays from April - August 7 - 9.30pm.  
Fitness training on Monday and Thursday from 9 - 10am every week.  
Basketball training Mondays 6 - 7pm.  
Another fitness trainer has expressed an interest in hiring the stadium on Mondays 7 - 8pm every week.  
Football and netball hire the stadium for training when oval is too wet. |
| Stony Creek Racecourse and Recreation Reserve | The large Stony Creek Racecourse is located 5km from Meeniyan. The facility hosts country race meetings, equestrian events and other sporting activities.                                                       | The Recreation Reserve located in the centre of the race track is home to the Stony Creek Football Netball Club. |
| Leongatha Recreation Facilities     | The Leongatha Recreation Reserve is the main regional recreation area in the Shire, located 15km from Meeniyan.                                                                                               | Facilities include indoor aquatic centre, netball courts, skate park, main oval, tennis facilities, croquet lawn, cycling velodrome, golf course and open space. |
| Koonwarra Recreation Facilities     | The Recreation Reserve is still home to the tennis and cricket clubs and is situated on Buckingham-Fowlers Road.                                                                                             | Facilities include a main oval, cricket nets, playground and tennis courts.                        |
| Other Recreation Facilities         | Regional sports not catered for in Leongatha are provided in the Latrobe Valley. This includes elite sporting opportunities.                                                                               |                                                                                                   |
An initial meeting was held in April 2012 with key stakeholders of the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve to collect background information for this project. These stakeholders included:

- South Gippsland Shire Council
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Meeniyan Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
- Tarwin Valley Primary School, including the Student Council
- Meeniyan and Dumbalk United Football Netball Club
- Meeniyan and Dumbalk United Cricket Club
- Meeniyan Bowls Club
- Leongatha and District Netball Association
- South Eastern Target Archers
- Meeniyan Bridge Club
- Meeniyan Amateur Drama Society
- Dharmaheret Yoga Centre
- Meeniyan and District Tennis Club
- Meeniyan and District Auskick
- Meeniyan Skate Park Group
- Meeniyan Progress Association
- Meeniyan and District Netball Club

The technical audit was completed in June 2012 with most of the user groups represented.

A workshop was held in May, August and September to discuss the development of the Master Plan in detail. The results of this consultation were used to develop this Master Plan and the priorities contained within. The draft document was presented to the key stakeholders and community groups for their further input and advice. The draft Master Plan was also available on the Meeniyan Community website for comment.

**Stakeholder Interviews/Survey Responses**

The following is a summary of the key information collected from the major users of the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve:

**Bed of Roses**

The acclaimed ABC television series, Bed of Roses, was filmed in part in Meeniyan. This included the use of the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve for the filming of the football team footage.

**Meeniyan Bowling Club**

Opened for play in 1964, the clubhouse was built in the 1980’s. In early 2000 a synthetic green was installed using debentures. The club also used debentures to raise funds to build the new kitchen. The club committee meets monthly.

The club has three teams competing in Saturday and two on Tuesday pennants. All are very competitive - winning a final last year. The club hosts a Get on the Green program to attract new members. There are currently 70 members. Membership has remained steady between 60 and 75 for the last five years.

The Bowling Club hosts a range of special events including the Young Farmers Speed Dating events, social events, funerals and meetings (including Recreation Reserve COM). The club is accessible and provides a portable ramp to access the green.

The most important priority for the Bowling Club is the sealing of the car park adjacent to the club. Members are concerned about the damage being caused to the green from the dust created by vehicle movements on the gravel surface. The club manages its own building and facility, contributing an annual fee to the Recreation Reserve Committee for grounds maintenance.
Meeniyan - Dumbalk United (MDU) Football Netball Club

Football
Football is a large part of the community, nurturing and rewarding its players and supporters with opportunities and expanding opportunities through health, safety and wellbeing. The Meeniyan and Dumbalk football clubs amalgamated in 1964 with the united club experiencing some success - winning Senior premierships in 1975, 76, 81, 88 and 90. The Football teams play as part of the Alberton Football Netball League.

The Football Club was responsible for the redevelopment of the function centre, which opened in 2008. The club trains on a Tuesday and Thursday night. Meals are provided on a Thursday night. Matches are held on a Saturday. The club runs a range of social events throughout the year to generate income.

The club provides teams in the following age groups; Under 15s, Under 18s, Reserves and Seniors.

Netball
The netball teams play as part of the Alberton Football Netball League and has experienced success over the years including C Grade Premiers in 2011, multiple AFNL Best and Fairest players, finals appearances and players representing the League at regional competitions in both Juniors and Senior grades.

Membership for MDU netball (AFNL selections for league representative teams):
- 2012 - 32 Seniors, 26 Juniors = 58 members
- 2011 - 33 Seniors, 28 Juniors = 61 members
- 2010 - 30 Seniors, 25 Juniors = 55 members
- 2009 - 32 Seniors, 27 Juniors = 59 members
- 2008 - 28 Seniors, 22 Juniors = 50 members

Netta
The Netta netball program has operated at the reserve in recent years and interest in the program fluctuates with the town population.

South Gippsland Netball Association
The South Gippsland Netball Association used to play netball at Meeniyan every Saturday and in its peak there were 48 teams from Tarwin, Koonwarra, Dumbalk, Stony Creek, Toora, Welshpool, Mirboo, Mirboo North, Fish Creek and Meeniyan. Numbers were down to 15 teams over four grades eight years ago and as a result it was decided to join the Leongatha competition. In recent months the management of the building next to the netball courts was transferred to the Cricket Club.

Meeniyan and District Netball Club
This group is separate to MDU. The club trains on a Tuesday night at Meeniyan and plays in the Leongatha and District Netball competition on a Saturday in Leongatha.

Meeniyan Dumbalk United Cricket Club Inc.
The Meeniyan and Dumbalk cricket clubs merged in 1982 to become MDU Cricket Club. In the 2011-12 season there were 60 senior players and 30 juniors. The B Grade Division 2 team won the Premiership. The club was also awarded the Charltonian Best Presented Club. There has been a slight increase in membership in recent years. The Cricket Club uses the main oval for training and playing during the summer months on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Cricket Club is responsible for the building next to the netball courts and it pays a small fee to the Recreation Reserve Committee for maintenance. The club has plans to upgrade this building. It was recently awarded a $9,300 grant from South Gippsland Shire Council for Stage 1 of building works and was awarded additional funding for a unisex/accessible toilet facility in the building through the Gardiner Foundations Strengthening Small Dairy Communities project. Members currently access the public toilet block opposite the building and have concerns about crossing the roadway. There is no sewer connection to the building.
For this Master Plan, the Cricket Club has suggested:
- outdoor BBQ area
- grandstand and scoreboard
- new bowling machine
- lighting for practice nets

The club conducts a range of fundraising activities throughout the year to generate income including camp drafts and comedy nights. As a result the club is in a strong financial position.

**Archery**
South Eastern Target Archers Inc is based at the archery field at the rear of the Meeniyan Bowling Club. Competition is held Saturdays and archers compete in target and field shooting.

**Bridge Club**
The club meets at the Bowling Club on a Monday night.

**Meeniyan Amateur Drama Society (MADS) Inc.**
MADS Inc. is a training theatre for all ages with a focus on fostering the dramatic talents in children. It uses the old Scout Hall (next to the Dharmaheart Yoga hall) which it leases from the Committee of Management.

MADS has performed two Cabaret shows, one Comedy Drama, one Panto, one set of six short Comedy Dramas, various social events including Car Treasure Hunts (2), Murder Mystery Nights (2), Panto in the Parks, Christmas and other social events often synchronised with meetings.

MADS has hired the old Scout Hall for one year for storage of costumes, meetings, social gatherings and rehearsal of productions. Membership varies depending on productions – it currently has 25 members. (It has had up to 50 members). Meetings are held once a month on average and more often during rehearsals for productions.

MADS has stated that the electrical system in the kitchen area needs attention and that the water tanks need cleaning as members are unable to drink tap water. There is some timber stored under the hall which may be a fire risk. The club intends to recycle the old Scout signage by painting its own logo on the reverse side.

**Dharmaheart Yoga**
Classes operate on Tuesdays from 6.30 - 8pm, Wednesdays from 7pm - 8.30pm and Thursdays from 6 -7.30pm. Classes caters for beginners through to intermediate and are held in the building set aside for this use, leased by the Recreation Reserve Committee.

**Meeniyan and District Tennis Club**
The club is only small and may not field a team next season. There was only one team last season in the summer competition. A committee still functions to meet reporting requirements.

**Meeniyan and District Auskick**
Auskick is held on Sundays at 10am on the main oval. Participation in the program varies depending on the age demographic in the town. There were 12 participants in this year’s program.
Tarwin Valley Primary School (TVPS)

Two sessions were held with TVPS students. The first meeting focussed on explaining the Master Plan and students were asked to discuss ideas with their respective grades. The second meeting invited students to report back and discuss the ideas collected. The Student Representative Council was asked to rank the ideas identified by indicating a High, Medium or Low priority. *(No ranking means the idea was not chosen as a priority.)*

**Grade 5/6**

Wizzy Dizzy (like at McIndoe Park) **High**

Seats

Swings **High**

Flying Fox **Low**

Slide

Toddler climbing equipment **Low**

Rubber softfall **Low**

Rope tower **Low**

**Grade 4/5**

Spinning see saw

Balancing stepping stones

Surfboard on spring **Low**

Mini rock climbing wall **Low**

Meeniyan historical signs

Maze activities

Drinking taps

BBQ

Table

Rubbish bin

Climbing rope

Tyre Swing

**Grade 3/4**

Straight monkey bars

Chin up bars

Naughts and Crosses **Low**

Saucer

Roller

Slide

Cubbyhouse **Medium**

Swings

Sand pit with cover

Spider web **Medium**

Circle bars monkey bars

**Other**

- Activities at the reserve like orienteering
- Develop the play space into age/activity areas
- Form the equipment like an obstacle course
- Give a range of options for getting up the tower
- Theme: Australian Animals
- Timber construction rather than coloured equipment
The following graphs show the identified projects following youth consultation. The first graph highlights projects by popularity for the play space area. The second graph highlights items of popularity for the Skate Park.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Facilities used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Bridge Club</td>
<td>Bowling Club facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bowls - Winter Triples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>MDU Netball Training 4pm-7.30pm- winter</td>
<td>Netball courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowls pennant in spring and summer</td>
<td>MDU Football training- winter</td>
<td>Yoga building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get on the Green program - 10 weeks</td>
<td>Meeniyan and District Netball training</td>
<td>Oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday and Wednesday</td>
<td>Yoga- 6.30-8pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket training (Seniors)- summer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Social bowls - summer and winter</td>
<td>Bowling Club facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bowls</td>
<td>Yoga building</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga - 7-8.30pm</td>
<td>Oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket training (U16) - summer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Netball training 4pm-7.30pm- winter</td>
<td>Netball courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga - 6-7.30pm</td>
<td>Yoga building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bowls - once per month</td>
<td>Bowling Club facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket training (U12 and Seniors) - summer</td>
<td>Oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MDU Football training- winter. Meals in the function centre.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Indoor Bowls</td>
<td>Bowling Club facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tarwin Valley PS – mixed use</td>
<td>All facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket matches - once per month in summer</td>
<td>Oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Bowls Pennant - during summer/casual bowls</td>
<td>Bowling Club facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Netball home games - winter 9am-4pm</td>
<td>Netball courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tennis - during summer if teams available</td>
<td>Tennis courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>Archery field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cricket matches - Seniors, Juniors</td>
<td>Oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Football matches - winter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Alberton Football League Training - 4 times per year</td>
<td>Netball Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeniyan and District Auskick -10am</td>
<td>Oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Football Family Days</td>
<td>MADS building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MADS - once per month and more often during rehearsals and productions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other

- Bowls - special events and tournaments
- Function Centre – used for functions 12-15 times per year including weddings, funerals, social events
- Walking Groups including the 'mushroom fairies' visits, attracting people from surrounding area
- Reserve is used by a range of visitors as a rest stop and passive recreation area
- MADS - frequent rehearsals leading up to productions
- Reserve hosted the 2011 Netball Football Finals as the only ground suitable
- The Reserve hosted the Interleague Football and Netball Finals in 2012
- The Reserve will be hosting the Access for All Abilities Come and Try Day in November showcasing the facilities and activities in Meeniyan.

identified issues and opportunities

Meeniyan Skate Park

Almost five years ago, an enthusiastic and hard-working group of teenagers dreamed of building a skate park in Meeniyan. They began talking with other local young people, gathered over 400 signatures in a petition and sought the assistance of the Meeniyan Progress Association, the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve Committee and the South Gippsland Shire Council.

In March 2010, a public meeting was held and the Meeniyan Youth Committee was formed. Many generous local businesses and individuals donated money towards the project and the group has its own project account - The Meeniyan Youth Committee account. An application for Community Facility Funding was submitted to South Gippsland Shire Council in April 2010, followed by an application for a Planning Development Study in July that same year. Convic Design, a professional skate park development company, agreed to conduct the site assessment and planning. Site assessment, school consultations and community meetings were part of the scope of works as proposed by Convic Design.

The skate park and playground project was identified as a key priority in the Meeniyan Community Plan, developed with the assistance of South Gippsland Shire Council between March and June 2010. The planning development funding was granted to Meeniyan Youth Committee in November 2010.

A representative from Convic Design visited Meeniyan in February 2011 to discuss the project with various key stakeholders and the broader community. Discussions centred around the skate park/playground location, features and transitions, likely users, safety components and other amenities including toilets, lighting and seating.

The group decided that a path linking the Recreation Reserve to the main street of Meeniyan would increase accessibility and safety for users of the skate park and playground. Permission for this path was granted from the DSE and the Great Southern Rail Trail Committee in March 2011. The initial report and diagrammatic plan was to be completed by Convic Design in April and then submitted to Council before the end of the 2011 financial year. This has not occurred to date.

A meeting was recently held with the Principal and Student Council at Tarwin Valley Primary School where the school agreed to creating artwork for the linking pathway (alongside the new IGA supermarket). A sculpture trail has been included as part of the proposed Master Plan.

After much discussion with the local community, the project gathered momentum and it was identified that its potential was far greater than initially imagined. It has been established that Meeniyan needs a community space in which young people can meet and relax, or be active and play, or both.
A new Meeniyan Youth Committee has been established to oversee the skate park and playground project. This will include coordinating fundraising activities (name pavers, sponsorships), assisting with the planning process and writing additional funding applications.

A detailed concept plan of the proposed Play Space, including the skatepark and costings have been developed as part of this master planning process which will enable the project to be implemented in the short term.

It is important to consider that the skate park and playground site has been conceptualised with a limited budget in mind given the population and resource limitations of the local community. Also, it is but one of the many projects identified as part of this Master Plan. (See Youth Consultation section page 11 and 12).

**Main Pavilion, Changerooms and Public Toilet Facilities**

There are a number of buildings at the reserve. In hindsight, the initial planning for this infrastructure should have catered for multi use with better location planning as opposed to facilities being placed in an ad hoc manner.

There is a function centre at the reserve that was redeveloped in recent years. It caters for a range of purposes with a bar and commercial kitchen facilities. The facility is located adjacent to the main oval and has its own limited car parking. It is managed by the Football Club and there is limited access by other groups using the Recreation Reserve. There could potentially be better use of this facility through improved sharing arrangements.

There is a netball/tennis/cricket pavilion located adjacent to the outdoor courts. This building is in average condition and the cricket club has been working to redevelop the facility, with the inclusion of a toilet. The courts are located some distance from the main function centre and changerooms, which makes it difficult to access and share. The changerooms building is in good condition and generally caters well to the football club. However, re-roofing is required.

A number of areas are used for storage. There are sheds, parts of facilities and outdoor areas being used which present some safety concerns. Any redevelopment of the facilities needs to cater for broad storage needs.

The old Scout Hall is home to the Meeniyan Arts and Drama Society (MADS) and is used on a regular basis. The adjacent Yoga building is also used for a number of sessions each week. The condition of these facilities are generally poor and neither has toilets; users need to walk outside and access one of the public toilet blocks.

The Bowling Club has its own clubhouse. This is very well maintained by members. It includes a good quality kitchen, bar, function area and toilets. This facility is used by the club for catering, functions, as well as Indoor Bowling. The facility is also available for hire to external groups.

The main issue identified at the reserve is the public toilets. There are three sets of outdoor toilets and none of them are connected to the sewer system. Each of the facilities need to be improved to better meet demand and they are not broadly accessible or visually pleasing. A very high priority is to redevelop one of the toilet blocks and connect it to the sewer system. Ideally, the facilities closet to the pumping station would be the cheapest option. However, consideration needs to be given to the most ideal location given that users need to walk from around the reserve to access the toilets.

Our priorities for Public Toilet Redevelopment works are;

**As a first priority**, complete some minor upgrade works to toilet blocks adjacent to the proposed Play Space. Plan to connect this facility to the sewer.

**As a second priority**, the Football Club has been responsible for the upgrade of the public toilet facilities between the Bowling Club and changerooms. They are only open on football match days. It would be ideal if Yoga and MADS could access these toilets instead of having to use the toilet block closest to the outdoor courts.
**Priority three** relates to the toilet facility located close to the second entrance that is currently used by the netballers. This should be used for overflow toilets only and no upgrades are recommended. The facility should be de-commissioned as any major issues arise.

The Recreation Reserve COM believes the maintenance and upgrades of buildings is the responsibility of the major tenant. For some of the groups, it is unrealistic to expect they will be able to fund any large scale building works.

Hands on is recommending that consideration be given as to how the user groups could better share the existing facilities, that are in better condition. This would pool resources, increase the likelihood that future funding applications would be successful and would ultimately reduce the building footprint across the reserve and increase open space. How this could be achieved will need further investigation.

We recommend that the Cricket Club building be renovated using the recent funds secured by the club. The club is seeking to install a single toilet which would be beneficial. However, there may be issues as a result of a lack of sewer connection.

User groups have requested the development of a grandstand of tiered seating be considered for the site. There is a need to provide more under cover areas for spectators with the most ideal location being at the front of the changerooms building. We have not been able to identify a suitable location for a grandstand. Perhaps consideration could be given to hiring temporary tiered seating for major events.

**AFL Facility Guidelines**
The AFL Facility Guidelines require that all facilities that cater to football incorporate adequate;

- Home and Away changerooms
- Separate umpire facilities
- First Aid/treatment rooms
- Administration space/officials areas

Also seen as desirable is canteen/kiosk facilities, social space, spectator areas, storage, gymnasium and separate public toilet facilities.

The guidelines do not comment on the facilities required for netball. The Meeniyan netballers do not have access to changeroom facilities and it is important to consider the challenges faced with women and men sharing the same facility. Also, it is important to consider how female umpires can be catered to.

**Usage Participation Trends**
Trends suggest that participation in formal sport remains fairly stable in traditional sports. The population base in Meeniyan is likely to only increase slightly. This suggests that membership in the key sporting clubs is only likely to change as a result of the effort of the committees to organise, attract and grow player numbers. It is possible that there will be growth with improved facilities. The tennis and netball courts are in average condition which would negatively affect their usage.

**Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) 2010**
The Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) was a joint initiative of the Australian Sports Commission and State and Territory Departments of Sport and Recreation, conducted on an annual basis between 2001 and 2010. The top 10 activities for participation in Victoria are: Walking, Aerobics/Fitness, Swimming, Cycling, Running, Golf, Tennis, Australia Rules football, Bush Walking and Basketball. The Victorian trends reflect that more people are engaging in walking, swimming and cycling activities - passive recreation that is reflected in the local trends in Meeniyan.

The greatest opportunity at the reserve is to attract new visitors through a stronger link with the Rail Trail and town centre.
**User Fees/Facility Management**

The reserve is located on Crown Land which is managed by a Crown Land Committee of Management. The membership of this committee is representative of each of the reserve user groups, who also contribute to the operation of the reserve.

South Gippsland Shire Council provides an annual maintenance grant, grants for capital works projects and ongoing advice and support to the committee. This Master Plan provides the Committee with direction and information which is important documentation when applying for external government grants.

The Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (COM) sees its main role to manage the outdoor infrastructure, including the oval and surrounding grounds. The public toilets are also the responsibility of the COM. The individual user groups are in turn responsible for their buildings and operations. All projects need to be approved by the committee but funding and coordination for sport specific projects need to be organised by the sporting clubs. Many of the individual sporting clubs do not have the resources and/or capacity to do this and rely on support from the committee.

The user fees charged at the reserve are low but evenly charged based on use and patronage. Capital funds will be required for the implementation of this Master Plan. This can be done by the committee reviewing fees and setting aside a savings plan for future projects. Or, individual committees could be asked to raise funds for their specific projects. Ongoing consideration should be given to this issue to ensure that funds are set aside to implement the Master Plan.

Most of the maintenance is currently completed by volunteers associated with the COM. Grounds maintenance is largely completed by one volunteer, which is an enormous contribution. It is largely recognised that it is difficult for volunteers to fully commit to the hours required to manage complex recreation precincts. There are many important operational aspects of these areas that include Tree Management, Occupational Health and Safety, Building Maintenance and Oval Irrigation and Turf Management. It is not practical to expect that volunteers be able to achieve expectations set by sporting associations, Work Cover and Council itself.

It is important for Council to provide resources, support and training for volunteer Committees of Management. Recreational facilities are expensive to replace, repair and maintain, and funding is difficult to secure. It is important that professional advice and expertise is provided to manage facility improvements, oval renovations and maintenance to ensure the best, cost effective outcome in the long term.

**Proposed Retirement Village**

The Meeniyan Progress Association has requested that a section of Crown Land on the northern side of the Rail Trail be re-zoned to allow for a future retirement village. This concept has been widely supported by the community. However, the DSE, which is the land manager for the nominated site, does not support the proposal.

The land referred to in the submission from the Meeniyan Progress Association is Crown Land reserved for Public Purposes (Rail Trail). It forms part of the Great Southern Rail Trail and is under the management of the Great Southern Rail Trail Committee of Management. Amendment C72 seeks to change the zoning of this land from TZ to PPRZ to which DSE supports. The view of the Meeniyan Progress Association that the site is unused is incorrect. It is currently occupied by the Rail Trail Committee and there is no reason why this public use should not continue.

**Resource Limitations**

Given some of the factors outlined above it is also important to explain the perceived limitations of this Master Plan. Meeniyan Recreation Reserve is a very important asset for residents. However, the population is considered small and the average number of users at the reserve is similar to that of a small rural community.

From a recreation planning perspective, it would be ideal to take a step back and plan out a re-configuration of buildings, a new design for the tennis and netball courts which require re-surfacing and the re-alignment of major roadways to address the traffic management issues. While we have made some recommendations in regards to these issues, we have limited our scope of works for this site based on the likely funding avenues in the future.
Several major projects have been identified as part of this Master Plan. It is expected that future investigation will be carried out to further define costs, designs and consider the many issues outlined in this section of the report. As part of this detailed planning, groups will need to demonstrate a clear need for projects, how the facility improvements will be better utilised, shared with a number of groups and be welcoming to the broader community.

A budget will need to be established for how income will be collected and set aside for maintenance and replacement in the longer term to ensure the project is viable in the future. These concepts not only apply to buildings but also to oval renovation or sports court resurfacing. New or redeveloped facilities place additional burden on volunteers to raise funds and manage; not just up-front costs, which are important, but also how the facility will be paid for in the future.

Proposed location of the play space
### Facility | Existing conditions and comments | Utilisation
--- | --- | ---
**Function Centre/Main Pavilion** | Built 4 years ago and in excellent condition. Current facilities more than cater for demand and are recognised for being one of the better facilities in the League. (See Issues and Opportunities section.) The Football Club manages this facility. | Well utilised by the Football Club and the broader community for events and functions. Verandah provides an undercover area for spectators.

**Netball/Tennis/ Cricket rooms** | Pavilion is aged and in average condition. Facility used to be owned by South Gippsland Netball Association, but that committee is no longer in operation and the responsibility has been passed to the Cricket Club. | Rooms are used by netball and cricket clubs.

**Other buildings, including public toilets** | None of the public toilets are connected to the main sewer system. There is a pumping station at the rear of the reserve which makes access easy. There are three sets of public toilets along with the old Scout Hall and Yoga building which need to be considered as part of a redevelopment plan. (See comments in building section under Issues and Opportunities.) | Each of the buildings on site are used by different groups for different purposes. Most facilities are under-utilised and in need of maintenance works.

**Changerooms** | The single changeroom facility is generally in adequate condition. Ongoing maintenance and future upgrades will be required. | Facility provides changeroom facilities for the Football Club. Other sporting groups use their own facilities.

**Main Oval** | Is in good overall condition considering there is no irrigation system in place. It has standard Sportsfield Lighting that may require upgrading to meet standard as they appear to provide insufficient lighting. There are coaches boxes, etc. which are in adequate condition. The scoreboard is in poor condition and needs upgrading. | Is booked most days of the week during peak times for Junior and Senior football in winter and cricket in summer. There is some community use for general fitness activities. Local schools use the oval and there is potential to hold more events and activities.

**Bowling Club** | Consists of a large synthetic green in excellent condition. It was installed in 2008 and can be played both ways which increases longevity. Shelters and facilities have been constructed well and the clubhouse is large enough to cater to demand. | Bowling is popular in Meeniyan and the facilities are well used throughout the year.

**Netball/Tennis Courts/Cricket Nets** | The two netball courts are in poor condition with poor supporting infrastructure. One netball court was re-surfaced some years ago but it is slippery in wet conditions. Resurfacing and linemarking is required. These are the only two suitable for use. There are another four unusable netball courts and two tennis courts. The synthetic surface in the three cricket nets is in good condition. | Utilisation by the Netball Club has decreased over recent years. There is only social use of the tennis courts. The cricket practice nets are well used in summer.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Existing conditions and comments</th>
<th>Utilisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>An area has been set aside for archery behind the Bowling Club. The area is poorly drained but is sheltered by nearby bushland.</td>
<td>Used on weekends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking area, entrances and roadways</td>
<td>The reserve is serviced by a series of informal gravel car park areas which do not cater to demand on match days. There are two main entrance driveways - the first is sealed and the second is gravel, which is not wide enough and causes traffic management issues. The Bowling Club has complained that the dust created during warmer months is negatively affecting the synthetic greens.</td>
<td>The car parking areas are well utilised but improvements could be made to enhance circulation and safety. The main driveway around the oval is in good condition but the car park areas need improving. There are some issues with unsafe driving.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Grounds</td>
<td>All reasonably well maintained by the COM. There is limited park furniture on site that could be increased. The bushland walking trail has become overgrown. The old Caravan Park site is an asset that can be developed for open space and potentially as car parking.</td>
<td>Well used for a range of purposes and the landscaping needs to be able to adequately attract and cater for both formal and informal recreational activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>A number of areas are used for storage. There are sheds, parts of facilities and outdoor areas being used which present some safety concerns.</td>
<td>Storage areas need to be safe for volunteers as well as tidying up the area in general for aesthetic reasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees/Native Vegetation</td>
<td>An Arboriculture Assessment was completed in February 2011 which looked at the trees located within the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve. DSE has the site as Lowland Forest, which has a Conservation Status of Vulnerable in this Bioregion. However, a site inspection indicates an EVC is closer to Damp Forest which has a higher Conservation Status. There is also Eucalyptus Strzelecki on site which is listed nationally as Vulnerable.</td>
<td>The high risk tree works as identified in the report were addressed by DSE. Future tree works will need to be completed as identified in the report. All native vegetation will need to be protected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Master Plan Projects have been developed as a result of the issues identified and the opportunities or projects raised by the Committee and user groups. The priorities have been ranked using the following scale but should be implemented as funding or resources allow:

- **Very High**  Action within 12 months
- **High**  Action within 1-3 years
- **Medium**  Action within 3-10 years
- **Low**  Works not programmed at this stage but fits into the longer term plan

The key stakeholders provided advice and input into the development of criteria that assisted the consultant to define priorities. The criteria included:

- Participation and usage - maximum benefit for most people
- Health and Safety issues or potential damage being caused
- Community benefit and interest - based on the Community Plan
- Potential for events, fundraising, income or grants
- Accessibility
- Aesthetics

All of the Master Plan Projects are represented on the Landscape Plan in a summarised fashion. Projects in this plan have been numbered (eg 1a) to correspond with the Landscape Plan to ensure location of proposed projects are easily identifiable.

It should be noted that some risks were identified at the reserve that may cause injury or harm to users. The Committee of Management has an obligation to address these risks in order of priority using a Risk Matrix, similar to the following table. This report has commented on areas of concern and further consideration should be given to Risk Management in the future in consultation with qualified and experienced professionals as required.
identified projects - master plan

Project Area 1
Development of a community play space

Identified Actions and Indicative Costs

A high priority for the Meeniyan community and local young people has been the need to develop a play space. The area has been designed to be cost effective, easy to maintain, user friendly and that can be implemented in stages. It is hoped that visitors will use the rail trail as a link to the play space as a rest stop. There have been discussions around creating an Australian Animal theme for the space, which can be explored further.

1a Develop an entry level skate park that would consist of an extended concrete pad and pre-fabricated ramps. Install pre-fabricated ramps (including crane hire and local contractor) $1,000 - $2,000. Skate Park $40,000. Pre-fabricated ramps can be installed in stages, dependent on budget available. They can also be relocated to change the layout of the park to maintain interest.

1b Conduct some earthworks to improve drainage, create interest and play areas. $5,000.

1c Introduce more park furniture in a set theme, including a bike stand. Galvanised bike stand for 10 bikes (including installation onto concrete pad) $1,800. 6 tables/benches $9,000.

1d Create a community BBQ. $8,000.

1e Fencing of playground edge to stop children running onto the roadway. $15,000.

1f Purchase some playground elements to add to the community play space. Youth have identified the highest priorities: swings, climbing tower, rock climbing wall or a spring rider. The items selected will depend on the budget available. $23,000.

1g Define pedestrian walkways and formal parking around the play space for safety. Pathways - 414spm - $8,280.

1h The area would need to incorporate signage and information to promote the area as a rail trail rest stop. $5,000.

For landscape works, refer to the Landscape Plan developed for the identified area. Some additional costings include; Sculpture theme $2,000, Named pavers $500, Softfall $1,900, Plantings $1,000, Shelter $25,000, Dry creek bed rock feature $4,000. When developing the play space it is important to consider accessibility. This includes pathway links to park furniture and car parks, wheelchair friendly picnic tables and well designed landscape features.

Project priority level - Very High (High for the complete project depending on budget).
Project Area 2
Driveways and access

Identified Actions and Indicative Costs

Gravel parking throughout the reserve is poorly designed and not adequate on match days. The width, drainage and surface of the main entrance needs improving. Most of the primary roadways are in poor condition; badly pot holed and do not drain correctly. Extending the sealed roadways into the reserve would be beneficial, but expensive. Of highest priority is the area around the function centre and in front of the Bowling Club. Filling pot holes as they appear may reduce some issues. Access to the South Gippsland Water Pumping Station must be provided at all times.

2a Carpark projects:

(1) Formalise car park behind function centre. This could be used on match days as a committee/player car park and will be important when the play space is developed - as this area is currently used for overflow parking. $90,000.
(2) Formalise car park adjacent to Bowling Club. This is a high traffic area used for general parking. The club is concerned about the dust and the need to improve this area is a high priority. $130,000.
(3) Improve the width, drainage and surface of area as marked. $250,000.
(4) Sealing driveway sections. $230,000.
(5) Improve the width, drainage and surface of the entrances

2b Develop additional parking on the old Caravan Park site. $250,000.

2c Security lighting of the car park areas may be helpful, this could be done from the main buildings. Costs to be determined.

The costs provided for Carpark projects are for an asphalt surface with kerb. However, the costs will depend on final design, extent of kerbing, drainage and pavement requirements. Cheaper options may be available, but results would not be as effective.

Other projects are:
Lighting at reserve entrances. $2,000 - $5,000. Priority - Medium

There is a need to install signage to remove cars from parking in the space allocated for emergency vehicles. $500. Priority - High

Define pedestrian movements around buildings. This is especially important in the area adjacent to the playground. Signage/bollards $3,000. Priority - Very High
Project Area 3  
Construct a formal link with the Great Southern Rail Trail (Recreation Precinct)

Identified Actions and Indicative Costs

*Construct a pathway that would connect the rail trail through the adjoining properties to the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve, creating a Recreation Precinct. Approval in principle has been provided but associated documentation will need to be completed.*

3a. Construct a granitic sand pathway that would link the new play space with the rail trail.  
Pathway is 153 lineal metres at $4590. Priority - Medium

3a. Detailed designs for the pathway will need to be finalised to meet Council’s requirements.  
Designs $2,000. Priority - Very High

3b. Incorporate a sculpture trail in conjunction with local school, artists and businesses.  
Sculptures $20,000. Priority - Medium

3c. Widen and improve surface of footpath that links the main street with the rail trail along Hanily Street. Also, extend the footpath that runs through the IGA car park so that it connects to the rail trail. Traffic management type signage and crossing points will be required to ensure pedestrian safety.  
$10,000 - $15,000. Priority - Medium

3d. Introduce more signage to identify path and link to Recreation Reserve, Tanderra Park. *(This could be developed by local school children as an art project).* $5,000. Priority - High

See proposed Landscape Plan that identifies the ideal route and concept design for the pathway.
Project Area 4
Renovation/extension of buildings, changerooms and public toilets

Identified Actions and Indicative Costs

Refer to this topic in the Issues and Opportunities section of the report. Priorities from this section are summarised and costed below:

**Priority 1** Complete minor upgrades to toilet blocks adjacent to the proposed Play Space. Plan to connect this facility to the sewer.
Minor upgrade of toilets near Play Space $30,000. Sewer connection $16,000. Priority - Medium

**Priority 2** Allow Yoga and MADS to access to the toilets adjacent to the Bowling Club instead of having to use the toilet block closest to the outdoor courts. These toilets will need to be connected to the sewer.

**Priority 3** The toilet facility located close to the second entrance should be used for overflow toilets only and no upgrades are recommended. This facility should be de-commisioned in the future.

Other projects include:

Urgent works are planned for the netball/cricket building. These have been funded.
Cost as per grant.

Construct a verandah at the front of the changerooms building to provide additional spectator shelter. It would be valuable to link the function centre with the new verandah.
$30,000 - $40,000.

The changerooms building needs re-roofing.
$20,000.

The levelling of surfaces around all buildings needs to occur to remove trip hazards and improve access.
$5,000.

A wireless overhead projector and screen to be installed in the function centre for meetings and presentation nights.
$1,799 plus $220 installation.

*It is likely that a power upgrade will be required for any major projects. This will be an additional cost confirmed by further investigation.*
Project Area 5
Oval improvement works

Identified Actions and Indicative Costs

**Area 5**
A detailed maintenance program to be developed to ensure cost effective maintenance, good use of volunteer time, skills and abilities. TurfWorks should include; a weed control regime and re-seed high traffic areas between seasons. A program would ideally be prepared by a qualified turf consultant.

Volunteer time. Priority - Very High

Conduct a feature survey of the main oval and design an automated irrigation system. Then implement an irrigation and re-surfacing project. Access to recycled water.
Design cost $8,000, Re-surfacing project and irrigation $200,000. Priority - High

When the oval is re-surfaced it would be ideal to replace the goal posts with removable posts. $5,000. Priority - Medium

Plan for the replacement of maintenance equipment used to maintain the oval and grounds.
Ride on mower 2/3 years old - $5,500, out front secondhand mower $5,000, trade in/update surrounds mower two years $2,500. Requires ongoing allocation. Priority - Very High

Complete Lux Level testing to ensure lighting meets training standards. Upgrade lighting and power if required.
Testing $2,000. Priority - High

Install bench seating around the oval for spectators where practical.
Seating $5,000. Priority - Low

Minor repairs to oval fencing as required for safety.
Volunteer labour. Priority - High

Develop an Electronic Score/information board - design to be developed.
$30,000- $40,000 depending on size and type. Priority - Medium

There is a need to increase the ball protection fencing behind the goals, in between the car park areas.
New fence $20,000. New net only $5,000. Priority - Low
Project Area 6
Cricket nets

Identified Actions and Indicative Costs

6a. The two cricket nets are in reasonably good condition but some minor repairs need to be completed to make them safe.
Ongoing maintenance expense. Priority - Medium

6b / c The Cricket Club wants lighting to be installed over the practice nets and to purchase a new bowling machine. Lighting cost dependant on design.
Bowling machine $4,000 plus balls. Priority - Medium.
Project Area 7
Netball/tennis courts

Identified Actions and Indicative Costs

The netball courts are in average condition and are non-compliant with Netball Victoria guidelines. It would be ideal to complete a redesign of the whole area before any major projects are undertaken. Below is a list of projects that have been identified by the netball users.

7a. Court 1 and 2 are the main netball courts which are in poor condition. Ideally these courts will be reconstructed if the budget allows.
   Construction of two courts $83,120. Priority - High

7c. The old netball courts, numbers 5, 6, 7 and 8, are rarely used and in poor condition. It is suggested that these courts are no longer used as sports courts and that the space is turned into a multi use area for informal activities until the surface is no longer safe.
   Priority - Medium

7d. The two tennis courts at the rear, courts 3 and 4, are in suitable condition for social use. Ongoing maintenance is required to ensure their condition does not deteriorate.
   Ongoing maintenance costs. Priority - High

7f. Remove seating from within the designated run-off areas and consider how new seating can be introduced.
   Volunteer labour. Priority - High

7g. Fix minor trip hazards around the courts.
   $5,000. Priority - High

7h. Some sections of fencing have been replaced in recent years but most of the fencing is in poor condition. An option is to simply remove the fence around the netball courts but retain the tennis court fencing.
   $4,235. Priority - Medium

   $2,000 per annum. Priority - High

   Complete lux level testing of lighting for the outdoor court area. The current design is not adequate. It would be best to take a step back and consider the whole design before proceeding with any more works. Lighting design included above.
   Lighting improvements $16,290. Priority - Medium

   Shed extension for a new changeroom/storeroom.
   $35,000. Priority - Medium.
Identified Actions and Indicative Costs

Area 8  Some general landscaping improvements, levelling, drainage, weeding, etc. would enhance the appearance of the reserve. This is limited by the volunteer labour available.
Volunteer labour. Priority - Medium

Tree works should include the removal of more dangerous trees and new tree planting will be important to maintain appearance. Implement the recommendations of the Arboriculture Inspection Report and conduct inspections every five years. Mature trees would be ideal from Council’s recommended planting list.
$20,000 - $30,000. Priority - Medium

There is a need to repair and update some of the park furniture, as well as increase the number of seats. A consistent theme should be used when purchasing seating/tables/bollards/bins where possible. All park furniture should be installed onto a concrete pad to reduce maintenance.
$10,000. Priority - Medium

Weed management is an ongoing challenge for the committee.
Volunteer labour. Priority - Medium

The boundary fencing is largely bushland and in some areas fencing needs to be installed. Consideration will need to be given as to how pedestrian traffic will be managed with the new pathway link from the rail trail. Fencing will be required to manage football gate takings.
Fencing costs dependent on what is required. Priority - Medium

Install access to outdoor power/water for events.
$2,000. Priority - High

Plan to clear the bushland walking trail and increase community use.
Volunteer labour. Priority - Medium

Archery area needs to have drainage works completed.
Drainage $30,000. Priority - Medium
Project Area 9

RV dump point

Identified Actions and Indicative Costs

9a The COM has secured an RV Dump Station which is to be located on site and connected to the South Gippsland Water Pumping Station. This is being done free of charge. However the licencing, location and permits still need to be finalised.

Project Area 10

Storage

Identified Actions and Indicative Costs

A need for additional storage has been expressed by all users. It is important that adhoc storage sheds are not built throughout the reserve as there is limited open space areas. Better use of existing facilities/remove all unnecessary equipment/rubbish. Priority - Medium
Project Area 11
Bowling Club facility improvements

The synthetic bowling green is maintained to an excellent standard. Based on its current condition the likely life of the green is 10-15 years – needing replacement in around 2020. At current costings, if the banks and drainage are in good condition, $185,000. Priority - Medium

There is a need to connect the Bowling Club toilets to the sewage system. 120m of connection $8,000. Priority - Medium

Replacement of furniture will also be required. $5,000 - $20,000 depending on scale. Priority - Medium

Project Area 12
Grandstand/tiered seating

Both the cricket and football clubs have raised the option of more undercover spectator areas. This has been raised in Project Area 4 as increased verandah areas. The idea for a grandstand has been raised. There is limited space to construct a grandstand and it is likely to be cost prohibitive.
Identified Actions and Indicative Costs

It is important that State Sporting Associations and insurance company guidelines are followed in regards to the operation of the reserve. The COM and the user groups have responsibility to ensure the following things are being completed/implemented:

- Match Day checklists.
- Proactive inspections - oval, playing surfaces, buildings.
- Reporting of hazards to appropriate authorities.
- Food Handling Policy and qualified volunteers.
- Financial reporting.
- Equipment is safe and maintained.

Operational cost of managing the reserve within resources and volunteer time. Priority - High

Note - technical information and indicative costings for each project were determined in mid 2012. Indicative costings are likely to increase with CPI each year.
Various funding is released and information on suitable grants should be obtained from South Gippsland Shire Council it will be required to auspice the grants.

**Department of Planning and Community Development – Sport and Recreation Victoria**

The Community Facility Funding Program contributes to the provision of high-quality and accessible community sport and recreation facilities across Victoria. Building Community Infrastructure provides grants to improve places where communities meet and interact. Applications under the Minor and Major Facilities category are available for community groups, working in partnership with Council, to develop or upgrade community sport and recreation facilities.

**Regional Development Victoria**

This State Government department has access to funding that supports the building of community infrastructure where economic benefit and broad community use is identified. Not ideally suited for recreation facilities, but broader aspects of reserve development may be considered especially given the tourism benefit for the visitors to South Gippsland.

**Philanthropic Grants**

There are active philanthropic organisations supporting regional Victoria through various grants programs. More information can be obtained through http://communityfoundations.philanthropy.org.au.

**South Gippsland Shire Council Funding Programs**

- Community Grants Program, which allows community groups to apply for project funding
- Capital Works annual budget, which is developed through identified priorities in key strategic planning exercises and demonstrated need
- Council employs Community Development staff and a Grants Officer to assist with the preparation of funding applications and advice should be sought on all identified funding applications

**Lower Tarwin Valley Project**

The Lower Tarwin Valley’s Strengthening Small Dairy Communities program provides opportunities for smaller towns, including Meeniyan, to access grants of up to $10,000 from the Gardiner Foundation. The funding aims to build ongoing capability of communities to direct and support their own advancement.
This Master Plan has been developed in partnership with a diverse range of community stakeholders as there is enormous community support for the reserve and for the projects identified within the plan.

Of most importance is the need to link the Recreation Reserve with the Great Southern Rail Trail and the Meeniyan town centre - creating a formal pathway, signage and clear access to ensure that community and visitors alike visit the reserve to share in its facilities. The community has worked extensively to develop a play space and skate park concept for the town. This was in fact the main driving force for this Master Plan. A comprehensive plan has been developed as part of this Master Plan to ensure this area is developed in the short term.

Below is a summary of the highest priorities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Area</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Development of a community play space</td>
<td>Entry level skate park, drainage works, park furniture, community bbq, named pavers, sculptures, bike stand, playground fencing, playground elements, define pedestrian walkways and signage.</td>
<td>High - Very High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Driveways and access</td>
<td>Signage to highlight allocated space for emergency vehicles. Define pedestrian movements around buildings.</td>
<td>High; Very High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Construct a formal link with the Great Southern Rail Trail</td>
<td>Complete detailed designs. Signage.</td>
<td>Very High; High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Oval improvement works</td>
<td>Complete and implement detailed maintenance program. Conduct Feature Survey. Plan for replacement of maintenance equipment. Complete Lux Level testing. Repair oval fencing.</td>
<td>Very High; High; Very High; High; High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Ground reserve landscaping</td>
<td>Install access to outdoor power and water for events.</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Risk management</td>
<td>Adhere to all sporting association and insurance requirements.</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In conclusion;

- The Meeniyan Recreation Precinct Master Plan is adopted as a framework for facility and infrastructure development.
- Ongoing consultation should be undertaken with the broader Meeniyan community to ensure that support is obtained for all projects at the reserve, especially for the play space area.
- Detailed planning, design, approvals, construction and implementation of priorities should be undertaken in a planned and professional manner.
- The Meeniyan Recreation Precinct Master Plan should be reviewed in five years and evaluated against achievement of key actions within the strategy.

The Meeniyan Recreation Reserve attracts all types of users.

**Disclaimer of Liability**

The information contained in this report is intended for the specific use of the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, user groups and South Gippsland Shire Council. All recommendations by Hands on Community Solutions are based on information provided by or on behalf of the COM, user groups and Council and we have relied upon such information being correct at the time this report has been prepared.

Readers should note this report might include implicit projections about the future which, by their nature, are uncertain and cannot be relied upon. They are dependent on potential events or technical assessments, which have not yet occurred.

**References**

The following references have been used in the development of this report:

- Government websites - Planning scheme data and maps, grant information
- South Gippsland Shire Council - website/Recreation Plan
- Australian Bureau of Statistics - population data
- Recreation studies and strategies as identified in the document