

Community celebration to mark opening of Mitchell Park Sports and Community Centre

A community celebration will be held on Saturday, June 25, to mark the official opening of the City of Marion's \$16 million redevelopment of the Mitchell Park Sports and Community Centre (MPSCC).

The rejuvenated facility with an entrance located off Moreland Avenue will be home to nine local clubs, including some that have been playing at the complex since 1968, and the City of Marion's Mitchell Park Neighbourhood Centre.

The MPSCC will become one of the largest sports and community hubs in South Australia with the City of Marion allocating \$10.74 million to the project.

The Australian Government contributed an additional \$5 million through the Building Our Future Program prior to the 2019 election.

The South Australian Government provided a \$250,000 grant for two new outdoor, multi-purpose netball and tennis courts, with floodlighting, through the 2020-21 Infrastructure Projects program; and \$100,000 through an Arts SA Public Art and Design Major Commission for the public artwork *Congregate*.

The MPSCC will officially open its doors with a Traditional Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony followed by a community celebration.

This free event will showcase a range of sports at the centre including football (AFL), rugby, tennis, volleyball and basketball as well as 'Come and Try' sessions, fitness demonstrations, cultural activities, and arts and crafts.

"We estimate about 1200 people per week will use the Mitchell Park Sports and Community Centre for a variety of sporting and recreational activities," Mayor of Marion Kris Hanna said.

"The Neighbourhood Centre will also be a busy, friendly place where a range of social activities will be organised."

Besides the new multi-purpose outdoor courts, the MPSCC boasts two indoor courts for basketball, netball, volleyball and other recreational pursuits, facilities for football, rugby league, tennis, and cricket, change rooms, a fitness area, outdoor canteen, kiosk, facilities for a local dog club, expanded car parking and a neighbourhood centre delivering a range of community programs.

The Dover Gardens Dog and Obedience Club will have access to a new hall and administration area leading onto the southern reserve.

The South Adelaide Basketball Club and the Austral Volleyball Club have growing memberships and will be sharing the two new indoor courts for local and state competitions and training.

The courts will be available to the wider community midweek up to 3 pm.

The South Adelaide Rugby League Club will have a growing presence at the MPSCC with plans to expand its use of the oval and facilities to include junior, women's and men's competitions and training.

A key component of the redevelopment is the presence of the Mitchell Park Neighbourhood Centre which has moved to the site.

The Neighbourhood Centre will have access to 10 rooms and spaces to host a variety of community activities and programs.

The Neighbourhood Centre team will operate most of the facility midweek and are looking forward to providing a range of new opportunities for the community.

The facility also offers a range of flexible multi-use rooms and spaces that can be hired, and feature LED screens, projectors, and AV for meetings, educational or coaching sessions, private functions, and other activities.

Functions and corporate events can be hosted in two areas upstairs overlooking the main oval, which can accommodate up to 110 people in one function room and up to 60 people in the second function room. Both spaces can be combined to host up to 180 people seated. The football and cricket clubs will operate the canteen that opens to the main oval, offering a variety of hot food and snacks.

An upstairs bar and balcony area will be open to the community from 5pm, Tuesday to Friday nights, and from 11am on Saturdays and Sundays with bistro dining offered every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night from 5:30pm.

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