

Geelong Football Umpires' League Incorporated. (Founded 1935)

Reg No. A0001707L

Chairman:

Mr. Brendan Beveridge

General Manager:

Mr Bill Fulton

Address all Correspondence to: The General Manager, GFUL Inc., P.O. Box 1607, Geelong, Victoria, 3220

Mr. Michael Crawford,
Inquiry Secretary

11th July, 2008

Background

The Geelong Football Umpires' League occupies a facility built by members in the early 1970s located on the Kardinia Park precinct in Geelong. The GFUL confirmed a long term lease from the City of Greater Geelong in late 2007. This allowed the GFUL to embark on a project to upgrade the facility to bring it to current standards and especially to provide a much needed change room for female members and also provide for disabled members.

The GFUL's Board of Management identified that although some use was made by other sporting organisations; overall the facility was under-utilised and presented an opportunity for enhanced use for the broader community. A series of discussions with other community groups, including non-sporting, not-for-profit groups, was initiated to determine the need and interest. It became apparent very quickly that the size, central location, ease of access, availability of parking and the availability of the facility itself were very desirable to other community groups, especially several not-for-profit organisations. As a consequence, the facility has seen greater use in 2008 than previous and this interest increases as word spreads.

Based on some conceptual design work, the cost of the project was estimated to be in the region of \$600,000. An approach was made to the Geelong Area Consultative Committee to seek advice and explore if this project might qualify under the Regional Partnerships Grants. The initial approach was made in October 2007 and several meetings followed, all of which proved very valuable on a number of points including:

- Understanding the ACC and the Regional Partnerships program
- Providing counsel on managing the project process including
 - Assembling of relevant data
 - Consultation with stakeholders
 - Leveraging project funding across the three (3) levels of government
 - Ensuring the ongoing sustainability of the completed asset.
 - Compliance and project governance considerations
- These discussions also confirmed to the GFUL the relevance and importance of embracing other user groups to establish the facility as a valuable community development whilst ensuring that the needs of the GFUL remain satisfied.
- Interpreting the complexities of the Regional Partnerships application process and criteria.

Submission

1. The Regional Partnerships program provided to the Geelong Football Umpires' League a funding source opportunity for our proposed upgrade project. Although the origin of the project was focused on the immediate needs of the GFUL, our consultations with other community groups confirmed both the need and opportunity for improved utilisation of the facility to satisfy other, sport and non-sport not-for-profit community organisations without any adverse impact on the GFUL's activities. Although, there are other grant programs that specifically address the sporting needs, the absence of a Regional Partnerships type grants program would seriously inhibit our endeavours to realise the full potential of developing the GFUL facility as a broad use community facility.

2. The presence of the Geelong ACC has been very helpful over the past months as the GFUL formulated its project. Apart from providing advice and counsel on the Regional Partnerships process, including satisfying the various criteria and compliance aspects, the guidance regarding the total project development and the inter-relationships of different funding programs across the three levels of government has been especially valuable in helping us to manage our way through this complex activity. As first timers embarking on this type of process, it has been a relief to have access to the knowledge and experience that we could draw on through the Geelong ACC.

Unfortunately for the GFUL, we had prepared a draft for a Regional Partnerships grant and were on the cusp of submitting a formal application through when we received advice to halt to the process due to this Parliamentary Inquiry. This has stalled our project and also added a considerable degree of uncertainty, at least to the timing of the project pending the inquiry outcome.

The GFUL is hopeful that the outcome of this Parliamentary Inquiry continues to provide a similar funding program to cater for similar community based developments and equally importantly to organisations such as ours, a local point of reference to provide the much needed advice and counsel to navigate through the application processes successfully.

Pre-Project and New User Groups of the GFUL Facility

Organisation	Use	Ongoing User or New User
GFUL	AFL Rules Umpiring	Ongoing
Football Geelong Independent Tribunal	Tribunal Meetings	Ongoing
Geelong Football Club	Match Day Record distribution & Security	Ongoing
Aikido Martial Arts	Training	Ongoing
Encompass Community Services Inc	Training Programs	New
South Barwon Community Centre Inc	Various Community Programs	New
Volunteering Geelong	Inductions, Training, Meetings	New
Geelong Cricket Umpires' Association	Meetings & Coaching	Ongoing

Geelong Football Umpires' League Inc. contacts:

Brendan Beveridge
 e-mail: jbbeveridge@bigpond.com.au
 Mobile: 0417-581-027

<i>Position</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>General Manager</i>
<i>Name</i>	Brendan Beveridge	Bill Fulton
<i>E-mail</i>	jbbeveridge@bigpond.com	genmanager@gful.com.au
<i>Phone - GFUL Office</i>	(03) 5229-8599	(03) 5229-8599
<i>Mobile</i>	0417-581-027	0409-356-123

Sincerely,



Brendan Beveridge,
 Chairman,
 Geelong Football Umpires' League Inc