



















I am very proud of the Blacktown Venue Management team for their hard work and commitment over the past 2 years in confronting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to the frontline staff, instructors, grounds staff, administrators, team leaders, coordinators, supervisors and management team for your outstanding work.

After navigating the pandemic in the first half of 2021, we were looking forward to the start of the new financial year in July. Unfortunately, the second wave of COVID-19 hit and on 26 June 2021, the NSW Government ordered the closure of non-essential facilities and services. Facilities opened partially in mid-October but were not fully opened until December.

Throughout these difficult times, the importance of the health, safety and the wellbeing of our staff, stakeholders, customers and community was paramount. As an organisation, we redeployed staff to assist other sections of Blacktown City Council, including Blacktown City Libraries and the Blacktown Animal Holding Facility. Staff were also deployed to charitable organisations, including Foodbank and Meals on Wheels.

Blacktown City's outdoor pools were one of our first public services to reopen after the COVID closure.

In November 2021, we celebrated Blacktown Aquatic Centre's 60-year anniversary. Blacktown War Memorial Swimming Pool, as it was once known, was designed by architects Leslie J Buckland and Druce, and built by former BVM Board member Bill McNamara OAM. It was an honour to welcome Bill back to the facility he built and reflect on 60 years of competition and recreational swimming at the much-loved centre.

We celebrated another milestone in March 2022, when I joined my fellow BVM Board member, Councillor Julie Griffiths, as we opened a new splash pad water fun area at the Blacktown Aquatic Centre. This facility is designed for pure recreation for families and children of all ages and abilities.

As a Board we are proud to be custodians of 11 major sports and leisure facilities across our wonderful City: Blacktown Football Park (home of Blacktown Districts Soccer Football Association), Western Sydney Wanderers Centre of Football, Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney, Joe McAleer Oval (home of Blacktown Cricket Club), Rooty Hill Leisure Centre, Blacktown Tennis Centre Stanhope, Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope, Blacktown Aquatic Centre, Charlie Lowles Leisure Centre Emerton, Mount Druitt Swimming Centre and Riverstone Swimming Centre.

We are committed to providing the Blacktown City community with first class facilities, programs and activities across all levels of sport, leisure and recreation.

As Mayor and Board Chair, I am very excited about the \$100 million Blacktown Exercise Sport and Technology Hub (BEST) which is under construction in the Blacktown International Sportspark. The education, training, health and fitness centre of excellence will be open for business in early 2023. BEST will provide world-class health and performance facilities and services that will be available to all people of all abilities.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my colleagues on the BVM Board for their commitment and I would like to thank Kevin Jones and the Key Venues team for their efforts and dedication during a difficult period. I am very much looking forward to 2022/23 and a year full of exciting projects, events and activities.

Cr Tony Bleasdale OAM, Mayor of Blacktown City

Af Heardale.

Chair Blacktown Venue Management Ltd

We have all hoped for a 'return to normal' but only the future will tell what that 'normal' is. What we do know is the strength of the human spirit remains strong and that we are better tackling challenges together rather than alone. That became abundantly clear through the 3-month COVID-19 lockdown mid last year. Without the consistent support and astonishing commitment of the BVM/Key Venues team, we could not have worked as well as we did. We would not have engaged as much as we did with our remote members and customers, or supported each other, our colleagues and our community as well as we did. My number 1 message in this Year in review is 'thank you' to the team – you are magnificent.

And through it all we prevailed. Being closed due to COVID until October was frustrating for everyone. But boy did we make up for it once we re-opened! Thank you to all our members, our sports clubs, our Learn to Swim students (and their parents), our exercise regulars (and not-so regulars), our tennis players, our swimmers, our splashers – you have driven us back to the best 'normal' we can think of.

#### Some highlights were:

- 4,025 events and over 377,000 visitors to Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney (BISP)
- 1.3 million visitors through our aquatic and leisure centres
- 6,500 aquatic, health and fitness members
- 35,000 group exercise participants
- 19,600 learn to swim enrolments
- our 16 millionth visitor to Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope in its 19-year life
- Becoming Aquatic Safety Partner with Royal Life Saving New South Wales
- Blacktown Aquatic Centre's 60th anniversary

- a new waterplay splash pad at Blacktown Aquatic Centre
- establishing a new training base at BISP for the Emerging Matildas, one year before the FIFA Women's World Cup comes to Australia
- introduction of a new swimming program for our culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) adults
- BISP named 2021 Outstanding Fitness Service at the Mount Druitt/St Marys Local Business awards.

Key Venues will continue to provide the best sport, leisure and aquatic facilities for our community. Looking to the future, the Blacktown Exercise Sport and Technology Hub (BEST) at Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney will open next year and promises to change the sport and health training, education, research and wellness landscape in western Sydney if not Australia. And history could be made if Western Sydney Wanderers FC is selected as a training base for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

To the BVM Chair and Blacktown Mayor Tony Bleasdale OAM, to our deputy chair Kerry Robinson OAM, to our Councillors and Council's Executive and to the BVM Directors, I thank you on behalf of our staff for your continued leadership and support. I feel honoured to be part of such a resilient and brilliant team.

**Kevin Jones** 

Chief Executive Officer
Blacktown Venue Management Ltd
Manager Key Venues

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# Blacktown Venue **Management Ltd**

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

#### Blacktown Venue Management values:

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

#### Blacktown Venue Management objectives

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

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





Mayor, Cr Tony Bleasdale OAM Chair October 2019 – present Director 2011 – present



Deputy Mayor, Cr Julie Griffiths JP Director 2019 - present



Cr Bob Fitzgerald Director 2020 - present



**Dr Jim Taggart OAM** 2016 - present



Kerry Robinson OAM Deputy Chair 2013 - present



Cr Brad Bunting Director 2017 - present



**Christine Deaner** Director 2016 - present



**Darryl Clout** Director 2016 - present

#### **Blacktown Venue Management Ltd Chair**

Cr Tony Bleasdale OAM Present 2014 - 2019 Cr Stephen Bali MP 2012 - 2014 **Cr Len Robinson** 

2011 - 2012 2009 - 2011

2004 - 2009 Cr Leo Kelly OAM 2002 - 2004

Cr Charlie Lowles OAM

**Cr Alan Pendleton OAM** 

Cr Alan Pendleton OAM

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# Blacktown **Key Venues**

Key Venues brings together 11 of Blacktown City's premier sport and leisure facilities

- ▶ Blacktown Football Park
- Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney
- Joe McAleer Oval
- Blacktown Aquatic Centre
- Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope
- Blacktown Tennis Centre Stanhope
- Charlie Lowles Leisure Centre Emerton
- Mount Druitt Swimming Centre
- Riverstone Swimming Centre
- Rooty Hill Leisure Centre
- Western Sydney Wanderers Centre of Football

#### **Key Venues goals**

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

# **Blacktown Key Venues** management team



Chief Executive Officer



Chief Operations Manager



Blacktown International Sportspark Manager



Matthew Cairns Blacktown International Sportspark Grounds and **Operations Coordinator** 



Richard De Guzman Blacktown Venue Management Strategic Financial Analyst



Lachlan Lawless Aquatic and Leisure Centre Coordinator (East)



Nyree Parkin Aquatic and Leisure Centre Coordinator (West)



Melissa Lindsay Company Administration Officer and BVM Company Secretary



► Kristy Watts **Executive Manager** Customer Experience and **BVM Board Secretary** 



Communications and Events Officer



▶ Valentina Saric Communications and **Events Officer** 



Lauren Gatto Acting Communications and Events Officer



# Health and safety

#### Drowning prevention strategies

- Aqua Learn to Swim program
- Aquatic Safety Partnership with Royal Life Saving NSW
- Blacktown Key Venues Drowning Prevention Strategy
- CALD learn to swim program
- Keep Watch @ Public Pools
- Life jacket initiative
- multi-language water safety signage
- Pip's Safe Summer comic strips and multi-language videos
- Poseidon, first and only drowning detection system in Australia







1,352,632
Total visits



99.97%

بر همه اوقات اطفال خود را نزدیک (به فاصله ا



In addition, all Key Venues leisure and aquatic facilities work closely with Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) and operate within the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations.

Our ongoing commitment to water safety and education is further demonstrated through the promotion of Royal Life Saving's Keep Watch @ Public Pools initiative. This initiative has key messages for parents about supervising their children in an aquatic environment.

To maintain the highest quality service, staff completed professional development training throughout the year.

#### Aquatic safety partnership with Royal Life Saving NSW

Blacktown Key Venues has joined with Royal Life Saving New South Wales (RLS NSW) as Aquatic Safety Partner. This newly launched initiative will allow council and pool operators to bring their aquatic risk, training, education and professional development needs under the Royal Life Saving banner.

This partnership supports council and pool operators to exceed industry best practice and reassures customers that our facilities prioritise safety above all. As part of the partnership, all 5 Blacktown City Council aquatic facilities will be provided with services and products by Royal Life Saving NSW.

The initiative enhances key water safety and aquatic solutions that will ensure heightened skill development of Blacktown Key Venues aquatic employees and a broader range of programs and services supporting the community.

Our overall purpose is to ensure we lead efforts to reduce drowning and increase swimming, water safety and lifesaving skills for our community.



#### CALD learn to swim program

The Royal Life Saving Society NSW have launched a statewide campaign called the CALD Program. This campaign is a fantastic initiative targeted at culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) adults, particularly migrants and refugees. The program allows aquatic venues to run Learn to Swim sessions that are free of charge and funded by the RLSS that are designed to increase community education, water safety and confidence for culturally and linguistically diverse communities across NSW.

Blacktown Key Venues recognise there is a need to encourage CALD adults to learn to swim. The CALD Program operated for 10 weeks and overlapped Terms 2 and 3 across our venues. The program operated over a 10-week period overlapping with both Term 2 and 3 2022 across our venues.

Key Venues also connected with the local community through groups such as SydWest Multicultural Services, Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS) and the Sikh community to raise awareness and encourage these communities to participate in this fantastic program.





## 2021/22 highlights



**July 2021** Blacktown Key Venues staff redeployed across multiple Council venues to assist fellow staff during COVID-19 lockdown.

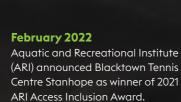


February 2022 Footy and soccer returned to Blacktown International Sportspark as the park hosted AFLW clash between GWS Giants and St Kilda Football Club and a W-League match-up between Western Sydney Wanderers FC and Canberra United FC.



September 2021 Outdoor pools reopened for lap and recreational swimming and welcomed back community following COVID-19 lockdown. Special guests, local swimmer Riley Welch and Paralympian Tim Hodge joined the Mayor of Blacktown City, Cr Tony Bleasdale OAM and centre fitness instructor Mel Jones live on

Sunrise at Blacktown Aquatic Centre.







October 2021 Karen Stuart named a finalist in the Female Instructor of the Year and Charlie Lowles Leisure Centre Emerton named finalists in the Community Innovation of The Year category for the 2021 Fitness Australia Business Awards.

••••••••

January 2022 Top tier sport returned to Blacktown with Sydney Blue Sox v Canberra Cavalry exhibition series KO Cup hosted at Blacktown International Sportspark.



#### March 2022





# 

New free swimming program for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) adults launched in partnership with The Royal Life Saving Society NSW.



October 2021

Tennis NSW announced Elton Stoney (Tennis Centre Team Leader) as a finalist for the Coaching Excellence – Club award and Blacktown Tennis Centre Stanhope as a finalist for the Most Outstanding Inclusion Initiative Award in the Tennis NSW Awards 2021.



#### November 2021

The remainder of all Key Venues facilities reopened 15 November.



October 2021

Aqua Learn to Swim and tennis lessons returned for Term 4. Blacktown Tennis Centre Stanhope, stadium and indoor pools reopened (lap swimming only) 18 October.



November 2021

Pip's Safe Summer Tips multi-language videos launched.

• • • • • • •



Blacktown Aquatic Centre celebrated their 60th anniversary on 4 November with original builder Bill McNamara.



#### **April 2022**

Philippines National Women's team trained at the Western Sydney Wanderers Centre of Football from April to May.



#### **April 2022**

Blacktown International Sportspark hosted 2022 Softball Australia Under 18 and Under 16 National Championships.



Blacktown City Council put its support behind Football Australia's Future Matildas program with a series of upgrades to their home base, Blacktown International Sportspark.



#### May 2022

Mayor of Blacktown Cr Tony Bleasdale OAM announced the launch of the Blacktown Exercise Sports and Technology Hub (BEST) at Blacktown International Sportspark.



#### June 2022

ACU Blacktown swimmer Timothy Hodge won 2 gold and 1 bronze medals and broke the world record in the men's S9 200 m individual medley at World Para Swimming Championships in Portugal.

March 2022

New splash pad at

Blacktown Aquatic

Centre officially opened



#### May 2022



#### May 2022

March 2022

Katie Welch and Marlee

King selected as finalists

for Blacktown City

Council's International

Women's Day Awards.

Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope received and celebrated its 16 millionth customer.

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# Blacktown Football Park

Blacktown Football Park is the home and heart of football in Blacktown City, and the sport continued to grow, establishing and nurturing future talent. The park offers high quality facilities and surfaces to Blacktown City players, officials supporters, the community, locals and visiting football clubs. Players from all levels and abilities, ranging from grassroots football to NSW National Premier League, train and play at the park.

Blacktown Football Park is the
Headquarters of Blacktown Districts
Football Association (BDSFA). The BDSFA
hosts weekly Match of the Round live
stream filming, which showcases the best
of local community talent in the Deploy
Premier League 1 and 2 competitions.
There have been some incredible
matches played this year with many more
to come.



Headquarters
of Blacktown District Soccer
Football Association



Home
of NSW Premier League team
Blacktown Spartans



Home
of Blacktown City Soccer
Referees Branch

#### Event highlights:

- NSW Premier League Spartans FC home games
- ▶ Blacktown Spartans FC match days
- Summer Sixes competition
- ▶ BDSFA Premier League games
- BDSFA Skill Acquisition program (SAP)
- Weekly Match of the Round live streams
- BDSFA Association Youth League (AYL) games. These sides are exceptionally talented youngsters aged from 13 to 16 who are on the verge of playing at an even higher level. The 14s have been standouts and are topping their competition.
- Australia Cup matches including Quakers Juniors, Doonside Hawks, Parklea SFC, Blacktown Spartans, Sydney CBD FC, Castle Hill Rockets and more.
- Football NSW State Cup weekend
- Advanced Coaching Centre (ACC), where youngsters have the opportunity to do extra training with very high-quality coaches to improve their skills
- Holiday camps for a number of different small businesses including the Mile Sterjovski and Tim Aitken's academies
- Female Football Week/Mother's Day Sunday of Football, where every BDSFA and GDSFA game was held at the facility. The day was filled with gifted flowers, coffee, photography and live-streamed games.









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After a year of COVID-19 closures and extreme weather disruptions, Blacktown International Sportspark Sydney was excited to welcome everyone back to its first-class sporting facilities for Australian rules, baseball, cricket, football, professional goalkeeping development, softball and high-performance training.

The park won the 2021 Mt. Druitt/St. Marys Local Business Awards in the Fitness Services category, which signified the park's commitment to the community and sport in Blacktown and western Sydney.

The implementation of the Master Plan, including the Blacktown Exercise Sports and Technology Hub (BEST), opening early 2023, will be an investment in the sporting future of western Sydney.

#### **Facilities**

- Athletics centre with IAAF-standard MONDO synthetic track, infield and long jump pits
- NSW Softball Centre with 4 softball diamonds
- NSW Baseball Centre with 3 baseball diamonds
- 2 AFL/cricket ovals
- Indoor practice centre for cricket
- Outdoor wickets, including the first hybrid wicket
- Purpose-built goalkeeping field
- Western Sydney Wanderers Centre of Football













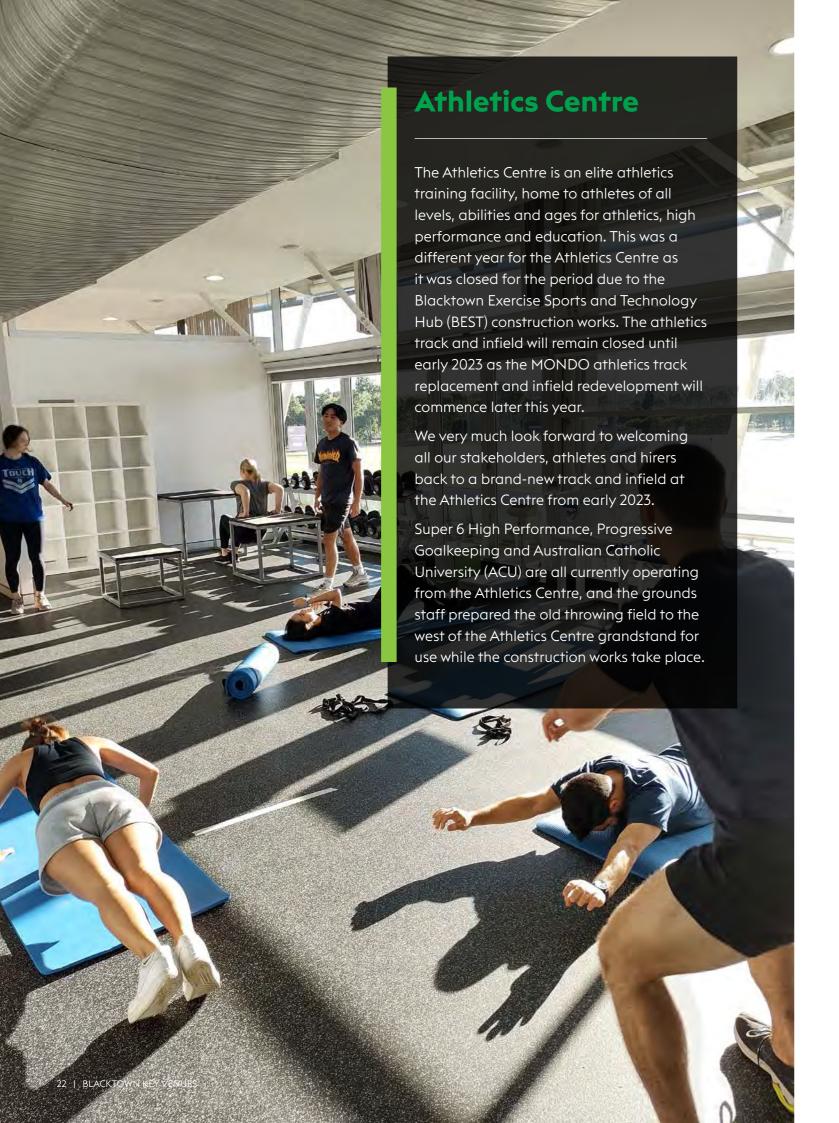






- ▶ AFLW Match GWS Giants v St Kilda
- ▶ VFL GWS Giants v Port Melbourne FC
- ▶ VFL Giants v Coburg
- ▶ VFL Swans v Northern Bullants
- ▶ VFL Swans v Richmond
- ▶ Indigenous Academies NAIDOC Cup event
- National Games for under 16 and 18 males and females
- ▶ Giants Academy games under 18s v Swans, Brisbane Lions and Gold Coast Suns
- ▶ AFLW Female Summer Series games between GWS Giants and Sydney Swans
- ▶ AFL Sydney matches
  - Western Magic preseason matches
  - UNSW-ES Bulldogs v Manly (preseason)
  - Sydney University v Wollongong Saints (preseason)
  - UNSW-ES Bulldogs v Western Magic
  - UNSW-ES Bulldogs v Sydney University









Home base for Australian **Catholic University** physiology units

#### Facility overview

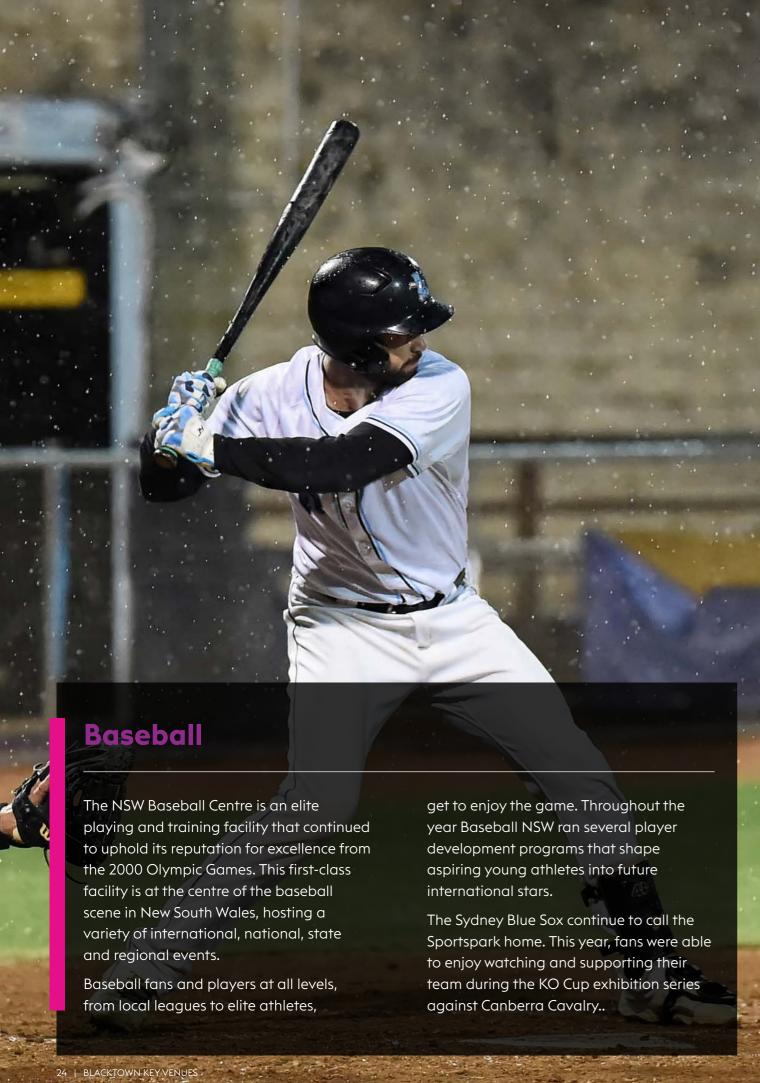
- ▶ All-weather MONDO synthetic track, one of
- Steeplechase facilities with water jump suitable for both men's and women's events
- 2 javelin runways on infield
- 4 long jump/triple jump pits
- High jump facilities
- Dual multi-directional pole vault runways
- 2 shot put circles on infield
- Ability to host day soccer matches on infield
- Grandstand with covered seating for 1,250 spectators
- Kiosk
- PA/announcers room





- S6HP (individuals) long term athletic development program and mental skills program
- ▶ S6HP (sport teams) athletic development programs and mental skills program
- ► S6HP I'MPossible program
- S6HP Elite program
- ► S6HP Team app program





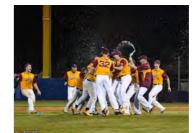
















Headquarters of Baseball NSW

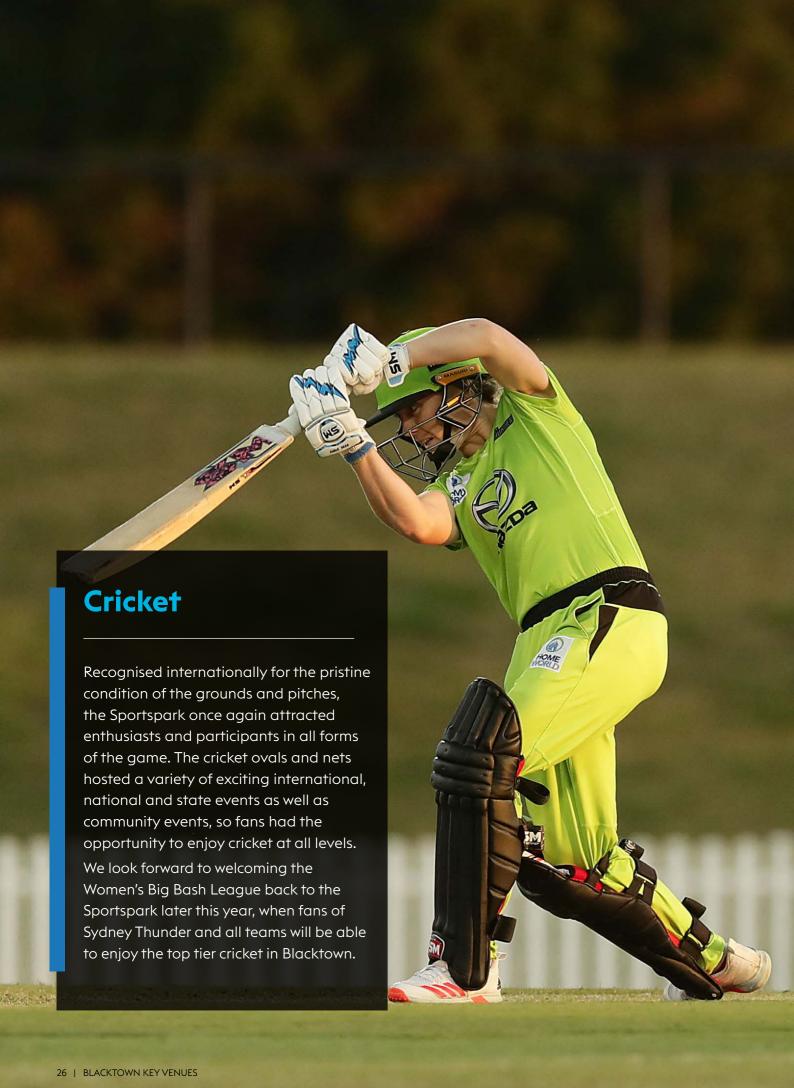


Home of the Sydney Blue Sox Australia Baseball League team

#### Event highlights

- Sydney Blue Sox training
- Sydney Blue Sox v Canberra Cavalry KO Cup exhibition series
- NSW State League
- ▶ Baseball NSW showcase
- State League finals series
- Women's finals series
- ▶ Baseball NSW Junior League state titles
- Senior League state championships

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Home of WBBL Sydney Thunder and NSW **Breakers** 



Training venue for Cricket **NSW Blues and NSW Breakers squads** 

#### Event highlights

- NSW Blues and NSW Breakers training
- NSW Breakers practice match T20
- 2nd XI match NSW v VIC
- NSW Breakers v Metro Academy



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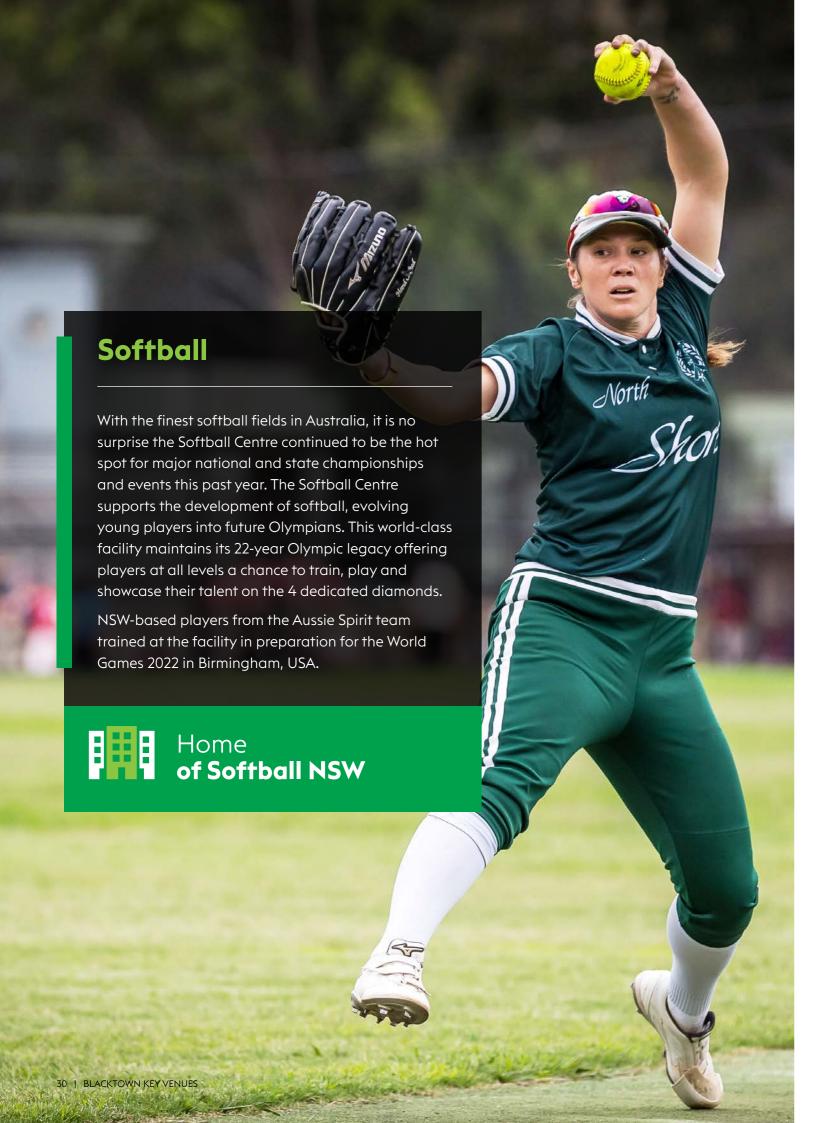
This year marked the inaugural Sister Cities Cup game for the A-League Women in addition to the annual Sister City Shield game between A-League Men played by Western Sydney Wanderers FC and Wellington Phoenix FC. The 2 trophies recognise the Sister City relationship between Blacktown City and Porirua City in the Wellington region of New Zealand. Wellington Phoenix FC claimed victory on both fronts.

- Western Sydney Wanderers (WSW) FC A-League Men, A-League Women, NSW National Premier League and Youth training
- Young Matildas training
- ▶ Young Matildas training game v Philippines
- ▶ 3 Young Matildas camps
- African Cup
- Afghanistan Cup
- WSW Academy Match Days
- A-League Women Perth Glory vs Canberra United
- A-League Women Perth Glory v Wellington Phoenix
- A-League Men pre-season fixtures
- Premier League Academy 2022 tournament
- Philippines National Women's team training program
- WSW school holiday clinics
- WSW Pre-Academy development program
- Future Wander Women program
- Progressive Goalkeeping training
- Progressive Goalkeeping Technical Specific sessions for players to focus on specific areas of their goalkeeping
- Progressive Goalkeeping Online Goalkeeper Specific sessions









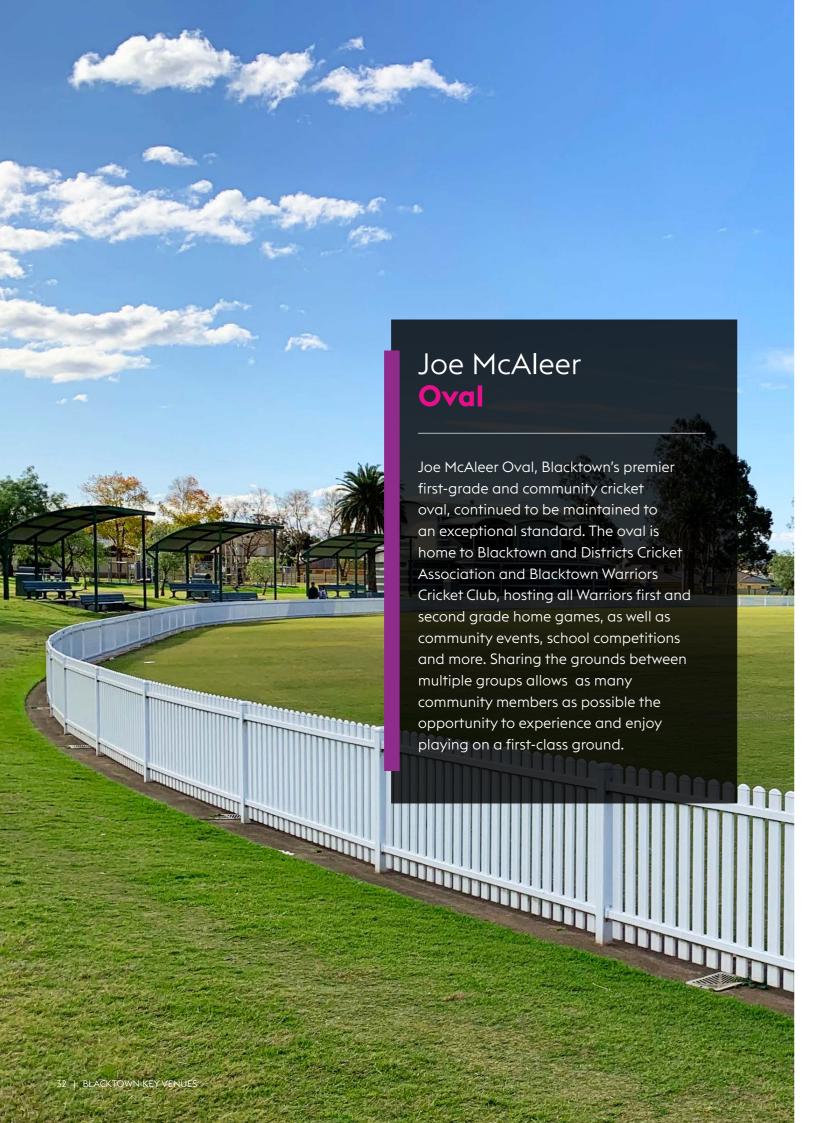




- 2021 Open Men's and Women's state championships
- ▶ 2022 23-and-under state championships
- > 2022 Over-35 state championships
- 2022 Softball Australia under-18 national championships
- 2022 Softball Australia under-16 national championships
- > 2022 Under-10 state championships
- > 2022 Under-18 state championships
- Aussie Spirit training















Home of Blacktown City and **District Cricket Association** 

The oval is the number one destination for community cricket in Blacktown. The Blacktown Warriors club assists the players from all divisions with all teams training at Joe McAleer throughout the week. The Warriors' aim is to give young girls and boys an opportunity to learn to play and reach the highest level they are capable of.

- ▶ Blacktown Warriors first grade competition matches
- ▶ Blacktown Warriors second grade competition matches
- ▶ Blacktown Warriors training
- ▶ Blacktown Watson shield under-16s semi final
- Dulux Paint sponsors match
- ▶ Green Shield competition matches
- Junior Master Blast cricket academy day run by the Usman Kawaja foundation
- NSW high schools Alan Davidson Shield matches
- NSW under-19s trial matches
- ▶ Poidevin Gray competition matches 20/20
- Northmead and Seven Hills bus company drivers social cricket game
- Shires Frank Gay Shield final
- ▶ Shires over-40s senior cricket semi-final and final



# Rooty Hill Leisure Centre

Rooty Hill Leisure Centre hosts gymnastics training sessions, club, national and international competitions, coaching workshops and holiday training camps. The facility also holds a range of community competitions, performances and events.



3,588



Major events Regular competition

Community events



Home
of the Australian Aesthetic
Group Gymnastics
Federation (AAGGF)

Australian Rhythmic Gymnastics (ARG) offers a range of classes in the facility for girls and boys of all ages and abilities, including the popular ARG adults class that is open to all ages with no previous experience required. Also popular amongst the local community is the ARG Littlies class gymnastics program, where boys and girls as young as 3 years old have fun, improve their fitness and flexibility, develop their skills and have the opportunity to excel and even perform at a range of events.



#### Event highlights

- AAGGF training
- Annual Christmas concert and Easter party
- ARG invitational competitions (sanctioned by the AAGGF), with clubs from all over Australia invited to participate
- ARG invitational competitions to help those affected by the war in Ukraine
- Filming and streaming of online international competitions, featuring gymnasts from both ARG and AAGGF, which gave the leisure centre wonderful global exposure
- 5th Open Yves Barboussat international competition, with over 120 entries from all over the world
- National coaching workshop, presented by the National technical director of AAGGF, with participants from all over Australia
- Charity Australia International Eid prayer, with over 500 attendees
- Go Soccer sessions on the newly renovated outdoor synthetic turf multipurpose courts.









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BLACKTOWN KEY VENUES

# Blacktown Tennis Centre Stanhope

#### Facility overview

- ▶ 16 plexi-cushion courts
- Show court with spectator seating for 288 in grandstand
- Administration and tournament office.
- Function room and meeting rooms overlooking the show court
- Children's play area with tennis rebound walls



**85,26**1 visitors



**9,372.5**Hours of court hire



**3,445**Coaching sessions for juniors and adults



Major tennis con

Major tennis competitions



3,183
Competition players

#### **Event highlights**

- 2021 Australian Recreation Institute
   NSW (ARI NSW) Access Inclusion award winner
- ▶ Hills Zone Sports tennis trials
- Nepalese Recreational Club tournament
- NSW Seniors Festival 2022
- NSW Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA) tennis trials
- ▶ Royal Pacific Tennis UTR tournament
- ► Tennis Ace awards
- Finalist, 2021 Tennis NSW Coaching Excellence Club award (Elton Stoney, team leader)
- Finalist, 2021 Tennis NSW Most Outstanding Inclusion Initiative Award
- Tennis open days
- ▶ Tennis school holiday clinics

#### Information

Blacktown Tennis Centre Stanhope has had an action-packed schedule of events, competitions, tournaments, classes and programs year-round. The tennis centre encourages all to give tennis a go – whether it's for fun, for fitness or to get into a new sport, there is something for everyone.

The tennis centre was recognised by Tennis NSW and ARI NSW for its commitment to providing services to the community of Blacktown for all ages, abilities and levels.

Blacktown Tennis Centre Stanhope was the winner of 2021 ARI Access Inclusion award, which recognises our commitment to access and inclusion. The tennis centres prides itself on the delivery of inclusion programs and the support it provides to inclusive activities and tournaments for the community.

Tennis NSW announced tennis centre team leader Elton Stoney as a finalist for the 'Coaching Excellence – Club' award and Blacktown Tennis Centre Stanhope as a finalist for the 'Most Outstanding Inclusion Initiative' award for the Tennis NSW Awards 2021.

## The centre was the chosen venue for 4 major competitions:

- Hills Zone Sports tennis trials
- ▶ Nepalese Recreational Club tournament
- PSSA tennis trials
- ▶ Royal Pacific Tennis UTR tournament

The centre's internal coaching program has offered 3,445 skills improvement classes for juniors and adults. The opportunity for fun and fitness has grown, with a social competition running 1 night a week alongside the more competitive matches.

#### **Programs**

- ▶ Hot Shots program
- School holiday clinic
- Wheelchair tennis program
- ▶ Blind/Low vision tennis program
- Squad program
- ▶ Women's groups
- Men's groups
- Private lessons
- ► High performance squads

#### Competitions

- Monday doubles competition
- ▶ Tuesday parent/child doubles competition
- Tuesday social adults doubles
- Wednesday/Thursday singles competition
- Saturday junior competition
- Saturday afternoon doubles/singles competition (BTI)



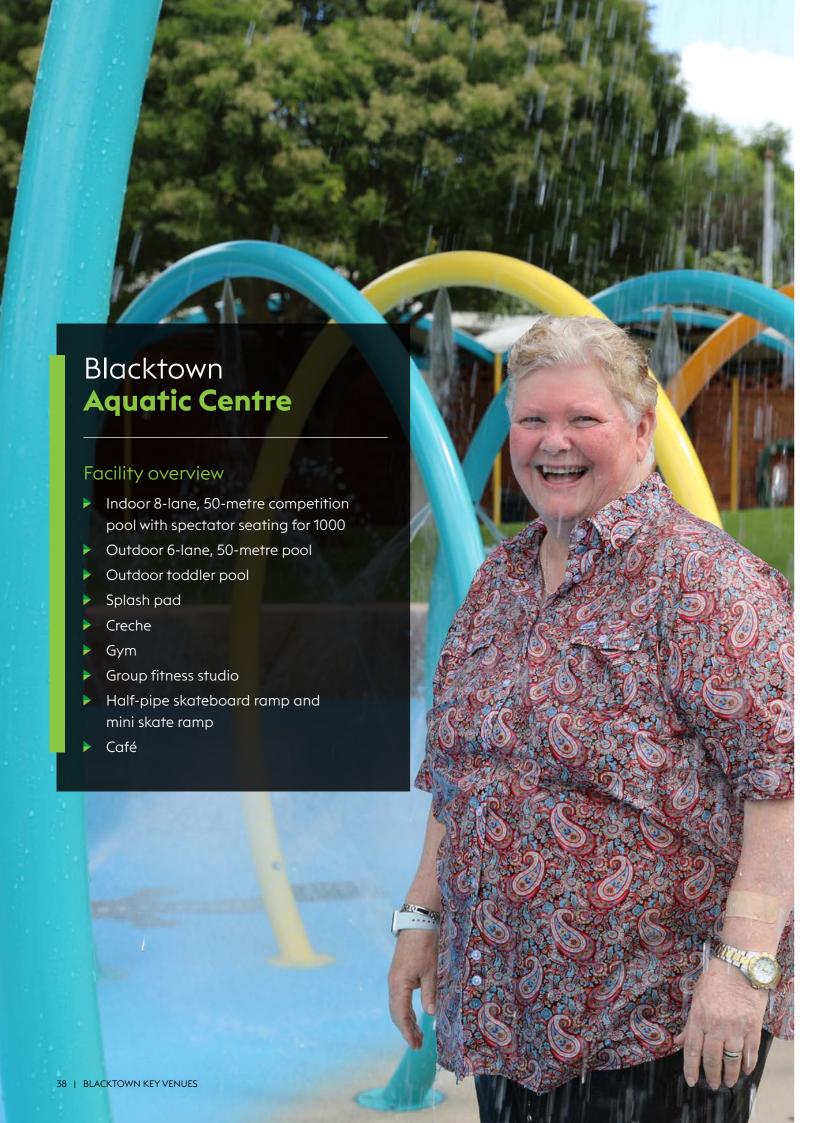








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203,975 visitors



**56** School, zone and regional carnivals held



1,339 Group fitness classes held



680
Kidz Blitz school holiday program participants

#### Home of 7 swim clubs:

- Blacktown City Swim Club
- ACU Blacktown Swim Team
- Blacktown RSL Youth Swimming Club
- Seven Hills Toongabbie RSL Swimming Club
- Blacktown City Masters
- Blacktown Diggers
- Special Olympics



#### Information

Blacktown Aquatic Centre is a family-friendly aquatic and leisure centre located in the heart of Blacktown. The centre is a multipurpose facility that offers high quality programs and services for all ages, communities and ability levels in Blacktown and beyond. It is western Sydney's main competition pool, hosting 36 swimming carnivals this year since reopening after the COVID-19 shutdown. The Centre remained the top destination for swimming carnivals in Blacktown City and surrounds, for both schools and swimming clubs.

Blacktown Aquatic Centre hit a huge milestone on 4 November 2021, with the centre celebrating its 60th anniversary since opening in 1961 when it was originally named Blacktown War Memorial Pool.

The Centre features a fully equipped gymnasium with state-of-the-art cardio equipment, free weights, machine weights and a broad range of fitness classes to suit people aged 16 – 90 years. Two heated 50-metre pools provide our patrons with options for lap swimming, recreational swimming, learn to swim lessons, squads and rehabilitation. Blacktown Aquatic Centre also has specialty programs for children, pre and post-natal as well as disability programs.

In September 2021 Blacktown Aquatic Centre was one of the first aquatic and leisure centres to reopen to the public following the COVID-19 lockdowns, giving the community a sense of normality and a much-needed opportunity to exercise. During the lockdown period the centre installed an outdoor pool shade structure, which provides swimmers with protection against the sun. The centre also installed an air handling unit and heat exchanges for the indoor pool hall.

The Blacktown Aquatic Centre is a venue of choice for the Department of Education's swimming and life saving programs with 1,688 students participating.

Blacktown Aquatic Centre staff were recongised for their fantastic work. Fitness instructor Karen Stuart was named a finalist in the Female Instructor of the Year category for the 2021 Fitness Australia Business Awards. Katie Welch and Marlee King were selected as finalists in Blacktown City Council's International Women's Day Awards.





#### **Event highlights**

- > 2022 NSW Multi-Class swim meet
- ACU Blacktown Swim Team launch
- Agua Learn to Swim adult Swim Sense program
- Blacktown Aquatic Centre 60th anniversary
- Channel 7 Sunrise live weather cross to mark the reopening of the centre
- Department of Education schools life saving program
- Masters NSW branch point score swim meet
- New Staying Active group fitness classes from May 2022
- NSW Seniors Festival 2022
- Official opening of brand new splash pad

Swimming NSW (SNSW) in partnership with Blacktown City Council and Australian Catholic Universities (ACU) took over the squad program from 1 January 2022. ACU Blacktown Swim Team launched on 29 March 2022, and SNSW have put in place a fantastic team of coaches, including Head Coach Misha recently placed an athlete onto the 2021 Australian Olympic Team, one of only 15 coaches Australia-wide to do so.

ACU Blacktown swimmer Timothy Hodge won 2 gold and 1 bronze medals and broke the world record in the men's S9 200 m individual medley at the World Para Swimming Championships in Portugal.









# **Blacktown Aquatic Centre** our history



A proposal for a

public swimming pool

in Blacktown was first

raised but not pursued



A committee was formed to investigate the costs of providing an Olympic size swimming pool in Plant

A public meeting was held at the Blacktown School of Arts on 4 February 1958 to elect a committee to fund raise for the pool. A site that was originally the local brickworks and latterly the local tip was chosen as the pool location. Legend has it that once, when Bullen's Circus came to town, one of their elephants died and the beast was buried at the site of the tip!

A new boiler to heat the original 8 lane pool and 3metre high wind deflectors were installed.



3 concrete shelters with seating under them were erected on the northern side of



Works to improve the entrance to the pool and the kiosk and a new 6 Iane 50 metre pool were completed.

> Over the 1st weekend, 7,209 people came through the doors. Entry was 1 shilling & sixpence for adults and sixpence for children.

Buckland and Druce and built by W

McNamara Ptv Ltd. the new 8 lane

Olympic size 50 metre pool, toddler

pool and kiosk opened to the public

on Saturday 4 November 1961.

The official opening ceremony came



Designed by architectural firm Leslie J a month later on 2 December 1961. when Mayor Alderman Alfred Ashley Brown officially opened the Blacktown War Memorial Swimming

The 1st pool manager was Mr Fred Wilson, a 1st-grade rugby union player and a representative swimme in surf and rescue operations Blacktown Swimming Club was formed in October 1961.



Construction of the pool started in 1960, Funded partly by donations and supplemented by a Council 'special rate' of 2 cents on the ratepayer's council rates the pool was to be named the 'Blacktown War Memorial Pool'.

The heated Blacktown Swimming Pool was opened for the first time during the



Local swimmer, Michelle de Vries represents Australia at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, At just 14 years of age, Michelle competed in the 100 m backstroke, 200 m backstroke and the 4 x 100 m relay.



On 19 December 1981, the 'club room' was officially named after Michelle de Vries in recognition of her



Upgrades to enclose the 8-lane pool and install opening skylights, solar heating and spectator seating for about 1,000 people were completed. Electronic timing and touch pads and antiturbulent wave ropes were also installed



record for the 800 m freestyle at Blacktown Pool. Kieran would go on to

On 16 February 1992,

star, Kieran Perkins

sets a new world



win successive 1500 m freestyle Olympic gold medals at Barcelona (later in 1992) and Atlanta, USA 4 years later.



The gardens at the front of Blacktown Aquatic Centre were selected as the site for the National Services Association Memorial, Mayor Councillor Charlie Lowles OAM opens the memorial on 25 July 2010.

A \$1.8 million redevelopment of the

reception built, improvements to the

indoor pool ventilation, a revamp of the

<mark>creche, a freshening up of the 'club room'</mark>

gym and change rooms, addition of a

and upgrades to the pool plant. Works

The refurbishment saw a new

were completed in 2017.

Aquatic Centre was announced by Council.



The pool was used by Olympians as a training facility before and during the 'greatest Games ever' - the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games

A gym was added to the facilities



On 11 November 1999, NSW Governor Gordon Samuels officially opened the Blacktown RSL Sub Branch Remembr Garden at the pool entrance. The memorial consists of 7 individual memorial templates signifying major conflicts since the Boer War.



Championships were held at the Blacktown Pool

The NSW

The Blacktown Memorial Swimming Pool name was changed to Blacktown

Aquatic Centre.



Blacktown Aquatic Centre welcomed back the community through their doors on the 20 June after the COVID-19 outbreak shutdown.



Local swimmer from Kings Langley, Timothy Hodge represented Australia at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. He won silver in the Men's 200 m individual medley SM9, silver in the Men's 400 m medley relay team and bronze in the Men's 100 metre backstroke S9.

Blacktown City Swimming Club celebrates its 60th anniversary.

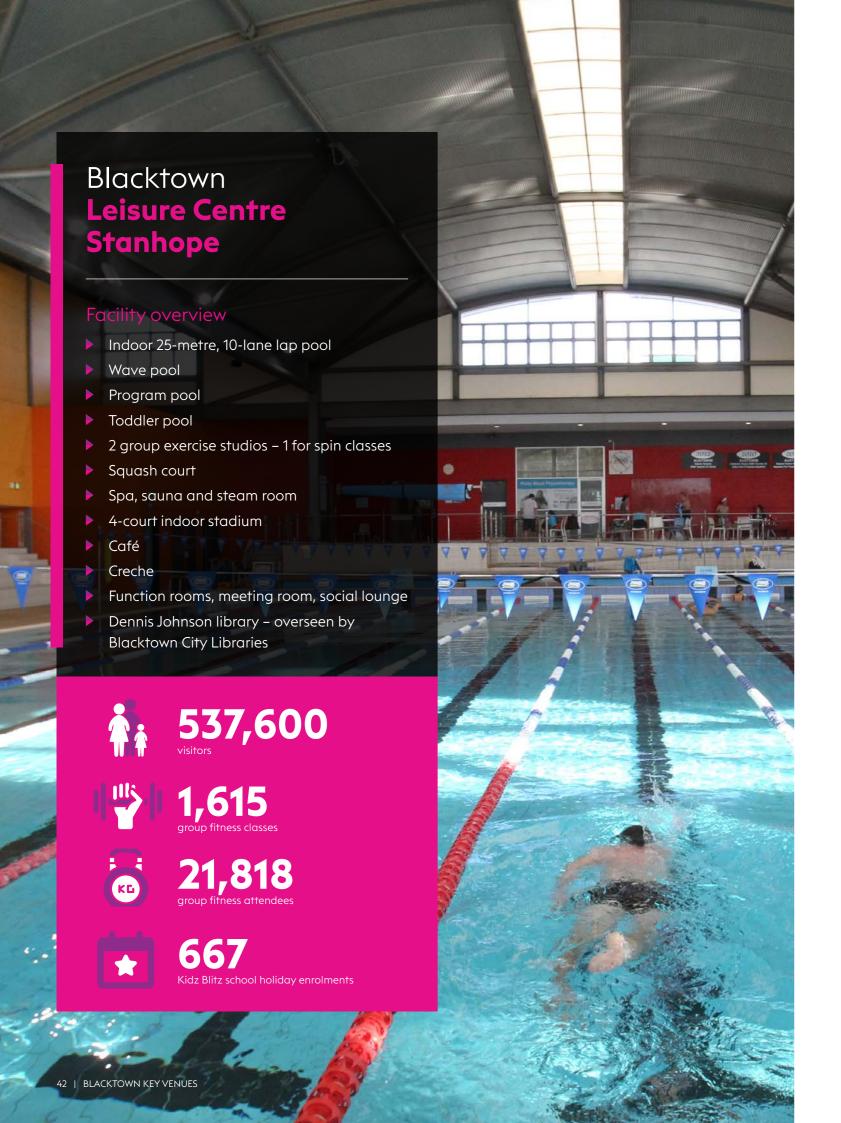




Blacktown Aquatic Centre is scheduled to

open early in

2022.



Since opening its doors on 31 January 2003, Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope has continued to be the flagship leisure facility for Blacktown City Council. The centre offers first-class leisure and recreation facilities, as well as a diverse range of programs and activities to the community. The centre reached another milestone when its 16-millionth visitor came through its doors!

The leisure centre provides leisure, fitness and recreation opportunities for all, including wave pool, lap pool, program pool, gym, group fitness, creche, 4-court multisport stadium, Aqua Learn to Swim, Kidz Blitz school holiday program, tennis courts, squash courts, spa, steam room, sauna, and venue hire.







#### Event highlights

- Australian Electoral Commission pre polling and election day
- Australian International Sports Organisation multi-sports program
- Blacktown City Council citizenship ceremony
- Bollywood youth festival
- Dance 181 competition
- Eid celebration event
- Extreme Karate martial arts competitions
- Football NSW schools futsal championships
- Gemco community awards night
- GWS Fury Netball home game
- Harmon Foundation gala event
- Judo NSW judo state championships
- My Kids Market
- National All Styles Martial Arts Tournament
- New Staying Active group fitness classes, launched in May 2022
- NSW citizenship ceremony
- NSW Judo state championships
- NSW Seniors Festival 2022
- Ray White The Ponds mass land auction night
- Royal Life Saving swim teacher courses
- Skate NSW NSW Artistic autumn competition
- Skate NSW skate coaching workshops
- Spike 22 western Sydney wrestling event
- Spike martial arts competition
- Static Dance competition
- Tamil Arts and Culture Association Inc Sydney Chithirai Festival 2022
- ▶ Team Tonga netball training
- Toongabbie Legal Centre 14th annual community fundraising dinner and crowdfunding appeal

The centre continued to host regular classes and programs for dance, basketball, futsal, football, netball, karate, tennis, taekwondo and more.

It also is a regular training and recovery venue across many different codes of sport for teams such as GWS Fury in Netball NSW Premier League and the national Tonga Netball Team.



# Charlie Lowles **Leisure Centre Emerton**

#### Facility overview

- Indoor 8-lane, 25-metre pool
- Program pool
- Outdoor 7-lane, 50-metre pool
- Indoor leisure pool with water slide
- 2-court indoor stadium
- Beach volleyball court
- Warm water therapy pool



**78,131** visitors











#### Information

Charlie Lowles Leisure Centre Emerton is a top tier leisure and recreation facility for the growing, diverse Blacktown community. The centre an exciting variety of health, aquatic, leisure and recreation programs and services, with something for everyone to enjoy. Basketball remains the most popular sport at Charlie Lowles Leisure Centre Emerton, making up over half its bookings.

#### **Event highlights**

- Aqua Learn to Swim adult Swim Sense program
- Aqua Learn to Swim RLSSA-funded CALD swimming lessons
- ▶ Charity Bounce basketball
- COVID testing clinic from August 2021 to March 2022
- Department of Education water safety program, with 2222 students attending
- New Staying Active group fitness classes, launched in May 2022
- NSW Seniors Festival 2022
- Penrith Hockey summer competition
- Volleyball training camps

During the winter season the centre is home to Chifley Swim Club, who train here each weekday morning and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings.

For the third year in a row the centre was a finalist for the Mount Druitt/St Marys Local Business Awards!

#### Charlie Lowles Leisure Centre underwent some improvement works, which included:

- refilling the beach volley court with 30 tonnes of sand
- installing new shade cover over the warm water therapy pool for sun protection
- installing a new heat pump.









Mount Druitt Swimming Centre has been located in the heart of the Mount Druitt community for over 40 years. This beloved pool opens to the local community for leisure, fun, carnivals and community events during the outdoor summer season. During the winter closure each year, the popular Blacktown City Family Fish In event is hosted at the centre, with local fishing enthusiasts trying their luck to land some of the 600 trout.

Chifley Swim Club continued to call Mount Druitt Swimming Centre home during the summer season. In its third year training at Mount Druitt pool in summer and Charlie Lowles Leisure Centre Emerton in winter, Chifley Swimming Club is building the next generation of swim champions. This high-performance, competitive club trains up to 5 days a week and race on the weekends. Its swimmers have been dominant within school district competitions, with many representing at metro and state championships and a couple at national championships.

This year 122 customers enjoyed the Aqua Zumba exercise classes that are included with entry to the venue.

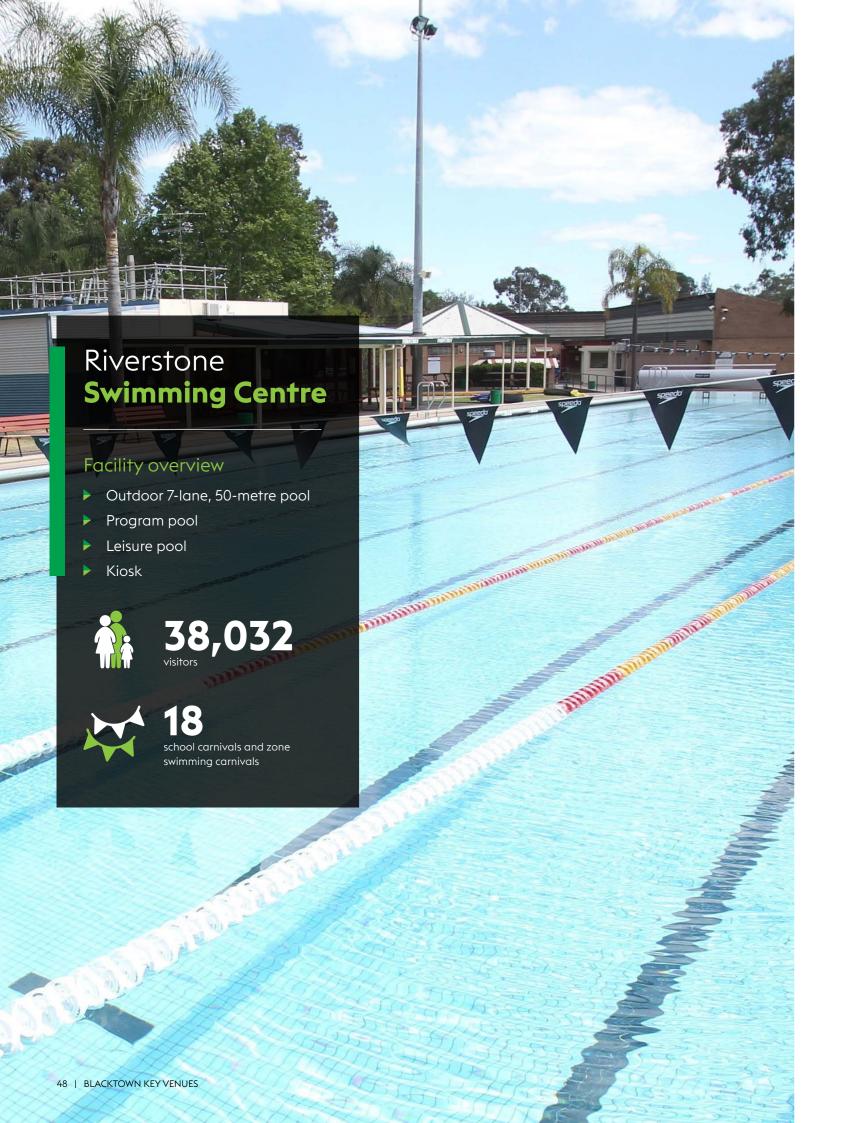
Mount Druitt Swimming Centre was a finalist for the 2021 Mt. Druitt/St. Marys Local Business Awards.

- Australia Day pop-up event, with live music
- ▶ Chifley Swim Club Christmas party
- ▶ Blacktown City Family Fish In
- Mount Druitt Pool Party









Riverstone Swimming Centre is the destination for cooling off in summer! This popular centre continued to act as a community hub offering families, the community and schools a great range of leisure and fitness opportunities for all to enjoy. Riverstone Swimming Centre's main competition pool remained a sought-after venue for school, regional and state swimming carnivals.

Resident swimming club the Riverstone Dolphins trains weekly and holds its zone carnival meets at the centre.

It continued to hold Department of Education swimming and life saving programs with 368 students participating this year.

#### **Event highlights**

- Aqua Learn to Swim adult Swim Sense program
- Australia Day pop-up event
- ▶ Riverstone Dolphins Swim Club annual presentation day
- > 3 zone RSL meets for state championships, hosted by Riverstone Dolphins Swim Club
- a memorial service hosted by Riverstone Dolphins Swim Club for founding member Margaret Mills

Improvement works completed this year included replacement of the existing diving blocks and installation of new blocks.









#### Vale

In August 2021 we lost a valued member of the Riverstone community, Margaret Mills. Margaret was a founding member of our resident swim club, the Riverstone Dolphins RSL Youth Swimming Club. She helped them form in 1994 and served as treasurer for 20 unbroken years. Margaret was heavily involved within the Riverstone community and loved by all. On behalf of the BVM Board and staff we offer our deepest condolences to Margaret's family. Margaret, we thank you for everything you have done and your dedication over the years. We miss you.













Aqua Learn to Swim is the swim school program run by Blacktown City Council across all 5 leisure and aquatic centres. The program offers various levels for infants, preschoolers, school-aged children, teenagers and adults.

Aqua Learn to Swim continued to promote Pip's Safe Summer campaign, which involves a pantomime comic strip in which Pip the Penguin provides key water safety messages. This past year the comic strips were converted into videos, available in multiple languages to spread awareness to the wider community.

As well as teaching children how to swim, Aqua Learn to Swim continued spreading important messaging about water safety and active supervision when in and around the water through a number of community awareness programs.

A key initiative that showcases our support for the local community is Swim Sense. Swim Sense is an adult water confidence education program that is free for Blacktown City residents. It aims to educate adults in safe behaviour around water, with a focus on pool safety, beach safety and learning to swim. The popular program ran for the second year with classes fully booked.

In collaboration with the Royal Life Saving Society, Aqua Learn to Swim ran free swimming lessons for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) adults from multicultural backgrounds. The specialised program began in Term 2 2022 and continued through to Term 3 2022, providing free lessons to over 100 adults. Pip the Penguin and Aqua Learn to Swim staff continued to visit local childcare centres to deliver a water safety talk and offer the children an opportunity to have their photo taken with Pip.

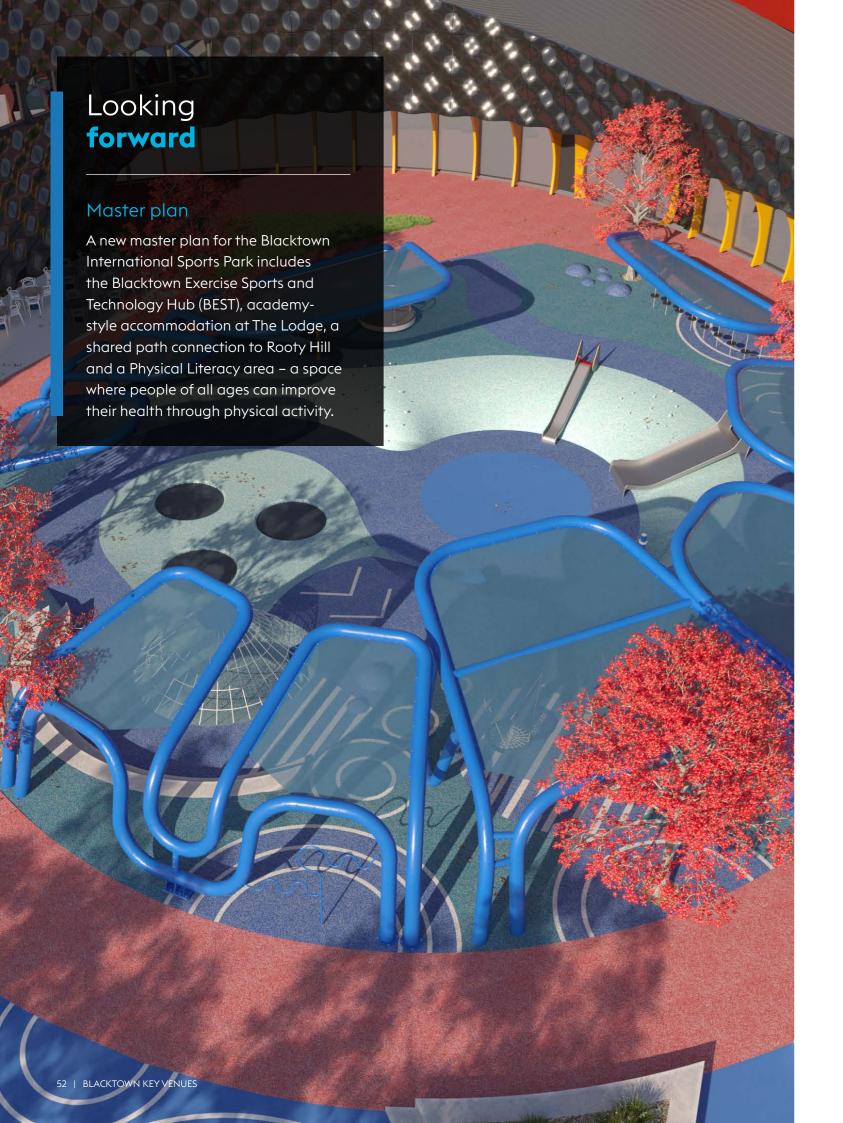
Aqua Learn to Swim offers a variety of programs that cater to people of all swimming levels and abilities, ranging from as young as 6 months old all the way up to adults. Our programs include:

- infant and preschool program
- school aged program
- adult lessons
- Aqua Swim Academy
- Acceler8 intensive school holiday program
- Swim Abilities
- private lessons
- Swim Sense
- ▶ CALD swimming program

Despite another year of COVID-19 disruptions, Aqua Learn to Swim remained strong and continued to deliver a safe, rewarding, fun and educational experience for the community. Learning to swim and having confidence in the water is an important life skill, and we encourage all abilities and ages to join the program. It's never too late to learn to swim!

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# Blacktown Exercise Sport and Technology Hub

The Blacktown Exercise Sport and Technology Hub (BEST) is currently under construction and will open in early 2023.

The hub will host facilities and expertise curated to enable our local community, along with national and international athletes, to benefit from environments and services designed to improve health and performance for individuals of all ages.

#### **BEST will include:**

- a biomechanics laboratory for analysing kicking, throwing and striking actions
- a 60-metre analysis track for gait, jumping and landing mechanic assessments
- physiology spaces for the assessment of body composition, blood profiles, lung function and cardiovascular fitness
- a strength and conditioning gym
- aquatics, including a recovery pool and contrast (hot and cold) pools
- a sports medicine clinic
- a patient-centred medical home
- rectangular pitches
- a physical literacy area for children
- a café
- an auditorium
- team and individual changing rooms.

# Services offered within the centre by Blacktown City Council and our stakeholders will include:

- gait analysis for post-operative patients
- general practitioner appointments
- counselling and psychology services
- multidisciplinary care and advice
- lung function assessments
- body composition assessments
- lower body CT scans
- strength training and rehabilitation
- recovery services
- dietary advice and support.

In addition to the facilities within the building a new all-weather synthetic pitch will be built, a space that can be used by the local community as well as a range of sporting teams. We are working with key stakeholders including the higher education sector, the Western Sydney Local Health District and sporting bodies to provide the local community with a facility and expertise that have a demonstrable benefit to health, fitness and sports performance.

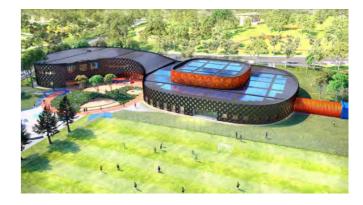
Some of key stakeholders are ACU, Australian Football League (AFL), Sydney West Sports Medicine, WentWest and Delaware North.

The development will also include The Lodge, a 37-room accommodation block designed to host visiting teams and athletes as well as visiting friends, family and tourists in western Sydney.









## Thank you to our 2021/2022 hirers

1st Kellyville Scouts Access Social Sports Incorporated Annangrove Public School Australian Catholic University Australian Electrical Commission Australian International Sports Organisation **AUSTSWIM Ltd** Banks Public School Barnier Public School Base 181 Studios Baulkham Hills High School Baulkham Hills Netball Baulkham Hills Sports Club Beaumont Hills Public School Bert Oldfield Public School Blacktown Boys High School Blacktown City Council Blacktown City Swimming Club Blacktown Diggers Swimming Club Blacktown District Soccer Football Association Blacktown Girls High School Blacktown Masters Swimming Inc Blacktown North Public School Blacktown Public School Sports Association Blacktown South Public School Blacktown Tennis Incorporated Blacktown West Public School Blacktown Zone Secondary Sports Blackwell Public School **Bollywood Dance School** Bradshaw Dance Butucarbin Aboriginal Group Caddies Creek Public School Caroline Chisholm College Castle Hill Primary School Sport Association (Swim) Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

Century 21 Stanhope Gardens

Cherrybrook Technology High

Charity Bounce

School

Chifley College Bidwill Campus Chifley College Dunheved Campus Chifley College Mount Druitt Campus Chifley Swimming Club Christ the King Church North Rocks Christian Schools Sports Association City of Blacktown Basketball Clairgate Public School Crawford Public School Creative Dance Crestwood Public School Daguio Reinald Dana Glover Dawson Public School Doonside Public School DT Performing Arts **Dural Public School** Eastern Creek Public School **Elevation School of Performing Arts Emmaus Catholic College Evans High School** Evans IEC High School **Evolve Futbol** Extreme Martial Fitness Group Football NSW Fortunity Pty Ltd **GEMCO** Geniuspark Academy Girraween High School Glendenning Public School Glenwood High School Glenwood Netball Club Go For Fun Good Shepherd Primary School Grappling Industries **GWS Fury GWS Giants** Halinda School Hambledon Public School

Hawksbury PSSA (SWIM)

Hebersham Public School

Heritage College Sydney

Hills Physio

Hills Start Pty Ltd Hills Zone Combined High Schools **HMA** Karate Holy Cross Primary School Hong's Taekwondo Hwa Rang Ingenious Academy James Erskine Public School JoFlow Basketball Academy John XXIII Catholic Primary School Judo NSW **KBC** Basketball Kellyville Bushrangers Kellyville High School Kellyville Public School Kenthurst Public School Kings Langley Public School Kingswood Public School Kwame Army Tennis Little Kickers Lynn's Learning Lynwood Park Public School Macauarie Zone Madang Avenue Public School Maraylya Public School Marayong Heights Public School Marayong South Public School Marian Catholic College Mary Immaculate Primary School Matthew Pearce Public School McGrath Real Estate Minchinbury Public School MNSE Solutions Australia Pty Ltd Mount Druitt Secondary Schools Sport Association Mount Druitt Zone Primary Schools Sports Association Mountain View Adventist College My Hoops My Kids Market Nepalese Recreational Club Netball Tonga No Excuses Performance

Northwest Disability Services

Norwest Christian College Junior School Norwest Christian College Senior Noumea Public School **NSW Electoral Commission** NSW Men's Netball Association Nulook Dance Onroad Driving School Our Lady of Lords Baulkham Hills Our Lady of the Rosary Our Lady Queen of Peace Parklea Public School Parramatta Marist High School Patrician Brothers Penrith Christian School Penrith Indoor Hockey Plumpton High School Plumpton Public School Prestige Development Karate Project Pro Quakers Hill East Public School Quakers Hill High School Quakers Hills Netball Club Quakers Hill Public School Re-Engineering Australia Foundation Revolver Pty Ltd Richard Johnson Anglican School Ridges Zone Primary School Sports Association Riverbank Public School Riverstone Dolphins RSL Youth Swimming Club Inc Riverstone High School Riverstone Public School Rooty Hill High School Rooty Hill Public School Ropes Crossing Public School Rosebourke Studios Rouse Hill High School Rouse Hill Public School Rouse Hill Rams Netball Royal Life Saving Society - Australia

Royal Life Saving Society - NSW

Royal Pacific Tennis Samuel Gilbert Public School Seven Hills Community Youth Sports Swimming Club Inc Seven Hills High School Seven Hills North Public School Seven Hills RSL Swimming Club Seven Hills Wentworthville PSSA Seven Hills West Public School Sherwood Ridge Public School Showcase Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Samaj NSW Soccajoeys Sonic Healthcare Special Olympics Sydney West Spike 22 Western Sydney St Agnes Catholic High School St Andrew's College St Andrew's Primary School St Angela's Castle Hill St Bernadette's Primary School St Bishoy College St Clare Catholic School St John Paul II Catholic College St John Vianney's Parish School St Joseph's Primary School St Luke's Catholic College St Mark's Catholic College St Michael's Netball Club St Michael's Public School St Paul the Apostle Step Up Disability Service Swimming NSW Sydney Basketball League Sydney Blazers Basketball Association Inc Sydney Cup BJJ Sydney Northwest Muslim Community TAFE Digital Maritime Strathfield Campus Tamil Arts and Culture Association

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

Day Saints

The Hills Sports High School The Meadows Public School The Ponds High School The Ponds Tennis Club Tiny Tutus Tip Off Basketball Coaching Toongabbie Christian School Toongabbie Legal Centre Transform with Dili Trinity Catholic College Primary Tyndale Christian School **UNC Basketball United OOSH Services** Vardys Road Public School Vineyard Public School Volleyball NSW West Met Christian School Sports Association Zone Western Grammar School Western Sydney Academy of Sport Western Sydney Eagles Basketball Western Sydney Wanderers Powerchair Team William Clarke College – Primary School William Dean Public School William Rose School - Special Education Windsor High School Xavier College Young Matildas

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#### **Steve Foster**

#### **President, Blacktown Mounties Cricket Club**

'I would like to thank the team at Blacktown Key Venues for their help over the last 10 years. Our Premier Grade club has been spoilt by the quality and enthusiasm Kevin Jones, Bryce, Matt, Heath, Kieran and their groundsmen have done for us. We view ourselves as very lucky to have the support we have been given, which has seen our ground being recognised as one of the top grounds in the Sydney Premier Competition. The season just completed was severely impacted, firstly by Covid then by the wet weather, but the BISP groundsmen were able to have our ground ready and fit for play on more wet days than any other club in the competition, which gave players every chance for success. We are very thankful for the efforts of the team who worked tirelessly to prepare our ground each week.'

#### **Craig Stewart**

#### Owner, Little Kickers Blacktown and Districts

'We hold classes 6 days a week at Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope and we are appreciative of the care and support shown by all the staff at this venue. The staff of BLCS are very accommodating and go above and beyond in making sure our Little Kickers have the best possible time. The staff are always friendly and there to help!'

## Carol Murphy OAM Operations Manager, GWS Fury

'GWS Fury Premier League Netball and Blacktown City Netball have trained at Blacktown Leisure Centre for many years now and have always found the staff to be very helpful and willing to assist with any query. The facility is great, with space for our two teams to train at the same time as our two pathways teams who play in Metro League. We were able to host a Premier League "home" game this year on a Saturday night after normal hours, and BLCS made it all possible with staff, court and surround set-up and any assistance we need. We think it is a great facility.'

#### **Carl Jennings**

#### **Director, Super 6 High Performance Program**

The Super 6 High Performance Program is proud to be based at the Blacktown International Sportspark... our humble facility helps us provide a safe, nurturing, high-performance environment that supports the youth of our diverse ethnic community by offering the very best physical and emotional development programs, helping them fulfil their potential in sport and life. The past 2 years have been extremely challenging for the Super 6 High Performance program; having to close for long periods of time during the pandemic placed huge pressure on our business, and it proved to be a time when having trusted relationships within the community and support from our strong partnership at BVM was crucial for our survival.

S6HP and the hundreds of young athletes we support within the community rely heavily on having a strong working relationship with BVM. I appreciate the tremendous support we receive form Kevin, Bryce and the BVM team and look forward to working with them into the future.'

# Mark Heathcote Chief Executive Officer, Swimming NSW

'Swimming NSW is very excited about our new partnership to bring a world-class coaching program to the Blacktown Aquatic Centre Squad program. We are extremely appreciative of Blacktown City Council for trusting us and Australian Catholic University to run the program. All of the staff at the centre have been most welcoming and supportive since we started, which has made the transition seamless.'





