



# HUON VALLEY COUNCIL

## MEDIA RELEASE

19 March 2019

### **Consultant appointed for new recreation strategy**

As the Huon Valley's major provider of recreational facilities, programs and services, we want to make sure our community is having its needs met.

That's why we are developing a stand-alone Huon Valley Recreation Plan to compliment the councils Strategic Plan 2015-2025.

The community's participation is changing with a recent increase in non-organised sports like skating, bushwalking, fishing, water sports and bike riding. At the same time more traditional team sports including football, cricket, netball and soccer remain popular choices.

Mayor Bec Enders says it's great to see more people getting out and being active.

"Recreation builds healthier communities," she said.

"It brings people together where they can socialise and learn new skills, work towards feeling healthier both physically and mentally and there are indirect benefits too, for example, a physically active community can reduce crime simply by spending more time outside in public areas. Council is committed to do all it can to improve the lives of our residents."

After an extensive search we have appointed landscape architects Inspiring Place to draft the strategy. They were selected based on experience and value for money. As part of the project they have been given a number of objectives:

- Research the changing recreational needs of needs of the Huon Valley - SURVEY UNDERWAY
- Make sure access to facilities is fair and equitable
- Investigate how we can better use our existing facilities and spaces
- Identify the need for new facilities where demand has changed
- Highlight opportunities for recreational activities to increase tourism to the Huon Valley
- Consult widely with the community throughout the process

Local clubs and recreational groups have six weeks to complete a survey asking them to outline what their critical issues are, what needs fixing, and what new facilities, programs and services should be developed in the future. They have been asked to return the surveys by Friday 26 April.

Representatives of the clubs, groups and community will then be invited to attend and participate in forums which will be held in mid-May.

### **For more information: Mayor Bec Enders (03) 6264 0300**

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