

## **Golf Club pitches for a Community Pavilion for the Kiewa Valley**

The Upper Kiewa Valley could soon have a brand-new community facility and function centre overlooking the scenic 18th green of the Mount Beauty Golf Club.

The 2019-2020 Black Summer Bushfires impacted many lives across Australia and in the Upper Kiewa Valley. In support of local community recovery needs, the proposal for the Upper Kiewa Valley Recreation & Community Hub (UKVRC Hub) was formed, for which the Club is now seeking funding through the Commonwealth Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants program.

The proposed Hub comprises of a Community Pavilion - a flexible space dedicated to community use for events, functions; a Club Pavilion - an open space designed for a multitude of uses, incorporating player facilities; and a Food and Beverage Pavilion - a quality, retail restaurant, open to all, to be run by a commercial operator.

Chair of the sub-committee working on the project, Stephen Short, said the Club believes the facility would be a valuable asset to the entire community.

“With the original clubhouse built by volunteers in the 1950s, it’s been a dream of the Club to provide a contemporary facility for players and visitors, and the wider community, for a long time,” Mr Short said.

“The aim of the Club is to expand our local community benefit beyond fitness and mental health for players to include the greater community, and we believe a facility that is welcoming and available to use by all community members will be a fantastic asset to our region.”

If funding is approved, the new facility would provide a range of social, economic and health benefits to the local community. In the first instance, the build would provide construction jobs and the ongoing management of the facility would offer a wide range of employment opportunities.

In addition, the facility would foster increased visitation and visitor expenditure in the region, an increase in demand for local accommodation and a new business opportunity for a commercial food and beverage provider. Importantly, the Community Pavilion provides a new space for use by over 80 local community groups.

“With a brand new facility, we of course would also love to see an increase in golf participation and membership numbers, including being able to offer social memberships, to ensure the longevity of our Club,” Mr Short said.

“If successful, we will be able to market the facilities, golf course and wider township as a destination for events such as corporate retreats, conferences and workshops in order to attract new visitors to the region.”

The Hub has already received strong support from local community groups and businesses, including local hospitality providers, as well as the Federal Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines MP, State Member for Benambra, Mr Bill Tilley MLA, Alpine Shire Council, Alpine Health, Mount Beauty Chamber of Commerce and Golf Australia.

The Club has also received a financial pledge of \$200,000 from the Mount Beauty and District Community Bank should the grant application be successful.

“Developing the project with local support and participation has been a big focus for the Club, as we want to make sure our local business owners and community members share our vision and see the value this facility will bring to our region,” Mr Short said.

The Mount Beauty Golf Course, which is fully maintained by volunteers, encompasses an 18-hole course and clubhouse with 135 members. It currently attracts around 1000 visiting players each year.

For further information, have a look at the dedicated page on the Club website or if you wish to register your support for this project, please e-mail [ukvrchub@mtbeautygolfclub.org.au](mailto:ukvrchub@mtbeautygolfclub.org.au)