

PORT PIRIE SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

ABOUT PORT PIRIE SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

The Port Pirie Softball Association (PPSA) has its home grounds at Leonard Park in Port Pirie on the east coast of the Spencer Gulf. Located adjacent to Risdon Park Primary School, the 3.5 hectare site is home to six softball diamonds – including two international standard diamonds – as well as clubroom and canteen facilities and has a membership base of approximately 300 junior and senior players.

The Port Pirie Softball Association is an example of a traditional club that has relied on the good will of its members to volunteer their time. However, as sporting clubs are increasingly being expected to run more like businesses, it is important to ensure that your club has the right skills (e.g. finance, management, fundraising or sponsorship) within its committee to enable the organisation to function effectively and sustainably into the future.



DOES YOUR CLUB UNDERSTAND THE SKILLS THAT IT NEEDS ON ITS COMMITTEE TO FUNCTION AND FLOURISH? CAN YOU IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS WITHIN YOUR LOCAL SPORTING COMMUNITY WITH THESE SKILLS WHO COULD ASSIST YOUR COMMITTEE? YOUR COMMITTEE?

The Port Pirie Softball Association is the sole user of the grounds at Leonard Park. As a single-use facility, the grounds are used by the PPSA during the summer period, but sit idle for the most part during the offseason. It is recognised that the use of facilities by a single club can pose sustainability issues and have contributed to significant costs for the PPSA in maintain such a facility, which is then only used for a portion of the year. The PPSA had discussed sharing its grounds (and therefore costs) with another local sporting team and continues to examine this option.

Perhaps more than most, the PPSA has dealt with significant challenges in the face of ever rising water costs. Although the club has two water tanks that collect rainwater for use within the clubrooms, in maintaining its grounds, the PPSA has nonetheless accrued annual water bills amounting to tens of thousands of dollars. Although the PPSA receives an annual grant from the local Port Pirie council, these water costs represent a significant portion of the club's annual costs and have posed a threat to the club's ongoing sustainability.

RATIONALISATION OF SPORTING FACILITIES IS A GROWING TREND WITHIN THE SPORT AND RECREATION SECTOR. CO-LOCATION OF MULTIPLE SPORTING GROUPS CAN ENCOURAGE MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND PROVIDE GREATER RESOURCES FOR INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES.





As many of us do when maintaining our own gardens and lawns at home, the PPSA has implemented a regular irrigation plan whereby the grounds are watered three times per week for nine months of the year with the system turned off over the winter period. However, maintaining a large area of open irrigated space is quite different to maintaining our gardens and lawns at home. For effective and efficient water use, it is important to have an appropriate turf or water management plan. This doesn't have to be complicated, but you should understand your club's turf (e.g. kikuyu, couch, rye) and soil type as well as basic turf management principles.

HOW IS YOUR CLUB'S TURF MANAGED? DO PEOPLE WITHIN YOUR CLUB UNDERSTAND THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF TURF MANAGEMENT? DO YOU REGULARLY REVIEW YOUR IRRIGATION SCHEDULE?

In addition to rising water costs, the PPSA has also faced increased electricity costs. In an effort to reduce electricity usage the PPSA installed energy efficient globes throughout its facility at a minimal cost. The club has also recently participated in an energy audit and is planning to implement further energy saving measures.

ACCESS MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TURF AND WATER MANAGEMENT HERE:

WWW.SAWATER.COM.AU



HAS YOUR CLUB EVALUATED ITS ELECTRICITY USE? THERE ARE A NUMBER OF LOW COST MEASURES YOU CAN IMPLEMENT!

WHAT CAN YOUR CLUB DO?

To help ensure your club's ongoing sustainability...



HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A MULTI-USE SITE?

Speak to your local council and sport and recreation representatives about opportunities to encourage other groups to use your facilities.



ENSURE YOUR COMMITTEE IS SKILLS BASED

Identify the type of skills that are needed on your club's management committee (e.g. finance, fundraising, local government experience) and where possible approach individuals in your community who may be able to contribute.



ENSURE YOU HAVE A WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Discuss with your local council or sport and recreation representative what water management initiatives or resources they have available.



REPLACE OLD INCANDESCENT LIGHT BULBS WITH ENERGY-SAVING COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS

For a small investment your club can save electricity and reduce your greenhouse gas emissions.