



Yarra River community recreation hub

A proposal to create a home for recreation, sport and youth development in the City of Yarra through the redevelopment of the Panther Pavilion in Fairfield Park



- there is unmet need for more community spaces in one of inner Melbourne's fastest-growing communities
- Yarra City District Girl Guides need an affordable space to establish a new Girl Guides unit for the new Yarra Bend suburb, and open space where girls can interact with the natural world
- public schools, Guides, Scouts and other youth-focused programs in the area do not have the resources to offer outdoor recreation experiences such as kayaking to their participants
- access to natural environment and involvement in outdoor activities are important to the health & well-being of our young residents



the proposal is for Yarra City Council to create a community space & recreation hub at Fairfield Park on the banks of the Yarra

- the space can be used by community groups on a regular basis or for one-off events
- the the park is surrounded by schools, social housing and large-scale urban renewal housing developments
- upstream from Dights Falls, the Yarra River is safe for paddling and water sports, as it not affected by tides and river traffic
- the existing infrastructure includes pedestrian access to the river, vehicle access roads within the park, picnic & BBQ areas, playing field
- the space will complement other social and cultural activities conducted at the amphitheatre and boathouse cafe

investment in the existing council-owned pavilion is a cost-effective win-win for the community because...

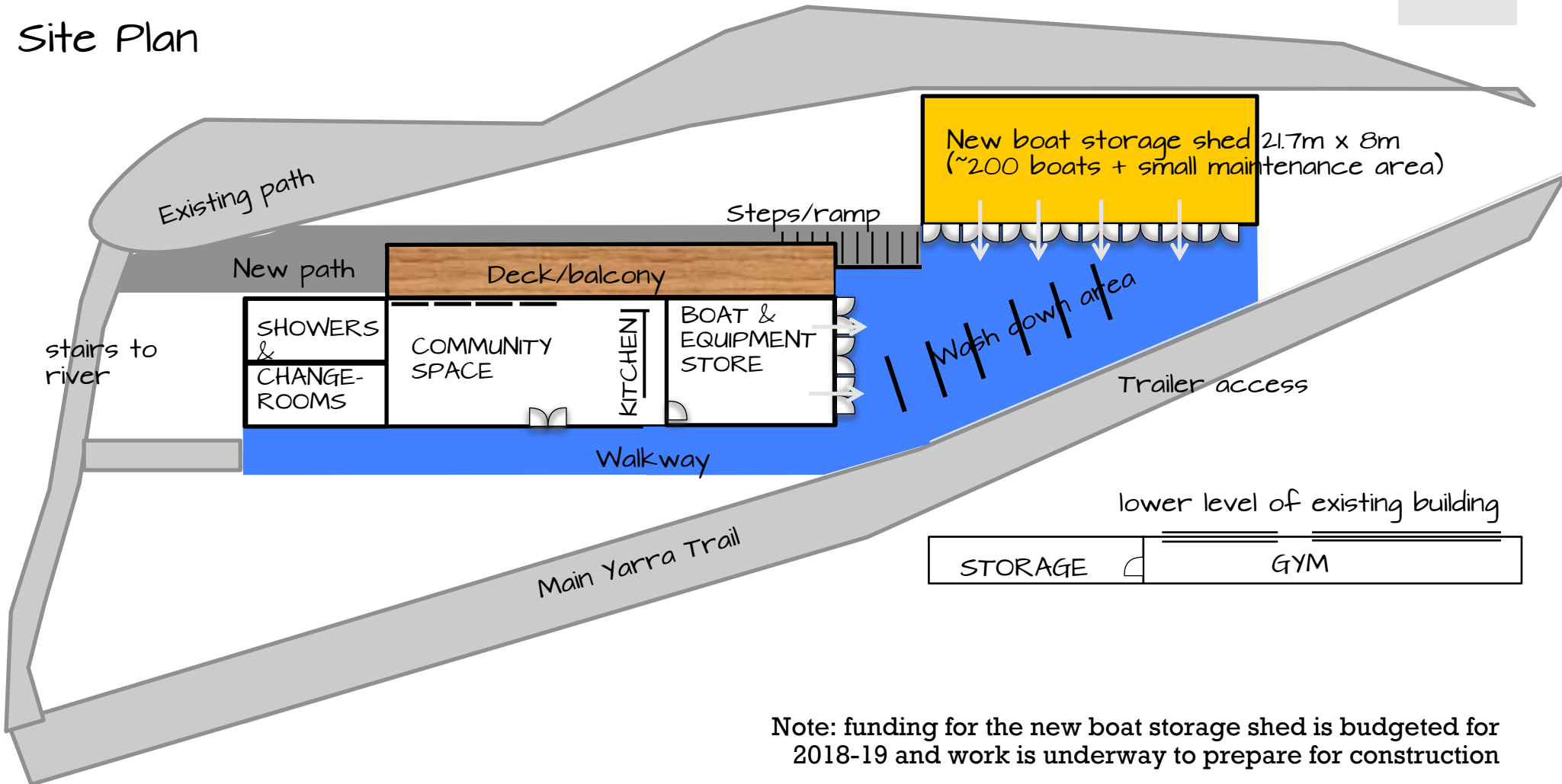
EXISTING CANOE CLUB BUILDING

AMPHITHEATRE


- it is the only river-based recreation facility in the municipality
- it is currently home to a thriving and successful club which has over 60 years history in the area and the capability to expand current and develop new programs for recreation on the Yarra for the local community
- there would be no loss of open space or trees
- the building must be upgraded to meet council standards and regulations for access for people with disabilities, it is in very poor condition and desperate need of renewal

once new boat storage facilities are available, the existing pavilion can be redeveloped as a multi-use community venue with INCC and Yarra City District of Girl Guides Victoria as tenants

Site Plan



Note: funding for the new boat storage shed is budgeted for 2018-19 and work is underway to prepare for construction



the building can be transformed to create a valuable asset for the local community, encouraging recreational use and appreciation of the Yarra River environment

- upper level

- large indoor community space
- new decking on eastern side overlooking the river & amphitheatre
- kitchen facilities
- accessible showers and change rooms for men & women
- capacity for boats and equipment at southern end

- lower level

- gym room with windows looking towards the river
- storage space

- external

- boat washdown area between south end and new boat storage shed adjacent to the pavilion
- walkway to ensure safe movement of boats to the river

the community partners have deep roots in the City of Yarra

Girl Guides Victoria - Yarra City District

- world's largest organisation for women and girls
- Australia is a foundation member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts - Australia's first unit registered in Hawthorn in 1911
- there have been Girl Guides in the City of Yarra since at least 1928
- run by volunteers with a learner-led program, catering for a diverse range of interests, learning styles and cultural backgrounds
- girls and women are supported in leadership development and teamwork, pushing their personal envelopes in a safe, supportive environment

Ivanhoe Northcote Canoe Club

- established at Alphington in 1956 and now the largest canoe club in Victoria
- 364 members in 2017-18 - 49% women, 37% under 24
- beginner and junior programs welcome local residents
- continuous representation at Olympics & world championships

* other recreation, environment or community groups seeking permanent access would be welcome

investment & support

- Yarra City Council is encouraged to work with the canoe club and Guides to secure financial support for the project from state and federal governments
- the project is supported by peak bodies, Paddle Victoria & Paddle Australia
- potential for INCC contribution if long-term tenancy available
- estimated investment required \$650,000 to \$750,000

