

Facility Provision for Scouts and Guides in Wyndham



Framework



Contents

1. Introduction:	3
2. Objectives:	3
3. Guiding Principles:	4
4. A snapshot of Wyndham:.....	4
5. Scout and Guide Snapshot	5
6. Benefits of Scouting/ Guiding	7
7. Facility Provision Possibilities.....	8
8. Related Documents.....	11
9. Acknowledgements.....	12

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1. Introduction:

Wyndham is home to six Scout Groups operating at six locations, and eight Guide groups operating at 4 locations.

Table 1.1. Wyndham Scout and Guide Groups (2015)

Scouts	Guides
1st Werribee Scouts	Point Cook Monkey guides
1st Hoppers Crossing Scouts	2 nd Hoppers Crossing Girl Guides
1st Point Cook Scout Group	Point Cook Fairy Guides
1st Wyndham Vale Scout Group	Wyndham Vale Cool Guides
2nd Werribee Scout Group	4 th Hoppers Crossing Brownie Guides
2nd Laverton Scout Group	1 st Werribee Teddy Guides
	4 th Werribee Brownie Guides
	Werribee Adventure Guides

The governing bodies of Scouts and Guides have developed growth strategies to accommodate the demand for Scouting in Wyndham. Both organisations are expecting increases in membership numbers in line with Wyndham's population growth over the coming years.

Girl guides expect to accommodate up to 500 girls at capacity, which is projected to be reached in 2031. Scouts are planning for significant growth with the formation of new groups servicing Wyndham's growth areas. There is potential to exceed 500 Scout members at capacity.

Historically Council has provided land at no cost, and Scouts and Guides have built and maintained their facilities. Leases or lease-type arrangements are in place to manage these agreements.

Due to a shortage of open space and available land, Council can no longer provide land at no cost to accommodate standalone facilities. A number of options for future facility provision are contained in this framework.

This framework has been developed in collaboration with Scouts Victoria and Guides Victoria to provide a clearly defined approach to the provision of facilities for Scouting and Guiding activities within the City of Wyndham.

2. Objectives:

The *Facility Provision for Scouts and Guides in Wyndham Framework* aims to achieve the following;

- Reflect the community demand for Scouting and Guiding activities in the local area
- Increase the diversity of recreational opportunities available within the community
- Create a strong sense of community connectedness
- Ensure the long-term viability of Scouts and Guides in Wyndham
- Reflect the requirements and aspirations of the Scouts and Guides governing bodies

- Embed a flexible and equitable approach to the provision of facilities for all Scout and Guide groups.

3. Guiding Principles:

The following adopted principals and priorities have been considered in the development of this framework:

The Wyndham City Plan 2013 - 2017 states that:

2.2 City Infrastructure – to deliver and maintain Wyndham’s facilities and infrastructure in an efficient and equitable manner that meets community needs.

2.3 Sustainable Growth – To ensure Wyndham’s population growth is matched by the development of new physical, social and economic infrastructure, while protecting the City’s existing assets and natural environment.

3.3 Leisure, Sport and Recreation – To provide residents of all ages and abilities with opportunities to participate in a wide range of leisure, sports and recreation pursuits.

The Wyndham Leisure Strategy (adopted 2013) states that:

‘Leisure organisations and groups that actively promote and demonstrate inclusive participation will be encouraged and supported by Council and receive priority over those which do not.’

‘Council facilities provide suitable locations for community and business groups to host events and activities, to ensure the greatest benefit for the community can occur.’

‘Council will encourage residents to participate in community life to build a connected and resilient community.’

4. A snapshot of Wyndham:

Wyndham is a growth city that is facing many unique challenges and opportunities. It is the second fastest growing municipality in Victoria, by percentage (2012-2013), and will reach a projected population of 384,275 in 2036. There are 11 babies born each day in Wyndham.

Council has a strong commitment to working in partnership with the community and is committed to supporting volunteerism as a way of engaging with and strengthening the community.

Wyndham City values the significant contribution made by community members who volunteer their time. Volunteers significantly enhance the quality of life, community spirit and leisure time opportunities in the region and volunteering promotes enduring social, cultural, environmental and economic value to Wyndham City and the community.

Community networks provide many benefits for young people. Benefits arising from participation and networking within the community include emotional support, contacts, resources, employment opportunities, and friendship. Communities also benefit as this generates positive attitudes, a sense of belonging, acceptance of diversity, improved feelings of safety, intergenerational understanding

and the fostering of future community leaders (A Demographic Profile of Wyndham and its Young People 2014 Update).

Through the adoption of the Western Region Youth Charter, and the implementation of its values and principles, Wyndham City Council has committed to engaging and involving young people in meaningful opportunities that positively impact on their lives and the lives of their communities. The Charter affirms young people as an integral and valued part of the community and was developed in partnership with young people and six other Councils located in Melbourne's Western suburbs.

5. Scout and Guide Snapshot

Scouts

Scouting encourages the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual and character development of young people so that they take a constructive place in society as a member of their local, national and international community.

Scouts Australia Mission: To contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Promise and Law, to help build a better world, where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

This is achieved through:

Involving young people through their formative years in a non-formal education process.

Using a specific method that makes each individual the principal agent in his or her development as a self-reliant, supportive and committed person.

Assisting them to establish a value system based upon spiritual, social and personal principles as expressed in the Promise and Law.

The structure of Scouts is broken down into 5 age groups, plus adult Leaders; as follows:

- Joey Scouts 5- 7 year olds
- Cub Scouts 7 – 11 year olds
- Scouts 11 – 14 year olds
- Venturers 14 – 18 year olds
- Rovers 18 – 26 year olds
- Leaders 18 + years old

All Sections are open to male and female members, all cultures, religions and nationalities and all physical abilities.

In 2014, there was a total of 69,751 members Australia-wide. Victoria had a total of 21,034 members. Wyndham had a total participant base of 325 Scouts and 78 leaders

Guides

The Girl Guides are committed to 'building a movement in Victoria that is socially inclusive and that provides opportunities for all girls and young women to participate, gain skills and confidence beneficial to their personal development'. (Girl Guides Victoria Social Inclusion Strategy 2013)

In 2014, there were over 30,000 members Australia- wide, including 22,000 youth members. In Victoria there were 4260 youth members and 1139 Volunteer members. Wyndham had a total of 132 members, comprising 88 Youth members, 44 volunteer members.

- Wyndham has been identified as an area with high growth potential, and a specialist membership team has been formed to assist the Wyndham District to increase access to Girl Guides.
- A number of Guide units have waiting lists due to a lack of volunteers to run programmes.

Girl Guides is open to girls aged from five to seventeen years. Girl Guides do not have set age ranges that units must align to but units cater to age ranges determined by the needs of the local community. Wyndham District has units for all ages between five and seventeen years.

Scouts and Guides Strategic Plans

Both Scouts and Guides through their Strategic planning have identified a need to modify and adapt to a modern environment to attract and retain members.

Scouts: Scouts Victoria's current Strategic Framework 2012-14 identifies the following priorities:

- Youth Membership Growth
- Effective, Trained, Passionate and Supported Adults
- Community Recognition as Relevant and Contemporary
- Clear Internal & External Communications
- Contemporary & Effective Management and Governance
- Robust and Sustainable Financial Support

Key themes identified to enhance the scouting program and the future of scouting to enable all Victorian's to enjoy Scouting includes:

1. Youth Mental Health First Aid Training and Teaching Leaders about the Issues Facing Young People (Leaders supporting participants)
2. Scouting's Digital Footprint (social media presence and webpage redevelopment, updating image and attracting youth)
3. Improved Accessibility for Adults using Digital Technology (Open private online forums for all Leaders in Scouts Victoria)
4. Focus on Creating More Diversity (Get involved in the community, broaden partnerships with a range of community organisations and cultural community organisations)
5. Better links between the Award Scheme, Qualifications and Career Benefits. Better Communication of this externally (Offering broader training opportunities aligned with trade and tertiary qualifications)
6. Ask internal and external youth what they want and create an updated image for Scouting (Attracting and retaining members)
7. Youth Empowerment in Decision Making (endeavouring to position Scouting as a contemporary and relevant organisation by involving youth members in decision making)

Guides:

The Girl Guides Australia National Strategic Plan 2020 is based around achieving three interconnected goals:

- One for our girls - To provide innovative, fun, relevant and high quality non-formal learning for girls and young women
- One for our volunteers - To deliver high quality volunteer experiences to the Australian community
- One for our organisation - To be an efficient, effective and productive organisation

Built on a foundation of "great people, good governance and a commitment to evolve" Guides Australia aim to grow the organisation by 2020 by:

- Supporting an increase in the number of youth members by 50%
- Supporting an increase in the number of adult members by 25%

Girl Guides have recently established a number of contemporary projects and initiatives, designed to ensure it continues to thrive in to the future, including;

- iGGi: a platform for Girl Guide members to learn to interact through social media in a completely safe environment. Also caters for online delivery of programs;
- Social Inclusive Strategy: Building Inclusive Communities is Girl Guides Victoria's strategy to build an environment where all members feel valued and their difference accepted;
- The Guiding Light Fund: enables girls who are involved in Guiding to develop and implement sustainable projects that benefit their communities.

6. Benefits of Scouting/ Guiding

Connection to the Community

Both Scouting and Guiding make a direct and positive impact on the community by teaching values and leadership skills to youth. Every year, participants and their leaders contribute thousands of volunteer hours to their local communities. Sharing time with the aged, helping with Clean Up Australia Day, Harmony Day and tree planting are just a few examples of the commitment Scouts and Guides make to their communities.

Historically Scout and Guide groups have been located and operate within a suburban catchment. This provides the benefit of local accessibility and means that the local communities directly benefit from the work that Scouts and Guides do within their own suburbs.

Health

According to the Victorian Government Population Health Survey (2011-12), only 40.1% of people in Wyndham self-report having excellent or very good health. 58% reported sufficient times and sessions of physical activity within the local area, and 53.9% of people are overweight or obese in Wyndham. These statistics clearly highlight there is a need for Council to focus investment in facilities and strategies that address these health issues.

Wyndham City Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan recognises that the health of the community is strengthened by overcoming risk factors that contribute to preventable chronic illness.

In order to address these issues, it is critical that there are many and varied physical activity options on offer to the community. Scouting and Guiding involves elements of physical activity. Outdoor activities can include camping, abseiling, caving, horseback riding, fishing, rock climbing and diving.

Social

Wyndham is a culturally diverse city. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2011), 25.9% of Wyndham residents speak English as a second language, and 34% of the population were born overseas.

26 religions are represented in Wyndham. While people of Christian faiths remain the largest in number, between 2006 and 2011 the non-Christian faiths experienced the fastest growth. It is important that a variety of recreational and community activities are provided to cater for the diversity of the Wyndham community and groups that are inclusive and help to integrate all residents into the community should be supported.

Scout and Guides accommodate participants from a range of socio-economic backgrounds. Girl Guides Victoria provides scholarships to girls who are part of families that qualify for a Health Care Card or who are under financial hardship, and these are regularly granted to girls in Wyndham. The policy of Scouts Australia is that membership should not be denied on the basis of financial deprivation or the inability of a member or potential member to meet the cost associated with participation in the Scout Program.

Both Girl Guides and Scouts are working to ensure that they are organizations that are accessible to people of all abilities and backgrounds. It is important that participants feel valued and respected, and both organisations are committed to celebrating and promoting inclusion in communities both locally and globally.

Special Needs

There are number of people with special needs actively involved in Scouting and Guiding in the Wyndham District. Scouts Australia provides for the admission of young people with physical, intellectual or sensory impairments as members of regular Scout Groups, or as members of special Groups.

Gender Equity

Since the late 1980's Scouting has been open to both males and females. Scouts Australia has a policy of co-education in all Sections. Co-education is the process of educating persons of both sexes together to achieve an ultimate goal in which the relationship between males and females is one of equality, characterised by equal opportunity, mutual acceptance, understanding, respect and enrichment based on partnership, co-responsibility and empowerment.

Guiding provides a female-only environment that works to build the confidence and self-esteem of young girls.

7. Facility Provision Possibilities

Scouts and Guides have indicated that as a minimum facilities from which they could run their programs would require;

- A hall space
- Foyer
- Basic kitchen
- Meeting room
- Storage – internal and external
- Proximity to passive outdoor space
- Accessible toilets
- Covered outdoor space

Historically Council has allocated land to Scouts and Guides on which they have funded the construction of a Scout hall to satisfy the above requirements. Council acknowledges that existing and/ or future facilities may not meet all of these requirements.

The following outlines how Council will support various facility provision possibilities for current and future Scout and Guide groups.

7.1 Existing Facilities

Stand Alone facilities

As per the conditions of the relevant lease agreements, Groups who occupy stand-alone facilities on Council owned or managed land will continue to be responsible for the maintenance and costs associated with the running of the facility.

Where lease or licence agreements are not currently in place or have expired, Council will establish agreements with parties dependent on level of capital contribution and maintenance liability. Agreed length of tenure will be in line with Council's Capital Contributions Policy.

Current lease agreements if applicable will remain in place until such time as the tenure expires. At this point, further tenancy arrangements will be negotiated in line with this framework.

Scouts and Guides are responsible for funding any capital improvements (including renovations) to the facilities as per Councils Capital Contributions policy and the conditions of the lease/ licence agreements.

It is expected the Scouts and Guides will make provisions for the ongoing maintenance of their facilities and keep the facilities to a standard that is safe and fit for purpose.

Council will remain the land owner or manager of all existing land. Council will not consider the gifting of land in exchange for capital improvements to the facilities as per Councils Capital Contributions policy. Council support multi-use facilities and as such will not provide capital to fund stand-alone or single use facilities.

Council is working to ensure that Council facilities are used to their maximum potential and the shared use of existing spaces will be increasingly important as the population of Wyndham grows and demand for community spaces rises.

Council Community Facilities

Scout groups who hire community facilities currently apply for usage of the facilities on an annual basis. As per Councils hiring procedure for community facilities, there is no guarantee of ongoing tenure and all applications are considered in line with other hirers.

Capital improvements to Community Facilities will be considered through an application process administered by Councils Community Development Unit. Any funding will be subject to assessment of needs, usage data, and availability of funds.

Due to increasing demand for community spaces, there may not be adequate scope for increased allocations at Council owned or managed community facilities to meet the stated needs of Scout/ Guide groups. Applications for increased allocations will be considered in line with other applications.

7.2 – Future Facilities

Provision of Open Space

Wyndham City Council has a shortage of open space to accommodate active sport and recreation pursuits. There is a need to maintain flexibility in use across as much active open space as possible.

As such, allocating existing active open space for additional buildings such as stand-alone Scout and Guide Halls is not supported by Council as per the recommendations of the Wyndham Open Space Strategy.

Master Planning for new Council owned reserves and open space will not include the provision of land for stand-alone Scout and Guide halls, however, there may be scope for discussions on the development of encumbered land or other government-owned open space.

Community Facilities

Councils Social Infrastructure Plan informs the provision, design and location of community facilities. There may be an opportunity for Scouts/ Guides contribute funds to the design and construction of a purpose built facility as part of new community centre developments. In this case, agreements will be negotiated to provide Scouts/ Guides with priority access and maintenance/ shared usage agreements will be developed with the community centre management. There will be a need for any proposal to be justified and align with council policy objectives, access and equity principles and shared infrastructure models.

The occupation of community facilities would generally be seen as an option for the establishment of a group, with a view to transitioning to a more permanent home.

Sporting Pavilions

Council's sporting pavilions are available for community groups including Scouts and Guides to hire as a 'secondary user' of the facility.

Approvals for hire will be in line with the conditions contained in the *Sports Facility User Guide (2015)* and is at the discretion of council staff to determine the suitability of the site.

Any required modifications to Councils current development standards will require funding support by the Scouts or Guides.

The occupation of a sporting pavilion would be seen as an option for the establishment of a group, with a view to transitioning to a more permanent home.

Private Facilities

Scouts and Guides are able to purchase land as they wish within new and existing urban developments. Council will provide a point of contact for developers or planners when a specific potential site location has been identified, however, negotiations over the sale of the land must be held directly between the landowner/ developer and the group/s.

Council will provide advice to Scout and Guide groups for the purchase or acquisition of private land for which to construct stand-alone or purpose-built facilities in line with Councils Planning scheme requirements. Joint ventures between Scout and Guide groups are encouraged.

Council will not purchase land for the sole purpose of constructing a Scout/ Guide facility.

Public- Private Partnerships

Council will provide advice and support to Scouts/ Guide groups wishing to undertake a PPP arrangement with the State Government.

Council will not contribute funds to a facility as part of a PPP arrangement on behalf of or for the sole use of Scout/ Guide groups, but may choose to invest in a facility that would also provide for the interests of the wider community and would facilitate shared uses and multiple users.

Council will provide unequivocal support to Scouts and Guides in applying for any grant that Council is ineligible to apply for, or electing not to apply for. Support for any other grant requiring Council funding contributions will be assessed on a case by case basis.

8. Related Documents

Wyndham City Council Outdoor Sports Facility Development Guidelines

Wyndham City Council Outdoor Sports Facility Capital Contributions Policy

Wyndham City Council Leisure Strategy

Wyndham City Council Plan 2013-2017

Wyndham City Council Sports Facility User Guide

'A Demographic Profile of Wyndham and its Young People' 2014 Update

Wyndham City Council Community Infrastructure Plan

Girl Guides Victoria Social Inclusion Strategy 2013

Girl Guides Australia National Strategic Plan 2020

9. Acknowledgements

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