

11.5 Petanque Facility - Lennox Head

From: Victoria O'Connor [voconnor@mbasolutions.com.au]
Sent: Sunday, 4 December 2011 8:12:20 PM
To: Jillian Pratten
Subject: Petanque

Hello Jillian,

Thank you for your support and assistance to set up petanque in Lennox Head. Both of our Sundays went very well and people want to continue playing each Sunday until a piste is built.

We will try playing at the back of Williams Reserve on the hard dirt area in the interim, although it is not very good, it seems to be the best, easily available spot. The area near the dog walking track was good but difficult to close off more than once!

I have attached the proposal and letters of support from the Residents Association, Chamber of Commerce and Alliance Francaise.

Please let me know if there is anything else I need to do or people I need to talk to.

Again, many thanks and kind regards,
Victoria

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MBA Solutions
Phone: 02 6687 5112
Fax: 02 6687 4044
<http://www.mbasolutions.com.au>

Dear Jillian,

I am writing to formally ask Council to construct a boules (pétanque) piste in Lennox Head.

Pétanque originated in France and is now well established all over the world, including in Australia. It is very much a 'village' game played by locals just for fun in friendly social competitions and it would be great to be able to play it in our village of Lennox Head as well. It would be wonderful if we could build a simple boules ((pétanque) piste (terrain) for the local 'villagers' of Lennox Head in a spot where people could easily walk to it to play.

Many thousands of people own a set of the steel balls known as boules and play with family and friends at picnics but some may not aware that pétanque is not played on grass but hard dirt and gravel.

One of the Sydney players made this little pétanque video of a recent game. It shows the game and the great atmosphere. <http://www.frenchaffair.com.au/fun/petanque.htm>

About the Piste?

- The area needs to have some shade. A small area can attract a reasonable number of people so there needs to be toilets in reasonable proximity, particularly as games may be spread over a few hours
- Adequate parking would be desirable
- The playing surface is hard packed road-base or decomposed granite which are both hard wearing and weed resistant. Decomposed granite is ideal being suitable and attractive. (Just like the new carpark behind the Professionals R/E.)
- A playing area for pétanque is known as a 'piste', 'terrain' or 'court'. The playing area for a single game of pétanque, at 15 metres by 4 metres. This can occupy 6 players. So we need a minimum of 4 pistes for 24 people to play, ie an area of 15 by 16 metres. This would allow groups to develop naturally and allows disparate enthusiasts to come together to form friendships and run small competitions.
- 5 or 6 pistes would be even better as it would allow us to promote to 'local schools (students of French being an obvious target) and arrange regular friendly, competitions.
- It is not necessary to have a border between each individual area, just the outer perimeter. A border is required to help maintain the gravel and also prevent the boules from leaving the playing area. The border can be stone, brick or timber but timber is perhaps the toughest. Height should be about 100 mm to 150 mm. Railway sleepers are ideal.
- Park benches for picnickers and spectators would be a bonus.
- It need not be perfectly flat or smooth. It is low maintenance and of course does not need watering!
- We would also suggest a sign saying Pétanque Area to further inform people of the purpose. This is useful for people that may not realise that pétanque is played on gravel.
- As can be seen by some of the photos of existing grounds overseas, a pétanque piste is attractive.

About playing pétanque

Significant 'plus' points include:

- non-violent/low injury
- piste is low maintenance and drought proof
- efficient use of space - an area the size of a tennis court can be used by 10 times as many people
- can be played by almost anyone and yet be developed to a high skill level
- males and females can compete on equal terms - families can play together

- individuals can be as competitive or relaxed in attitude as they choose
- can be played under shady trees (advantageous with skin cancer such a concern)
- the playing area is both attractive and can be used for other activities
- encourages conversation and team work
- there is a competition path for those who choose to take it on.

Pétanque in Lennox Head

There is a great deal of support for playing boules/ pétanque in Lennox Head. Attached are letters from the Lennox Head Residents Association, Alliance Francaise, North Coast and the Lennox Head Chamber of Commerce.

Following an article in the Lennox Wave in November I have had calls and emails of support from more than 50 people. We have played twice already at makeshift locations in Lennox Head with 20 people coming to our first two games. Players are keen to continue – they have the 'bug' already!

The locations I believe are best to construct a terrain are:

1. On the flat area just in the north east corner of the land in front of the surf club.
2. The area adjacent to the road just south of the semi-circular parking area adjacent to the surf club which has nose in parking, some shade and is not currently used.
3. An area in the park where the bus shelter is located.

The Boules Artistes Pétanque Club -a not-for-profit, incorporated organisation in Sydney (which play at many Sydney locations) <http://www.boulesartistes.org.au/> has suggested that Lennox Head become a branch of their association and we will therefore be covered with public liability insurance and have access to their expertise.

I hope that you will look at this proposal favourably and that we can establish pétanque as a well-accepted pastime and sport in Lennox Head, with physical and mental health benefits to those who are involved.

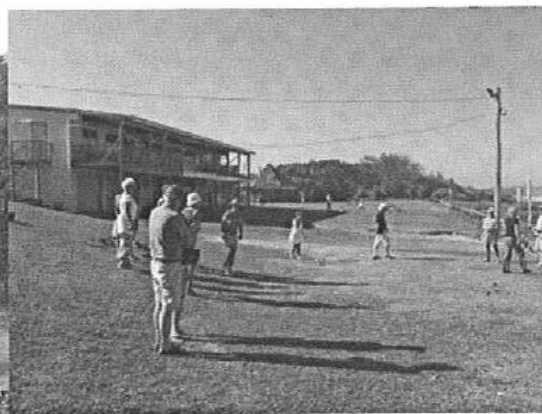
Kind regards,



Victoria O'Connor



Players at Centennial Park, Sydney



Players at social game in Lennox Head

LENNOX HEAD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Inc

President
Fred Goodram
5 Rayner Lane
LENNOX HEAD 2478
Phone 02 66877790



Secretary
Susan Kent
5 Rayner Lane
LENNOX HEAD 2478
02 66874748

9 November 2011

Dear Victoria,

The Lennox Head Residents Association has long supported more sporting venues in the Village, so on behalf of the Association, I am writing in support of your proposal for a boules court in Lennox Head.

Best wishes on the implementation of your proposal.

Regards,

Susan Kent, Secretary
Lennox Head Residents Association Inc



December 1st, 2011

Dear Ms O'Connor,

The Lennox Head Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate you on your initiative to set up a social boules playing area in Lennox Head.

Boules is a great recreational game for the young and the old, and indeed people with disabilities as well. We fully support any type of safe, passive, outdoor recreation for the community. Many of our members have shown an interest in playing.

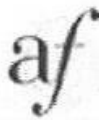
It would be very helpful for Council to provide a permanent Piste on which to play in Lennox Head. The Chamber would commit to advertising the games in the Newsletter and in the Chamber Chat which appears in the Lennox Wave and the Ballina advocate.

We wish you success in your endeavours with Council and look forward to the opening day of the new Boules Piste area.

Yours in Business

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise Owen".

Louise Owen
President



ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE CÔTE DU NORD
PO BOX 6061
SOUTH LISMORE NSW 2480

Jillian Pratten
Ballina Shire Council

Dear Ms Pratten,

The North Coast Alliance Française wholeheartedly supports the creation of a *boulodrome* at Lennox Head. We are a group which supports French culture and we hold an annual *boules* competition however it is often difficult to find suitable venues. We have a membership of over 100 people, many of whom live in the Ballina Shire.

We believe that a *boulodrome* would be a real asset for Lennox head and for the whole region. The concept has raised a lot of excitement amongst our membership and the first *boules* game on November 20th was well attended and held in good spirit.

Ms O'Connor has come up with an excellent plan and our members agree that such an installation would help show that Lennox Head is a little bit different from other towns. It would also allow the community to come together and enjoy a game which is suitable for all the family and requires very little investment.

Yours faithfully,

Olivier Maxted
President

President: Olivier Maxted 6689 0488
Secretary: Tracey Whitby 6629 1276
Communications: Marie Phillips 6624 2024

Site 2 - Corner of Ross Street & Pacific Parade



Site 4 - Lions Park



Site 5 - Lake Ainsworth



