



**Ballarat**  
Pony Club

# Master Plan

2024-2034





## Who We Are

Ballarat Pony Club (BPC) is an active and growing club that is dedicated to helping its members succeed.

On 43 acres and located in the southern section of Victoria Park, Ballarat, the BPC has been at this site since 1956.

A group of families that enjoy a range of equestrian sports and love coming together for monthly rallies. The member riders are from four years old to 25 years and have a diverse range of equestrian interests and abilities.

The Ballarat Pony Club has international level equestrian ground assets, drawing horse enthusiasts and competitors from across Australia.

### Our current ground assets include:

- A full internationally rated competition size cross country course.
- Five full sized dressage arenas
- Two show jump arenas and a third fully fenced arena under construction
- A round yard
- 136 holding yards
- Three wash bays and horse crush

The Ballarat Pony Club extends its heartfelt appreciation to the City of Ballarat for their generous support through the Community Impact Grant Program (CIGP). This invaluable assistance has enabled us to undertake the research, development, and production of our comprehensive 2024-34 Master Plan. This plan, consisting of a succinct summary document complemented by an in-depth background document, has been made possible through the funding provided by the City of Ballarat.



## Our Purpose

To provide a safe, kind, accessible space for equestrian riders.

## Our Vision

Bringing everyone along for the ride and caring for horses along the way.

## Our Values

- Respect** We listen to you, value your contributions, choices and feelings.
- Collaboration** We work together as a club, bringing together ideas, passion and expertise.
- Community** We communicate widely and encourage our communities to be involved with our club from far and wide.
- Inclusion** We are inclusive and welcoming, providing a safe program for everyone.
- Safety** Ensuring at all times safety for the rider, supporter and horse is paramount.

## What we do:

- Provide opportunities for young riders to gain knowledge and become proficient in their chosen equestrian sport.
- Promote the physical, mental and spiritual development of young people by encouraging sportsmanship and participation.
- Provide children and young adults up to the age of 25 the opportunity to learn the skills of riding and general horsemanship and have the opportunity to compete at state, national and international events.
- We adhere to and promote the *Code of Practice for the welfare of horses*. [www.equestrian.org.au/horse-welfare](http://www.equestrian.org.au/horse-welfare)
- We volunteer. Volunteers are the heart of BPC and run every event, provide maintenance on the grounds, instruct, plan, fundraise and enable the club to exist; our dedicated volunteers mean we are able to offer these exceptional riding opportunities for our young members.

### 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

<b>56</b> BPC Riding Members	<b>11</b> monthly rallies and a Pony Club Camp	<b>24</b> events	<b>930</b> An estimate of volunteers over the year	<b>1500</b> casual riders who access our facilities.	<b>3741</b> Structured events (non PC) attracted riders and close to <b>7000</b> family members and supporters.	<b>\$98,000</b> raised through fundraising, events and rent and use of the grounds.
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## Our Focus

The Master Plan was developed following extensive consultation with our members, affiliates and engagement with the City of Ballarat, who kindly funded the development of the plan through the Community Impact Grants program.

The Master Plan builds on the incredible work that the Ballarat Pony Club members and committees have achieved over many years.

This Master Plan has been developed to provide immediate and long-term actions for the BPC to implement. BPC personnel have generously provided their own time to ensure this plan reflects the majority of its members and considers the opinions and suggestions of those involved in the activities offered.

## Our Community

This Master Plan was developed in consultation with representatives of Ballarat City Council, the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions and the BPC Committee.

Surveys were sent to all members seeking their input into the BPC's future as well as non members who regularly use the facilities and ground assets.

An online BPC survey with the members and users was constructed and distributed to the participants. The survey was open via the club's public Facebook page for all users and emailed directly to members, with the survey eliciting 90 responses.

The survey requested feedback from BPC members and external users on how they currently use the grounds, the specific strengths and weaknesses of the facilities (club rooms, toilets, canteen, communal gathering areas) and grounds assets (arenas, cross country course, horse yards, wash bays, show jumps and equipment) and how it can be enhanced in the future. The following is an overall summary of the key findings that emerged.



## Survey Results

Members and users of the BPC facilities and grounds assets were invited to complete a survey to provide the opportunity to input into the future direction of the club.

### Survey respondents included:

- 41 out of 56 members
- 49 general users of the grounds assets - these might be past members, trainers, or horse riders who might come from other areas to use the grounds.

## Satisfaction

Overall respondents are very satisfied with the club across multiple areas. Areas of greatest satisfaction for both members and other users were with the grounds and events. Members were also very satisfied with volunteer management.

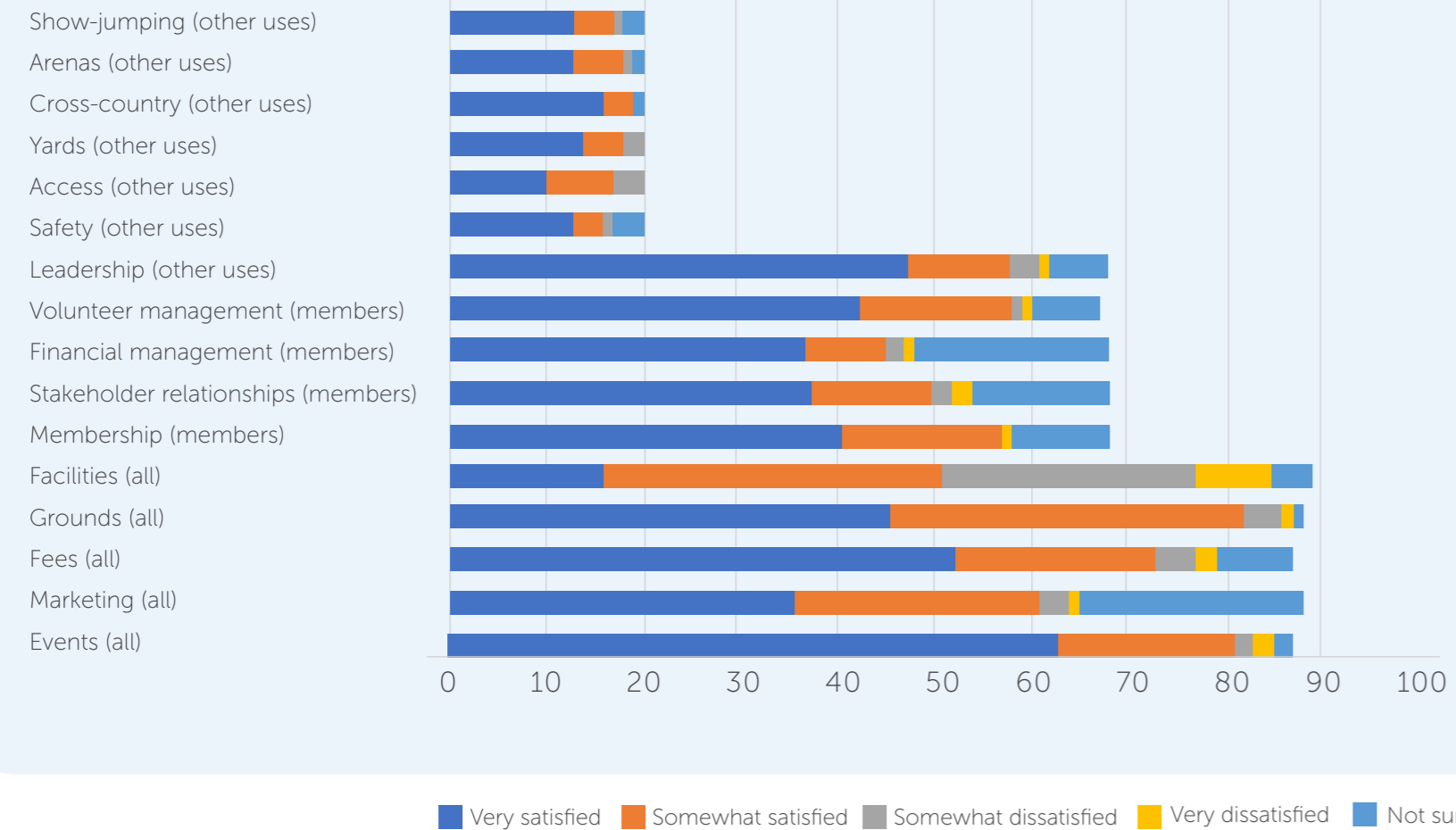
Areas of least satisfaction were with the facilities, with nearly 40% dissatisfied and only 15 of the 90 respondents reporting they were very satisfied with the facilities. Survey respondents commented that facilities, particularly the club rooms and accessibility for toilet amenities need improving.

Satisfaction level – survey response from members and other users

Note that there were some differences in the surveys sent to members and other users, indicated in the graph below and not all questions were answered in individual surveys.

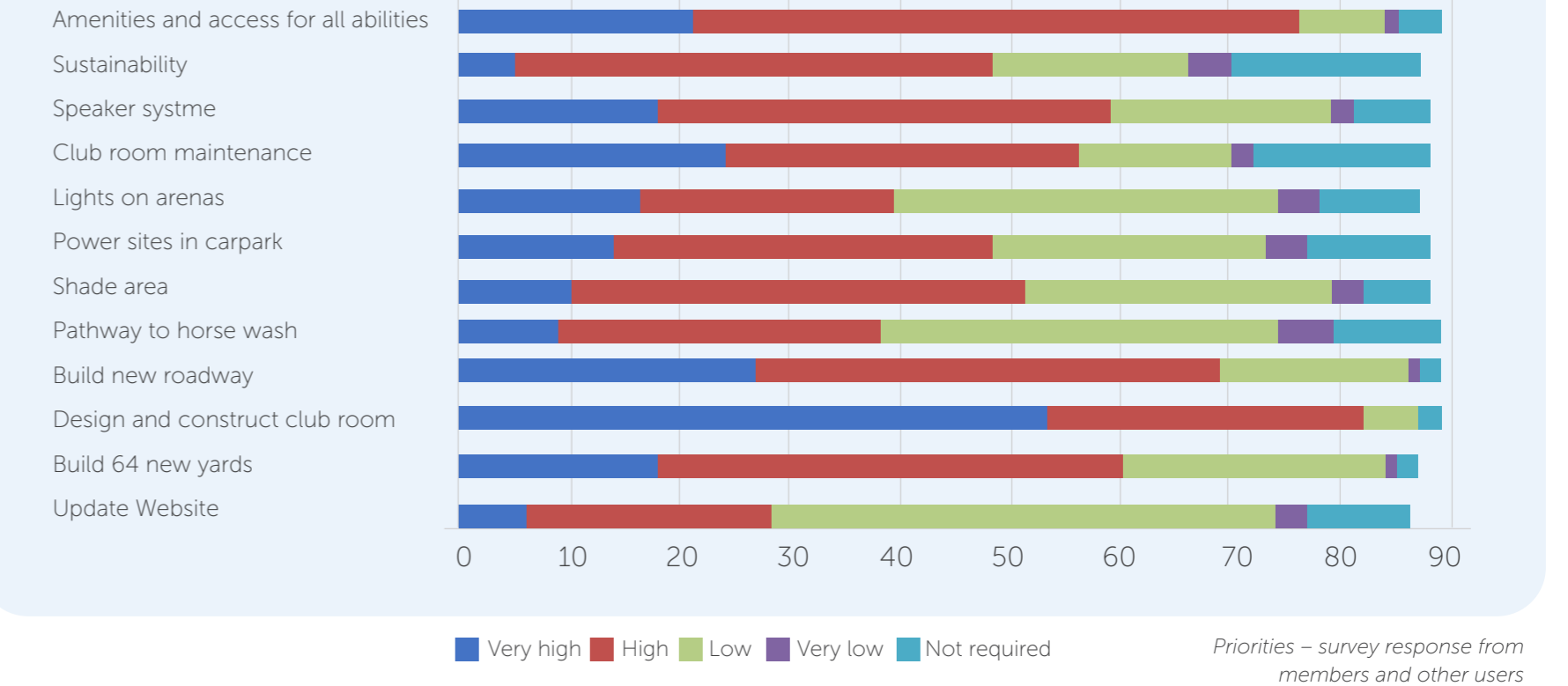


## Satisfaction Level - Overall



Note: There were some differences in the surveys sent to members and other users indicated in the graph above.

## Priority Levels - Overall



When asked what they thought were the priorities for the club, respondents clearly identified suitable club rooms, followed by access for all abilities. A high number of respondents also suggested a new roadway as vehicles and horse floats regularly get bogged in wetter weather.

Priorities – survey response from members and other users



## General Comments

Both members and other users highly valued the cross-country course, the events and having a safe area for riding. Many also really appreciated the community atmosphere that the club offers.

There was a common theme among respondents that what sets BPC apart from others is the high degree of friendliness and kindness. People noted these qualities are present in the committee, trainers as well as the broader community. Respondents valued the professionalism and communication of the club.

“ I travel over 2 hours to train on the xc course and compete at the venue. – regular new user

Fantastic grounds facilities, venue location, opportunities for young riders, active club committee, supportive community, everything! – member

The most commonly referenced areas of improvement were facilities for showers, toilets and getting out of the cold during winter.

Power in the car park and improvements to parking were also requested by some members. A number of respondents found it difficult to park in winter months when grassed areas became saturated.

Access for all abilities was also raised by a number of respondents, along with more yards and a speaker system.

Other specific comments and feedback from the surveys completed can be found in the **Ballarat Pony Club Master Plan 2024-34 Background Report**.

## Particular Comments



## Our Priorities

Not every suggestion or recommendation has been documented in this Master Plan. As with any voluntary organisation, there are limitations to resource availability, capability and commitment. This Master Plan offers a practical and actionable plan supported by the committee at the time. The following have been identified as a series of overall priorities for the Ballarat Pony Club and its future development. They include:

### IMMEDIATE

- Maintenance on existing club rooms;
- The guttering needs replacing as this is at failure status and disconnected from the building, rusting and not in working order;
- The store room has mould on the inside roof due to a leak,
- The rooms are tired, appear dirty and need a paint to freshen up
- The kitchen needs a dishwasher;
- The toilet cisterns need replacing, the area requires a paint, automatic hand drying and new hand wash sinks are necessary;
- There are no showers and the four toilets available are not accessible at all for all abilities with a large step located on a slope to access;
- The toilets are locked for casual users to the grounds and only available with club room hire or at BPC rallies due to security for the rest of the club;
- The internal club rooms and toilets are constructed from asbestos.

### UPDATE WEBSITE

With the majority of revenue coming from the grounds users, and hire of the grounds, who all book online, we need to update our website to provide a seamless booking system without volunteer time to confirm, accept and provide gate access codes.

### CLUB ROOMS AND FACILITIES

- Design and construct specifically designed club rooms with modern facilities, a functional meeting room and commercial kitchen facilities.
- Become more sustainable and environmentally conscious and provide amenities and access for all abilities
- Provide an all access shower and toilet facility
- Provide shaded area in front of club rooms
- Improve outside speaker system for safety and notifications to all users of the grounds during events,
- CCTV security to monitor and secure our assets from theft and destruction.

### CAR PARK AND HORSE YARDS

- Improve drainage in the southern zone; during wet weather this area regularly floods affecting access to the grounds for horse floats and trucks who often get bogged.
- Build 64 new yards; new yards are required to accommodate more competitors and their horses for our events attracting regional and interstate competitors to Ballarat.
- Build and improve the roadway around the older set of yards, pathway to horse wash, road to back yards and provide powered sites in the car park. Install solar lights on the main arenas.



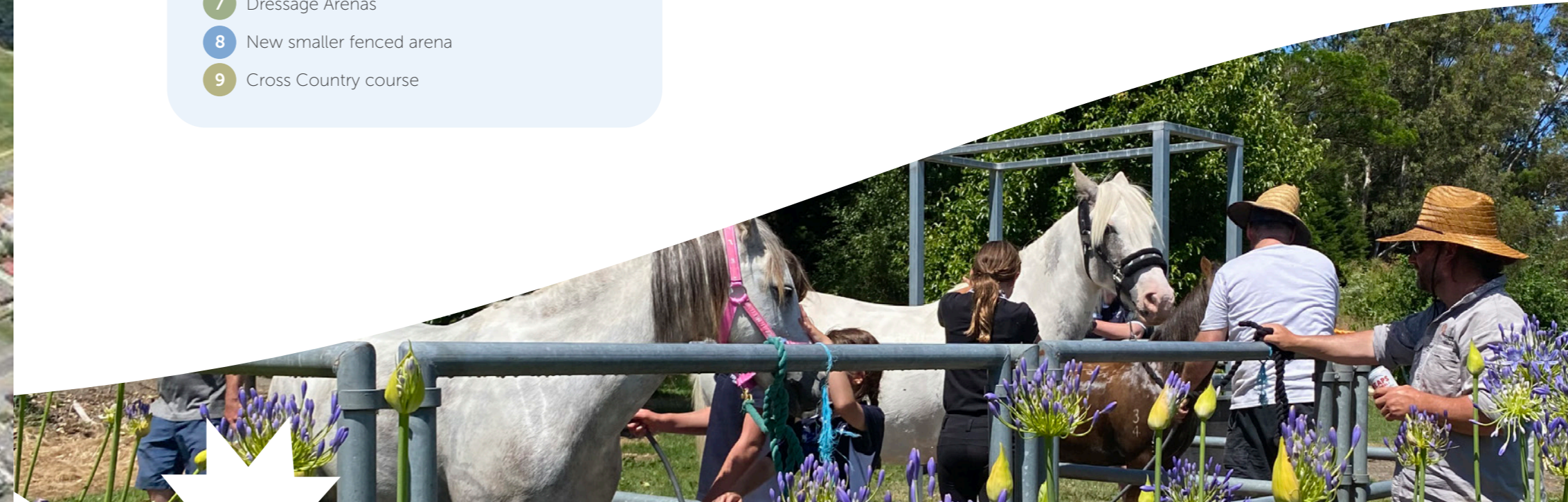


## Ballarat Pony Club Grounds

### KEY

- 1 Main Entry - Southern entry to grounds (that is prone to flooding during weather events)
- 2 Clubrooms
- 3 Horse yards
- 4 Round yard
- 5 Horse wash bays
- 6 Show Jumping Arenas
- 7 Dressage Arenas
- 8 New smaller fenced arena
- 9 Cross Country course

To learn more about the development of the Master Plan or read about the background, refer to the **Ballarat Pony Club Master Plan 2024-34 Background Report**.





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Pony Club

Members and families of the Ballarat Pony Club are welcome to capture photographs during rallies and club events. These images may be disseminated across various platforms including our newsletter, website, closed Facebook group, PCV magazine, or other publications. However, it's important to note that full names will never accompany these photos in public domains to ensure privacy and confidentiality. The images featured in our publications are contributed by users and members who have not opted to withhold any of their captured moments as part of their membership agreement.