



Pathways to sport – Success stories

Edenhope Little Athletics Club

This document demonstrates the pathways to community sport and physical activity made available through the Australian Government's Active After-school Communities (AASC) program.

Sport: Athletics

Club: Edenhope Little Athletics Club

Location: Central1 Horsham, Victoria

Date: 2011

Participants: 17

Transitions: 17 coaches and 60 new club members for the newly established Edenhope Little Athletics Club

Summary

Prior to 2011, the closest athletics centre for members of the Edenhope community was located 60 minutes away.

Today, as a result of a partnership between the Edenhope community, the Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly, the Active After-school Communities (AASC) program and Athletics Victoria, members of the Edenhope community now have direct access to a local athletics club.

By implementing an athletics-specific Community Coach Training Program (CCTP) and providing AASC athletics sessions in schools and after-school care centres across the Wimmera region, enough interest was created to ensure the formation of the Edenhope Little Athletics Club. As a result, a direct and convenient pathway into community sport has been established for students at Edenhope P-12 College and members of the broader community.

On a broader scale, athletics clubs in Horsham and Dimboola have also been promoted to encourage greater participation in athletics across the wider Wimmera region.

Planning

Careful planning and preparation took place in order to establish a partnership between AASC, Edenhope College, Edenhope Little Athletics Club, Athletics Victoria, Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly and the wider Edenhope community. This consisted of:

- AASC Regional Coordinator Murray McKenzie collaborated with the AASC Athletics Victorian State Advisory Team representative Simon Rodder to involve all potential stakeholders and partners as listed above.
- AASC Regional Coordinator Murray McKenzie initiated contact with Edenhope College to discuss desired and attainable outcomes to support the formation and sustainability of a new club.
- An athletics-specific CCTP course was planned for prospective coaches at Edenhope College. The primary purpose of this pathway was to train community members and up skill existing coaches to ensure the smooth running of a new club.
- Using new and existing coaches, AASC athletics sessions were planned for delivery in Term 4, 2011 and Term 1, 2012. The delivery of programs would be a fantastic vehicle to help children progress into club sport.
- A Special Initiative Grant (SIG) was obtained through the AASC program to assist with the cost of the athletics coaching course, an amount similarly matched by the Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly and Athletics Victoria.

Implementation

The athletics-specific CCTP course was delivered on 7 October 2011 by AASC staff members Simon Rodder and Murray McKenzie and Athletics Victoria staff Jill Taylor and Nick Bowden.

The CCTP incorporated practical components of the AASC's Athletics Companion Manual to ensure the attainment of joint CCTP/Athletics Victoria level coaching qualification.

The course successfully trained 17 parents, coaches and community members to deliver in the AASC program. Feedback and evaluation was positive and all participants were impressed with course content and delivery.

Following the CCTP, AASC athletics sessions were delivered in four schools and after-school care centres in Term 4 with more expected throughout 2012.

Pictured right: New and existing coaches take part in CCTP athletics activities.



Outcome

The following key outcomes were achieved:

- Successful coordination and delivery of joint accreditation course through the CCTP.
- 17 new coaches trained to deliver athletics in the AASC program and at club level to support the formation of a new club.
- Formation of the Edenhope Little Athletics Club.
- Registration of 60 new members to the Edenhope Little Athletics Club when it first opened in late October 2011.
- Development of a sport specific joint accreditation program which is now viewed as a viable option for future athletics coaching courses.

Learnings

When identifying new, forming or struggling clubs that require support with coach training, it is important to develop a coaching package that is beneficial to all parties involved. In this case, the CCTP provided joint accreditation for the AASC program, Athletics Victoria and Little Athletics Victoria. As a result, the 17 newly trained athletics coaches could deliver sessions in both the AASC program and the broader community ensuring greater participation in the sport.

AASC Regional Coordinators Murray McKenzie and Simon Rodder worked to establish this pathway for members of the Edenhope and Wimmera communities into athletics.