



Sanctuary Lakes Cricket Club Case Study

Gender Equality in Wyndham Sport project

A new partnership to strengthen girls cricket: Sanctuary Lakes Cricket Club has created a partnership with Hoppers Crossing Cricket Club. Their MoU aims to create a pathway for girls from Blasters all the way through – both clubs have the same philosophy. The key is personalities and communication and understanding what both clubs want to achieve.

They have created two u13 girls teams and two u16 girls teams with each age group training as one combined squad, changing the concept from a club mentality, breaking apart winning teams in order to develop all the girls' potential, as opposed to just the high achievers. They focus on building the enjoyment and all-round benefits of playing Cricket as few will achieve the high standard of premiership cricket.

SLCC have created a pathway from 13-16s women's community cricket to Premier cricket through links with the Premier cricket coach at Essendon Maribyrnong Club/ Rep Coach for West of Melbourne – enabling opportunities for the more talented.

The clubs together have created one women's team for the 2020 season.

Post Covid: The start of the season was rushed meaning that some of the plans to engage more girls and women have been postponed to next season, however, in the return to play SLCC has gained girls, but lost boys, the total number remains stable at 150 juniors and 40 plus seniors, the club is full.

Role Modelling: On Thursdays all ladies and girls train from 8 year olds to 40 plus, providing a supportive atmosphere and demonstrating that cricket can be played at all ages by girls and women. As girls' matches are on Mondays and Wednesdays it means that girls play and train with priority use of the grounds 3 nights per week.

Volunteering: The club talk to all their parents about the different roles, explaining what is needed in order to run teams and invite all parents to assist with umpiring so that volunteering is shared. Many of the prolific volunteers have both daughters and sons playing at the club. They plan to start recognising on Fb a Volunteer of the Week/ month – sharing how they help out and a message from the volunteer about why they volunteer.

Showcasing girls' cricket: The clubs' sponsors have been invited to the next girls' match where both their teams will play each other followed by a BBQ. This will be written up on social media. SLCC has started

writing short coverages of the matches for all teams on FB, focusing on celebrating achievements and skill improvement, providing equitable coverage and have updated their website with more pictures of girls.

The future: SLCC believe that the future of Cricket is all clubs working together to provide opportunities and raise the profile of girls and women playing cricket in Wyndham. With SLCC and HCCC working together and Werribee Juniors Cricket Club helping Truganina Cricket Club strong foundations are being laid. One suggestion would be for Council to assist with bringing together all cricket clubs to hold some combined Come and Try girls and women cricket days in 2021 at a few sites in the three different districts.

SLCC feel that the project helped by providing some good ideas and networking opportunities which they hope will continue (and online).