

BEYOND THE GAME



ISSUE #3 | JUNE 2026



Welcome to the Connected and Active Communities e-Newsletter

We're excited to bring you the latest update on how sport and recreation continue to strengthen health, connection and inclusivity across Port Lincoln.

With winter sport now in full swing, the community is buzzing and clubs are busier than ever. Over the past few months, we've really started to see the impact of the CAC program come to life.

A standout highlight was the Club Development Day in March, which was a resounding success. Clubs came together to build skills, share ideas and strengthen their future, with great energy and strong attendance across the day. We've since supported further training and development opportunities like Youth Mental Health First Aid training, helping create safer and more supportive environments for young people. Sports Inclusion training is scheduled for 3rd June as a follow-on from Club Development Day, in response to strong interest. CAC is committed to driving positive change in this space locally.

We're also beginning to see the impact of earlier initiatives, with Port Lincoln Gymnastics Club earning a state award for their Kindergym Connect program - a well-deserved recognition of the club's outstanding contribution to its members and the wider community.

Another exciting milestone has been the launch of the Future Sport Leaders Program, with nine motivated young people stepping up to develop their leadership skills in the sport sector.

It's also been great to see new initiatives emerging, including a monthly community walking group supported by CAC and the Heart Foundation. Led by local resident Sue Barnett, the group meets on the last Friday of each month and is sure to create valuable opportunities for connection and wellbeing in the community. **Why not join for the first walk this Friday?**

In this newsletter you can expect:

Program updates

NEW Local Walking Group!

Stories of impact

Spotlight on a Sport

Grant funding and training opportunities

Sports Inclusion in action

NEW

JOIN US!

PORT LINCOLN HEART WALKERS

Get active, have fun, and meet new people!

Where: Foreshore Rotunda (across from the Tasman Hotel)

When: 5:15pm

Starts: Friday 29 May 2026

Then: Last Friday of every month

Enjoy a 30-45 minute social walk

All welcome - wheel, pram & dog-friendly

Why join?

Free and easy way to stay active

Meet new people in your community

Receive newsletters, awards & milestone rewards



Take a step towards better health today!

Sign up online or just turn up!

walking.heartfoundation.org.au

Supported by

**Connected
and Active
Communities**

Port
Lincoln



Raising the Bar: Port Lincoln Gymnastics Club Championing Inclusion

Port Lincoln Gymnastics Club has been recognised with two major awards at the Gymnastics South Australia Annual Awards, highlighting its strong role in fostering community connection through sport.

The Club was recently named Medium Club of the Year, recognising its growth to over 400 members and its commitment to delivering high-quality, inclusive programs. From hosting record-breaking events like the Port Lincoln Invitational Championships to offering programs for all ages and abilities, the Club continues to serve as a vibrant community hub. Adding to this momentum, the Club will host its Port Lincoln Invitational Championships over the June long weekend, welcoming 350 WAG (Women's Artistic Gymnastics) and 40 MAG (Men's Artistic Gymnastics) athletes.



SAT 6th - SUN 7th JUNE

When combined with families, coaches, and supporters, this will bring a significant number of visitors to the Club across the two-day event - showcasing the important role sport plays in bringing communities together.

Championing Sports Inclusion: KinderGym Connect

A standout achievement was winning Inclusive Initiative of the Year for KinderGym Connect, a program creating meaningful connections for local families. Designed for children aged 0–5 with developmental delays or sensory differences, the program offers small, low-sensory sessions where children can build confidence while parents and carers connect with others. Described as a “safe haven for families seeking connection,” it highlights the power of inclusive sport.

KinderGym Connect is offered free of charge, supported by the City of Port Lincoln's Connected and Active Communities funding program, ensuring families can access support without financial barriers.

Growing to Meet Community Needs

With participation continuing to rise, the Port Lincoln Gymnastics Club is expanding its facility at Coronation Place with a new 9-metre extension, supported by a \$50,000 co-contribution from the City of Port Lincoln. The additional space will allow the club to meet growing demand, accommodate more equipment and deliver an expanded range of programs. The investment ensures the club can continue to provide accessible, welcoming and high-quality opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, strengthening its role as an important hub for community participation and wellbeing.



Make Your Club More Inclusive

Practical disability inclusion training for coaches clubs, volunteers and communities



Want to help every player, volunteer and supporter feel like they belong?

JFA Purple Orange Disability Inclusion Project invites sporting clubs, volunteers, coaches and community members to join us to learn practical ways your club can better support players, families, volunteers and supporters with disability and neurodivergence, both on and off the field.

Because everyone deserves to feel like they belong in sport.

Topics you will explore:

- Creating welcoming and accessible clubs
- Supporting neurodivergent and disabled players, supporters, volunteers and community members
- Inclusive communication strategies
- Reducing barriers in sport
- Practical tools for coaches, volunteers and community members

Date: Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026

Time: 6:30pm- 8pm

Venue: Boston Football Club - Matthew Place Port Lincoln, SA 5606

About the Facilitators

Lily Durkin, is the project lead for the Disability Inclusion Training, and a mum of two children, with one currently in the Auskick program. She talks about their lived experience of disability from the lens of a disabled parent and accessibility in clubs. She also shares her own personal experience around the lack of inclusive sporting opportunities as a child and ways to create change.

Ayla Regione, a social worker and project officer, is an avid football and basketball player and mum of three sports mad teenagers. Growing up with a profound hearing loss, Ayla shares the importance of access and inclusion in clubs for children and adults with disabilities.

Register Now!

Email: Georgina.Shirley@plcc.sa.gov.au

Phone: (08) 8621 2319

Include:

- Name
- Contact details
- Club/Organisation

SPOTLIGHT on a SPORT

Hockey Season in Full-Swing

Hockey is back in Port Lincoln, with competitions for U8, U11, U14 and U17 players now underway. It's fantastic to see junior hockey up and running for the season, providing great opportunities for young people to get active, learn new skills and be part of a team environment.

The Port Lincoln Hockey Association has also had plenty to celebrate recently, with strong performances on the state stage. At the South Australian Senior Country Championships, the women's team claimed a fantastic win, while the men's team delivered an impressive performance to finish 5th.

Looking ahead, there's even more excitement on the horizon, with six regional teams - combining players from Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Port Pirie - set to compete at the Regional State Junior Carnival in Adelaide over the June long weekend. This is a great opportunity for local juniors to represent their region and further develop their skills.

Come Join in the Fun!

For those interested in giving hockey a go, now is the perfect time to get involved. There is still plenty of space available in the U8, U11 and U14 age groups, and the Port Lincoln Hockey Association is able to provide initial equipment to help new players get started.



Winners are grinners: 2026 South Australian Senior Country Championships – Premier Women's Team

A junior hockey clinic is also planned for the July school holidays, offering another chance for kids to try the sport in a fun and supportive environment.

If you've been thinking about trying something new, hockey is a great way to stay active, make friends and be part of the local sporting community.

Fast Facts

- Under 8 and U11 competitions are association-based, with all clubs providing coaches and volunteers
- U14 and above competitions are club-based, with four clubs to choose from
- Junior registration fees are \$100 for Under 8 and Under 11 players
- Two \$100 SA Sports Vouchers are available to help families cover costs
- Equipment is available to support new players wanting to try hockey
- No gate fees at Ravendale on Friday nights (U11 games)
- Gate fees apply on Saturdays, but U8 and U11 players enter free
- Each junior registration includes a gate pass for a parent/caregiver
- Come down to the pitch on Friday afternoons or Saturday mornings to check it out
- More information is available on the [Port Lincoln Hockey Association Facebook page](#)
- To get involved or ask questions, contact Junior Coordinator Yolande Markey (0457 671 605 / ptlincolnhockey@gmail.com)

CAC NEWS

Introducing the Future Sport Leaders of Port Lincoln!

Launched during Youth Week, the group kicked-off the program with a workshop called "The Best Version of Me", delivered by Global Community Sports.

A motivated group of 9 participants from St Joseph's and Port Lincoln High School are undertaking the program, where they'll gain valuable leadership skills to use in their lives, clubs, and community.

The program continues with seven more skill development modules and is capped off with an overnight 'Adventurous Journey' to AFL Max. Alongside volunteer and physical activity hours, participants will work towards achieving their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award and be awarded 10 SACE credits upon completion. This initiative supports the development of future sport leaders while strengthening local clubs across our region.



GRANTS AND FUNDING

Game On – Teaming Up for Climate Action

- Funding Program: \$35.3 million federal initiative supporting community sports clubs to improve energy efficiency and climate resilience
- Rounds: Delivered over two rounds (2026–27 to 2028–29)
- Round 1 Dates: Opens 11 June 2026 and closes 8 July 2026
- Grant Value: Up to \$100,000 per club (one-off grants)
- Eligible Projects: Solar panels, battery storage, energy audits, lighting and HVAC upgrades, and infrastructure to withstand extreme weather

Julia Farr Disability Inclusion Grants – Round 2 (2025–26)

- Funding: Up to \$20k (12 months) or \$100k (24 months)
- Focus: Projects supporting disability inclusion (e.g. access, participation, inclusive communities)
- Opens: 11 May 2026, Closes: 22 June 2026 (1pm)
- Info session: 19 May 2026 (2pm)

Sports Vouchers Program

2 x \$100 vouchers available per child to help cover sport, active recreation AND music fees for Reception to Year 9. [Apply HERE.](#)

Funding Opportunity through the Connected and Active Communities Program – We Want Your Ideas!



We continue to invite applications for funding to support programs and projects that align with the following Connected and Active Communities (CAC) initiatives:

Champions of Change: Identifying young people who have a positive influence on their peers and giving them chances to grow into leadership roles

Club Health Check: Understanding what support clubs need and providing them with appropriate training

Facility Coordination: Promoting collaboration and sharing of resources to maximise facility usage

Heart of the Community: Removing barriers to participation and using sport to address social problems such as domestic violence, mental health challenges, supporting First Nations communities, and helping families in need.

Funding Priority will be given to the following key areas:

- Domestic and Family Violence Prevention
- Female Inclusion within Clubs
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Support for Disengaged Young People
- Partnering with First Nations People
- Working with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities

Whether you're launching a new initiative or expanding an existing one, this is your chance to improve your club or organisation, while making a positive impact on people's lives through sport.

Follow this link to reach out to the Connected and Active Communities Project Officer today to learn more.

Host a Mental Health Match for Beyond Blue

Sport brings people together, and it can also start important conversations about mental health.

Beyond Blue is inviting clubs and teams to host a Mental Health Match to raise awareness and support mental health wellbeing. Choose a game or club day in your season and make it count.

👉 Open to all sporting clubs

Host your match anytime in your season and fundraising for the Beyond Blue Support Service.

Clubs receive FREE resources to help create a safe, supportive environment and to raise vital funds for mental health services. Get involved to:

- Start positive conversations
- Reduce stigma
- Support your community

👉 Learn more or register:

www.beyondblue.org.au/get-involved/events/mental-health-match

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING FOR CLUBS



Over two days at the start of May, 13 community members from local sporting clubs and support services took part in Youth Mental Health First Aid training delivered by Rick Shrowder from Global Community Sports.

The course equipped participants with the knowledge, skills and confidence to appropriately support a young person experiencing mental health challenges.

Sport and Recreation clubs play such an important role in the lives of young people, making this training especially valuable for coaches, volunteers and community leaders working closely with youth in our region.

The CAC program offered one funded place to each local sport and recreation club to help increase access to this important training opportunity.

Thank you to everyone who took the time out to attend and make the effort to support the wellbeing of young people in our community.

Made possible through funding from the Connected and Active Communities Program, the Port Lincoln Hotel and the Norwood Football Club.

CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS WHO PARTICIPATED

Port Lincoln Netball Association, Boston Netball Club, Port Lincoln Squash Club, Wayback Football & Sporting Club, Ravendale Storm Netball Club, Headspace Port Lincoln, West Coast Youth & Community Support, Gambling Help Service - Uniting Country SA.

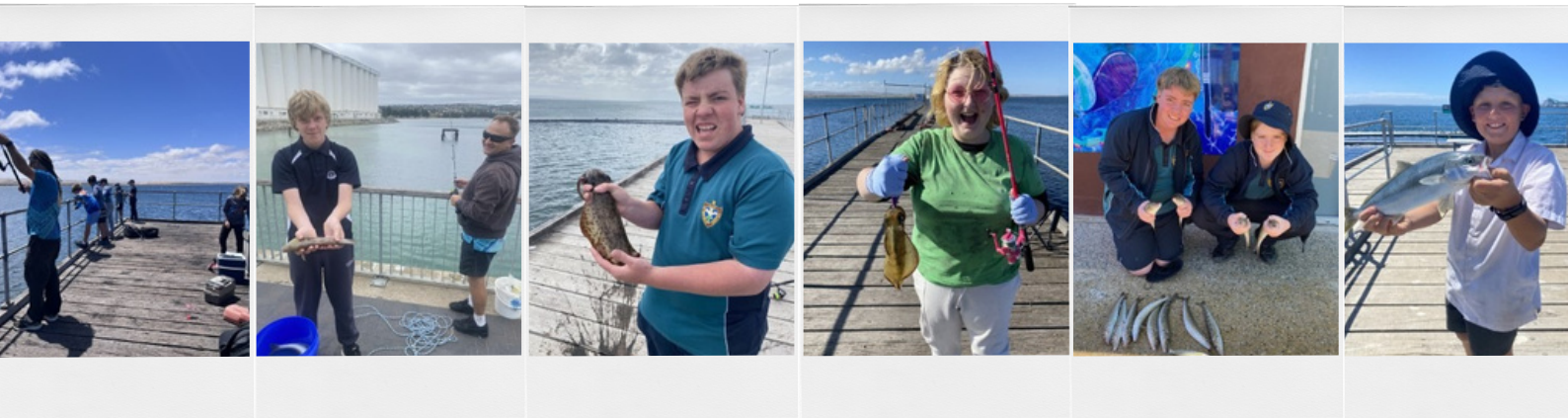
CLUB LEVEL UP DAY 2026



EVENT RECAP

- Strong turnout: Over 55 representatives from clubs and organisations attended the inaugural Club Level Up Day in Port Lincoln on 15 March 2026.
- The event delivered practical sessions based on what clubs said they wanted to hear - on governance, participation, inclusion, strategic planning, funding, leadership and communications to name a few.
- Collaborative effort: Hosted by the CAC program in partnership with Sport SA and the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing.
- Positive impact: High energy and great feedback, with many clubs calling for the event to become an annual initiative.
- Your feedback matters: Follow-up club training and development is now underway. If your club has specific needs, please reach out and we'll explore opportunities to support you.





Casting Lines and Building Lives

West Coast Youth and Community Support Expands Fishing Program with Reel Impact

In mid-2025, West Coast Youth & Community Support launched a Youth Sport & Recreation Program aimed at engaging young people who had previously been more withdrawn and less likely to participate in community activities.

Through strong connections with existing programs and local schools, the Youth Team has seen encouraging levels of engagement, with many participants beginning to build confidence and explore new opportunities.

A key highlight has been the expansion of the organisation's fishing program. With sponsorship support from RecFish SA - providing a fully equipped trailer and equipment from Shimano - the program quickly evolved beyond simply learning to fish.

Through the program, young people are introduced to fishing techniques and equipment,

and progress to cleaning, filleting, and even cooking their catch together. The impact has been significant, with schools reporting improved attendance and noticeable positive changes in classroom behaviour.

Building on this success, the team has focused on ensuring the program's sustainability and long-term impact. With the support of Tackle World Port Lincoln as a major sponsor, a Fishing Ambassador Program was developed.

Following a competitive application and interview process, 10 young people were selected (with 9 accepting) as the inaugural 2026 ambassadors. Participants include both existing program members and new applicants drawn through community interest.

Launched in Term 2, the six-month program equips each ambassador with a uniform, fishing gear, and a \$300 in-store credit

to support regular participation, while also encouraging budgeting and responsibility.

Ambassadors will take part in weekly after-school fishing sessions, alongside additional learning opportunities such as knot tying, rig setup, fisheries education, and professional filleting workshops.

This initiative is designed to build leadership, life skills, and a strong connection to the outdoors, while continuing to foster positive engagement among young people. With strong early success, the program is set to expand, with a second intake of ambassadors planned for July 2026.



Night Owls Bowls Brings Community Together

The Kirton Bowling Club's 2025/2026 Night Owls competition has wrapped up another successful season, bringing strong participation and plenty of friendly rivalry to Wednesday nights in Port Lincoln. Running from October through to March, the competition attracted between 70 and 90 players each week, ranging in age from 12 to 92.

Open to all, Night Owls provided an inclusive and welcoming environment for people from across the community. For many participants, it was their only regular sporting activity, while others are using it as a stepping stone into ongoing club involvement. One particularly heartening story to come out of the season was a father and son team who played for the first time. The son, who is on the autism spectrum, embraced the game alongside his father, and both have since decided to join the club as full members to compete in pennants next season - highlighting the program's power to create genuine connection and belonging.

A key feature of the program was the shared meals enjoyed each week. Through the Connected and Active Communities Program, funding was enabled via Council's Sport and Recreation Grant program to provide a BBQ at each event, ensuring players and volunteers could enjoy a free meal and further strengthening the social atmosphere.

The season concluded with a presentation night and community BBQ, celebrating achievements and the strong camaraderie built over the 20-week competition. Night Owls remains a valued initiative supporting active and connected lifestyles in Port Lincoln.



Credit: City of Port Lincoln



Tyree represents SA in Cricket Championships

Tyree Burgoyne was selected in the South Australian Indigenous Team (Southern Boomerangs) that competed in the National Indigenous Cricket Championships (NICC) in Mackay in April 2026, with both a male and female competition.

The male NICC is a T20 carnival played over four days, consisting of seven games per team, with seven state/territory teams participating and PNG competing for the first time. The female NICC consists of five teams.

Tyree had two standout performances in his first carnival, scoring 38 vs WA and 31 vs NT. He also took one wicket with limited bowling opportunities.

In between games, there are cultural opportunities where players can connect with their counterparts from other states, share experiences, and take part in traditional Indigenous cultural activities such as a smoking ceremony, traditional song and dance performances, basket weaving, and learning how to throw a fishing net.

Trials for the 2027 carnival will be held later in 2026, with an open invitation for all Indigenous cricketers to participate.

Credit: SA Cricket Association

A photograph showing two people, a woman and a man, grooming a dark horse in a large grey tub. The woman is on the left, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans, and the man is on the right, wearing a grey t-shirt and blue jeans. They are both smiling and looking at the horse. The horse is standing in the tub, which is filled with water. The background shows a green corrugated metal wall and some trees.

can you help?

REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER



**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED
ASSOCIATION**

PORT LINCOLN CENTRE

www.rdasa.org.au

0476 266 665

**JOIN THE
7 DAY HORSE CARE
ROSTER OR ON
TUESDAY'S DURING
SCHOOL TERMS**





CAC Newsletter – 3rd Edition Round Out 📰✨

Thank you to our clubs, contributors, and community organisations for making this edition outstanding - your stories continue to strengthen CAC. ❤️

We're looking forward to the next issue, where we'll continue to share local stories, highlight achievements and promote what's happening across our sporting community.

Send through anything you'd like to contribute to Georgina.Shirley@plcc.sa.gov.au or call (08) 8621 2319 to find out more.

In case you missed it:

Beyond the Game -
Edition Two - February 2026



Beyond the Game -
Edition One - October 2025



We work on Barngarla Country.

The City of Port Lincoln acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and their continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging and are committed to working together on our reconciliation journey.