

# Sport's in at school

## SPORTS GROUNDS



Aiden McCarthy (basketball), Josh Benson (cricket), Alice Tedstone (cross country), Lucy Allison (soccer), Amy Pearce (football), Anna Harris (football) and Alex Neilson (lacrosse) at Beaumaris Secondary College.

Sports of all sorts are being played at the new grounds at Beaumaris Secondary College.

But no club needed the green space more than Beaumaris Soccer Club, which is expecting to have more than 50 teams in 2019.

In the past few years it's been a problem finding enough pitches to accommodate them, with the club forced to pay for a spill-over ground at Braeside.

But the college is a game-changer for Beaumaris SC, according to official Marc Gibson.

"It's very significant, because it gives us the opportunity to use world-class facilities to develop the skills of boys and girls from five years of age through to State League 1 level," he said.

"It's effectively a year-round facility for us as we'll be able to operate through the summer and school holidays, which is what our parents want.

"It's a safe environment and it will considerably increase the enjoyment for parents and children alike."

In partnership with the State Government, Melbourne Cricket Club funded construction and is maintaining two competition-grade ovals, a pavilion and a multipurpose pitch as part of the redevelopment of the school. It opened for students last year.

MCC cricket, women's football and lacrosse teams are using Beaumaris Secondary College, and Beaumaris Football Club is also keen to move in.

MCC chief executive officer Stuart Fox said the club was delighted to reach an agreement allowing Beaumaris Soccer Club to use the grounds.

The club is also working towards a similar arrangement with Beaumaris Football Club.

"The MCC has a proud history of promoting sport in local communities through the MCC Foundation and we're extremely proud of this unique opportunity we have helped to establish here at Beaumaris Secondary College through the help of the State Government, Bayside City Council and the school community," Fox said.

"Promoting grassroots sport has always been a key pillar of the MCC's existence and we believe these arrangements will provide young and aspiring athletes in the community with first-class facilities to develop.

"I can't praise enough the collaboration the club has enjoyed with Beaumaris Secondary College as it has transitioned its operations on to the site, in particular principal Debby Chaves and the school council.

"We look forward to strengthening our relationships with both the school and local sporting clubs in the community for generations to come."