



Media release

For immediate release

Date: 11 March 2015

New project will capture the 'soul' of Subiaco Oval

With football moving to the new stadium at Burswood in 2018, the City of Subiaco, in partnership with the West Australian Football Commission (WAFC), has engaged Prue Griffin from Hocking Heritage Studio to document the history of Subiaco Oval.

The rich and diverse history and heritage of Subiaco Oval is intrinsically tied with the story of Australian Rules Football (AFL) in Western Australia, which has been played there since 1898. The grounds have also had a range of other functions and uses, including hosting other major sporting events and music concerts.

Ms Griffin's research will include the oval's establishment and construction, its uses, roles and associations, and its social history from pre-colonial times to present day.

Once completed, the information and any photographs or objects collected will be used to identify themes and storylines to inform a future interpretation plan for the site.

City of Subiaco Mayor Heather Henderson said there is a clear need to record and celebrate Subiaco Oval's history, ensuring its stories are preserved.

City of Subiaco Mayor Heather Henderson said: "Subiaco Oval has been a central feature of the identity of Subiaco, as well the broader WA community for more than one hundred years– the experiences and memories made there are lifelong and span across generations."

"There is no question that Subiaco Oval is one of our state's valued icons. With the future of Subiaco Oval under question with football moving to the new stadium, it is important that the significance of the place is not lost or forgotten, but rather incorporated and interpreted in a variety of forms."

Geoff Glass, Director Facilities and Planning at the West Australian Football Commission, said there was potential for bringing the character of Subiaco Oval into the new Perth Stadium by identifying tangible aspects of its history that can be re-used and commemorated at the new venue.



He explained: "One of the great challenges in establishing a new venue is to give it 'soul' and experience shows this is best achieved by incorporating heritage in its various forms. The aim would be not to turn away from Subiaco Oval, but rather to bring Subiaco into the new Perth Stadium."

Subiaco Oval and the neighbouring Kitchener and Mueller parks are included on the City of Subiaco's Town Planning Scheme Register of Places of Cultural Heritage Significance. The gates to the oval also hold considerable heritage significance and have been included on the State Register of Heritage Places since 2000.

Ms Griffin has considerable experience in compiling histories for interpretive processes and has undertaken previous work for the City of Subiaco, including heritage assessments for Subiaco Library and the Palms Community Centre, and for properties on Rawson and Thomas streets in Subiaco.

Community members who have material they think may contribute to the project, including photographs and memorabilia are encouraged to contact Subiaco Museum Curator, Erica Boyne on 9237 9227 or city@subiaco.wa.gov.au

The research is expected to be completed by mid 2015.

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Photos

1. *Grandstand at Subiaco Oval, c. 1909 or later*
2. *Australian Rules interstate competition, 1937*

Notes to Editor

The City of Subiaco is recognised as a local government leader in a range of areas such as environmental and social initiatives, and long-term planning for the future. It is located in the inner metropolitan area of Perth and includes the suburbs of Subiaco, Daglish and parts of Nedlands, Shenton Park, Crawley and Jolimont. A major centre for employment with a diverse and growing business sector, the city provides important services including waste collection, town planning and public recreation facilities, to more than 19 000 residents. The city aims to maintain its vibrant sense of community and enhance the lives and well-being of everyone who lives, visits and works in Subiaco. For more information about the City of Subiaco, visit www.subiaco.wa.gov.au