

Athletics Centre upgrade delivers state-of-the-art facility for Wagga Wagga

The newly upgraded Bill Jacob Athletics Centre at Jubilee Park was officially unveiled today (Friday, 14 March 2025), marking a major milestone for athletics in the Riverina.

The multi-million-dollar redevelopment has transformed the centre into a premier hub for inclusive athletic training and competition – one capable of hosting events at regional, state, and national levels.

Independent Member for Wagga Wagga Dr Joe McGirr MP officially opened the site on behalf of NSW Minister for Sport, The Hon Stephen Kamper MP.

Dr McGirr was joined by other guests including Councillor Lindsay Tanner, representing Wagga Wagga City Council, Bob Hay, representing the local athletics community, and members of Bill Jacob's immediate family, including his wife Robin and daughters Sarah Young and Ruth Murray.

Wiradjuri Elder Aunty Mary Atkinson delivered the Welcome to Country, while proud Wiradyuri man Luke Wighton performed a Smoking Ceremony, acknowledging the cultural significance of this revitalised community space.

Upgrades to the Athletics Centre include a new all-weather 400m synthetic track, improved drainage and irrigation, new long jump runways, warm-up areas, and shot-put circles, as well as refreshed steeplechase, javelin, discus, and high jump facilities.

Many of these improvements have also prioritised upgrades to accessibility, particularly for wheelchair athletes using the space.

Overall, these enhancements will firmly establish Wagga Wagga as a dynamic hub for first-class athletics training and competition, with a site that offers more inclusive, high-quality facilities for athletes of all ages, abilities, and disciplines.

Named in honour of the late Bill Jacob, the centre stands as a lasting tribute to his dedication to athletics in Wagga Wagga.

A driving force behind the establishment of the Koorinal Athletics Club in 1978 – later the Koorinal-Wagga Athletics Club – Mr Jacob spent four decades coaching, mentoring, and developing the next generation of Riverina athletes and coaches.

His tireless volunteer efforts helped create the original Jubilee Park athletics facility, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire.

The upgraded Centre has already hosted its first events, welcoming junior and adult athletes training and competing at club level.

Looking ahead, Council has also begun taking bookings for 2025 school carnivals and athletics events.

For more information, visit <https://wagga.nsw.gov.au/parks-and-recreation/sportsgrounds/bill-jacob-athletics-centre>.

QUOTE FROM NSW MINISTER FOR SPORT, THE HON STEPHEN KAMPER MP:

“Local sports infrastructure plays a critical role in keeping communities healthy, active and connected and these upgrades will support athletes from the grassroots and beyond. These improvements, particularly to accessibility, will ensure that all members of the Riverina community can participate in sport and active recreation in an environment that makes them feel supported and safe to do so.”

QUOTE FROM THE INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR WAGGA WAGGA, DR JOE MCGIRR:

“This incredible new facility will promote inclusion, support a wide range of sports, and draw athletes and visitors to our region. Wagga Wagga is known as ‘the city of good sports’ for good reason, and this major redevelopment will be a great catalyst for sporting and community growth in our city. This is wonderful recognition for the late Bill Jacob and I’m sure his family and friends are very proud to have this game-changing venue named in his honour.”

QUOTE FROM COUNCILLOR LINDSAY TANNER:

“This new facility is so exciting - not just for the athletes who will train and compete here, but for their families, coaches, and the wider Wagga Wagga community. The time, money, and effort that have gone into upgrading this field and track are a testament to the commitment of our city to fostering sporting excellence and ensuring that local athletes have the facilities they deserve. No longer will young competitors have to travel long distances just to compete on a high-quality surface; now, they have one right here in their own backyard.”

QUOTE FROM MR BEN CREIGHTON:

“The upgraded Bill Jacob site is a state-of-the-art athletics track and field venue, and it’s great to see local athletes and clubs already making great use of this new space. We look forward to the many ways this site will support athletics in the Riverina at a grassroots level and contribute greatly towards the city’s future as a competitive location for attracting high-profile sporting tourism opportunities to the region.”

QUOTE FROM MR BOB HAY:

"Hopefully the new track and facilities will open up opportunities for our local kids to train and compete on an even level as the kids from the metropolitan areas. We also hope the facility with updated IAAF compliant running, jumping and throwing areas along with the lights will help attract bigger events which will have some economic benefits to the entire City of Wagga Wagga."

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About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of \$240 million. The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre, and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina, and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds, and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as ‘the City of Good Sports’. Keep updated on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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