Squeeze for clubs

Celeste Villani
SPORTS clubs might be shut out of parts of Mortlock Park in a plan to open up more space for dog walkers, joggers and picnics.

Mitcham Council has suggested reducing Goodwood Baseball Club and Colonel Light Gardens Football clubs’ access to certain parts of the Colonel Light Gardens field, while increasing the time available to the public after school.

The baseball club would lose access to the western part of the grounds on two weeknights and the football club would give up the eastern part of Mortlock Park all week.

The proposal comes following a review of each club’s licence agreements, which expire this year.

Colonel Light Gardens Residents Association president Mick Symonds said the park was in high demand. “The times the public want to use it often coincide with the times clubs want to use it and we have to get a happy meeting point along the line,” Mr Symonds said.

Goodwood Baseball Club president Mark Haylock was disappointed about the proposal. “We are going to have to consolidate and jam training times for our juniors on other nights,” Mr Haylock said.

“We have 10 junior teams and three nights a week will be full on, but we think we can make it work with some good planning.”

Cr Adrian Rosevear told a council meeting last week the proposal would make access to the grounds more fair for residents.

“If you look at all the times at Mortlock Park is being used, you are basically locking this field for purely for formal sport every night of the week,” he said.

Colonel Light Gardens Football Club president Matthew Lemmers refused to comment because the proposal was yet to be reviewed by the club’s board.

The council will vote on the issue on Tuesday.

Aussie kids encouraged to write

Australia Post is encouraging children across the country to write and send their letters of support to the Australian Paralympic Team as they prepare for their journey to the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

As Major Partner and the Official Postal and Logistics Supplier of the 2016 Australian Paralympic Team, Australia Post’s Letter Link program provides parents, teachers and students with fun, educational activities to mark the special sporting occasion.

With less than a month to go until the Games kick off, children can begin writing and posting their letters to PO Box 24433, MELBOURNE VIC 3001.

Letters with a $1 stamp received by the end of October 2016 with names and return addresses clearly marked on the back will receive a postcard reply from the Team.

“We are looking forward to receiving and reading messages from kids right across Australia for what will be our biggest and hopefully our most successful Paralympic Games yet,” said five-time Australian Paralympic wheelchair tennis player and 2016 Australian Paralympic Team co-captain Daniela Di Toro.

Letters can be placed in any Australia Post red post box or in-store at selected post offices. Don’t forget to include a $1 stamp with your name and return address clearly marked on the back. For more information, visit www.auspost.com.au/education.

Taking on the best from across country

Celeste Villani

DUGAN Van-Kleef says running through a Canberra forest in the pursuit of a gold medal will be much different to cross country races in Texas, where he grew up.

“The Mercedes College student, who moved to SA three years ago, will compete in the 2016 Australian Cross Country Championships in the Stromlo Forest Park on Saturday.

Dugan, 18, who will run the 8km race, says cross country in Australia is more difficult than in America.

“Cross country in Australia involves a lot more hills, whereas cross country in Texas is more arid, dry and flat,” Dugan, of Torrens Park, says.

“Cross country in Australia involves a lot more hills, whereas cross country in Texas is more arid, dry and flat, but it has helped me grow tremendously.”

Dugan will be joined by fellow Mercedes College students Sam Thomas, 15, and Olivia Sandery, 13, at the championships.

“Cross country involves a lot more hills, whereas cross country in Texas is more arid, dry and flat, but it has helped me grow tremendously.”

We need to remember training pays off – if you do not train you get no improvement.”

Mercedes College students Dugan Van-Kleef, Olivia Sandery and Sam Thomas will represent South Australia at the Australian Cross Country Championships.

Picture: BIANCA DE MARCHI

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