



On Public Exhibition

Commemorative naming of stands at
John O'Dwyer Oval Croom
Regional Sporting Complex

Exhibition period

Monday 29 September to Sunday 26 October 2025

How to make a Submission

Submissions must be received in writing and addressed to
The Chief Executive Officer, Dharawal Country,
Locked Bag 155 Shellharbour City Centre, 2529
or sent by email to council@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au

PRIVACY & PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION NOTICE

The personal information contained in your submissions is collected by Shellharbour City Council for the purpose of corresponding with you about your submission. If you make an anonymous submission, Council will be unable to contact you further.

The information is intended for use by Council to assist in its decision making processes. The content of your submission may be summarised and attached to a Council Report and displayed on Council's website, your personal information will not be included. The submission will be stored in Council's electronic records management system. You can apply to Council to access and correct your personal information. Please see Council's Privacy Management Plan available on Council's website or contact Council's Privacy Officer on 4221 6111 for more information.

10.4.5 Commemorative naming of stands at John O'Dwyer Oval Croom Regional Sporting Complex

Directorate: Corporate Services

Business Unit: Technology and Corporate Services

Author: Sharyn Langford, Senior GIS Officer

Manager: Marcello Chiodo, Executive Manager Technology and Corporate Services

Approver: Scott Bridgement, Executive Director Corporate Services

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement for the commemorative naming of stands at John O'Dwyer Oval in Croom Regional Sporting Complex as the 'Ian Hatfield Stand' and the 'Richard (Rick) Watkins Stand'.

Recommendation

That:

- 1. Council endorse the proposed commemorative naming of the stands at John O'Dwyer Oval in Croom Regional Sporting Complex as the 'Ian Hatfield Stand' and the 'Richard (Rick) Watkins Stand' and for the naming proposal to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days calling for submissions.**
- 2. If no submissions are received as a result of public exhibition that require further consideration, that Council adopt the commemorative naming of the 'Ian Hatfield Stand' and the 'Richard Watkins Stand' at John O'Dwyer Oval in Croom Regional Sporting Complex.**

Background

Albion Park Little Athletics Centre (the Club) has submitted a commemorative naming proposal for the stands at John O'Dwyer Oval at Croom Regional Sporting Complex.

The proposed names are the 'Ian Hatfield Stand' and the 'Richard (Rick) Watkins Stand' in commemoration of Ian Hatfield and Richard Watkins, both founding members of the APLAC.

The Club considered and unanimously approved the proposal at its meeting on 28 May 2025 and has submitted to Council letters from family members

agreeing to the naming. See also a letter from the current President of the Club attached.

Ian Hatfield

Ian Hatfield was the Founding President of the Club and to this day remains an active life member who continues to participate with the Club at a committee level. Ian has made significant contributions to the community in the Shellharbour Local Government Area over his 40 years of involvement at the Club. As a coach, Ian has supported many athletes from a grass roots level to the national and international stage and continues to coach athletes at John O'Dwyer Oval. Ian is a respected former staff member of Shellharbour Council having served from 13 March 1961 to 28 September 1996, including in the role of Deputy Town Clerk.

Other notable accolades include:

- In the year 2000 Ian was awarded the prestigious Australian Sports Medal. The medal was awarded to a range of Australians who contributed to sporting excellence in Australia, including those who provided service and support for grass roots sport.
- Athletics NSW awarded Ian Coach of the Year in 2008 and 2009.
- Ian was awarded a Community Service Award from Shellharbour Council for his contribution and service to the community in the Shellharbour LGA.

Richard Watkins

Richard (Rick) Watkins was also a founding member of the Club and has made significant contributions to the many athletes and sporting programs of the Shellharbour Local Government Area, running Little Athletics Programs and coaching at John O'Dwyer Oval for over 30 years. Rick also spent some time working with schools in the Shellharbour Local Government Area to develop and run athletics programs to include many young people of the catchment.

Other notable accolades include:

- President and life member of the Club
- A proud veteran of the Royal Australian Navy serving during the Vietnam War and the Malayan Emergency

Naming of Assets is guided by the Council Policy Naming and Addressing (Roads, Public Reserves, Parks, Sportsfields, Assets) POL-0108 and Geographical Names Board NSW Place Naming Policy July 2019.

Council Policy Naming and Addressing (Roads, Public Reserves, Parks, Sportsfields, Assets) states the following objective:

"Shellharbour City Council is committed to the naming of assets after local flora or fauna, local history themes, or a person whom has made significant

contribution to the Council or the Shellharbour Local Government Area.”

Council Policy Naming and Addressing (Roads, Public Reserves, Parks, Sportsfields, Assets) Section 7.3.2 states the following:

“Where a Council asset is to be named after a person, the person must have made a significant contribution to the Council or the Shellharbour Local Government Area. This may be in the form of:

- *Outstanding and extensive service to the city community*
- *Sporting achievements*
- *Contribution to Council and the City “*

Geographical Names Board NSW Place Naming Policy

9.10 Naming of facilities within reserves

“Facilities within an officially assigned reserve, such as a pavilion, grandstand, garden, buildings etc. may also be named according to this policy, but do not require the formal approval of the GNB. However, the GNB shall be notified of such names to ensure the name, position and origin is recorded in the Spatial Services’ Digital Topographic Database and the name shown on maps, where relevant.”

Section 7 Commemorative Names

“Personal names, including those of persons still living, may be used for built features e.g., pavilions and grandstands etc., however these features are not formally assigned by the GNB and are not covered by the Act.”

The application by the Club upholds the objectives and substantiates the criteria in the policy for commemorative asset naming.

The naming of the stands does not imply ownership of the stands by the Club. Any installation of signage work undertaken by the Club will be with the oversight of the Open Spaces Manager and current standards of maintenance will be retained.

Council Implications

FINANCIAL / RESOURCES

Nil

LEGISLATION AND POLICY (INCLUDING ADVOCACY, STRATEGIC AND OTHER PLANS)

Compliance with Council Policy Naming and Addressing (Roads, Public Reserves, Parks, Sportsfields, Assets) POL-0108

SOCIAL IMPACT

The honouring of a local worthy person, while they are still living, can be a powerful community-bolstering event. The name will provide recognition for the contribution both men have made to the Club and to the wider community.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Improving and investing in places that benefit both people and nature will help to ensure our communities are sustainable and liveable for current and future generations.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Nil

Link to Community Strategic Plan

This report supports the following objectives, strategies and actions of the Community Strategic Plan:

4.1 We deliver our future together

4.1.3 Build an organisation that places customers and the community at the heart of service delivery

4.1.3.04 Provide effective, secure and efficient information management and spatial services to meet strategic, legislative and operational requirements

Previous Council Resolutions

Nil

Consultation

Internal

Museum Curator

Open Space Manager

Infrastructure Planning Manager

External

Public Exhibition to follow

Political Donations Disclosure

Not Applicable

Options

Option 1:

Council endorse the proposed commemorative naming of the stands at John O'Dwyer Oval in Croom Regional Sporting Complex as the 'Ian Hatfield Stand' and the 'Richard (Rick) Watkins Stand' and for the naming proposal to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days calling for submissions.

Option 2:

Council does not endorse the proposed commemorative naming of the stands at John O'Dwyer Oval in Croom Regional Sporting Complex as the 'Ian Hatfield Stand' and the 'Richard (Rick) Watkins Stand'.

Conclusion

The naming of the stands complies with the relevant Council policies and legislative requirements and is recommended.

Attachments

1. Letter of support from the President of the Club
2. Site Plan naming stands at John O'Dwyer Oval



Albion Park Little Athletics Centre Inc.

PO Box 249
OAK FLATS NSW 2529

ABN: 45 523 894 824
Email: info@aplac.org.au
Website: www.aplac.org.au

To Whom it may Concern

Albion Park Little Athletics Centre is writing to request the naming of the two grandstands which were installed at John O'Dwyer Oval in the recent past.

We request that each stand may be named after a significant member of Albion Park Little Athletics Centre which was founded at John O'Dwyer Oval in the Croome Road Sporting Complex 40 years ago.

Ian Hatfield was the Founding President of the club and to this day remains an active life member who continues to participate with the club at a committee level. Ian has made significant contributions to the community in the Shellharbour Local Government Area over his 40 years of involvement at Albion Park Little Athletics Centre. As a coach Ian has supported many athletes from a grass roots level to the national and international stage.

Ian continues to coach athletes at John O'Dwyer Oval and is a respected former Council member, serving between 13/3/1961 – 28/9/1996.

Richard (Rick) Watkins was also a founding member of the club, and he too has made significant contributions to the many athletes and sporting programs of the Shellharbour Local Government Area, running Little Athletics Programs and Coaching at John O'Dwyer Oval for over 30 years. Rick also spent some time working with Schools in the Shellharbour LGA to develop and run athletics programs to include many young people of the catchment.

We refer to the

Naming and Addressing (Roads, Public Reserves, Parks, Sports fields, Assets)

7.3.2 Where a Council asset is to be named after a person, the person must have made

a significant contribution to the Council or the Shellharbour Local Government

Area. This may be in the form of:

- o **Outstanding and extensive service to the city community**
- o **Sporting achievements**
- o **Contribution to Council and the City**



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Listed below are some more accolades of each perspective name bearer.

Ian Hatfield arrived in the Shellharbour/Albion Park Area at the age of 18, previously he lived in Byron Bay.

- At that time, he worked at Shellharbour Council as a Junior Clerk.
- He played football for Albion Park.
- He was the Treasurer for Meals on Wheels for many years.
- As a member of the Makatak Community Group he was involved in organising charity events which raised money for disadvantaged groups.
- Ian was awarded a Community Service Award from Shellharbour Council for his contribution and service to the community in the Shellharbour LGA.
- According to his daughter, Ian was known to spend a lot of his time and at times his own money mowing the grass at John O'Dwyer Oval.
- He is a Life member of both Albion Park Little Athletics Club and Kembla Joggers and spent the past 40 years coaching many athletes for the Shellharbour Government area to great achievements and recognition in sport.
- In the year 2000 Ian was awarded the prestigious Australian Sports Medal. "The medal was awarded to a range of Australians who contributed to sporting excellence in Australia, including those who provided service and support for grass roots sport.
- Athletics NSW awarded Ian Coach of the Year in 2008 and 2009.
- Ian is currently a valued part of the Australian Little Athletics and Little Athletics NSW Coaching cohort. He continues to work with the most outstanding young athletes of our State and our Nation. In 2024, Ian was Coaching at the Australian Little Athletics Development Camp in Brisbane, where young Albion Park Little Athletics Athlete Chelsea Nicol was invited to attend.
- In 1996 when he retired Ian was one of Shellharbour Council's longest standing employees. He received an award for 25 years' service, eventually in total he tallied 35 years with the council.

Richard (Rick) Watkins

Rick moved to the area from Albatross where he served for 13 years in the Royal Australian Navy.

- Rick is a former aircraft maintenance technician; he also spent time in the Navy as a clearance diver. He served in Malay during the Vietnam War.



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- He is a founding member of Albion Park Little Athletics Centre and served as President at different times over the years. Seeing the club through challenges and leading the committee with his positive and dynamic outlook he served the club well and remains a well-respected figure by all.
- He still serves APLAC as a valued Life Member.
- Rick began coaching at John O'Dwyer Oval in 1992 and has seen many of his athletes continue to achieve great success in their chosen sports, including Rugby League, Soccer, Hockey and Athletics.
- Rick's daughter Kylie was amongst many of his athletes to represent Australia.
- Seen as a positive and important role model right across the Shellharbour Local Government area, Rick has worked with many local schools to introduce athletics programs to their students. Something he is still very passionate about, although no longer living in our area, he still works with schools to develop athletics programs for students.
- Even though these days he resides out of the area, there are many people in the Shellharbour local government area who hold Rick in the highest regard. People he keeps in contact with, including the current committee at Albion Park Little Athletics Centre, and the many athletes he has coached from this LGA over the years.

In conclusion, we ask that Shellharbour Council Consider our request to name the two Grandstands at John O'Dwyer oval after two prominent and important individuals who have contributed to our local community in a positive way over many years.

2025 is Albion Park Little Athletics 40th Anniversary Season and we would love to honour these two founding members with a legacy at our grounds, by naming the grandstand's that will continue to overlook our track and field for many years to come, after them.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information

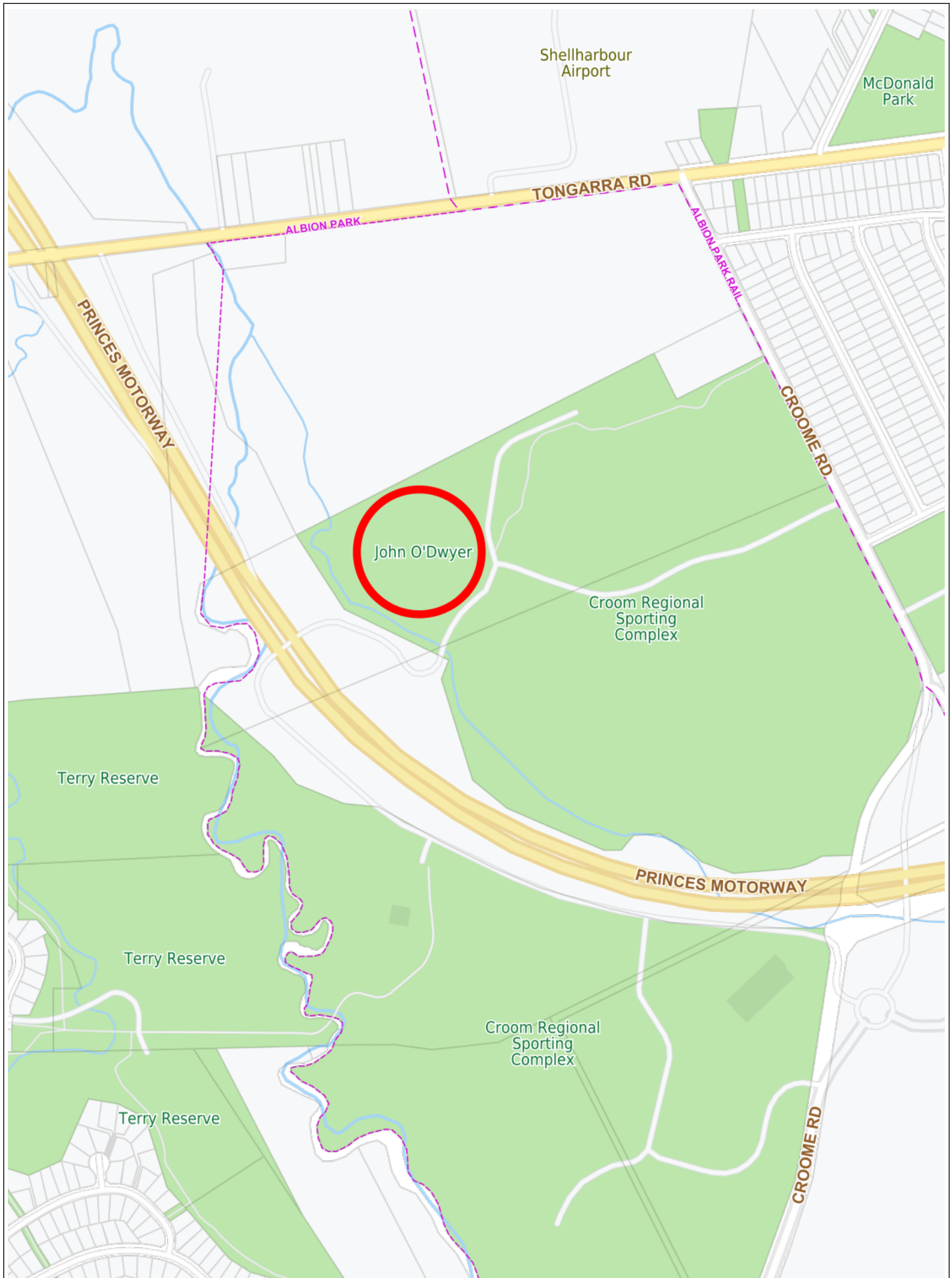
With Kind Regards

Katie Dent

President Albion Park Little Athletics Club 2025/2026

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Site Plan
John O'Dwyer Oval at Croom Regional
Sporting Complex

This map is supplied on the understanding that Council will not be responsible for any loss or damage which may result from any use made of such information as a result of errors or omissions contained in the map.

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