Development of the Kingborough Sports Precinct
• In 1969, the Southern Outlet between Kingston and Hobart was opened.

• Kingston changed from a slowly growing rural backwater to the most rapidly developing municipality in the State.

• The Council of the day had the foresight to recognise the need to set aside land to meet the future sport and recreational needs of the community.
1975 Council purchased 120 acres of farmland for the purpose of developing a sporting precinct that catered for both indoor and outdoor sports
• In 1976, Council commissioned a study into the recreational needs of the community.

• A Multi-Level indoor sporting complex was recommended, surrounded by outdoor sports fields.

• Architects Philp, Lighton, Floyd and Beattie were contracted to design the complex.
Following agreement on a final design, work on the complex commenced in 1978 at a cost of $1.3m.
Level 1 of the Centre was originally designed to cater for indoor bowls, with four full sized rinks constructed using carpet imported from the UK.

Level 2 comprised of the main stadium, providing seating for 1500 spectators, two multi courts, changerooms, and six squash courts.

Level 3 housed the administration office and a table tennis stadium.

Level 4 contained a single net indoor cricket facility.
• Outdoor playing facilities were developed for hockey, baseball, netball, croquet, tennis and equestrian events.

• Included on the original plans (but not in the budget) was an Olympic sized heated indoor swimming and diving pools, licensed dining and cabaret areas and an arts centre.
Changes over Time

- Basketball became synonymous with KSC from the outset and it became the home of the Tassie Devil’s from 1983-88.
- The stadium was also used during this time for concerts including INXS, Men at Work and Midnight Oil.
- Both the Tassie Devils and the concerts were lost to the Centre with the advent of the Derwent Entertainment Centre in 1989.
Following the growth in indoor cricket in the late 1980’s a new double net indoor cricket centre was constructed in 1987.

At its peak, the facility had 90 teams participating in weekly rosters.

Level 4 was then used as a small weights gym and aerobics room.
• A decline in interest in indoor bowls resulted in a proposal to turn Level 1 into a Fitness Centre.
• In November 1995, this proposal came to fruition with the opening of the KSC Fitness Centre, with electronic and free weight equipment and a dedicated aerobics room.
• The Fitness Centre has been further developed over the years with improved equipment and a far greater range of classes.
• Two of the original squash courts have been converted to other uses.
By the late 1980’s interest in baseball had waned and the diamond shaped fields gave way to a cricket oval and a soccer pitch.

In 1989, the Kingston Crows took up residence on the oval during the summer months, with the Kingborough Lions Soccer Club taking on the main soccer field as their home ground.
• The original hockey field became a soccer pitch during the winter and the home of the Kingborough Little Athletics Centre during the summer.

• The equestrian centre was leased by the Riding for the Disabled organisation up until 2009, when the site became the Kingston Community Garden and Men's Shed.
• In 2004, the Tasmanian Education Department indicated plans to replace the existing Kingston High School facility.
• Agreement was reached with Council for the relocation of the school to the KSC precinct.
• The $30m development included shared used of Council’s facilities.
• Associated with the development of the new high school facilities was the construction of a new stadium within the Sports Centre, and two new outdoor netball courts.

• Adjacent to this new facility, a new State Gymnastics Centre was constructed.
• The new stadium and netball courts were completed in 2009, with the Gymnastics Centre officially opened the following year.
• The new high school facility opened at the start of 2011.
By the early 2000’s the need to find an alternate facility for the Kingborough Tigers Football Club became apparent.

The KSC Precinct was identified as the best venue and in 2001, Council agreed to commence a feasibility study into the development of a twin oval complex.

In 2004, a series of engineering reports were commissioned and in 2005, the redevelopment of the Channel Court Shopping Centre provided fill to create the base for the ovals.

In the following years, design work and costings were undertaken, along with discussions with stakeholders and potential funding providers.
• In September 2008, Council agreed to allocate $500,000 in both the 2007/08 and 2008/09 financial years to be utilised as grant seeding funds for the Twin Ovals project.

• In 2009, a grant of $3.995m was secured from the Commonwealth Government under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

• The AFL committed $0.25m to the project to ensure playing lights at a level of 300 lux were installed on the football oval and a further $0.25m towards the second stage of the project, to include construction of the grandstand, changing facilities and clubrooms.
• In September 2008, Council agreed to allocate $500,000 in both the 2007/08 and 2008/09 financial years to be utilised as grant seeding funds for the Twin Ovals project.
• Work on Stage One (the ovals) commenced late in 2009.
With funding to complete Stage Two of the project still required, Council sought a commitment of funds from both major parties in the lead up to the 2010 State election.

A contribution of $1.6m was subsequently secured.

Council contributed a further $1m in its 2010/11 budget and construction of the Pavilion commenced in 2010.

The first AFL game at the facility was played on Good Friday in 2011 and the facility was officially opened on 10 June 2011.
• The opening of the facility has assisted the Tigers FC to achieve entry into the Tasmanian State League.
• AFL ground has hosted matches involving the Melbourne Victory FC.
• Cricket Oval is used as the home ground for the KDCC and has hosted Tasmanian 2nd Eleven matches and was used as a training venue for team participating in the ICC World Cup
In 2009, Council identified the need for a strategic approach to the development of the precinct and commissioned consultants to prepare a Master Plan.
In the short term, the focus of the master plan was on reviewing and resolving some of the more immediate pressures arising with the current developments – the detailed design of the Twin Ovals, car parking and access arrangements, amenity, landscaping, stormwater management, public safety and new activities.

However the master plan also provides a vision and guidance for planning, development and management in the longer-term.
• Development of the Master Plan was based on the following:

- Needs-Based Recreational Planning – National, State and regional priorities and trends. Local demographics, user needs based on consultation.
- Experience-Based Design – focuses on the experience of the site from arrival, movement through the site and departure.
- Environmentally- Sustainable Design – water management, energy conservation, protection of bio-diversity values.
- Functional Design – facilities are safe and fit for purpose and designed for longevity.
- Capacity Driven Planning – takes into account Council’s ability to implement the final plan.
• The Kingborough Mountain Bike Park was constructed on land to the Twin Ovals in 2012
Future Developments

Stadium Seating - KSC
Future Developments
• Synthetic, all-weather playing field
• Soccer on infield, athletics track around the outside
• Preliminary investigations suggest could be located at Gormley Park at a cost of $1.25m
Kingborough Volunteer Program
Statistics as at 30 June 2015:

- 145 Clients
- 59 Volunteers
- Average volunteer hours - 350 per month
- Aged between 65 and 96
- Aged between 24 and 90 (a truly intergenerational program)
- Around 35% of volunteers are male
- Around 65% of volunteers are female
- Sometimes the volunteer is older than the client!