

Top-class Coach Skates into City to Train Curlers

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MAYOR Julie Rivendell met international curling coach Sharon Delver yesterday to discuss the future of the sport in Bendigo.

The Victorian Curling Association brought the top-grade Canadian coach to Bendigo to train both able-bodied and disabled curlers and also to speak to all those interested in the sport's development.

"I'm here for a week after being in New Zealand for the last 10 days, where I was fortunate enough to work with about 20 curlers from Australia," Ms Delver said.

"New Zealand has a dedicated ice rink for curling and we're hoping something like that will happen in Bendigo.

"The best part about curling is that everyone can play – it doesn't matter about age or anything.

"We're really trying to lift the profile of curling because there are so few curlers in Australia."

Cr Rivendell said the council was keen to act on its concept of constructing a national ice skating arena in Bendigo.

"It is something we will be talking to federal politicians about," she said.

"The project will reach \$5 million so we would need support and funding from all levels of government to get it up and running."

The council has approved plans to erect a new ice rink that will meet international standards as well as two curling areas for the proposed site at Bendigo Schweppes Centre.

Victorian Curling Association president John Anderson said the proposed ice rink would be state-of-the-art.

"It will be used for national tournaments as well as for international tournaments," he said.

<http://bendigo.yourguide.com.au/articles/587386.html?src=search>