



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact:
Ashleigh Monk
Communications Manager
m: 027 368 0753
e-mail: ashleigh.monk@ratafoundation.org.nz

New Brighton Rugby Football Club rooms to undergo much-needed revamp

New Brighton is on its way to becoming a sporting 'hub' as plans to rejuvenate the New Brighton Rugby Football Club rooms get the green light.

The club rooms, at Rāwhiti Domain, will receive a makeover with the help of a \$200,000 grant from Rātā Foundation.

The project would coincide with the construction of a multi-use sports facility, replacing the domain's worn-out tennis and netball courts.

Eastern Community Sports and Recreation Incorporated board member Wayne Turner said he was 'delighted' that the revamp would be going ahead.

"We have received generous grants from the Rātā Foundation and the Lottery Grants Board, essentially giving the green light to projects we have been working on for several years," he said.

"We plan to turn the club rooms into a 'hub' for the use of all local sports clubs, and other community groups."

Reconfiguration of the rugby club rooms, originally built in 1951, will include replacing the roof, relocating the kitchen upstairs, refitting the downstairs lounge, and adding two new changing rooms.

Transformation of the netball and tennis courts included reconstructing the base of the courts, laying a synthetic grass surface, constructing an all-weather purpose-made canopy, and adding fencing and floodlights.

Re-branding from New Brighton Rugby Football Club to Eastern Community Sports and Recreation was another important step, Mr Turner said.

"We were inspired by a similar recent project in Kilbirnie, Wellington, where the Poneke rugby club banded together with other codes, re-branded its facility and opened it up for much wider community use," he said.

"Making this a neutral venue for all clubs is a positive step, and a great way to ensure a community asset, built up over several generations, remains vibrant and relevant in the future."

Coastal-Burwood Community Board member and city councilor David East said the project was “another leg in the revitalization of New Brighton”.

“There are a whole lot of exciting things happening in New Brighton post-quake, with the new QEII centre, the playground, the Shirley Boys’ and Avonside Girls’ build and the planned hot pools,” he said.

“This project is another piece of the jigsaw of regeneration.”

He said rejuvenating the facility would bring people together.

“I’m a great fan of utilizing as many sports facilities under the same umbrella as possible, so we have a good connection within the community,” he said.

“Providing facilities like this is important not just as individuals, but as a community.”

Rata Foundation chief executive Leighton Evans said the revamp would be a step in the right direction for the quake-stricken eastern suburbs.

“The east side of Christchurch, and New Brighton in particular, was hit hard by the quake and lost a lot of essential facilities,” he said.

“But with more and more projects like this coming to fruition, the area is well on its way to becoming a real destination.”

ENDS