

our christchurch

Christchurch City Council news, events and information
22 September 2012

Cowles Stadium re-opens

A newly repaired and earthquake strengthened Cowles Stadium has re-opened.

Work began in July to repair the stadium on Pages Road, Aranui. The work included strengthening the building to 100 percent of the New Building Standard (NBS) and minor repairs to roof and wall bracing.

The stadium has been closed since last year after a Detailed Engineering Evaluation (DEE) assessment showed there was damage to the roof trusses and the building was below 34 percent of the NBS and therefore earthquake-prone.

Recreation and Sports Unit Manager John Filsell says the stadium's re-opening will be welcome news for the many school and sports groups who had to find alternative venues when it closed.

"Cowles Stadium has always been such a focal point for the many school and sports groups who come from across the city to use it. Since the earthquakes, there has been a serious shortage of indoor courts so we are looking forward to welcoming many of these groups back to the facility again."

Mayor Bob Parker says it is great news that Cowles Stadium has re-opened. "This facility has been greatly missed by many sporting groups in Christchurch, who I know will greatly welcome its return. It is also wonderful to know that the stadium can be used as a welfare centre in the event of another emergency."

Cowles Stadium is a large indoor venue that has hosted many international and national sports competitions. Sports played at the venue include basketball, volleyball, netball, korfbal, badminton and roller derby. It was also used as a welfare centre after the September 2010 and February and June 2011 earthquakes.

The stadium is already booked for a number of major events next month, including a children's show called the Polkadots and a Dead End Derby (roller derby) bout. The Aranui Basketball Academy will again be based at the stadium and the school volleyball competition will also get underway in October.

The Council is also looking at the future of other facilities in the city as part of the Facilities Rebuild Plan.

The Council will next week consider a recommendation from the Community, Recreation and Culture Committee for 27 Council-owned facilities to be prioritised for funding, further investigation and, where possible, repairs.

The list of 27 facilities was adopted by the committee following a staff recommendation earlier this month. A draft prioritised programme for the remainder of the 1000 facilities included in the Council's Facilities Rebuild Plan project will also be presented to the Council meeting on Thursday for full Council approval. If the Council endorses the list, work will continue as a priority to understand more about the facilities, such as the type of repairs and earthquake strengthening needed, the cost of this work and how much of this will be covered by insurance.

For a list of the 27 recommended significant facilities, and for more information about the Council's Facilities Rebuild Plan project, visit

www.ccc.govt.nz/facilitiesrebuild

Community loves new Aranui Library

The new Aranui Library has been embraced by the community, with visitor numbers already comparable to those of Upper Riccarton – one of the larger community libraries in the city.

A visit to Aranui Library after 3pm during the week or on Saturdays will find all computers being used, all tables occupied by teenagers working on school projects, the X-Box Kinect and iPads fully utilised and the children's area full of parents and their children.

Mayor Bob Parker says a new library in the city's eastern suburbs is significant.

"With this area of the city having suffered so badly in the earthquakes, the significance of the new building takes on even greater importance.

"Libraries are more than books and buildings, they provide a hub for communities, a place to learn, relax and meet. With the area having suffered so badly in the earthquakes, the significance of the building takes on even greater importance," he says.

"The Council has a proud history of investing in libraries as a way of building strong communities."

The library is set on the edge of Wainoni Park, with artwork on the exterior of the building by local artist Raph Stowers reflecting the local community's diverse culture and demographics.

The 500 square metre building, which was designed by Council architects, uses the sun for natural heat and light. It was redesigned following the February 22 earthquake to ensure it met 100 percent of the new building code and would provide a safe and structurally sound facility for the community.

It also provides for group learning and the meeting and community spaces the community requested.

The library, located at 109 Aldershot Street, is open from 9am-6pm Monday to Friday and 10am-4pm on Saturdays.



Assistant Architect Ekin Sakin and 10-month old daughter Alara enjoy the newly opened Aranui Library.

Tsunami warning system to be tested again

Christchurch's new tsunami warning system will be tested again on Sunday 30 September at 11am for three minutes.

This testing is part of the Council's twice-yearly testing of the sirens on the Sundays Daylight Saving begins and ends, says the Council's Civil Defence and Emergency Management Manager Murray Sinclair.

"It is important to remember the sirens will only be heard within a few blocks of the beach, the coastal evacuation area from Waimairi Beach to Sumner. The system is not designed to be heard inland from these areas."

He says when the system was first tested two months ago, 78 per cent of those living within the tsunami evacuation zone heard the sirens.

"This was above the international standard of 75 percent and a great result considering the weather conditions at the time – a south-westerly was blowing and temperatures were low meaning most residents were indoors."

He says the twice-yearly testing is critical to ensure the system is working efficiently.

"If during the testing the sirens are reactivated for more than 10 minutes, it will no longer be a test: a

tsunami will be heading for our shores and residents will need to evacuate the area."

Mr Sinclair says if residents haven't already, Sunday 30 September is a good time to develop an evacuation plan for their family and know the closest evacuation routes to their home.

Residents living within the evacuation zone are encouraged to fill out the online survey at www.ccc.govt.nz/tsunami after the testing to let the Council know whether they heard.

www.ccc.govt.nz/tsunami

Mayor supports New Zealand ShakeOut



Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker is urging Cantabrians to sign up and be counted in the first ever nation-wide earthquake drill happening on Wednesday 26 September at 9.26am.

New Zealand ShakeOut is being run by Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) and is an opportunity for people and organisations to get better prepared for major earthquakes and practice what to do when they happen.

Christchurch now has over 50,000 registrations, with health and education sectors in Christchurch leading the way, but CDEM is still after more.

The drill is easy, Mayor Parker says. "All you have to do is Drop, Cover and Hold. I was taught this at school and it's still the best action to take."

For more information visit

www.shakeout.govt.nz

New Zealand Cup and Show Week



New Zealand's most vibrant and exciting spring festival, New Zealand Cup and Show Week, kicks off on Saturday 10 November 2012.

World class racing action will again feature at Riccarton Park Racecourse and Addington Raceway. The festival also celebrates rural life when country comes to town for three days at the 150th Canterbury A&P Show.

There will be events and entertainment all around the city during festival week. The city is vibrant with retail areas and entertainment, so there is plenty to do after race or show action is over for the day.

This year's festival is all about celebrating the thrill of a win, a night out with friends,

getting a taste of rural life at the show, a chance to dress to the nines, to experience our region's excellent food and wine and to come together and have some fun.

New Zealand Cup and Show Week has something for everyone to enjoy and have fun. Whether you are looking for race or show action, or you just want to enjoy all that Christchurch and the Canterbury region has to offer, New Zealand Cup and Show Week is a must do on your social calendar.

For more information about the festival, to buy tickets to events or to find out what's happening in Christchurch from Saturday 10 until Saturday 17 November visit

www.nzcupandshow.co.nz

Put a spring in your step with The Breeze Walking Festival

The Breeze Walking Festival gets underway next Saturday (29 September), connecting people and places in our eastern suburbs. The festival will include 22 free group walks over nine days, from a child-friendly jaunt through Bottle Lake Forest to an energetic

trek up the Port Hills. For a full schedule of walks and workshops, please visit www.walkingfestival.co.nz or phone 03 941 8999.

www.walkingfestival.co.nz

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