

The following emails have been received during the last four months.

Hi Ash,

What a great idea – good on you for giving it a go! We are keen.

The Amohja Family

Hikaia  
Wutee

Aleisha

Isaac

Ethan

Jasmine

Hi Ash, please add me to your petition for an ice-rink in Wellington. I think it is a very good idea and well done to you for getting things going. If you are successful in changing the minds of the city councillors then I will enjoy coming and watching you and your friends skating like the children that we saw on utube today. Do you think they would let me on the ice with Walley?!

See you at school tomorrow and good luck with your petition!  
Claudia Mushin/ Mrs M

Hi Ash,

I signed the petition last week at Lyall Bay School.

Now I'm telling everyone I know to sign up too (see attached e-mail).I think what you're doing is GREAT!

Keep up the good work.

Andy K

Hello Ash

I remember going to an ice rink in Kilbirnie in the mid 1960's. I think it was around Kilbirnie Crescent area - possibly where there is now a swimming pool complex?

My sisters and I used to go on a Saturday - we could hire skates and there were lessons available if required, but we were quite happy to learn to skate on ice, having roller skated for years round Christchurch and Wellington. My mother put a stop to us going again when one of my sisters fell and broke her wrist - most unfair - the other 3 of us didn't get hurt!

I support your endeavours to get an ice rink back, particularly having watched the Dancing on Ice series on TV recently.

Good luck with this project - I hope it happens.

Regards

Pauline  
(Masterton).

I'd put this on your Facebook page, but I haven't previously seen any reason to join!

A couple of days before I saw information in the *Dominion Post* about your ice rink petition, I read that the Brethren Church is selling its church building in Churchill Drive. When I read the description, I tried to think who would want such a space - and came up with an ice rink! Don't know why, because I'm not specially interested in skating - but I **am** happy to see people having healthy exercise :-)) Anyway, when I read about you, I thought that I should pass on the thought...

Here's a link to some information about the church.  
<http://www.infonews.co.nz/news.cfm?id=57431>

Good luck with your petition!

Jane McMurray

Hi,  
My name is Maya and I would really like an ice-rink in Wellington too. Could you please send me a petition form so I could get my friends and family to sign it.  
Thanks,  
Maya Roche.

Hi Ash (and parents!)

I really hope you succeed with your petition for an ice rink in Wellington (which I have just signed).

Back in 2007 I met with Wellington council to try and convince them to build an ice rink. I particularly wanted them to do it next to a swimming pool, since the heat pumps that heat the swimming water can also chill the ice, effectively for free.

I live in Titahi Bay, Porirua, and originally applied to Porirua council to include a rink with the new Te Rauparaha Arena. I did a bunch of research and a presentation to council.

Unfortunately they liked the idea but didn't see it as something council should be doing. They basically wanted me to build one!

If you want I can send through the information I came up with, and the PowerPoint presentation I put together. The data is a couple of years old, but is mostly relevant still.

Good luck again with your petition - I would love to be able to take my kids to a local ice rink.

Mike

Dear Ash

Thanks for your email.

I am really happy to give you the information you asked for. It is always good to find out new stuff.

Good luck with the ice rink,

Mike.

Hi Libby

Thanks very much for your email.

I can't believe it has taken me so long to get round to replying - sorry!

When I spoke with Wellington council facilities they went through the Wellington Indoor Sports plans that had stalled (again). They explained that they would love to see an ice rink, but it would need to be done privately. I seem to remember they were willing to help in almost any way but rates, which could not be exempted. I have attached their Feasibility Study final report that they gave me.

I did consider one in Porirua. The council has a piece of land earmarked near the railway station, which would be great in terms of user access, but couldn't make use of the free energy from the aquatic centre.

Obviously I tried to get them to include a rink in the new Te Rauparaha arena, but it was too late. The mayor mentioned Harvey Norman, which is a big supporter (or was, not sure now) of ice hockey. They have a large shop near the swimming pool here. I contacted them and proposed an ice rink upstairs (adding a floor), and spoke with their Auckland building management people several times over a period of months. They really liked the idea, but I just couldn't get them excited enough to do it. That would have been great, and is also a format you could think about (look for large buildings next to swimming pools where the chilled fluid from the pool could be piped and used there). I'm not sure how far you could pipe it - would depend on insulation - but I figured 20 - 50 m ought to be possible (but I'm just guessing).

There was also a vacant industrial building across the road from the aquatic centre that I thought might be OK, but I didn't take it any further - by then I was running out of steam.

Much as I would have loved to build one myself (I started looking into costs, how much I could raise, etc) I think coming from the UK I still have this principle that ice rinks are a council facility and should primarily be provided by them. Funny I know, but building one from scratch would be a massive undertaking, and to have a nagging doubt at the beginning was enough of an alarm bell.

Since the traditional rink looked unlikely, I started thinking of alternatives like a temporary rink, or link a non-ice rink.

There used to be a temporary rink (I'm told) around Queens Wharf. I don't know how long it was there but it was apparently very successful. It could be an idea to think about the council providing an area through the winter (free?) and putting a temporary rink down. Ideally next to a pool again.

I also found that many places in north America are starting to use artificial ice. Even one NHL team that has an artificial ice rink for some practice.

This obviously doesn't need chilling - it is a plastic that is coated periodically with a liquid. Have read good things about it, though it will never be as good as ice, and doesn't look too

environmentally friendly. The environmental impact would be comparatively less if you had to chill the ice from scratch, in a standalone rink.

I even had a mad idea to use the artificial ice as a new extreme sport (it doesn't need to be horizontal), like a skate park for ice skates! Didn't take that anywhere, but I still like it (just because I'd do anything to get me skates on again). Might be the sort of thing Fergs would look at...? Or the council.

Finally I only spoke with Porirua and Wellington councils. I have been told recently that Hutt could be receptive - apparently this is the sort of thing they like to get behind. Also Paraparaumu council are debating a new pool, partly to encourage people visiting. I don't think people will travel an hour on the train from Wellington to a pool, but a pool with an ice rink attached would be unique, and much more likely to do what they are after. Definitely worth mentioning it to them.

[REDACTED]

There is probably heaps that I haven't remembered, and I am happy after you have had a look through to meet up and answer any questions or look over anything you have done.

Going through all this again is reigniting the feeling I had when I was trying to get something going myself. It can be really hard feeling like you are the lone voice, and I think the petition is a great idea not just to show council people want it, but also feeling like you are not doing it all by yourself. On that note, if there are some things you want me to do to take the load off please let me know.

Good luck and hopefully this will help,

Mike

Hi Ash

I cant believe there isnt an ice rink in wellington already! What a shame

Unfortunately 60 minutes cant help out with your announcement, we need to stick with current affairs.

Maybe you should try some local radio stations, they might be able to help you out

Best of luck!

Miranda Fisher

Hi Janina

I'm really glad to hear you are doing a story on Ash's attempt to get an ice rink locally. I think it is an awesome effort, and deserves to succeed.

I would be very happy to discuss what I did back in 2007. I passed as much info as I could on to Ash and her family to hopefully help.

From my own investigation I felt there was a very strong case for the lower-north island needing an ice rink.

One of the frustrations was battling the perception that an ice rink is not environmentally friendly due to the energy consumption. The fact is the same argument applies to every swimming pool we have. By far the most environmentally friendly solution is to run an ice rink and swimming pool together. That way the heat pump system can channel heat to the swimming pool, and the cold to the ice rink. I was able to establish that a typical recreational pool (like Porirua aquatic centre or Kilbirnie pool) is already dumping more than enough cold through the outside AC units to freeze the ice for an Olympic rink.

Another issue (and this is likely to be the biggest hurdle to overcome) is cultural. I am from Scotland, and in the UK ice rinks are a council-supplied public amenity. They are less common than swimming pools, but still common enough that most people will live an hour or two at most away from one. In NZ we see swimming pools as a council-supplied public amenity, and see ice rinks as private ventures. I'm not saying either one is right or better - it is just a statement of fact that in NZ the expectation is that councils don't need to provide ice rinks, and that they should be funded privately. Not sure if this also applies in the Dunedin area though. I think this can be overcome by educating people on the huge benefits a local ice rink would bring.

Anyway I am more than happy to help in any way I can. You can call me on [REDACTED] or email me a list of questions and I'll answer them as best I can.

Thanks in advance

Mike

**From:** Janina Nicoll [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 December 2010 4:02 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Capital Times story - ice skating rink proposal...

Hi Mike,  
I hope you are well. I am doing a story on six-year-old Ash Dearnley's proposal for an ice skating rink in Wgtn and her mother Libby told me about your proposal a few years ago. It would be great to talk to you regarding your proposal also so please give me a call at the office [REDACTED] if you wish to talk about your story.  
Kind regards,  
Janina

Libby,  
thanks for your email. I'll look at doing a story on this later today if I can so you may expect a call from me. Thanks for sending me the information.

Regards

**Felix Marwick**  
Chief Political Reporter  
Newstalk ZB News  
Press Gallery  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Hi Ashley

I think it would be a brilliant idea to have an ice rink in Wellington and would like to sign the petition. I understand the online one is closed now so how do I go about this? I have 3 kids and my 10 year old daughter Elena in particular would be keen to help you out with the campaign in any way possible. I even took the kids up to Auckland these holidays specifically to go ice skating.

Good luck  
Ann King  
[REDACTED]

Katherine O'Connor, Khandallah  
Angela Bartoli, Khandallah

THanks and fingers crossed!  
Katherine

Hi there

I just wanted to wish you the very best for submitting your petition.

Unfortunately I work in Porirua, and have used all my leave (recent baby), so can't come into Wellington for the meeting.

However I will be following coverage closely.

Regardless of what happens I think you have done an awesome job, and should be very proud of what you have achieved. And just imagine if the council realise the benefit in a rink, and decide to build one. You never know unless you try, and you have certainly done that.

So good luck, all the best, and I'll keep my fingers crossed for you,

Mike