

TOITU PŌNEKE

COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE

PRESENTATION TO THE WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL SPORT AND RECREATION COMMITTEE, THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2013

PRESENTERS

Poneke Football Club

Kevin Jenkins	Chairman (lead)
Ross Jamieson	Convenor, Toitu Poneke committee
Duncan Garvie	Life Member
Helena Lawrence	Women's player and Wellington Pride representative player

East Netball Club

Marijke Preston

Kairangi Bridge Club

Brian McGlinchy President

Multicultural Councils of Wellington, Hutt City and Upper Hutt

Pancha Narayanan President, Upper Hutt Multicultural Council

Poneke-Kilbirnie Softball Club

Ian Billing

Wellington Dive Club

Maria Marull President

James Hardaker Head Coach

Joy Nagrampa Treasurer

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COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE

The Pōneke Football Club is joining with other leading Wellington community groups and sports groups to establish a state of the art community and sports centre at Kilbirnie Park.

Toitu Poneke

Toitu Poneke is a name that we conceived of with the local iwi/kaumatua from Te Ati Awa. 'Toitū' denotes encompassing all people, standing together, equality, resilient, permanent. It symbolises strong and sound foundations and the establishment of aspirations. 'Toi' symbolises sport and art forms. This usage symbolises the community of Pōneke (Wellington), well known for their sporting activity, cultural diversity, and artistic skill and appreciation. It encompasses many things about what the future will look like for the Poneke Football Club and our partners in this venture i.e. a community and sports centre approach bringing a number of community groups and sporting codes under the one umbrella.

The best community and sports centre in New Zealand

Toitu Poneke will be the "Weta Studios" of community and sports centres. It will:

- match the training and sports management experience offered by the leading community and sports clubs in Auckland and Australia, leap-frogging anything currently in Wellington
- be a beacon of community engagement, athleticism, sporting prowess and well-being that will attract more Wellingtonians to a healthy lifestyle
- appeal to men, women and children from every sector of our community, including new migrant communities
- by being a cooperative of leading community groups and clubs across a range of codes, Toitu Poneke will lower average capital and operating costs whilst simultaneously greatly improving the offering to members and future members
- solve the current major problem of multiple deteriorating and/or earthquake prone club facilities, all facing rapidly escalating costs (insurance premiums alone are rocketing)
- create jobs directly within the Centre, and indirectly by the economic development impact of a facility very attractive to visiting groups, including those paying e.g., rugby teams locating in NZ for up to three months at a time are a growing industry in Auckland and several provinces, and
- fit perfectly with the vision of the Kilbirnie Business Network for Kilbirnie as a recreation hub for the city, including collaborating with the Aquatic Centre, the recreation Centre, and the TSB Arena.

The existing Pōneke FC clubrooms, gym and indoor training room will be redeveloped into a modern, light-filled, community and multi-sport facility fit for the 21st century.

The current indoor training room will be doubled in size with no reduction in the number of playing fields on Kilbirnie Park. The indoor training room will accommodate basketball and netball on full sized courts with appropriate flooring and retractable equipment. By the use of retractable floor surfaces and further use of retractable or temporary equipment, the training room will also provide for indoor softball, cricket, and rugby training. The Hodge Centre at Scots College is an example of what can be done with innovative thinking and planning.

The existing gym area will be refitted with a mezzanine floor for weights, a ground floor for team or squad training activities, changing facilities for men and women, and offices for professional trainers and managers.

Combined, the gym and indoor training room will also provide for dry land core training and trampoline training for swim and dive schools, as well as a host of other users e.g. badminton, and martial arts.

The clubrooms

The core clubrooms will be rebuilt to offer a community hospitality experience equal to that people enjoy in modern cafes and bars (comparable with well-appointed AFL clubs in Australia). The clubrooms will offer healthy, appealing casual food and meals, and a full range of coffee, tea, and beverages. The clubrooms will offer a wide range of experiences to the sporting and wider community, including a sense of the history of the groups involved in the Centre (e.g., touch screens with archived photos and video), a place for post-match formalities, relaxing and celebration, a place where families want to go including activities for children, and an attractive place for supporters to watch games from and retreat to when their children, partners or friends are training.

The clubrooms will also provide fit for purpose facilities for our partners such as specialist electronic bridge equipment. They will also provide substantial storage room, a major often-overlooked concern for many groups.

Community asset

Toitu Poneke will be a major asset for the groups involved, for the community and for Wellington. It will be owned and governed by a cooperative of the major groups involved, and managed professionally, as will the groups using it. Toitu Poneke will include several offices and a meeting room, and will be attractive for corporate hire, and as a base for groups visiting Wellington..

The facilities are already used by an African school holiday programme, and the Poneke Football Club is talking with the NZ Police and the Wellington City Mission about basing youth programmes at the Clubrooms, Toitu Poneke will facilitate this.

The sporting and community services offered by and from Toitu Poneke will continuously evolve as communities and their demands evolve, ensuring it remains vibrant and always appealing.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Poneke Football Club

The Poneke Football Club is 131 years old, established in 1883. It was founded by players from the Poneke Cricket Club, who, until that time, had been playing under the name "Our Boys". Over the years, it has also fielded cycling, cricket and netball teams, and so has a long history of being involved across wide range of sporting codes. It was originally housed in clubrooms built by volunteers about where the Opera House now stands in Courtenay Place, then moved to Haitaitai, before settling at Kilbirnie Park in the 1950s.

It is one of the grand old premier rugby clubs on Wellington and NZ. It plays a skillful, competitive brand of rugby. It has won the Wellington Premier competition 20 times. In 2013, Poneke fielded 11 senior teams (about 250 players) and 22 junior teams (about 330 players). It was one of only two clubs in Wellington to increase the number of teams, forming a Women's and two social teams.

Poneke has produced 20 All Blacks, including incumbent hooker Dane Coles, and countless other representative players. A Poneke man, Tom Ellison, captained the first official NZ team to tour Australia, and suggested the black jersey and silver fern. He was also the first Maori admitted to the bar, and wrote the first rugby manual.

The genesis of Toitu Poneke

In 2012, the Poneke Board commissioned a financial review of the Club. This review confirmed the Board's suspicions that, like most rugby, sports and recreation clubs in NZ, Poneke faced an unsustainable future. To attract players and supporters, the Club needed to offer high quality coaching, management and facilities. A vicious cycle was in place where costs were rising, facilities could not be maintained let alone developed, meaning they continued to deteriorate, meaning the club risked becoming less attractive, leading to less players and supporters and so on. In addition, again like many clubs, Poneke relied on community trust funding for most of its operating expenditure.

Poneke decided it was time to stand on its own two feet. The Board appointed a committee to implement the review's recommendations, which included modern accounting (Xero), a professional approach to generating revenue, and moving to a model of sharing facilities, facilities management, and club management with a range of like-minded community and sports groups.

Part of the work was studying a range of community and sporting hubs around NZ. There are a range of lessons able to be learnt from the recent experiences of others.

Poneke received an enthusiastic response from a wide range of groups, and those who have formally indicated their desire to be involved are just a subset of those who have expressed an interest.

Poneke understands that, whilst it is likely to have the largest single asset to 'bring to the table' (the Clubrooms are valued at \$4m), a robust ownership and governance structure needs to be established so all key players are comfortable their interests are accommodated. It is also important

this arrangement is clear to all, hence a new visionary 'brand' – Toitu Poneke – was developed with the local iwi/kaumatua .

Poneke has completed a substantial Terms of Reference for a Feasibility Study.

Groups formally supporting Toitu Poneke

Groups confirmed in writing to date who want to be part of Toitu Poneke are the Easts Netball Club (the biggest in Wellington), Kairangi Bridge Club (who currently have their own building in Miramar), the three Multicultural Councils of the greater Wellington region, Park Bowling Club, Poneke-Kilbirnie Softball Club, the Poneke Football Club, and the Wellington Dive Club. The Kilbirnie Business Network has written expressing their support. We have had positive responses from the WRFU and Sport Wellington. Lots of other groups have expressed interest and are still working through their formal position including cricket, basketball, and badminton.

Funding

A preliminary funding plan has been developed on how and when to meet the projected \$2.5m cost of redeveloping the facilities. Poneke has already paid about \$30k for various expenses (engineers' advice, preliminary plans, quantity surveying, preparing a ToR for a Feasibility Study), and much more in-kind time by volunteers. The response from community funders has been very positive, and all are attracted to the multi-purpose, broad based, multi-year approach. The high level summary is:

- Poneke Football Club: capital value, cash, in-kind and fundraising
- Cash contributions by other groups participating (some have assets they can monetize)
- Lottery Grants Board (Community Facilities Fund), NZ Community Trust Legacy funding, and other Trusts
- Wellington City Council – seeking \$550+k

The WCC's contribution would buy:

- A new, international standard community asset in a high profile location
- A major enhancement to Kilbirnie Park and the Kilbirnie Recreation precinct
- The future of a group of significant community and sporting groups making a tangible contribution to the health and well being of Wellingtonians
- A range of social and cultural benefits

Timeline

- 2014
 - Feasibility Study delivered
 - Ownership and governance agreed
 - Toitu Poneke Incorporated established
 - WCC regulatory issues, lease and other legal issues resolved
 - Final plans and consents agreed, and
 - Stage 1 (estimated \$775k) built (gym redeveloped, women's changing rooms/toilets)
- 2015: Stage 2 (estimated \$1.8m) built