

6 April 2009

New sport and recreation centre to open

Buller's new sport and recreation centre, the Solid Energy Centre, will be officially opened by the Mayor on Saturday 18 April 2009.

The doors will open at 9am on 18 April, following a powhiri and ribbon cutting by the Mayor.

"We extend a warm welcome to everyone to join us in the morning to mark the official opening of our great new centre," says Mayor Pat McManus. "The centre will be open all day, with a range of activities for people to take part in and enjoy, as well as having a good look around our exciting new facility. A local sports 'have-a-go day' will give people an opportunity to try out the facility and see some of the clubs currently operating in our community."

The new \$15.5million centre, located on the corner of Pakington and Domett Streets in Westport, provides both and wet and dry sport and recreation opportunities from one site.

Architect Murali Baskhar from Boon Goldsmith Baskhar Architecture says the building design was driven by its function as a multipurpose sports and recreation centre. The plans were developed around sports codes minimum standards, using low maintenance building materials and sustainable design principles wherever possible. Aspects such as utilizing natural light, managing stormwater on site and reusing this resource where possible were included in the building design.

The centre was 50% funded from external sources, with a number of corporate and local sponsors contributing to the project. "This is a great opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution of our corporate sponsors, Solid Energy, Development West Coast, Buller Electricity, Holcim New Zealand, WestReef Services and the NZ Lottery Grants Board," says Mayor Pat McManus. "Their support, along with the very significant support of our local businesses and individuals, has enabled us to complete this major project. Raising 50% of the project costs from external sources has been a fantastic effort for our community, and I thank all those who have been involved."

The Solid Energy Centre was designed around multipurpose use, based on shared management and reduced operating costs. The centre provides the following services;

- The Buller Electricity Aquatics Centre, providing a 25m competition pool, warm water programme/hydrotherapy pool, and toddlers pool. Separate change facilities support the aquatics centre
- A two-court stadium providing for a wide range of sport and recreation events, including netball, basketball, volleyball and badminton
- The WestReef courts provide two courts for recreational squash
- The Holcim multi-purpose room provides a 317m2 room for meetings, functions and other activities
- Development West Coast hockey turf
- Fitness Centre
- Dry change facilities and clubroom
- Kitchens located both upstairs and downstairs

“It has been great to have been involved with a project that will make such a positive impact on the local community,” says Dr Don Elder, Chief Executive Officer of Solid Energy. “Solid Energy has had a long association with Buller, and our support underlines the commitment we have as a major business operating in the area.”

The public are invited to meet at the front doors of the centre at 8.55am for the opening. The centre will be open to the public free of charge from 9am through to 5pm. The public will be able to view the new Buller Electricity aquatics centre for the first time, although swimming is likely to be a further week away following the completion of commissioning of the water services.

ENDS



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