

Showcasing the Awatere Memorial Hall and the Local Community

Revamped hall revives multi-use hub for Seddon community

With the revamp of the Awatere Memorial Hall completed this week, the project is a huge triumph for the Seddon community and a cause for real excitement about the region's future. "It's just beautiful," says Kate Sinclair, member of the Awatere Hall working group. "It's a state-of-the-art facility; the quality is so amazing."

The hall's new renovation came about after extensive community consultation, facilitated by council.

\$3M was budgeted to upgrade the hall so it can once again become a multi-use community hub, fit for purpose and available for all community groups. Councillor Cynthia Brooks who has long championed the hall's revival says, "kudos to the locals who led the consultation and design process, and to council staff who employed the architects and supervised the build."

She says a lot of heart has gone into many new features and it shows.

"Scott Constructions' Duncan Gardiner has gone the extra mile to produce a



quality result. I was blown away by the extra use of spaces created both indoors and outdoors and how functional the building will be for all to use and enjoy."

Cynthia says it's now in the hands of the local community to plan and fund the fit-out and she wishes them well with this endeavour.

Left: The revamped Awatere Memorial Hall completed this week will provide a real boost to the community. Photo: Supplied.

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by reconstructing the Awatere Memorial Hall & repairing earthquake-damaged Seddon School, it's been a privilege to help revive the heart of this community.





State-of-the-art functional facility for the Awatere

Scott Construction Managing Director John Tovey is very happy with how the project has gone during the past year.

He says, “it’s a fantastic facility for the community – they are going to put it to good use – it will be a real focal point.”

As well as a new meeting room, functions room, kitchen and office space, the indoor stage has been lowered to the main floor level, the main entrance has been extended into the carpark and there’s also a new community gym.

To bring the hall up to standard to meet the new building code requirements, structural steel has been installed to make it more resilient.

“We’ve had some good people in our team involved; our quantity surveyor and site manager have worked really well together and the architect Brian Riley (Arthouse Architecture) has been exceptionally good to deal with.

“One of the main features is the development of the new stairwell and metal cladding which has been fixed to it – it’s a great feature; it’s almost a stand-alone stairwell as it juts out from the building which is effectively a transition between the old and the new.”

John says there’s also quite a

significant extension of the western side of the existing hall.

“One of the main challenges was lowering the existing stage to meet the existing floor level of the auditorium – that took careful planning to ensure we could do it safely – it went well, and a lot came down to our site manager Duncan Gardiner’s expertise.

“Everyone has been on the same page throughout the project.”

“Luke Denton our quantity surveyor was heavily involved with keeping things within budget which he managed at a high level from beginning to end.”

John also praised the client representatives, Janine Lyall and Robin Searle, who he also said were really good to deal with.

“Everyone has been on the same page throughout the project.”

He also commended council for choosing Arthouse Architecture who he said should be patted on the back for their design and the way they administered the contract. John says council has engaged Arthouse for the upcoming Landsdowne Park development.

“It’s great because they’ve done such a tremendous job on the Awatere Memorial Hall.”

On behalf of the Awatere Memorial Hall working group, members Kate Sinclair and Rachael van Asch say they are very grateful for the way council has partnered with them throughout the building process.

“Council has been unfailing in giving us the people and the resources we needed to bring this project to fruition,” says Kate.

“I don’t think we would have got this kind of facility without them being so caring towards us. We are also grateful to Scott Construction for doing such a fabulous job and for making us feel part of what we are going to get out of it in the end.”



Here at Morgan Plumbing

WE BELIEVE COMMUNITY IS WHAT KEEPS PEOPLE TOGETHER & YOU CANNOT HAVE A COMMUNITY WITHOUT PEOPLE.

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Hall and the Local Community



The entrance of the new Awatere Memorial Hall. Photo: Supplied.

A bright future ahead

Rachael says the working group is encouraging the whole of the East Coast to use the revamped hall. “Although some people are still ‘doing it tough,’ there’s real progress being made in the region and this wonderful new facility presents some exciting new opportunities.” Rachael says it’s about being positive and moving forwards and asking ourselves questions

like, ‘Where are we heading?’ and ‘What services do we want or need?’ Rachael grew up in Seddon and her husband is a sixth-generation local resident, so they have a long-held connection to the area. “It’s really exciting seeing new families moving into the region with new energy and ideas and some families who have been here for generations coming back and bringing their

children up here.” Kate says they encourage people to come and talk to them about what they envisage for the Awatere Memorial Hall in the future and how the facility can be used to fulfil the goals or needs of their organisation or family. For more information, phone Kate on 027 836 6213, Rachael on 027 358 3118 or Martin Hall (Finance) on 027 227 2530.

Official opening in September

A dawn blessing is planned towards the end of July and the community can look forward to the official opening of the Awatere Memorial Hall on Saturday, September 21st. “There will be an official ribbon cutting ceremony and the community will be able to walk through the facility,” says Rachael. “After the 2013 quakes, Susan Pope who manages Farmlands in Blen-

im was instrumental in organising a community fun day with big marquees on the domain, sausage sizzles and bouncy castles which was well received by the community so we thought it would be neat to replicate that and have a reason for the community to come together again.” The following month, a fundraising Gala Dinner will be held on October 19th.



A dawn blessing is organised for the end of the month. Photo: Supplied.

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