



**Media Release**

**Friday, 18 November 2011**

Selwyn District Council's Rolleston Community/Recreation Centre has won the New Zealand Recreation Association's (NZRA) 2011 Outstanding Facility Award.

Opened in April 1999, the centre is a multi-use, multi-purpose facility for meetings, indoor sports and fitness, functions and events. It contains a sports stadium with a high ropes course suspended from the stadium roof, a stage for performances, a function lounge with fully-equipped kitchen and bar facilities, a meeting and activity room with adjacent kitchenette, and a fitness centre. Co-located with Rolleston Library and a youth park, the facility offers opportunities for joint activities and programmes.

"Selwyn District Council has been successful in turning an underused venue into a happening community hub where an impressive number and a range of activities are on offer at all times – and has done so while achieving an operating surplus in a short amount of time," said NZRA Chief Executive Andrew Leslie. The judges felt this was "an excellent example of how good management, fantastic community engagement and creative delivery can energise a space," Mr Leslie added.

The local community fundraised and built the centre and a voluntary management committee ran it for 10 years, until the Council signed a memorandum of understanding with them two years ago for Council professional staff to run.

The NZRA Outstanding Awards were presented during NZRA's annual conference awards dinner, held at Dunedin's Forsyth Barr Stadium.

"The awards are about thanking those people, and recognising those among them who raise the bar, develop original solutions and inspire New Zealanders to get active and healthy," he said.

**Ends...**

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