



Media Release

Friday 12 August 2016

Dunsandel Community Centre construction under way

Construction of the new multi-purpose Dunsandel Community Centre has officially started with a ground-breaking ceremony at the site.

Selwyn MP Hon Amy Adams was on hand to turn the first sod on the project, which will replace the former Dunsandel Hall. The hall was severely damaged in the September 2010 earthquake, and demolished in 2012, although planning for a new facility had commenced prior to the earthquake.

Building will start later this month and the work is due to be finished in May 2017. The work is happening either side of the local rugby season.

The new facility is located at the Dunsandel Domain, adjacent to the existing Sports Centre, and will enhance the “sports focused hub” in the area by encouraging more informal recreation and social activities, according to Russell Dalzell, chair of the Dunsandel Community Committee.

“The community has worked closely with Selwyn District Council to develop a vision for a new centre that can become the hub of the community for generations to come,” he says.

“It’s exciting to see the start of a new facility that will cater for the township’s growth. It will comfortably accommodate all sorts of activities from school end-of-year assembly and fundraising events to club and community group meetings, business events, functions and much more.”

Douglas Marshall, Selwyn District Council Property and Commercial Manager, says the need to replace the earthquake-damaged hall gave the township a unique opportunity to build a more modern facility.

“Like many Selwyn townships, Dunsandel was well served by its traditional hall for many decades – but today we are seeing communities looking for more flexible, multi-purpose facilities in keeping with current and future needs. This will be great asset to Dunsandel and to the wider Selwyn community.”

The new centre, which has a total cost of \$3.4 million, will feature a multi-purpose hall for up to 250 people, including reception area and dedicated meeting and training room space. It can be divided if needed and will have kitchen and bar facilities, an office and storage space.

Outside, the building will have terraces around it for watching sport and the northern side will be landscaped and designed for outdoor gatherings.

Arrow International was appointed construction contractor in June.

Funding for the project is from a variety of sources including grants, insurance, reserve funds, development contributions and a loan to be funded by a targeted rate. Community fundraising is also a major contributor to the facility.

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Images:

Artist's impression inside the new facility

Ground-breaking ceremony (L-R: Russel Dalzell, Russell Dalzell, Dunsandel Community Committee chair; Hon Amy Adams Selwyn MP; Councillor Nigel Barnett, Ellesmere ward councillor)

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