

PRESS RELEASE

**Grassroots Trust Velodrome announces New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame Annexe on 10th Anniversary/Battle of the Schools Celebration Day.**

As part of its 10th Anniversary celebrations, the Grassroots Trust Velodrome was pleased to host an official sod turning ceremony at 9am on the 13th April to announce the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame Annexe build.

The following were in attendance for the ceremony:

Louise Upston (MP for Taupo), Simon Perry (Chair Home of Cycling Charitable Trust) , Pamela Storey (Chair and Councillor at Waikato Regional Council) and Dion Merson (General Manager Grassroots Trust Velodrome).

Simon Perry (Chair Home of Cycling Charitable Trust) said:

"As we close on our first decade, we are thrilled to begin our second with a turning of the sod for the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame.  In the words of Sir Peter Snell;  “The New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame is a marvellous place for the champions of tomorrow to be inspired by the champions of yesterday.”  There is no better place than Waipa, “Home of Champions” to host this futuristic and interactive exhibit, and we can’t wait to commence construction in mid-2024.”

Home of Cycling Charitable Trust would like to acknowledge our “supporters” for the next phase of development - Grassroots Trust, Profile Group (APL), Sport New Zealand, Sport Waikato and Livingstone Builders.

Throughout the day the 10th Anniversary celebrations continued, with an Open Day from 9am until 12pm, which included activities for all : Free Have-a-go Track and Trike sessions including Paracycling, guided behind-the-scenes tours, meet and greet members of the Olympic team, gym and active agers sessions, food trucks, face painting etc.

This was followed by our 'Battle of the Schools' event from 12pm. Over 150 pupils from 14 schools competed for fun and bragging rights, with their families, teachers and supporters keeping the ‘atmosphere’ set to very loud. To level the playing field and encourage new riders, each team of three could only have one rider who had ridden on the velodrome before. These teams of three raced against each other for three laps, each rider taking a lap before the next took over.

The following schools entered teams;

Pukete (Zoomers, Speedsters, Lightning), Te Miro (Tahi, Rua), Kaipaki (Yellow, Green), Hillcrest High (Boys, Girls), Balmoral, Hautapu (Hawks, Hurricanes, Flyers), Cambridge East, Cambridge Middle (1,2,3,4,5,6), Goodwood (Jets, Turbos, Rockets), Cambridge Primary (Hawks, Flyers), Tamahere Model Country (Black Lightning), St Peters (Blue, Red, Navy, White), Southwell (Blue, White), Te Kowhai (Hot Wheels, Speed Demons, Tigers, Lightning).

The Te Kowhai Tigers kicked off the racing (Blaire Dymock, Fletcher Casley and Lily Knight) posting a time of 1:23.506 with an average speed of 32.3km/hr!

After a 17 heats of furious racing we finally had a victor, the Cambridge Middle School 2 team of Ellie Kinnear, Emily Cameron and Nina Davies-Colley recorded 1:04.547, that’s an average speed of 41.830km/hr for the three laps!

Second place went to Te Kowhai Hot Wheels of Braxon McClennan, Ezekial Johnston and Seath Fourie, Third was the Cambridge Middle School1 squad of Cruz Morgenrood, Olly Gibbs and Toby Holzer.

The day was the perfect way to celebrate the Grassroots Trust Velodrome facility, of its place in the community (80% of use is for community programmes, 150,000 people visit the facility each year - community gym, boxing, active agers, trike program, senior platies, etc.) and its track cycling success globally (UCI World Cycling Centre Continental Development Satellite Centre, 48 Gold Medals including 33 World Champion titles - over 160 medals from Para, Elite and Junior World Championships, Olympics and Commonwealth Games - and counting!).

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