

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame Moving to Cambridge**

The NZ Sports Hall of Fame is poised to move to the Grassroots Trust Velodrome in Cambridge, in what's being described as one of the most significant milestones in the facility's ten-year history.

Based in Dunedin since its inception in 1990, the NZ Sports Hall of Fame will be moving to a brand new building at the Grassroots Trust Velodrome. Planning and designs for the new building, dubbed "the annex", is underway with construction expected to commence by late 2024.

"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" said Simon Perry (Chair Home of Cycling Charitable Trust).

The Annex will add 900 square metres of floor space to the Grassroots Trust Velodrome and will house a re-imagined, interactive Sports Hall of Fame and Visitors Centre, a school zone and an "Every Body Active" have-a-go space. The concept is being developed to celebrate NZ's sporting excellence and encourage participation.

"We are determined to strengthen the link between inspiration and participation. This isn't just about acknowledging the past, but about using that as the ignite curiosity, passion and, ultimately, get people active. We believe everyone can be a "champion" in whatever way they choose", said Dion Merson, Grassroots Trust Velodrome General Manager.

A fundraising campaign has been launched and to date, approximately half of the \$8.2m budget has been raised. The feasibility study conservatively anticipates 30,000 visitors a year with an entrance fee of \$10 - \$15 being touted for the general public. The Trust is planning to offer free entry to all school kids across the region, allowing 85,000 children to visit at zero cost.

The Hall of Fame will be governed under the umbrella of the Home of Cycling Charitable Trust, which already owns and operates the Grassroots Trust Velodrome. A specialist sub-committee will work alongside the Board on Hall of Fame inductions and curation of the Hall of Fame.

Construction of the Annex is expected to be complete by December 2025 with the Hall of Fame officially opening in early 2026.

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