

Maungaraki Views

OUR NEWS & VIEWS | MAUNGARAKI.CO.NZ | DEC & JAN 2024/25

Te Ngaengae Pool Opens



After 5 years of building Te Ngaengae Pool is officially open

The brand-new Te Ngaengae Pool and Fitness facility officially has opened marking an exciting addition to the community. The state-of-the-art aquatic center has been designed to meet the unique needs of the local community. Located on the existing site in Naenae, the new facility features a

10-lane, 50-meter Olympic pool with movable bulkheads, a leisure pool with a shallow section for families and a deeper area equipped with ramp access and hydro jets. It also boasts two hydroslides, a splash pool, a fitness center, and an outdoor BBQ area,

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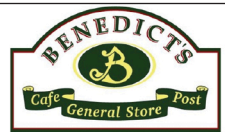
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Football fundraiser raises \$10k for local family

A football fundraiser was held on Sunday 3rd November to support local family, the Leonard's. This was well supported by the Maungaraki Community, a huge thanks to all involved!!

You may have seen or heard about John, whose wife tragically passed away suddenly from an acute medical illness in late July. Unfortunately, John also contracted the same illness and has spent the

best part of 2 months fighting for his life in ICU's in Lower Hutt, Wellington, and Auckland. In the meantime, his two teenage sons (Jed aged 16 and Sam 14 respectively) were being supported by family, friends and the local Maungaraki Community.

The idea for the football fundraiser came from the Eastbourne G's who kindly rang and offered to support the family by having a game



John Leonard and fundraiser organiser Mark Rahman

between our two teams. John has been a member of the Petone Dreamers for around 10 years and is highly regarded by the team for his fitness, speed, and fair play. Speaking to ex-Dreamer players and other Masters Teams, they also indicated they

would support such an event. Speaking with Capital Football, they agreed to support the event by providing the turf at Petone Memorial Park for the games. So we had 10 teams playing 7-a-side football, a unique format difference for Masters players.

We also encouraged all players to invite their families along to support the teams and fundraising events. Other activities included;

- Sports gear provided by the Hutt City Council
 - A Tug of War in which we broke the local Maungaraki Richmond Scout rope!
 - An auction – lead by Des Smith and supported by Ginny Andersen (MP)
 - A Celebrity invitational football game vs Jed's under 17 team – that included Campbell Barry (the Mayor)
- Other fundraising activities included;
- A bake sale - with goods donated by the local community and Hutt Hospital staff
 - Pizza from Domino's
 - A BBQ, Candy Floss and Ice lollies from the Eastbourne teams and

• A Raffle, with items donated by numerous local businesses. All this led to a successful event with over \$10k raised for the family! By M. Rahman.

Petone will keep name after Minister rejects changing it

Although 75% of submissions supported restoring Petone's original name, Pito-One, and the proposal was backed by local iwi Te Ātiawa, Hutt City Council, and Wellington City Council, the Minister for Land Information, Aucklander Chris Penk, has rejected the change.

The area's original name, Pito-One, was misspelled during colonial settlement and has since been known as Petone. Pito-One reflects the traditional Māori practice of burying pito (umbilical cords) in the one (sand). The name also honors Pito-One Pā, linked to Hōniana Te Puni, a rangatira of Te Ātiawa. Liz Mellish, Chair of the Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust, highlighted that restoring the name has been a long-held aspiration of Te Ātiawa. "This is about righting a

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historical wrong and fostering a sense of belonging,” Mellish said. “For those concerned, it’s only a slight adjustment in pronunciation, and saying ‘Petone’ won’t offend anyone.”

She highlighted the historical significance of Pito-One Pā in the history of Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington) and Aotearoa (New Zealand):

“Pito-One Pā, led by Hōniana Te Puni, was the largest pā around the harbor, home to 200 people. As paramount chief, Te Puni played a pivotal role in the settlement of Wellington. Restoring the name Pito-One acknowledges its cultural and historical importance,” Mellish explained.

Hutt City Mayor Campbell Barry emphasised the gravity of the decision, stating, “We are in a privileged position to make decisions that will impact future generations.”

Chris Penk has fumbled a golden opportunity to fix a historical wrong

- a failure that will undoubtedly hang in the air like a bad smell until we finally get a Minister who possesses the rare trifecta of common sense, willpower, and the foresight to actually do something right. Ed.

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making it a vibrant hub for recreation and relaxation. At a cost of \$68 million, Te Ngaengae Pool + Fitness represents one of Lower Hutt’s most significant infrastructure projects. The project received \$27 million in funding from central government through a partnership with Crown Infrastructure Partners. The balance of \$41 million will be paid for by ratepayers. Chris Milne said “Once open, the pool will cost ratepayers \$100,000 per week funded from rates.”
Ed.

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