



HAMILTON BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL OPENS NEW GYMNASIUM

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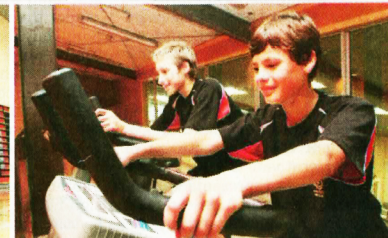
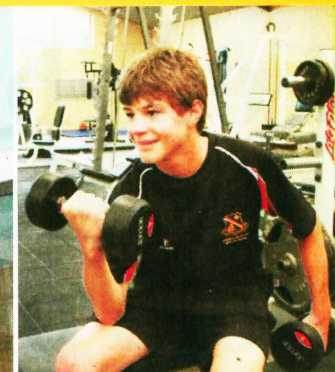
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Hamilton Boys' High School was proud to reveal its brand-new multi-million dollar gymnasium and sports centre at an official opening on February 22.

The superior complex was opened by Hamilton Mayor, the Honorary Bob Simcock, after many months of planning, design and construction. The official opening also paid homage to the school's late kaumatua Wikuki Kingi, who passed away last year.

The gymnasium project began in earnest 18 months ago when project manager and Hamilton Boys' High School Head of Department: Technology Ian Herbert began exploring existing gymnasiums around the country and gathering ideas.

"Sport is now playing a larger role than ever at Hamilton Boys' High School. There was a great need for a new gym; the original facilities are very old," Mr Herbert said.

"Quite some time was spent designing and planning the gym. Looking at other gyms around the country gave us ideas as to what our school wanted and needed in a sports facility."

Hamilton Boys' High School chose architects Stiles and Hooker Ltd to design the complex, and Fletcher Construction to construct the building. The Board of Trustees, senior management and other staff involved in the project have endorsed the efforts of both companies. Both did a wonderful job, Mr Herbert said.

"Fletcher Construction has been absolutely wonderful," he said. "We couldn't fault them. And, the project came in on time, and on budget."

The complex is a solid construction of slab concrete, which is incredibly long-lasting and energy efficient. It is a functional building with a strong focal point of a sporting school. Key design features are bold; nothing 'sinks away' into the background.

The entranceway has floor-to-ceiling glass windows, etched with a lion, sash and star, a stylised version of the school's crest.

The gymnasium is completely soundproof with no echo or vibration, and an impressive sound system mounted inside the ceiling.

The main gymnasium is comprised of three full competition-quality basketball courts, with a Tasmanian Ash wood sprung floor.

Electronically operated seats that fold into the wall seat 1,047 people, and electronically-operated basketball hoops fold up so other sports such as volleyball and badminton can be played.

Fletcher Construction integrated the two existing older gyms into the new complex, as although they are small they are still extremely functional.

Inside the new complex there is office space for up to

20 teachers to work comfortably.

There are seven changing rooms in total (two for the public) which are durable and functional and include toilets, showers and dressing areas.

Another stand-out feature of the complex is the fitness centre. The centre can take up to 30 boys for cardio and weight training with brand new equipment. There is also a large storage area for physical education equipment.

The public will be able to experience this facility as well; Hamilton Boys' High School will be hiring a gymnasium co-ordinator to look after bookings from the public.

Mr Herbert said while the outlay for the construction of the gymnasium was great, it caters for around 2,100 students per year, and is expected to last 50 years.

"We believe it is a quality, sound investment that will serve the school and its students for many years to come," he said.

Hamilton Boys' High School would like to invite any Old Boys or friends of the school to a viewing of the new gymnasium complex on Friday 26 February between 5:00 - 6:30pm. If you would like to attend the event, please contact Sue Roycroft at 853 0440 ext 2031 or email sroycroft@hbhs.school.nz.

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