

Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre

Update



July 2023

Welcome to the first Newsletter on the Christchurch Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre ...



... where you'll read progress updates and other exciting news about the development of Christchurch's Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre – a home to all the different cultures, ethnicities and faiths enriching our city.

As many of you may already know, in early 2022, Christchurch City Council purchased The Atrium on Hagley Park - a gorgeous, eye catching building that, for almost 30 years, has been the home of Christchurch Netball.

The purpose of the purchase was to *provide a hub to celebrate multiculturalism, where diverse ethnicities and people groups can come together to play and learn.*

For a long time, migrant and ethnic communities have advocated for a *place to meet and connect* where they can *maintain and exchange languages and cultures*. The need for a safe space to promote respect, cooperation and understanding between cultures emerged more than ever in the wake of terrorist attack on the March 15.

Soon, the new 2,000 square metre Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre will offer plenty of space to accommodate the wide range of ideas and aspirations conveyed during a series of community consultations run by the Christchurch City Council in July/August 2022.

The consultations involved 409 key stakeholders and 3 focus groups, and collected 138 feedback submissions.

 **409** emails to stakeholders

 **138** feedbacks

 **3** Focus Groups

Summary of submissions

The engagement highlighted the interest for a Hub for **casual recreation**, social **interaction**, **cultural workshops**, **hobby classes** and **sports events**.

Feedback showed the appetite for a **space where people feel a sense of belonging and community that encourages them to come and go as they please** (83%).

Suggestions included:

- A cafeteria
- Exhibition rooms
- Social sports equipment
- Children play areas

Feedback also showed high interest in more **formal classes** as a way of passing on cultural knowledge to other members of the community (79%).

Examples of classes include:

- Cooking classes
- Weaving, crafts
- Yoga
- Fitness (especially women only)
- Learn to ride
- Upskilling classes (first aid, emergency training, Te Tiriti o Waitangi training...)

Special events such as weddings, markets days and nights, concerts, international movie nights, cultural festivals and sports days and tournaments were among some of the suggestions in the feedback.

Sports events and tournaments at the centre were highly valued as a way to create a sense of connection (75%). The same was felt about dance, theatre and music which was integral for some community groups e.g. in the form of storytelling (63%).

Submitters highlighted the need for the Centre to **integrate multiculturalism into the design** and **promotion** of the Centre, creating a narrative that invites and welcomes all peoples and all cultures.

Submitters **do not want**:

- Community spaces that are too expensive to hire
- A challenging booking system
- Lack of parking, accessible transport and accessibility
- The Centre being used as a political venue
- Limited hours of booking availability
- There to be no Women's only facilities

Allow us to introduce you to the Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre!



The Multicultural Centre, with its 2000 square metres and 14 rooms, will offer plenty of space to accommodate a wide range of activities and programmes.

Below is a list of the rooms and lounges available at the Centre:



	Spaces	Max occupancy
Ground Floor	Function Room (Ground floor) - 275 m ²	249
	Small office West End - 20 m ²	10
	Garage/Shed - 38 m ²	25
	Office + toilet/shower East End - 9 m ²	6
	Office + toilet/shower East End - 12.5 m ²	8
	Office + toilet/shower East End - 15 m ²	8
	Office + toilet/shower East End - 32 m ²	25
	Commercial kitchen	—
First Floor	Function Room (First floor) - 275 m ²	249
	Board room - 35 m ²	25
	Meeting room - 33 m ²	30
	Office East End - 16.5 m ²	8
Second floor	Workshop room West (Second floor) - 40 m ²	35
	Workshop room Central - 69 m ²	50
	Workshop room East - 35 m ²	35

In order to start planning for the future, we would love to hear from groups and organisations whether they are interested in using the rooms at the Hub.

Please fill the [online survey](#) clicking on this link or scanning the QR code on the right or [email viviana.zanetti@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:viviana.zanetti@ccc.govt.nz) and let us know how you would like to use the Centre:

- What activity are you planning
- Number of people involved
- Day(s) and times (starting and finishing)
- Other needs and requirements

We will use the information that is collected to inform our planning as we work towards the opening of the facility.

MRCC GRAND OPENING

March 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Save the date! Our grand opening is planned for the 5th March 2024.

Although it is not official yet – there’s still a lot of work to be done – we would warmly encourage you to set aside this date for our tentatively scheduled grand opening event.

This date has special significance for the building, as it marks the 30th anniversary since it was officially inaugurated in 1994 as the Christchurch Netball Centre. It represents the perfect day to celebrate its rebirth as the first Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre in New Zealand!



Multicultural Recreation
Community Hub

