

HISTORY



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Since the removal of the cycle track at Rugby Park in 2000 to make way for Yarrow Stadium, a group of dedicated cyclists has worked on ways of rebuilding their sporting facility which had been part of their sport since the 1940's. A number of options and venues were considered.

The Taranaki Velodrome Trust was then formally established in May 2006 with the vision of constructing a new velodrome as well as a closed road circuit.

The concept of the Cycle Park is unique – there is no other facility like it in New Zealand. It will be a draw card for visitors to the region as a venue for National and top class events, as well as for recreational cyclists. The Velodrome is being built to UCI specifications so will also be suitable for international cycling events.

Land for the Cycle Park has been allocated by the NPDC at Hickford Park, Bell Block. The park will be adjacent to other sports grounds with whom facilities will be shared.

It is envisaged that most use of the facility will be by recreational riders. Cycling is the fastest growing recreational and sporting activity in New Zealand. Anyone of any age can do it and there are enormous benefits for health and well being. It is hoped that schools in Taranaki will make use of the facility to teach young people riding skills and by including cycling in their physical education programme. The road circuit provides a safe environment for families and others to enjoy the freedom of riding a bike away from vehicular traffic.

Another plus for the project is its close proximity to the coastal pathway.

Taranaki Cycle Clubs will use the road circuit and velodrome for regular racing. Interest in using the facility has also been expressed by local harrier and triathlon clubs. Business house and corporate competitions will also be held.

The facility will be available for use by members of the public (at no cost) although at times it will be necessary to allow exclusive use to groups such as those mentioned above to hold specific events. A fee will be charged for this exclusive use.

Sufficient funds have now been raised for this exciting project and construction will begin early October 2011. The completion date is expected to be end of January 2012.

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