

2011 Pelorus Trust Stadium Sports Festival



On Tuesday 22nd February Golf balls were flying at Westpac Stadium, while Aussie Rules balls bounced past to the sounds of Te Reo in the background. It's not a hybrid mash up of cultures and sports but the 8th Annual Pelorus Trust Stadium Sports Festival.

600 year 5 and 6 primary school students from throughout the Wellington region, descended upon Westpac Stadium to take part in a day of sport, with a strong "give it a go" ethos. The core purpose of the day was introducing more young people to a variety of sports and assisting them in finding a sport they enjoy and want to take up.

Organised by Sport Wellington, the event brought together eighteen different sport associations to showcase their sport to primary school children. Since 2004 the Pelorus Trust Sports Festival has seen over 4000 children take to the hallowed turf of the Westpac Stadium to have a go at sports they might not generally get an opportunity to experience.

This year sports such as Fencing, Karate, Turbo Touch and Ultimate Frisbee teamed up and delivered alongside the associations of more traditional sports including League, Badminton, Cricket, Softball, GymSports and Tennis.

Something special for 2011 was the Traditional Maori Games (Sport Wellington and Wellington City Council partnership) component of the event, giving the children an opportunity to participate in Ki-o-Rahi and Horohupu, sports that are totally unique to New Zealand, these games are taught and played in Te Reo Maori and English.

Representing the sports was a smorgasbord of who's who in sport, with heroes from the past such as Sandra Edge (Netball Wellington Region) and champions of the future like Football Fern Emma Humphries (Capital Football), and NZ Inline Hockey captain Lewis Taiapa. Former Olympians across a variety of sports as well as regional and national representatives added to the strong calibre of coaches and deliverers supporting the event including Black Sticks (men) assistant coach Sean Dancer (Wellington Hockey).



Photo: Marco Rojas from the Wellington Phoenix joins in with the children.

We were also lucky enough to have several young sport stars meet and greet the children at lunch time, including Amber Bellringer (Pulse, Netball); Marco Rojas and James Musa (Phoenix, Football); Lewis Taiapa, Kindra Manning, Sophie Walker and Liam Collard (NZ reps, Inline Hockey); and Renee Leota, Emily McColl, and Emma Humphries (NZ reps, Football).

A big thank you to everyone that helped on the day including nine staff from ASB Bank, who kindly gave a Vortex to every student.

Thank you to Pak'nSave Kilbirnie for providing lunch for the sport providers and volunteers, and Westpac Stadium for donating the use of the stadium and allowing the event to happen.



Photo: Korokoro School students

Full list of sport providers that delivered:

Cricket Wellington
Wellington Badminton Association
Fencing Central
Wellington Rugby Football Union
AFL new Zealand
Capital Football
Netball Wellington Region
Tennis Central
GymSports New Zealand

Capital Penguins Inline Hockey
Kyokushin Karate Club
Wellington Softball Association
Ultimate Frisbee
Wellington Rugby League
Wellington Golf Association
Wellington Hockey
Traditional Maori Games
Total Touch

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