

THE HISTORY OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ALL-WEATHER ATHLETIC TRACK AT TAURANGA DOMAIN BY THE TAURANGA MILLENNIUM TRACK TRUST

In 1999 a feasibility study was undertaken by a working party established to determine whether an all-weather athletic track at Tauranga was warranted and economically viable. Athletics Tauranga underwrote this project and contributed \$10,000.00 to it. Karen Smith, Paul Crossley and Rod Taylor were prominent in getting this done.

In March 2000 **The Tauranga Millennium Track Trust** ("the Trust") was formed for the purpose of raising funds to construct an all-weather athletic track in Tauranga, to construct the all-weather athletic track and to provide for its ongoing maintenance and use.

In June 2000 the Tauranga City Council gave support to the concept of an all-weather athletic track being constructed subject to a suitable site being arranged with suitable costings and funding.

In February 2002 the Tauranga City Council selected Grenada Park as the preferred site. The Trust was to raise \$644,000.00 and the balance was to be provided through a Council loan.

The Trustees of the Trust serve a term of 3 years. The Trustees in 2003 were Garth Mathieson, Chairman; Murray Clarkson, Secretary; Ross Fletcher, Treasurer; Frank Vosper, Karen Smith and Tony Lugg. All six Trustees were re-elected for another 3-year term on 11 April 2006. The Trust had 3 Associates, Lloyd Christie, Ray Young and Ross Hynds. The Trust adopted the following plan to construct the all-weather athletic track at the Tauranga Domain.

1. Relocate the track to the Tauranga Domain.
2. Raise sufficient funds to complete the plans and specifications, the tendering process and the preparation of a case study for fundraising.
3. Complete the plans and specifications, the tendering process, and the case study.
4. Raise the funds to construct the all-weather track.
5. Construct the all-weather track.

Relocation of Track

The first issue for the Trust was the relocation of the all-weather athletic track at the Tauranga Domain. The Trust wanted to do this for the following reasons.

1. The Tauranga Domain had been the traditional venue for athletics in Tauranga for fifty years.
2. There were significant resource consent problems with the location of an all-weather athletic track at Grenada Park. These included the

following. Major events, which were events with more than 1,000 people could not be held on more than two consecutive days in a month and could not be held when the adjacent swimming pool had major events. The track could only be used for major events on 12 full days in a year. This clearly meant that it would never be used for national events. The financial requirements imposed on the Trust changed from \$644,000.00 to \$1.4M to \$1.7M. Girven Road had to be widened prior to construction of the track, an event the Trust had no control over.

In January 2004, the Trust made a request to the Tauranga City Council to change the venue for the all-weather track to the Tauranga Domain. The Trust made submissions on this and on 22 March 2004 the Council's Evaluation and Monitoring Committee voted 7/6 to change the venue to the Tauranga Domain subject to the provisions of the Draft Active Reserves Management Plan. The Trust made submissions in respect of the Draft Active Reserves Management Plan and in February 2005 the Tauranga City Council accepted the Active Reserves Management Plan in its entirety, which included the provision of an all-weather athletic track at the Tauranga Domain. The Trust was granted only two years to raise the funds and construct the track.

Fundraising to pay for Plans, Specifications and Tendering

In 2005 a quiz evening and a duck race were organised as fundraising activities. The duck race involved people purchasing numbered ducks which were thrown into the water together and floated along with the tide. The first ducks through the finish chute won the prizes. The purpose of these events was to raise funds to pay for plans and specifications for the track to be prepared, for the tendering process to be completed and a case study to be prepared. The case study was then used to raise funds for the construction of the track.

In July 2005 the quiz evening was held at the Mount Maunganui Cosmopolitan Club and a profit of \$2,390.39 was made. Karen Smith was instrumental in the organisation of this quiz evening. Frank Vosper did the auction and Ray Young organised the questions.

In September 2005 Bellevue Athletic Club pledged \$3,000.00 towards the project. The rest of 2005 was used planning the duck race, obtaining consent to run the duck race, organising the tickets and organising the event. After a slow start with ticket sales momentum picked up and the duck race was held in the Waikaere Estuary on the 18th of December 2005. A profit of \$14,369.28 was made. Frank Vosper sold approximately 1,000 tickets and arranged nearly all of the prizes valued at \$14,248.00. Murray Clarkson and his partner Fay Riley sold approximately 700 tickets and John Mathieson sold approximately 700 tickets. Ross Hynds and Ray Young organised the athletic clubs to sell tickets and Karen Smith organised the Lion Foundation to provide the funding of \$5,000.00 for advertising. The most striking advertisement was the advertisement written on the back of a Bayline Bus. Tony Lugg arranged a

donation by Bayline for the use of the back of the bus for advertising the duck race. Ross Fletcher kept excellent financial accounts throughout the event.

In December 2005 Frank Vosper arranged with Ada Parnwell for The Twenty Thousand Club Trust to donate \$100,000.00 towards the construction of the track. This was the first major donation the Trust received. Ross Fletcher summed up its importance when he said this donation gave the Trust credibility.

Plans, Specifications and Tendering

In January 2006 the Trust instructed Sports Turf NZ Limited to prepare plans and specifications for the track and carry out the tendering process. Sports Turf NZ produced the plans and specifications, and the Trust prepared a case study to be used for fundraising. In October 2006 Sports Turf NZ completed the tendering process and sent all the tenders to the Trust for consideration. The money from the Quiz evenings and duck race were used to pay for this. In November the Trust appointed Mondo NZ Limited as its principal contractor subject to an acceptable price being agreed to and funding being obtained. A final construct price of \$1,494,781.00 was agreed to.

Consultation with the other users of the domain was a drawn-out process but ultimately a rewarding one for athletics, cricket and rugby. Changes were made to the design of the track:

1. Locating the water jump on the inside of the track rather than the outside to preserve the Number 2 rugby field.
2. Locating the long jumps and the pole vault to the outside of the track, the javelin run up and the dead ball areas.

Fundraising

Once the case study with the plans, specifications and tenders was completed, fundraising to raise \$1,494,781.00 to construct the track began in earnest. The fundraising took place in 2006 and 2007.

In March 2006 The Christie Trust announced it would donate \$100,000.00 to the track. This was later increased to \$120,000.00.

In April 2006 the Trust applied to the Council pursuant to its ten-year draft plan for \$330,000.00 to construct the track.

In May and July 2006 applications were made to organisations for funding. These applications included the case study which the Trust had prepared with copies of the plans, specifications and tenders. A second quiz evening was also held at the Mount Maunganui Cosmopolitan Club raising a profit of \$2,390.00.

In August 2006 Green Thistle donated \$20,000.00 towards the track. In November 2006 the Lion Foundation donated \$50,000.00 towards the track.

In December 2006, the Perry Foundation announced that it would donate \$100,000.00 to the Trust subject to a formal application being put in and the Trust obtaining all the funds for the construction of the track. It was a standard condition in most donations that the donation was subject to the Trust obtaining all the funds to construct the track.

2007 was the busiest year of all and an enormous amount of work was carried out to raise the funds. This fundraising was ultimately successful.

In March 2007, the Tauranga City Council as the owner of the Tauranga Domain on behalf of the Trust applied to TECT for \$350,000.00 of funding for the construction of the track. Kiri Pope of the Tauranga City Council did a lot of work towards this application and deserves a vote of thanks from the Trust and the community as a whole. TECT approved funding of \$300,000.00 for construction of the track at its meeting on the 13 March 2007 subject to a number of conditions which included the Trust obtaining the balance of funds.

In April the Trust lodged an application to the Tauranga City Council for \$330,000.00 to be provided for the track in the 2007/2008 budget and for a one year's time extension to complete the construction of the track. The Trust made submissions in support of this application in May and the Council announced in July that it would donate \$330,000.00 to the construction of the track. The Council also granted a one year's extension to raise the funds and to complete the construction.

In March 2007 the Bay Trust announced it would donate \$100,000.00 to the Trust for construction of the track.

In June 2007 the Trust made a number of applications and reapplications for funding.

Frank Vosper after some months of organisation arranged for the Trust to be one of the beneficiaries of the Police Auction. This was held on 17 August 2007 at the Bluechip Stadium and raised \$41,000.00 towards the funding required.

Frank Vosper and Murray Clarkson also organised with the Tauranga City Council in August 2007 through City Partners for the Council to provide a further \$50,000.00.

Frank Vosper, Murray Clarkson and Fay Riley throughout the 3 years of fundraising sold approximately 8,000 \$2.00 raffle tickets at athletic meetings, raising a profit of approximately \$8,000.00 after prizes towards the funding required.

Murray Clarkson also obtained significant funds from the athletic clubs and supporters towards the funding required.

In July 2007, the Trust prepared a press release for the purposes of raising funds. Time was of the essence to raise the funds and time was running out

to meet the Council deadlines. The press release was made in August 2007. John Cousins of the BOP Times wrote an excellent article based on this press release which raised \$105,000.00 the day after it was printed. \$100,000.00 of this came from the Hillsdene Trust. The BOP Times has throughout the history of the Trust been very supportive and constructive in its articles about the track. The Bay News and the Weekend Sun also wrote positive and supportive articles about the construction of the track. In general, the media as a whole contributed significantly to this project.

In September 2007, the Trust was able to advise the Tauranga City Council that it had raised the funds from the following organisations:

1.	Tauranga City Council	\$330,000.00
2.	TECT	\$300,000.00
3.	Christie Family Trust	\$120,000.00
4.	The Twenty Thousand Club	\$100,000.00
5.	Perry Foundation	\$100,000.00
6.	Bay Trust	\$100,000.00
7.	Hillsdene Trust	\$100,000.00
8.	Pub Charities	\$ 50,000.00
9.	Lion Foundation	\$ 50,000.00
10.	Tauranga City Council through City Partners	\$ 50,000.00
11.	Police Auction	\$ 41,000.00
12.	Athletics Waikato/Bay of Plenty	\$ 40,000.00
13.	Southern Trust	\$ 30,000.00
14.	Athletics Clubs	\$ 27,700.00
15.	Green Thistle	\$ 20,000.00
16.	Scottswood Trust	\$ 10,000.00
17.	Others	\$ 26,081.00

Track Construction

The Track was constructed by Mondo NZ Limited the New Zealand division of Mondo. Mondo is a large Italian multinational with a turnover of hundreds of millions of euros. Mondo has built a number of Olympic Games tracks. Joe Hoekstra who himself had built 100 or so athletic tracks including a number of Olympic Games tracks at the time the track was constructed was the Mondo engineer who organised construction of the track at the Tauranga Domain.

At the time of construction, the Track was a Mondo Superflex Super X Track, the same, as the Beijing Olympics was run on. This is an embossed vulcanised rubber material made up of 2 layers and welded together by a vulcanising process. The top layer was pigmented synthetic rubber, which provides high UV, excellent wear, slip resistance and inherent qualities of fast recovery. The bottom layer was a soft rubber honeycomb structure that provides optimal shock absorption. Largely environmentally friendly natural rubber was used.

On 27 September 2007, the Trust was advised that a resource consent was required. This was contrary to previous professional advice, so the Trust set about obtaining one as quickly as possible. Timothy Richardson, Barrister advised the Trust what course of action to take and provided an opinion to the Trust free of charge. The Trust employed Harrison Grierson and obtained the resource consent. Harrison Grierson donated part of their fee to the Trust.

In November 2007, the Trust entered into a contract with Mondo NZ to construct the track. The Trust also entered into a contract with the Tauranga City Council whereby the Council granted the Trust permission to construct the track on the Tauranga Domain and set out terms and conditions including the Trust's obligation to provide equipment for the use of the track.

In November 2007, the Trust negotiated with Ngaitamarawaho Iwi to construct the track subject to having 2 Iwi monitors present during excavation.

Construction of the track began in Mid-November 2007. During excavation midens were discovered and the Trust had to obtain a consent from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust for permission to continue the construction work. This was obtained; however, it did cause some delay. Archaeological work was carried out by Ken Phillips who did his best to assist the Trust to keep the project continuing smoothly.

By 31 December 2007 the retaining wall had been completed, all excavation work completed, archaeological work completed and 2/3rds of the gap 40 had been laid and the track was being made ready for tarseal.

In January 2008, the tarsealing of the track was completed and in February/March Mondo NZ laid the rubber on the track and the track was marked. Members of the Trust and members of the athletic community assisted in the weekends in the laying of the track to reduce costs to the Trust. This reduced the cost of the track to the Trust by many thousands of dollars. The Trust acknowledges the work of Murray Clarkson in organising this initiative and in the volunteers who assisted in this work. The Trust also acknowledges Fay Riley for the refreshments she provided during the course of this work.

The Trust organised security at the track while the Mondo surface was being laid. This proved valuable on one night when some drunken individuals attempted to steal one of the Mondo rubber surface rolls by rolling it out the entrance of the Domain. The Trust is grateful to all those who contributed to the security. The security ensured that the laying of the track took place without any incident.

The track, with all its markings was finally completed at noon on 13 March 2008.

Donor Signs

During 2008 the Trust designed, in consultation with the Tauranga City Council, a donor's sign, which was funded by the Trust and is erected at the Domain, acknowledging all the major donors who contributed to the construction of the track. Karen Smith did a lot of work towards this.

Purchase of Equipment

During 2008 the Trust researched the purchase of equipment, itemised the equipment to be purchased, funded the purchase of the equipment and purchased the equipment. In total the Trust spent \$160,000.00 on the purchase of new equipment. The main contributors to the purchase of this equipment were:

Lion Foundation	\$49,986.69
NZ Community Trust	\$50,078.66
Southern Trust	\$19,332.80
Pub Charities	\$36,683.09
Bellevue Athletics Club	\$ 851.56
Tauranga Rotary Club	\$ 3,151.09

The Trust acknowledges the work of Murray Clarkson and Ray Young in respect of the purchase of the equipment.

Photo Finish Room and Commentary Box

During 2008 the Trust consulted with Tauranga Sports Rugby Club for the erection of a photo finish room and commentary box in the existing grandstand at the Tauranga Domain. Frank Vosper led the way with this initiative and much of the success for this is due to Frank's vision. The Trust obtained \$25,000.00 from Bay Trust for the erection of the photo finish room and commentary box, and it was duly constructed at a cost of \$29,320.74. The Trust made up the difference in cost. The Trust acknowledges Frank Vosper and Murray Clarkson in particular for the work that they did in bringing this project to a successful conclusion.

Equipment Shed

During 2008 the Trust decided it would erect a new equipment shed and obtained permission from the Tauranga City Council for this to proceed. The cost of the equipment shed with archaeology, earthworks etc was approximately \$92,000.00. The Council agreed to contribute \$27,830.00 towards this. During the course of the year the Trust raised the balance of the funds needed to construct the equipment shed. Perry Foundation provided \$50,000.00. First Sovereign has provided \$15,000.00.

The resource consent, New Zealand Historic Places Trust consent and building consent were subsequently obtained. The equipment shed was constructed in 2009. In addition to this the Trust also obtained further funding

of \$26,123.00 from Pub Charity to cover tarsealing, extra earthworks, Harrison Grierson's costs, golf kart, iwi sign and other incidentals to complete the project. Frank Vosper deserves special mention for the work he put into this project. Ownership of the Equipment Shed was transferred from the Tauranga Millennium Track Trust to the Tauranga City Council after construction was completed. The Equipment Shed was leased back to the Tauranga Millennium Track Trust for 15 years from 11 August 2009, with a right of renewal (subject to Schedule 1 of the Reserves Act 1977) for a further 15 years with a final expiry date of 10 August 2039.

Opening

The track was officially opened by the Mayor of Tauranga, Stuart Crosby on 01 January 2009 at the Tauranga Twilight athletic meeting. Karen Smith organised the invitations to go out, Murray Clarkson organised the refreshments and tents, Frank Vosper assisted in the publicity for the opening and Athletics Tauranga organised the event.

Ownership of the all-weather athletic track was transferred from the Trust to the Tauranga City Council pursuant to the contract entered into between the parties in 2007.

Throughout the fundraising and track construction periods Ross Fletcher kept immaculate financial records and payments of accounts up to date and performed the treasurer's duties with distinction. Murray Clarkson also performed the secretarial duties with distinction.

IAAF Certification

The all-weather athletic track received temporary IAAF certification on 18 September 2009. On 21 March 2011 this was upgraded to an IAAF Class-2 Athletics Facility Certificate. A copy is attached.



GARTH MATHIESON
CHAIRMAN (2003 TO 2009)
TAURANGA MILLENNIUM TRACK TRUST
DATED 31 JULY 2022

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Class 2 Athletics Facility Certificate

*The IAAF is pleased to certify hereby
that the following track and field facility:*

Name:

TAURANGA DOMAIN ATHLETICS TRACK

City, IAAF Member Federation:

TAURANGA, NEW ZEALAND

Synthetic Track Product, Manufacturer:

SPORTFLEX SUPER X, Mondo S.p.A., ITA

IAAF Track Product Certification Number:

S-99-0006

Installation Company:

Mondo S.p.A., ITA

Surveyor Company:

Decorcasa s.n.c. di Genta & Co., ITA

has been

Measured:

11 March 2008, Genta Alessandro, ITA

and meets all the technical requirements of IAAF Rule 140 for the relevant competitions. Please note that the Construction Category is V.

This certificate is issued in accordance with the terms and conditions of the IAAF Certification System of track and field facilities, implements and competition equipment.



PIERRE WEISS

IAAF General Secretary



JORGE SALCEDO

IAAF Technical Committee Chairman



Date of issue: **21 March 2011**