

EA Networks Centre upgrades a win for local sport groups

4 February 2019 - ADC - It's a world-class facility that attracts regional and national competitions, and now Ashburton's EA Networks Centre stadium can open its doors for even more business, courtesy of a clever curtain divider.

The new retractable curtain was installed at the Centre in January, which - combined with the original curtain, allows the stadium to be split into four separate court areas. The addition means different sporting codes can be played on the courts at the same time without interfering with each other.

"This opens up a lot of opportunities for the EA Networks Centre. It's a popular venue for a lot of local competitions and larger tournaments, so being able to safely host more of them at the same time is a great use of the space and better convenience for our users," Sports Facility Manager Steven Prescott said.

The \$80,000 project is the latest improvement made at the stadium, with retractable concertina seating for 966 people installed in 2016. A climbing wall has been earmarked to go in the stadium next year, and plans to extend the stadium with more courts may also be on the table further down the track.

Upgrades to the stadium are not the only improvements made at the EA Networks Centre lately, with maintenance also carried out in the pool area and changing rooms.

"Pools like ours are regularly used all year round, so we have to do some maintenance to keep them in tip top shape. We replaced some broken tiles and re-grouted three of our four pools, replaced some flooring and changed some of the doors in the changing rooms to aluminium ones," Steve said.

The maintenance work meant the pool facilities had to close for two weeks in January, however with the availability of more outdoor pools over the summer holidays, swimmers had a number of alternate venues to cool off in.

"The Tinwald pool has remained as popular as ever this season. People love spending hot days around the pool, but it's great that we've got the EA Network Centre ones open again for business. They just give people other options that are out of the sun, and with the work completed and out of the way, they are in pristine condition for everyone."

The EA Networks Centre is open seven days a week. For more information about the stadium, pool and gym facilities available, visit www.eanetworkscentre.co.nz

EANC curtain divider. Photo supplied