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Veteran Kamuta
key player for
Kingfishers 63



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Park's future coming clearer

By NICHOLAS BOVACK

The future shape of Fraser Park under the Sportsville banner is clearer.

The eight clubs in the sporting hub are now considering a draft plan for a radical new design for the park.

Features include a new clubhouse that will cater for all the codes, a new artificial hockey turf, two outdoor artificial turfs, new squash courts, new indoor training facilities and a new softball diamond.

The clubrooms will be situated in the middle of the park, giving users a 360 degree view.

Hutt City Council has budgeted \$5 million for the project in 2015-16 and Sportsville will be looking to raise money from gaming trusts and other sources.

The plan is very much at a concept stage and there is a lot of consultation required with the clubs and regional sporting bodies.

The priority is increasing participation and making the clubs stronger.

"Facilities are nice things to have but this is not all about facilities," she says.

The bigger issue is getting the local community behind Sportsville, creating links to local schools, improving youth services and creating a brand that people can identify with.

There is a lot of sporting talent in the area and the clubs can play a bigger role in helping schools with coaching and development.

To do that the clubs have to be administered well and be strong.

That raises the issue of the Avalon Rugby Club. Rugby would seem to be a cornerstone

of any sporting hub but the club appears to be in trouble.

Leisure services manager Marcus Sherwood says he is aware the club has problems. Sportsville is there to help the clubs and the board overseeing the project will be looking to support Avalon.

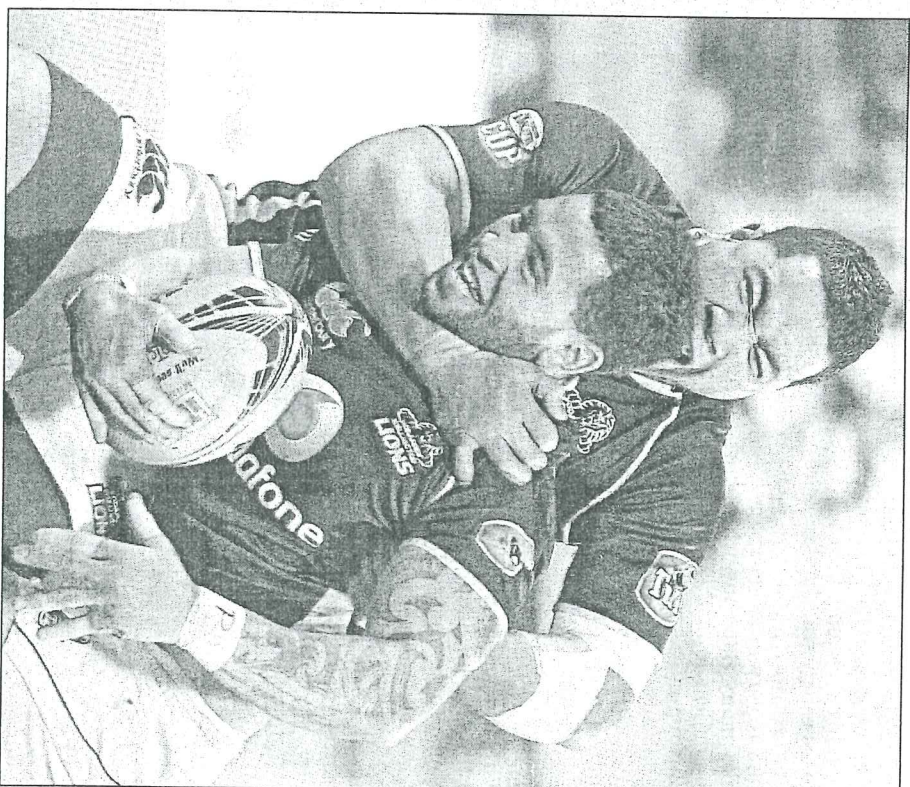
Ms Englebrechtsen says "strong clubs" are the cornerstone of Sportsville and it is not being built around just one club.

Another major issue is the involvement of Lower Hutt City Football Club. The club is based at Bell Park (Moera) but has facilities at Fraser Park.

The club appears committed to Fraser Park and has taken a positive approach to Sportsville, she says.

"They want to be involved but it is about the nuts and bolts to make that happen."

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That's a try: Wainuiomata halfback Frae Wilson celebrates scoring his debut try for the Lions in their 37-28 win over Canterbury. Offering congratulations is hooker Motu Matu'u.

Photo: DEAN PEMBERTON

School holiday activities planned

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She believes most members have accepted the club will eventually relocate.

To raise its profile Fraser

Park Sportsville is planning a Kids Fest and holiday school programmes.

The organisations involved are Avalon Rugby Club, Dodgers Softball Club, Fraser

Park Squash, Lower Hutt City Football Club, Naenae Hockey Club, national Hockey Stadium Trust, Taia Cricket Club and Hutt Valley Softball Association.

LHCFC for Sportsville

Lower Hutt City Football Club is supportive of Fraser Park Sportsville and is likely to commit to the project.

Club president Jim Baxter says the club has until March next year to make a final decision but he can see no reason why the club would say no.

The issue is being dealt with by committee member Robbie Easthope. He recently gave club members an overview of what is planned and Mr Baxter says it

was well received.

The club's executive is in favour of joining Sportsville but he says there are still a few issues to be resolved.

The club needs to be assured that the move will be a benefit.

Another issue is the future of Bell Park and he says the club is discussing that with the council.

Overall, he says, the feeling within the club is "very positive" and he believes it will be a good move for the club.

