

Haumaru Sports and Recreation Centre

Tauranga NZ



Client: Apollo Projects | Completion: 2025



FIT-FOR-PURPOSE INDOOR ARENA

DEVELOPED BY TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW

In the heart of Tauranga's city centre stands the newly unveiled Haumaru Sports & Recreation Centre—a vibrant hub for sporting excellence, community connection, and active wellbeing. Repurposed from a former retail warehouse, this transformed facility now houses four versatile indoor courts, purpose-designed for basketball, netball, volleyball, pickleball, and badminton. With flexible configurations and a capacity of 1,500 people, Haumaru delivers a dynamic venue for both casual play and large-scale tournaments.

Named "Haumaru" by mana whenua, reflecting a sense of safety and community well-being, the facility was developed through a powerful partnership between Tauranga City Council, Bay Venues, the University of Waikato, Apollo Projects and key contractors. Built in under six months and cost-effectively delivered by converting an existing structure, Haumaru delivers significant community benefit while supporting the city's evolving identity as a thriving, active urban centre.





Scope of Works

- Facility Specifications: The Centre features four indoor courts marked for basketball, netball, volleyball, pickleball, and badminton, with flexibility to adjust line markings as required for various tournaments. Capacity: 1,500 people.
- Mechanical Services Installation: HVAC design, installation, and commissioning.
- Conversion of a former Warehouse retail store into a large sporting complex featuring multiple basketball courts, locker rooms, and toilet facilities.
- Installation of new toilet exhaust systems serving changerooms and accessible toilets.
- General exhaust system added for the storeroom, including non-return dampers to prevent air recirculation.
- Outside air system provided for Tournament Control and Reception areas.
- Electrical Integration: Mechanical/electrical works, including control of new ventilation systems.
- Building Management System (BMS): integration to existing system.
- Ductwork fabrication.
- Air-handling systems cleaned, sealed, and balanced including commissioning, testing, and certification.
- VAE Group to perform defect liability period maintenance.

Key Challenges & Successes

- Seismic Considerations: Tauranga's seismic zone demanded robust seismic restraint for HVAC systems. Lightweight timber reduced structural loads, allowing simpler service supports compared to concrete buildings.
- Collaborative Effort to meet tight timeline: The project was a result of strong partnerships between Tauranga City Council, mana whenua, community sports organizations, the University of Waikato (naming rights partner), and Apollo Projects.

Conclusion

The Haumaru Sports and Recreation Centre exemplifies how collaboration, innovation, and community focus can transform an underutilised space into a thriving hub for sport and wellbeing. Delivered under tight time constraints with a focus on seismic resilience, the project highlights the success of collective effort between local government, contractors, and community stakeholders.

By repurposing an existing building into a modern, multi-purpose facility, Tauranga City has created a vibrant, adaptable venue that meets diverse sporting needs today while remaining flexible for the future — a safe, inclusive, and dynamic asset that reflects the city's evolving identity.

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PROJECTS

