

The dog is your best fur-end

Slow and steady wins the race. That's how the saying goes. For the Dogs that use the Rangiora Millton Reserve dog park its been worth the wait.

For the last few years the Friends of the Rangiora Dog Park and the Rangiora Lions Club have combined efforts and successfully managed to secure additional land adjacent to the existing dog park, have had it fenced off and built dog agility features throughout the new park for the dogs and their owners to enjoy.

There are nine dog agility stations and a picture frame with changing themes throughout the year to enable dog owners to take a memorable photo of their fur babies.



Members of the Rangiora Lions Club celebrate the completion of the Dog Agility Park in Rangiora

The Rangiora Lions Club have enjoyed the challenge in designing and constructing the agility stations. "Its required a lot of planning and consultation with the park users and the Council to ensure we designed features that were both wanted and would also be durable" said project coordinator, Quentin de Hamel.

Rangiora Vet Centre kindly provided a substantial portion of the funding necessary, with the balance coming from the MainPower Community Fund, the Community Board and the Lions Club's own charitable trust.

The construction of the agility stations involved the whole club. From supporting applications for funding, building the equipment, painting and the landscaping. There were working bees every weekend for a number of weeks over summer as the site was cleared, foundations concreted in and the structures built.

Unique features have been the use of astro turf on the flat surfaces to provide grip for dog paws and the construction of a “Picture Frame” with changing themes to enable that perfect “Instagram” picture of you dog. The trees and the terrain also provide variety, add to the unique features of the park and enrichment for the dogs.

“Its been a fantastic opportunity for the Lions Club to be able to give back to our community and every time one of us drives past or take their own dog to the park to be able say “we did that”. Its very rewarding”, says de Hamel.

The Agility Park is designed to be suitable for both large and small dogs. “Watching an owner excitedly encouraging their pets to navigate the obstacles and seeing the smiles on the faces of the owners and their dogs when each stage is accomplished is priceless”.

The Friends of the Rangiora Dog Park group and Lions have plans for more development of the park, from more seats, a notice board, more water drinking stations and possibly even a “memory” bridge or feature where you can remember past pets. “This park is going to quickly become the best dog park in Canterbury”, de Hamel says confidently !



Mike Ruscoe, John Woods, Quentin de Hamel, John Lovell, Connie and Dene Cook admire their craftsmanship at the new Dog Agility Park in Rangiora