

Stadium Historic Timeline

1991

- Wellington Rugby prepares plans to redevelop Athletic Park

1993

- WCC and sports codes begin planning multi-purpose stadium on Basin Reserve.
- Porirua supporters promote Aotea as stadium site.

1994

- **February 1994.** Government agrees to make railyard site available and planning focus moves there. Petition to support the railyards is circulated.
- **June 1994.** Feasibility study says 41,000 seat stadium will cost \$70m.
- **August 1994.** Sir Wilson Whineray assesses regional options and opts for railyard as best site ahead of Porirua (Aotea) and Lower Hutt (Fraser Park).

1995

- **July 1995.** Wellington City Council agrees to \$15m loan as base funding.
- **August 1995.** Wellington Regional Council poll shows 75% support across region for ratepayer funding. Council gives conditional approval for \$25m loan.
- **December 1995.** Naming rights sold to Westpac, corporate box sales commence.
- New Zealand Lottery Grants Board awards \$4 million grant

1996

- **February 1996.** Community Trust of Wellington awards \$3 million grant
- **July 1996.** First resource consent application fails in face of residents' opposition. Planning begins on more expensive model to accommodate design change requirements.
- **November 1996.** New plans unveiled.

1997

- **March 1997.** New proposal gets resource consent.
- **August 1997.** Fletcher Construction wins contract.
- **October 1997.** Membership sales commence (2500 to sell to raise \$30m capital).

1998

- **12 March 1998.** Tapu lifted on ground – construction commences.

- **June 1998.** The first long raker beam to support seating units was lifted into place. The following month the first concrete seating unit was placed.
- **November 1998.** Fletchers lifted the first roof section into place, and wall cladding started in December.
- **October 1998.** First roof segment in place.

1999

- **April 1999.** Cricket block was laid. Circle of concrete seating sections was closed.
- **May 1999.** Cricket pitch mowed for first time.
- **June 1999.** Roof completed.
- Staff recruited – trained at Te Ati Kimihia.
- Work started on laying outfield.
- **November 1999.** Stadium Trust offices opened and occupied.
- **17 December 1999.** Stadium given Code of Compliance certificate by Wellington City Council.
- Project completed and handed over to Stadium Trust after 21 months of construction, two weeks ahead of schedule. Project is within budget.

2000

- **3 January 2000.** Official opening by Governor General.

2013

- **April 2013.** Official re-opening of the Members Clubroom by Jonah Lomu.

2014

- **April 2014.** The East Mezzanine Bar was officially opened by the Rt. Hon. John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand. This new addition boasts spectacular views over the Wellington Harbour.

2016

- **December 2016.** The Turf Renovation Project began 5 December taking 16 days to complete and covering 15050 square metres (m²). Each turf roll measured 1m x 13m in length and 1204 rolls were used. The artificial ring road totaled 1343m².