

Carisbrook

Local lingo

Carisbrook is also known as the 'House of Pain' because of its reputation as a difficult venue for visiting teams.

Who's who

Dunedin identity Iain Gallaway is well known for his radio broadcasts of cricket and rugby matches from Carisbrook. A former President of New Zealand Cricket and life member of the ORFU, he was awarded the Halberg Services to Sport Award in 1999, and the Sutcliffe Medal from New Zealand Cricket for 'outstanding services to cricket' in 2000.

Hey guess what?

Although rugby is Carisbrook's main fare these days, its earliest associations were with cricket. Otago played Tasmania there in 1883 but there wasn't a full cricket international at Carisbrook until 1955, when New Zealand played England. Otago cricket has now moved to Logan Park.

Most regular spectators at 'the Brook' have a favourite place to park. It's part of the tradition really, leaving your car on a hillside street and becoming absorbed into the growing mass of people heading towards the ground on foot. Some nights it feels a bit like joining a cast of extras from a zombie movie. For a big match, the children from the house on the corner of Eglinton Road sometimes offer passers-by cooked sausages for sale.

Carisbrook, Dunedin's main sporting venue, takes up a block in the suburb of Caversham. Bounded by Murrayfield, Burns and Neville Streets, it seats about 29,000 spectators. The ground was named after the estate of colonial settler James Macandrew, itself named after a castle on the Isle of Wight. The venue has been floodlit since the 1990s so can cater for both day and night events and sporting fixtures.

Originally a little rough, the Carisbrook ground surface was properly drained and relaid when responsibility for upkeep of the grounds passed to the Otago Rugby Football Union in the 1900s. It has since been the scene of memorable sporting triumphs such as Otago's miraculous recovery from 3-12 down at half time to beat Auckland 18-12 and retain the Ranfurly Shield in 1947.

Carisbrook has been in the news of late as the costs and advantages or disadvantages of updating it versus building an entirely new stadium are debated.



Highlanders fans at Carisbrook



Carisbrook crowd, 1959

