



Devonport Judo Club

Forbes Street
Devonport TAS 7310

20th July 2020

To Whom It May Concern

Devonport Judo Club wishes to express its interest in the former Devonport Gymnastic Club rooms at the Forbes Street Recreation Centre.

We are a membership of approximately 50, of all ages but a large contingency of young members. With the numbers rising steadily we have outgrown our current training space. A standard size competition mat is 14 metres x 14 metres, we have the mats but currently train on a reduced sized floor area of 12metres x 8 metres.

The former gym club rooms has changerooms and toilet facilities as well as hand washing areas. Our current room has no changerooms or toilet facilities nor running water for hygienic purposes. Our only option is to go into the squash centre and use their facilities during training, however as we have many children in our care for safety purposes an appropriate adult must stop what they are doing and accompany that child to the rest rooms in the other building. We have at present a very small storeroom where male and female go into and change a couple at a time. Its less than ideal as we also have equipment that needs to stay in there. Limited parent/spectator space is also a factor for us at the moment.

We are a community minded club actively supporting and participating in school activities weeks and introduction to sports programmes. Our female defence classes and girls in sport agenda is also a big priority for us.

The club also hosts international and Olympic standard coaches. These highly sought after instructional sessions at this level in particular have a tendency to attract larger numbers than usual, we either have to limit our numbers at these trainings, which we don't ever wish to do, so instead we must outsource a venue to host such events. Often this results in taking ourselves out of our beautiful town.

As a club we are blessed to have many tradies within our membership. Builders, plumbers etc, all appropriately insured and licensed that are willing to voluntarily work on the Gymastics Rooms to bring it up to scratch as they do need quite a bit of work now. This would be at little or possibly no cost to the council. It would involve floor repairs, showers and toilet upgrades, painting and any other general works required. If we are the successful candidate chosen to tenant this building it would be greatly appreciated if the council could advise/recommend us for any government grants etc we may be eligible for so we may put this towards the costs of repair materials.

We would also appreciate a rental plan which is done on an hourly basis like our current venue. This would allow us to improve the building for our use while keeping outgoing costs to a minimum. We could also source other groups to perhaps utilise our space when we aren't in session.

As many of our members make up part of the Tasmanian National Team we feel that having an updated space to train would bring us into line with the rest of the state. For a great majority of the year trainings are compulsory for all state team members, due to our limited space North West members of that team are required to travel to Hobart for 2 hour training sessions two to 4 times a month and to Launceston in between. This new space would give us the ability to host these important trainings at our home base on occasions.

We would very much appreciate your consideration of us to take on these newly available rooms so as we may grow as a club and make our great sport available for more children and adults alike.

Yours sincerely

Len Boulton

President

Nigel Palmer

Vice President