



A GRAND JOB: Members of the Manaia Domain Grandstand Building Committee and Waimate Rugby Club, stand in front of their new grandstand. Pictured are, from left, committee member Jack Landers, committee chairman Jim Thwaites, secretary Ted Washer, club chairman John Mead and building committee member Nigel McLeod.

Photo: KARA HARROP

D.N. 21.7.93

Grandstand tribute to community spirit

By **GARY PARKES**

HUNDREDS of hours of voluntary labour are included in the value of the Manaia Domain's new \$69,000 grandstand.

The 40m-long grandstand, with a seating capacity for 500 spectators, will be officially opened on Saturday by South Taranaki District Mayor Mary Bourke.

Local personality Jim Thwaites said

the project had its beginnings with the realignment of the domain's two east-west playing fields about six years ago to north-south, making the picturesque old grandstand out of place for best viewing. Realignment made room for a third playing field. The project started about 18 months ago.

The Manaia Domain Board, with a heavy Waimate Rugby Football Club input, embarked on a fundraising campaign. Rugby club chairman John Mead organised the labour — as well as doing

the lion's share himself — and under the guidance of Chris Bromell, building began during the first week of March.

Thwaites said that while the two organisations were to the forefront of the project, it was essentially a total community project. "Everybody got behind it, one way or another."

He said the domain was used extensively. Apart from rugby and cricket, it was the venue for touch rugby, Maori rugby, gala days and other similar activities.