



John Blennerhassett, a trustee of the Sargood Bequest, outside the old Dunedin Art Gallery building at Logan Park yesterday.

Sargood Bequest donates \$100,000

By Alistair McMurran

A \$100,000 donation from the Sargood Bequest will assist with the development of an elite sport base at Logan Park

Half of it will be used to build a fully-equipped seminar room for 80 people in the old Art Gallery building which houses the Academy of Sport (South Island) and the Highlanders and Otago rugby teams. The two groups have combined to form the Centre of Excellence that will cater for the Otago Rugby Football Union's Academy and the 30 sports that form the Academy of Sport.

The other \$50,000 will be used to fit out the new Otago University Rugby Football Club's rooms in the University Oval grandstand.

"The bequest trustees saw the value in creating a sports hub in the Logan Park area and supported the development of a centre of excellence for Otago sport," trustee John Blennerhassett told the *Otago Daily Times* yesterday.

"We want to see as many people as possible, and from as many sports as possible, benefit from the University Oval and Logan Park redevelopment." Blennerhassett is a great grandson of Sir Percy Sargood who founded the bequest in 1939.

■ Sports facilities

Blennerhassett was a member of the Otago University Colts gold team when he was a computer science student at the university in the late 1970s.

"The University rugby club is one of the most successful in New Zealand and nurtures the talent that comes to Dunedin from around the country," Blennerhassett said.

"It does not have the traditional local support base other club? enjoy "

The Sargood name has been associated with the old art gallery building since it was built for the 1926 South Seas Exhibition.

Sir Percy and Lady Lucy Sargood purchased the building and donated it to the Dunedin City Council for an art gallery.

The building was purchased in memory of their son Cedric Rolfe Sargood, a 22-year-old Otago Infantry Battalion lieutenant who was killed at Gallipoli in 1915.

The building remained Dunedin's Art Gallery until the 1990s when the gallery was shifted to the Octagon.

The Sargood Bequest was founded by Sir Percy in 1939.