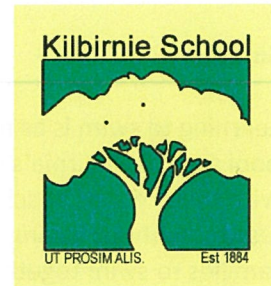


Kilbirnie School Pool

A valuable community asset

Presentation by Chris Montgomerie, Chair
and Mike McGimpsey, Principal, Kilbirnie School



History of the pool

- The Kilbirnie School pool opened in 1945.
- In 2008 the board considered permanent closure as repair bills to fix a leak came to over \$20,000.
- A community fundraising effort enabled it to re-open in 2009 with a new pool liner applied to repair a cracked base. Working bee spruced up surrounds.
- In 2012-13 another community fundraising effort enabled a heat pump to be installed. This made a huge impact on swimming experience and extended the swimming season (now all of term 4 and 1).

Current funding

- We receive \$280 per year from the Ministry of Education to run and maintain the pool.
- We want to keep it a stand-alone item – not divert funds from operations grant – so pool keys are sold for after hours access during terms 1 and 4.
- Last season 75 were sold (at \$75 each including a \$25 returnable bond). The \$3,750 went towards chemicals, light maintenance, electricity, and water.
- Pool keys were mainly held by school families, but about 20% went to neighbours, families of former pupils and people at nearby schools.
- For larger maintenance and capital works it is increasingly difficult to ask the community for funds. And it can't always be for the pool – there are other parts of the school that require TLC!

Being close to WRAC brings problems of its own

- We're close enough to walk – and the older children do it no problem. The 5-6 year olds take 25 minutes each way (50 mins walking on top of swimming).
- It is very stressful crossing 40-60 children across Wellington Road with the short crossing phases.
- The new seat belt regulations means that we can no longer use parental vehicles as back-up in inclement weather.
- The walk, changing, and lesson and play means half a day out of the classroom for about 20 minutes profitable swimming instruction.
- For these reasons, in term 4 this year we will begin swimming instruction in the Kilbirnie School pool with junior and middle syndicate children. This will be in addition to the water confidence/class swimming activities that children do with teachers during terms 1 and 4. We believe that this will provide more effective tuition.

Experience with the WCC School Pool Partnership Fund

2012/13	Purchase and installation of heat pump \$14,460. Declined
2013/14	Upgrade of pool liner \$13,438. Declined