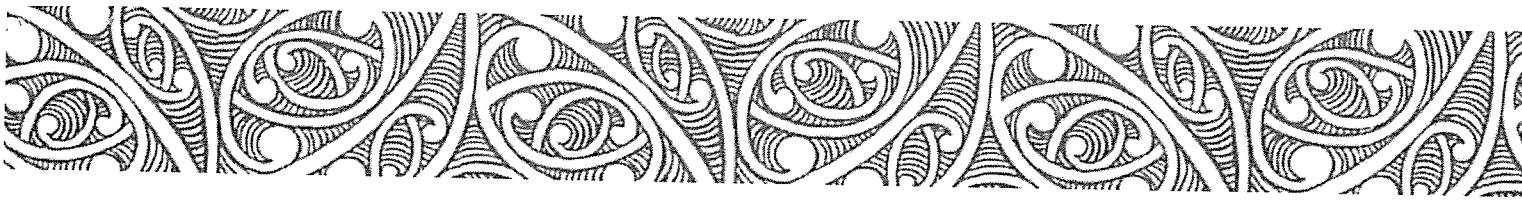


Tabled Information: 366/12(A)

**Wellington City Council
School Pools Partnership Fund
Application**

October 2012

**Board of Trustees
Newtown School**



The Newtown School Pool currently provides over 40,000 swimming lessons each year to Newtown School students, students from other schools and through private lessons with Aquazone Swim School. The school community believe the pool is a valuable asset and strongly support the upgrading of the pool, so that it can continue to provide learn to swim opportunities for Wellington children.

Background

The Newtown School pool built in 1954 (14m x 4.5m and 0.93m deep) is an ideal children's learner pool. It is believed that both the original building of the pool and the later covering of the pool were community initiated and funded projects.

A very positive history exists around Newtown School pool since 1954 :

- Built and maintained on community money even though Newtown School is the lowest decile school in Wellington with the exception of one
The other school's who applied are Wellington Girls East decile 8, Rewa Rewa decile 8, Kilbirnie decile 10, Khandallah decile 10 and Cashmere decile 10.
- High percentage of Maori (30%) and Pasifika (20%)
- Shares daily swimming with St Anne's (high Pasifika 75%) for half of the year, at no cost to them

We want our Maori and Pasifika families from low decile schools to have similar opportunities to others in Wellington. Inevitably, it's those most at risk who lose out: low decile schools with no pool but high numbers of Maori and Pacific Island pupils, who are more likely to drown, but less likely to learn to swim outside school. A 2009 survey found 88 per cent of youngsters learning at private swimming schools were European'.

- Always made improvements - when other were left to decay (**Appendix 1**)
- Stayed open every year - when other pools were shutting down
- Water quality superior - when other pools were closed for health reasons
- Managed well - when other pools lose money
- Over 35,000 swim lessons per year for the last 3 years which supports the WCC targets for teaching children to swim

Pool Facility

The general assessment of the interior of the pool area is that it is unpleasant and humid and suffers from the combined effects of poor insulation, inadequate ventilation and the lack of an effective vapour barrier. These issues contribute to both the unpleasantness of the environment and the accelerated rate of deterioration of building fabric, structure, fittings and equipment.

The roofing itself is showing signs of corrosion. Corrosion is advanced in the case of the steel frames which show significant signs of rusting particularly on their upper surface.

Pool Upgrade Project

The Board proposes a project to upgrade the pool facility so that it can continue to be used for an anticipated lifetime of 50 years.

The total project is estimated to cost \$201,335 with the Board seeking \$201,335 in one –off funding from the Wellington City Council School Pools Partnership Fund. If the Board is able to obtain sufficient funding the project will be carried out over the December 2013/January 2014 school holidays with completion expected in April 2014.

Pool Fund Criteria

This project aligns with the criteria and specific criteria of the Wellington City Council School Pools Partnership Fund.

Contribution to achieving Council's outcomes and fund objectives

Wellington City Council's 2010/2011 Annual Plan identifies three priorities:

- To make the most out of existing pool space
- To improve opportunities for people to take part in learn-to-swim programmes
- To provide more facilities to meet the needs of aquatic sport.

The Council's School Pools Partnership Fund aims to improve access to and uptake of learn to swim aquatic education, aquatic sport and casual aquatic enjoyment by the local communities of Wellington City.

Upgrading the Newtown School pool meets the first two of Council's priorities and the aim of the School Pools Partnership Fund as it will enable an existing school pool to continue to provide over 40,000 learn to swim opportunities a year. Without an upgrade the Newtown School pool will not be able to be used for much longer, reducing the number of learn to swim opportunities available in Wellington by over 40,000 a year.

Conclusion

The Newtown School pool building is continuing to deteriorate to a point that the Board believe it will not be able to be used after 2014. The pool is currently used for over 40,000 swimming lessons a year for both school and private lessons and there is strong community support for retaining the swimming pool. Consequently the Board believes it is important that the pool is retained so that it can continue to provide learn to swim opportunities for Wellington children.

To retain the pool the School must undertake an upgrade project to repair the roof of the pool. Cost estimates give a total project cost of \$201,335. This project upgrades the full facility, giving the pool an expected life of 50 years - that expected from a new building.

Given the number of learn to swim opportunities provided by the Newtown School pool, which will be lost if the upgrade is not undertaken, the upgrade project is vital.

Appendix 1

Replacement/upgrade of Newtown Pool_(since August 2007):

- Walls painted (August 2007)
- Heat pump installed (December 2007)
- Blue floor matting around pool (2008)
- 6 waterproof light tubes installed (April 2008)
- Sand replacement in the filter + Filter n°1 lid (2009)
- Filter n°2 lid replaced (2009)
- Pool fibreglassed (January 2010)
- Changing room heaters installed (April 2010)
- Heat pump booster installed (June 2010)
- Changing room waterproof light switch (July 2010)
- Pool blanket cover replaced (October 2010)
- Electrical board in pump room upgraded (October 2010)
- Vacuuming valves replaced (July 2012)
- Both tank filters replaced (July 2012)
- Circulation pump replaced (November 2012)