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**REPORT 8**

**PARKS, SPORT & RECREATION - UPDATE ON  
ACTIVITIES - 1ST QUARTER 2013/2014**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the activities of the Parks Sport & Recreation business unit for the 1st quarter of the 2013/2014 financial year. Parks, Sport & Recreation manage the parks, open spaces, community recreation facilities and recreation programmes on behalf of the residents of Tawa.

**2. Executive Summary**

The earthquakes during July and August were a timely reminder for all of us in the Wellington area but it was good to see the staff responding well. There was some minor damage in facilities and all staff at Council have been looking at our response and procedures for events such as these.

The July school holidays saw an increase in the range of activities offered at the pool including inflatable fun, water volleyball, kayaking, and water games. This is an excellent facility for the holiday programmes operated at the recreation centre to visit as it is easy to keep an eye on all the children so we are working on promoting this initiative further.

Some customers on the recreation centre holiday programme requested an earlier start than 8.30am as this would allow them to catch the 8.30am train. We will be happy to accommodate this request during future programmes.

Our 'Spring into Tawa' stall was a great success and the Tawa Trivia scavenger hunt went down particularly well with the children. The scavenger hunt was a joint effort by the staff from the library, community centre, parks, pool and recreation centre.



Tawa Pool and Recreation Centre stall “Spring into Tawa”.

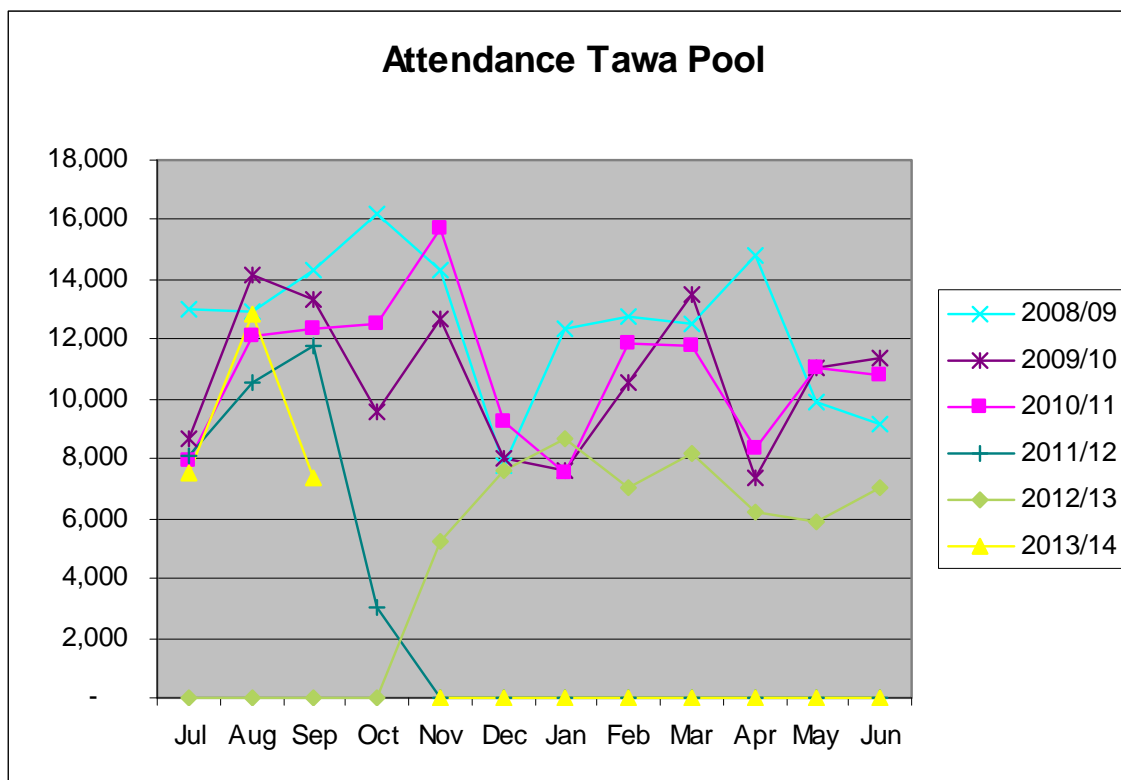
### **3. Update**

#### **Tawa Pool**

Our numbers are steadily increasing in the Learn to Swim programme and we will continue to build on our partnerships with the schools and the ‘Kiwisport’ swimming lessons.

The Pool “Beat the Winter Blues” special proved very successful and the customers all appreciated the lower price entry. The closure of the Porirua pool for maintenance meant we had an increase in casual swimming and also in birthday parties.

The pool hosted a Northern Swim Meet in August which included other swim school providers and there were 99 swimmers registered. These events are a lot of fun and provide an opportunity for young swimmers to compete, often for the very first time.



### Recreation Centre

The attendance at the Recreation Centre was slightly down during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter when compared to the same quarter last year. This was principally due to the good weather which allowed many sports teams to continue to train outside rather than moving inside during poor weather when sportsfields are closed for practice.

Work is continuing with the marketing team to further promote the facility to both the Tawa and wider communities.

### Recreation outreach

A small number of bookings were received for the Push Play trailer during this period and as usual advanced bookings for the warmer months are being received.

### Grasslees Reserve Upgrade

A contractor has now been confirmed for the reserve upgrade work. The work includes new entrances, a new bridge, new playground, a half court basketball space, two bbq areas and new paving.

The work will begin in early January 2014. During this time there will be a significant disruption to the park users. We will aim to keep as many areas open while works occur including the Tawa shared path. The playground will be closed for up to six weeks. However there will be areas closed during construction.

## **5. Conclusion**

Our parks and recreation facilities continue to serve the needs of Tawa residents and we continue to receive good feedback in respect of the specific programmes we deliver.

During the third quarter Council will be closing Keith Spry Pool in Johnsonville to allow for a new roof and changing rooms to be constructed. This closure is planned for 8 months and the teams at both Keith Spry Pool and Tawa Pool will be working closely together to help accommodate those customers who will be displaced while this work takes place.

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