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**REPORT 7**

**PARKS, SPORT & RECREATION - UPDATE ON  
ACTIVITIES - 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2013/2014**

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**1. Purpose of Briefing Note**

The purpose of this briefing note is to update the Board on the activities of the Parks Sport & Recreation business unit for the 2nd 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 2nd quarter saw improved attendances at both the pool and recreation centre as new programmes began and the weather improved.



One of our programmes which continues to be as popular as ever is a our toddlers morning sessions at the pool and which in this quarter culminated in our Christmas Toddler Day which was very well received by both children and adults alike.

Mark Tinilau one of team members at Tawa Pool was recognised by Wellington City Council during the quarter for the work he has done in developing a fitness programme for the staff at the pool which has been inspirational for all who have participated and helped to develop the team culture at the pool.

Work commenced on the redevelopment of Grasslees Reserve during the quarter following the awarding of the contract to Downer.

Planning continued for the Tawa Pathway bridge across Porirua Stream at Willowbank Park.

### 3. Update

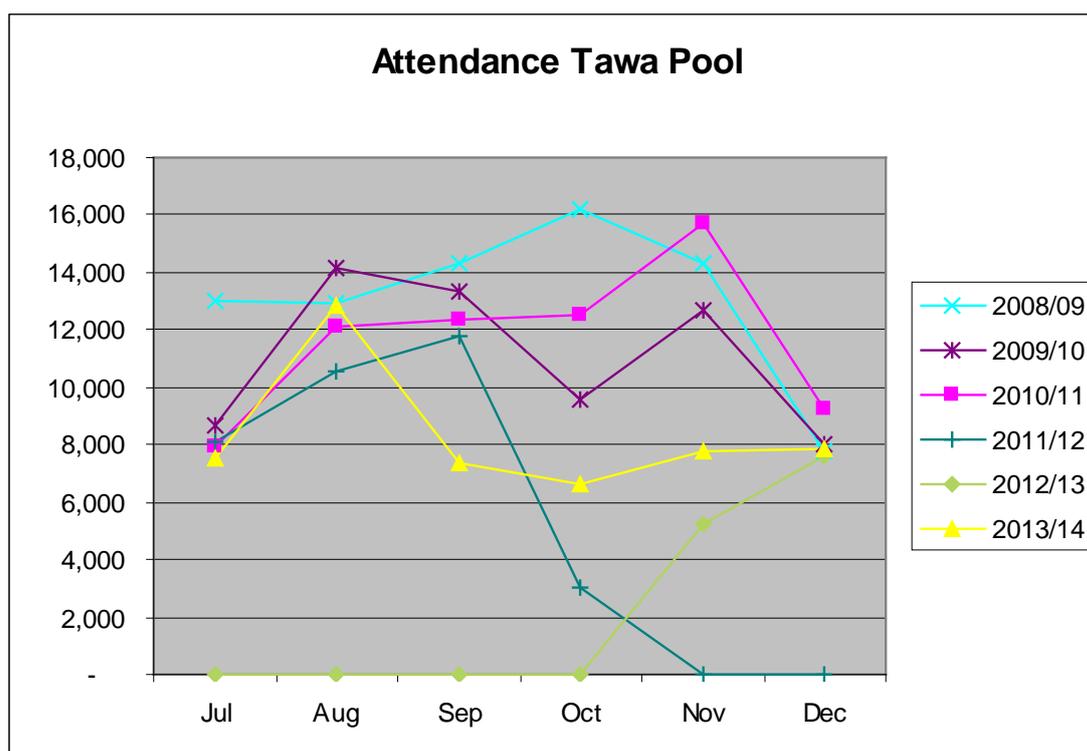
#### Tawa Pool

Numbers are continuing to steadily increase for the Learn to Swim programme with an increase of 16% in registrations for Term 4 and we had a number of local schools use the pool for both year end activities and swim sports events.

Birthday Parties at the Pool continue to highly valued by the local community with the majority of available slots being booked well in advance.

We are continuing to work hard to encourage local schools back to the facility in 2014 and planning continued to allow for an anticipated increase in users when Keith Spry Pool in Johnsonville closes in April 2014.

December saw the launch of our off-peak adult swim price which has seen an increase in adult attendance when compared to the same period last year.



#### Recreation Centre

Recreation Centre attendance was significantly higher during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter when compared to the same period last year. This was due to an increase in the number of netball teams entered into our league and the start of the Tawa Basketball Club league during term 4.

Numbers attending the school spring holiday programme were lower than anticipated and work is being undertaken to look at new ways to improve this offering.

## **Recreation outreach**

Bookings for the Push Play trailer remained steady throughout the quarter.

## **Grasslees Reserve Upgrade**

The focus of the upgrade work has been the Luckie Street footpath and main entrance and the playground area. A number of small changes to the playground lay out have been necessary to ensure that the new equipment sits safely and comfortably within the new site.

The remaining three entrance ways and associated new paving will be the next set of works to start. The abutments of the new bridge will be constructed while waiting for the built bridge to be completed.

## **Tawa Pathway**

Planning for the work on the Tawa Pathway bridge across Porirua Stream at Willowbank Park continued and construction will commence in February and continue through March. Additional paths linking to the Takapu railway station, Zande Crescent and Tawa Main Road will be constructed in the same time period to complete the southern end of the pathway.

## **4. Conclusion**

The team within Parks, Sport and Recreation are continuing to work hard to deliver open space and recreation opportunities for the residents of Tawa. Feedback from the community continues to be positive and we continue to work through their suggestions on how we might improve what we do further.

During the second half of the year we will complete the redevelopment of Grasslees Reserve and will manage the additional customers expected at Tawa Pool as a result of the closure of Keith Spry Pool.

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