

Dave Hume Swimming Pool Trust
Chairperson's Report
27 September 2022

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you all to our Annual General Meeting this evening, cancelled last year due to, you guessed it, Covid. Although not completely absent from our community, it is not quite the spectre that it was and we look forward to operating a full season through 2022/2023. The pool opened on September 3, as many of you will already know, and it is wonderful to see activity increasing as the weather warms and we move into the time frame of daylight saving. We saw an increase in participants at the pool over last season from 16,500 to 17,300 which is fantastic and long may this trend continue.

It is fair to say that, apart from the usual smooth operation of all things at the pool, the Trust's energies, especially those of Peter Allsop and Graeme Thomson, have been firmly on pursuing all that it is necessary to procure a cover for the pool. Many hours have been spent behind the scenes crunching numbers and looking at the best options.

This is no longer a dream, but a goal that we are working steadily towards - a pool that operates year round. We hope that the construction will begin in autumn 2023, and will include not just a cover but linings for both pools and a bulkhead in the main pool to increase its user friendliness. There is also the possibility down the track of hydrotherapy being added to the pool-use mix and the Trust is investigating this.

We all know why this development is so important to our community - for swim training & coaching, for recreation & leisure, for water safety & other health related activities. All of these to be inclusive, enabling all ages and abilities to undertake safe water-based activity at some level.

As part of the Long Term Plan, the Western Bay of Plenty District Council has committed \$1.34 million to the project which will extend the life of the existing pool for another 20 years. This most definitely got the ball rolling and the Trust has now applied successfully to two key parties in securing a further \$850K - \$650K from TECT and \$200K from Bay Trust. We are so thankful to have the support of all of these organisations. Although we have not reached our total goal, yet, we are well down the track with other options to consider now that we have this incredibly solid support behind us.

Other organisations will now be approached, some with quite specific requirements regarding timing of funding and the like. The Trust will be making applications to NZ Lotteries, the Lion Foundation and Grassroots to achieve a Whole of Life solution for our pool. We are feeling very positive about the outcomes from these applications.

The other exciting development at the pool has been the growth of SPLASH, our Learn to Swim School. The Trust perceives learning to swim programmes as a key part of our core mission and they will represent a significant percentage of pool usage, hence the plan for the bulkhead.

Splash had a great start last season after tremendous planning followed by execution of said planning, by Rachelle Bright. I, for one, was a little concerned when she let us know that she was off to build her own swim school numbers but we congratulate her on the safe arrival of Amelia in the off season. As luck would have it, a wonderful replacement arrived at the perfect time in the shape of Sally Hughes. Sally is also a very motivated person and we are delighted with the prospect of even greater growth this coming season. Sally is working steadily towards her goal of 200 learner swimmers.

The Dave Hume Pool Trust consists of community volunteers, representatives appointed by user groups and the Facility Manager. The pool complex will celebrate its 50th birthday in 2023 and this milestone could only be achieved by a high ongoing level of pool management and maintenance.

Once again, our thanks go to Peter, for the many hours he and his team put into making the pool such a credit to our town – it always looks great. Thank you to Scott Parker and the WBOPDC for their continued support of the pool. Scott has worked very closely with Peter over the years and we will be sad to see him move from his current role. However, we wish him well in his new role as Cycleway Manager. This will take Scott away from active involvement at the pool but his contact will continue through a transition phase with the new person.

We are also about to move into a new era of Mayor, Councillors and Community Board members. We look forward to continuing existing and building new relationships with the successful candidates in these roles. Their support is critical in helping us to get over the “line” for our development project.

And to finish, thanks to all members of the Trust. We have a good team on board and I hope to see all members continuing in their roles. Roll on to a covered pool by Christmas 2023. More hard work ahead but the end result will surely be worth the effort!

Barbara Martin
CHAIRPERSON