



MAYORAL MINUTE: Wellington Aquatic Leisure Centre - Request from Wellington Swim Club

AUTHOR: Mayor
REPORT DATE: 12 November 2020
TRIM REFERENCE: ID20/1460

To the Council
Ladies and Gentlemen

Office of the Mayor
Civic Administration Building
Church Street, Dubbo

On 6 November 2020, Council received a request from the Wellington Swim Club for after-hours use of the Dubbo Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre at Wellington (**Appendix 1**).

Council appreciates that the Club has a long, active history and acknowledges the continuing hard work and dedication towards educating young swimmers in Wellington. The Club is an important organisation within our community and I would like to see it continue to have a good working relationship with Dubbo Regional Council.

Dubbo Regional Council has been working conscientiously, improving the consistency of fees, guidelines and policies, in order to create fair and harmonious services at each of the facilities; and for all customers. Part of this process means aligning community use and ensuring that all Clubs are adhering to one set of fees and guidelines. In these ways, we can continue to ensure the safety of our staff and customers.

Council staff have provided some important information for us to consider when deciding on the request from the Swimming Club.

- Current Council adopted fees and charges are approved by Council as part of the annual budget process and as such, any cost consideration for access to community facilities should be addressed in keeping with published fees and charges.
- Council offers community/non-profit groups financial support and sponsorship throughout the year, which can be applied for to offset club expenses.
- Council has a legal liability and residual risk associated with this request as the Club does not want to pay for pool facilities, or lifeguards to be in attendance beyond advertised closing times. This compromises the duty of care in operating a public aquatic facility.
- Council is currently insured through a Mutual insurance company. As such, wouldn't countenance this request because of the potential exposure resulting from serious injury or fatality, which is shared by all Council members.
- Council already has a significant discount for season passes and aquatic leisure centre usage.

- If Council was to provide this request for this specific club, then other Clubs using other pools and community facilities should be offered the same arrangements.

As this matter is that of a political nature, I thought it was important that this request be considered by Council as a whole as it has implications of the activities of all three of our aquatic leisure centres.

This matter is submitted for consideration by the Council for a suitable outcome.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council consider the request from the Wellington Swim Club for determination.

Councillor Ben Shields
Mayor

Appendices:

- 1 Request from Wellington Swim Club

**WELLINGTON
AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB Inc.**
PO Box 105, Wellington NSW 2820

Affiliated with
N.S.W.A.S.A.
Western Districts A.S.A



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ATTN: Ben Shields
Mayor
Dubbo Regional Council
DUBBO NSW 2830

6 November 2020

Dear Mayor Ben Shields,

On behalf of the Wellington Amateur Swimming Club, I would like to ask for your assistance in sponsoring our Swimming Club Pointscore Nights.

In the past we have always had club nights on a Friday commencing at 6pm. We sometimes are finished at 7pm but most nights by 7.30pm and sometimes depending upon the distance swim at the end and the number of attendees on the night we have been known to go to 8pm. There has never been an issue with this until this year.

The Dubbo Leisure Aquatic Centre has now informed us that we will be occurring the following fees and charges.

Total cost of booking all three pools and café from 6pm-7.30pm is comprised of:

- Pointscore use of 50m pool until closing time = FREE
- Out of Hours 50m pool 6.30pm-7.30pm = \$69.00
- Out of Hours Leisure and Splash Pools = \$69.00
- Out of Hours café (6pm-7.30pm) = \$138.00

Total of \$276.00 per evening

We are not for profit club and we used to be one of the biggest clubs in NSW. These fees are well and truly out of our reach to pay on a weekly basis.

As our town pool falls under the banner of the 'Regional Council Aquatic Leisure Centres', we do not understand why our opening times are not the same as Dubbo. If we did have the same operating times as Dubbo, we would not be asked to hire any of the pools or the canteen as we would be swimming within the opening times.

OPENING HOURS	Dubbo	Wellington	Geurie
SEASON OPEN	5 September 2020	5 September 2020	7 November 2020
SEASON CLOSE	28 March 2021	28 March 2021	28 March 2021
Open to the Public	<i>5 Sept 2020 – 31 Oct 2020</i> Mon-Fri – 5.30am – 6.30pm Saturday – 6am – 6.30pm Sunday – 10am – 6.30pm	<i>All times (except January 2021)</i> Mon-Fri 6am – 6.30pm Saturday – 8am – 6.30pm Sunday – 10am – 6.30pm	<i>All times (except January 2021)</i> Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri – 6am – 7am Mon-Fri – 3.30pm – 6.60pm Saturday – 11.30am – 6.30pm Sunday – 11.30am – 6.30pm
	<i>1 Nov 2020 – 28 Feb 2021</i> Mon-Fri – 5.30am – 8.30pm Saturday – 6am – 8.30pm Sunday – 10am – 8.00pm	<i>January 2021</i> Mon-Fri 6am – 7.30pm Saturday – 8am – 7.30pm Sunday – 10am – 7.30pm	<i>January 2021</i> Mon-Fri – 6am – 7pm Saturday – 11.30am – 6.30pm Sunday – 11.30am – 6.30pm
	<i>1 March – 28 March 2021</i> Mon-Fri – 5.30am – 7pm Saturday – 6am – 7pm Sunday – 10am – 7pm		
Christmas Day and Good Friday	<i>CLOSED</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>
Public Holiday	<i>11am – 7pm</i>	<i>11am – 7pm</i>	<i>11am – 7pm</i>

Our club is 100 years old and it provides a service to the community and children of Wellington and anyone in our LGA who wishes to swim on a Friday night. Most of our swimmers are children who come along to have fun - learn to swim and have confidence in water. It has also been a wonderful social gathering for parents during the many years of the unrelenting drought.

Since getting the beautiful new pool, of which we are truly grateful and just love it, we are slowly building up our numbers again. Our current membership is 121 swimmers and in total we have 147 members.

We have found it very difficult in the last 10 years to raise money due to all the normal things in life with most people busy and involved with many sports and like most clubs the same volunteers in our town are in most clubs and organisations.

We would appreciate any assistance that you may be able to provide for us so that we can continue our Pointscore evenings with minimal charges.

Yours sincerely
Carmen Gain
Vice President
Wellington Amateur Swimming Club