

15. WOOLSTON PARK AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB - WPASC SWIMMING ADVANCEMENT FUND

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services, DDI 941-8534
Officer responsible:	Recreation and Sports Unit Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Board consider a proposal for an Aquatics Hagley/Ferrymead scholarship programme including an Annual Talented Swimmer Scholarship and an Annual Potential Swimmer Scholarship utilising the monies gifted to the Council by the former Woolston Park Amateur Swimming Club.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In July 2001, the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board agreed to "act as Trustee on behalf of the Woolston Park Amateur Swimming Club to administer \$28,000 as the club has gone into recess and will not be coming out of recess". (Clause 16.4 Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board report dated 4 July 2001). This agreement followed the final meeting of the WPASC management committee on 22 May 2001, where the committee resolved:

To hand monies to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board to act as trustees on behalf of the WPASC which has been dissolved to be dispensed as the following:

\$10,000 to Woolston Park Pool at the rate of \$1,000 per year in the month of August.

\$16,000 to be put aside for talented, dedicated swimmers in need of monetary assistance, as a travel grant in the Woolston/Sumner area.

Any interest compounded to go back into the trust fund.

Given a Community Board is technically unable to hold monies on trust the Council resolved that:

1. A special fund was established for the administration of monies gifted to the Council by the former Woolston Park Amateur Swimming Club (WPASC), with the fund to be known as the WPASC Swimming Advancement Fund.
2. That the fund receive interest.
3. That the fund be administered in a manner to be determined by the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board.
3. Since establishing the fund, several options regards a process for distributing the monies have been presented at Board seminars. These have included enabling local low deciles schools to apply for a grant to enhance delivery of learn to swim programmes; working in partnership with Aqua Gym to develop a squad programme; and working in partnership with the Peter Snell Institute to identify and support talented swimmers. These would have resulted in utilising all the capital and any interest within a definitive timeframe and were not considered acceptable. Also during this period the Council's Aquatic Facility Strategy was adopted and as a result the Woolston Pool has been closed for public use and is no longer the responsibility of the Woolston Residents Association's Woolston pool committee. Consequently, there is no longer a need for the Woolston Pool Committee to receive funds for managing the pool.
4. There is currently \$39,753.81 in the fund as a result of interest compounding.
5. To create a sustainable fund that will assist talented swimmers living in the Hagley/Ferrymead ward, the Community Recreation Adviser for Hagley/Ferrymead and Swim Canterbury (Swimming Canterbury West Coast Inc) have developed a scholarship proposal for the Board to consider. This is based on clearly identified needs of talented swimmers and what is currently required by the sport to succeed. The proposal includes an Annual Talented Swimmer Scholarship and an Annual Potential Swimmer Scholarship as follows:

5.1 Annual Talented Swimmer Scholarship

Funding:

- Scholarship grant of \$1,000 within each twelve month period.
- To facilitate the advancement of a talented competitive swimmer.
- The Board reserves the right to not present the scholarship in any given year.

Recipient: The awarded scholarship will be to a talented individual that:

- Has already achieved at a national level in their swimming career (top eight finish at national age group or open championships in previous year)
- Be at least 13 years old at time of application
- Permanently reside in the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board area
- Can provide a detailed swimming plan for the next 18 months highlighting training, targeted meets, camps and goals.
- Is found to be dedicated and committed to improving their performance

Intended uses of Award:

The award is to be used to finance initiatives that will further the athletes swimming career, (this list is not exclusive and the board may consider other uses of the money to aid the recipient's further development)

- Travel to important competitions, national or international, that are considered important to the development of the individual and be part of an overall competition plan.
 - National championships within New Zealand
 - Nationally selected representative teams travelling overseas (user pays portion)
 - International meets not selected by SNZ but considered important to the swimmers development.
- Coaching fees and/or equipment
- Training or development camps run by regional, national or international swimming bodies
- Sport science testing: Any such testing would be part of an overall development plan that the applicant and their coach have formulated. (There must be a reason why such testing is needed and for it to not be covered under SPARC carding allowance)
- For example: Flume tank analysis

Personal Behaviour and Accountability:

- The recipient must display a good sense of fair play in and out of the pool and be prepared to be a role model for other swimmers.
- Drug usage whether performance enhancing or recreational will not be tolerated. Any breach will mean instant withdrawal of the scholarship.
- All recipients are required to complete an accountability report and give a short informal presentation to the board outlining how the grant was used and how this has helped them.

Payment:

- Funds will be released on receipts for expenditure. These must be forwarded to the board for reimbursement within three calendar months of payment.
- In cases of financial hardship, an application may be made to the Board to pay invoices direct to the provider where the recipient can prove hardship.

Time line:

- For the Annual Talented Swimmer Scholarship applicants, the last of the National Championships is early April at the latest and any swimmers considering applying would have mapped out the next years programme, costs and goals at this time.
- Closing date of 31 March for a decision 1 May.

5.2 Annual Potential Swimmer Scholarship

Funding:

- Scholarship grant of \$500 within each twelve month period to facilitate the advancement of a potential competitive swimmer.
- The funds are to be targeted at a child that has already mastered the basic skills of swimming and would benefit from professional coaching (rather than learn to swim lessons).
- The Board reserves the right to not present the scholarship in any given year.

Recipient: The awarded scholarship will be to a school pupil in the Hagley/Ferrymead Ward that:

- Has been identified and assessed to have the potential to progress in the sport of swimming with professional coaching.
- Not have been in a professional coaching programme previously
- Be in years 4 - 8 at time of application.
- Permanently reside in the Hagley/Ferrymead Board area
- Is found to have the desire and committed to improving their skills.
- Family support for the programme.
- Requirement to compete at local swim meets.

Intended uses of Award:

- To pay for professional lessons in a club squad of their choice for the period of 12 months.

Personal Behaviour and Accountability:

- The recipient must display a good sense of fair play in and out of the pool and be prepared to be a role model for other swimmers.
- The recipient is required to complete an accountability report and give a short informal presentation to the board outlining how the grant was used and how this has helped them.

Payment:

- Funds will be released on receipts for expenditure. These must be forwarded to the board for reimbursement within three calendar months of payment.
- In cases of financial hardship, an application may be made to the Board to pay invoices direct to the provider where the recipient can prove hardship.

Reference from School:

- Commitment, attendance, history, family support etc.

Time line:

- For the Annual Potential Swimmer Scholarship, it is recommended that applications are made through schools during the first term as they have the children in the water, can see them and arrange time to have them assessed. Plus it would be good for the scholarships to be in place for the start of the swimming calendar which is after the April school holidays and gets the child swimming through winter.
- Closing date of 31 March for a decision 1 May.

6. It is recommended that a WPASC Swimming Advancement Fund advisory group be established with a nominated representative from Swim Canterbury, Swimming New Zealand and the Board. The purpose of this group would be to have an informed group of people assess sponsorship applications and advise Council staff responsible for reporting to the Board for decision making. This could include Bob Todd, Chairperson of the Board and former Chairman of the Woolston Park Amateur Swimming Club.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. Fund has a balance of \$39,753.81 as at 30 June 2007. The interest earned on the fund on an annual basis will fund the two Scholarships without using any of the principal fund.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

7. Yes

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. In order to fulfil WPASC's intentions regarding distributing its funds, a special fund 'WPASC Swimming Advancement Fund' has been created by Council to hold and distribute the monies.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

9. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

10. Yes, funds currently held in a Council special fund. Alignment with Recreation and Sports Activity Management Plans.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

11. Yes, as mentioned above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

12. Physical Recreation and Sport Strategy.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

13. Yes.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

14. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board:

Consider adopting the recommended swimming advancement scholarship programme including an Annual Talented Swimmer Scholarship and an Annual Potential Swimmer Scholarship utilising the former Woolston Park Amateur Swimming Club monies gifted to the Council for administration by the Board.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted and Diana Saxton thanked for her comprehensive report.