

3. REQUEST FOR FUNDING – SOCKBURN SWIMMING CLUB

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Community Services
Officer responsible:	Lesley Symington, Community and Recreation Unit Manager
Author:	Helen Miles, Community Recreation Adviser, DDI 941-6537

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to an application for discretionary funding from the Sockburn Swimming Club. The Club is requesting \$3,376 to replace teaching and office equipment that was destroyed in a fire at its club rooms at Sockburn Pool.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Sockburn Swimming Club is seeking funding of \$3,376 to replace equipment lost in a fire when its club rooms and contents were totally destroyed on 25 May 2005. The club rooms were based on top of the plant room overlooking Sockburn Pool. All equipment, trophies and records were lost. Each year the Sockburn Club paid an insurance fee to the Council in the belief its club rooms and contents were fully insured under the Council's insurance policy. Regrettably, this was not the case and only the building was insured. The Club has received a payment for the building which it is hoping to invest in another club rooms once the future of Sockburn Pool is apparent.
3. The Club was established in 1964 and had its club rooms built at Sockburn Pool when it opened in 1965. The Club currently works with approximately 100 children per year, utilising 15 coaches. Primarily, the Club offers a learn to swim programme for children aged 4 years upwards. Swimming lessons are given by volunteer coaches and the Club has significant involvement in the development of new coaches. Club fees are kept to a minimum to ensure the activity is affordable for families. Most families indicate that they joined the Club because of the family friendly atmosphere and the cost of term subscriptions.
4. "Drowning is a very real issue which affects all communities in New Zealand. Drowning is the third highest cause of unintentional death in New Zealand, surpassed only by road vehicle crashes and accidental falls. However, internationally, New Zealand has one of the highest rates of drowning in the developed world. Twice as many New Zealanders, per capita, lose their lives annually through drowning as Australians" (Water Safety New Zealand). Current Water Safety research indicates that only 23% of children under the age of 12 can swim more than 200 meters.
5. The proposed replacement of swim equipment will enable the Club to offer a quality learn to swim programme to its members.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. Sockburn Swimming Club has advised that funds on hand are required for ongoing pool hire costs and the eventual relocation of its club rooms.

OPTIONS

7. In relation to this application the Board could choose to:
 - (a) Fully fund - as requested
 - (b) Partially fund the swimming equipment
 - (c) Decline the application.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Board approve a grant of \$3,376 to the Sockburn Swimming Club from its 2005/06 Discretionary Fund for the replacement of teaching and office equipment lost in a recent fire at its clubrooms.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the staff recommendation be adopted.
- (b) That the Board request staff to undertake appropriate action to encourage community recreation groups to check the insurance cover arrangements for their facilities/equipment.