



October 2019 - Update from the Committee

The Tamahere Model Country School Vela Pool is a fantastic facility for all swimmers who wish to use it over the summer months. As we are all aware it is a large complex and there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes so to be open and transparent, we will attempt to explain these for greater understanding.

As a committee we have worked hard over the past couple of months to cover the three main points that were raised from previous years:

- A longer season for lane swimmers.
- Having warmer pool temperatures.
- A simple usage and pricing structure.

We have spent a lot of time working through these areas to make positive amendments, and feel confident we have done this.

Firstly, we are pleased to open the pool for the lane swimmers from 18th November 2019 and ending 29th March 2020. This is significantly longer than previous years.

We apologise for the less than ideal cooler temperatures last year for the early morning lane swimmers. We had staffing issues and the covers were not being put on at the correct times. This year we have set up a roster and one committee member will volunteer each week to oversee the pool staff and ensure they are putting the covers on every night.

After much discussion to simplify the usage, and pricing structure, we came to the conclusion to separate our swimmers into two areas: Lane Swimming + Casual Community Swimming. We are very excited to form the new **Tamahere Lane Swimming Club** as we want to create a community feel by having a group of like-minded people, and families, who can come together to enjoy swimming lengths of the pool. **Casual Community Use** in the form of a concession card was very popular at the end of last season, and we had so much positive feedback so this is the second option. This is for people who want to go and have fun and splash around! The pricing was set after researching similar pools and their pricing in Hamilton. We have tried to keep it as low as possible.

We have listened to the feedback that was given in the past month (after this year's pricing was announced at the end of last term) and to encourage families to join the Tamahere Lane Swimming Club for this season we will consider a family lane swimming option at \$450. Please talk to the committee if your family is in this situation. All spectators are free.

To be transparent to you all during this process there have been two things that have been at the forefront of the committee's thinking and decision making. Firstly, we want to have community swimmers enjoy the Vela Pool Complex over the summer, but secondly and very importantly costs must be covered.

On top of school running costs, opening to the community for the summer holidays and weekends in Term 1 increases our running costs to over \$25,000 per annum. The school usage costs of the pool are covered by school family pool levies, some minor funds from the Ministry and monies received from a profit share arrangement with the swim school - this year - **Hamilton Aquatics**. Last year a loss had to be met by the school, and the school cannot afford to do that again so we are hoping that after all of our hard work, time discussing and action taking that this year will be more successful.

The Vela Pool was created by a tremendous amount of hard work, volunteer hours, donations and LOVE from many people in our community. We are all so lucky to have such a wonderful asset for our community so please let's get behind this AMAZING complex and come together as a community with respect to enjoy it.

We will be having our first Tamahere Lane Swimming Club get together on Friday 1st November from 5pm-7pm so if you would like to join, or want to know more, please come down to the pool and join us for a BBQ. You will be able to sign up and get inducted so you will be ready to go on the 18th November.

Pool Committee: Angie Millar, Debbie Spice, Gina Woodfield, Annette Howard + Waveney Parker