

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Community Services Committee  
**FROM:** Community Services Manager  
**DATE:** 15 March 2011  
**SUBJECT:** Community Services Manager's Report – RCS11-03-08

---

## **PRINCIPAL RURAL FIRE OFFICER (PRFO)**

As Councillors will already know, the Waimea Rural Fire Authority's Principal Rural Fire Officer, Neil Eder, was tragically killed in a car accident in early March.

Neil had been the PRFO for just over three years and he and his wife were the shareholders of Rural Fire Network, the company that provides the rural fire services for both Nelson City and Tasman District areas.

While working for Carter Holt Harvey (CHH), Neil was part of the team that set up the contract to manage the rural fire services for the two Councils and the two main forestry companies. This was contracted out approximately 13 years ago to Rural Fire Network. This contract covering the total area of the two Councils has been used as a model for other Rural Fire Districts throughout New Zealand.

Eventually Neil left CHH to pursue other interests but then purchased Rural Fire Network when it came onto the market just over three years ago.

Councillor King spoke on behalf of the Waimea Rural Fire Committee at Neil's funeral and conveyed our sympathies to Mrs Eder, their two daughters and extended family.

## **PRINCIPAL RURAL FIRE OFFICER'S REPORTS FOR JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011**

The February Community Services Committee agenda included the December 2010 PRFO's report and this showed that there had been a number of significant fires between 4 and 25 December. The rain in late December resulted in a reasonably quiet January with most of the 10 vegetation fires being relatively small and easily controlled, however the January report details two significant incidents on 25 and 30 January.

The February report details significant fires on 1, 10, 12 and 18 February.

## **ASB AQUATIC CENTRE**

The December 2010 report received from the pool managers, CLM, highlight the following:

- Over 3,000 children attended the Friday night Wave Raves since 1 July.
- A record breaking 1,500 enrolled in Term 4 for the SwimMagic Swim School.
- Visitor numbers for December were 17,555 (average figures for December since 2004 are 16,398).

CLM have advised that they are proposing to open the Aquatic Centre for longer hours and this is likely to coincide with the opening of the Fitness Centre. Current hours are:

6.00 am to 8.00 pm (Monday to Tuesday)  
6.00 am to 7.00 pm (Fridays)  
8.00 am to 6.00 pm (Saturday and Sunday).

The new hours are still being finalised but are likely to be 5.30 am to 9.00 pm (Monday to Thursday) with other changes to Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. This is extremely good news for the community.

## **HIGGS RESERVE RESTORATION WORKS**

Since the unfortunate removal of trees and the resulting damage in Higgs Reserve, Council has been in negotiations with the NZ Transport Agency over the funding of the restoration works.

I am pleased to advise that an agreement has now been reached to the satisfaction of both parties and work on the restoration will be undertaken at the appropriate time.

## **POHARA STORE UPGRADE LOAN**

As previously reported, at the time of the assignment of the lease of the Pohara Store, Council agreed to undertake reasonably significant improvements and necessary upgrades to the building. At the time the final costs were not known as there were parts to the work that until alterations commenced we could not determine what work was necessary. Such things as having to fire proof the exterior wall that backs onto the Camp staff accommodation were reasonably significant.

It was therefore agreed to undertake the work and then determine the size of the loan necessary. The annual loan repayments have been included in the draft 2011/2012 Annual Plan, however at this stage the necessary resolution to raise the loan has not been passed.

The loan required, as allowed for in the draft 2011/2012 Annual Plan is \$140,000 and the annual loan repayments are funded from the camping ground closed account which is where all rental income from the store is credited.

### **Recommendation**

THAT the Community Services Committee agree to the raising of a \$140,000 loan for the upgrading of the Pohara Store with the annual repayments being funded from the camping grounds account and that this proposal be referred to the Corporate Services Committee for approval.

### **VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

In the past Community Services have held their six weekly meetings in other parts of the District, however since all Councillors have been included in all standing committees this has not happened.

Staff would like to hear how committee members feel about holding meetings in other towns and also using the new meeting room at the Richmond Library.

Another suggestion is meeting in the Sports House Boardroom at the Saxton Stadium and while there, doing a full tour of the Saxton Field facilities.

Councillors' comments would be appreciated.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Community Services Manager's Report – RCS11-03-08 be received by the Community Services Committee.

Lloyd Kennedy  
Community Services Manager

g:\tara\agendas\community services\2011\march\rCS11-03-08 community services manager.docx