

Wanaka Schools
Replies Received to Questions - August 2008

Questions	Wendy Bamford Wanaka Primary School	Barbara Perry Holy Family School	Wayne Bosley Mt Aspiring College
1. Are water sports or learn to swim part of the school's curriculum?	Yes. Learn to Swim and Water Safety are part of the P.E and Health curriculum		Yes, in Physical Education and Outdoor Pursuits.
2. If so, how many students are involved and for approximately how many hours per week?	The whole school – 400 students from year 1 to year 6 (5 -11 year olds). We have a block session at the beginning of the year – 5 hours per student plus our swim sports and water safety days. We block it and limit the time at the pool at present because of the large amount of time required to get children to the pool by bus, have their session and then come back by bus (children end up being away for 1.5-2 hours each time. Also the cost factor of having to transport the students to the pool.	Our programmes are learn to swim and we used the pool daily for 10 days, twice a year for 3 hours per day.	Based on our current PE programme: 350 students for 7 weeks, 3 hours per day in September/October. We also have 3 Special Needs students who join the public sessions 3 days per week as part of their programme. The senior OP Department run Kayaking sessions in the evenings.
3. The two sites under active consideration are on the slope at the south end of Kellys Flat and the Show Grounds off Brownston Street. We understand that your school has a strong preference for Kellys Flat. What would be the effect on your schools activities if the Aquatic Centre was to be located at the Show Grounds? Would it be used for school activities? If so, what costs would be involved for your school?	No it is too far away so we would face the same difficulties as we do now. At Kelly's Flat we could just walk hence saving time and cost.	our preference is Kelly's Flat for the pool. If it is located at the other end of town we have to hire a bus which is \$80-100 addition cost per day to our programme. Given we go for two weeks in a block that is an extra \$1000 per time to our parents and we go swimming twice a year, at the beginning and end of the year.	Yes we would definitely want to continue with pool access of some kind. The huge advantage to us in being able to walk to the pool is that swimming can continue to fit into our existing structure and there is no extra cost to us in terms of transport or staffing in getting students to the pool. We would wish to continue with a water programme but it would mean changes to our organisation
4. After school use of an Aquatic Centre serves a valuable role for any community by providing low cost recreation, as well as a gathering and meeting place. What do you think would be the difference in usage pattern for after school activity between the two sites?	Being able to walk straight from the school to the pool would be an added advantage for children who have after school swimming lessons or were going for a recreational swim. I believe the closer to the schools the more use will be made by children in our community.	It is difficult to predict the change in usage pattern for a different site as I have no data to use as a baseline however given all three schools are going to be located in this area of the town, I think it is fairly logical that swimming programmes after school would be more popular.	I cannot comment on the public use of the pool at an alternative site.
5. Any other comments?	With the schools sports grounds and the schools themselves being so close, along with the cycle/walk pathways that are planned to link this whole area, it would be ideal to have the pool sited at Kelly's Flat for higher usage by the schools, by children our of school and also better for the safety of children if they can walk or cycle to the pool along this educational corridor that will have a walkway linking the school in this area. Wanaka Primary School would certainly use the pool a lot more if it is located at the Kelly's Flat site (once we move to our new campus at the beginning of 2010) as it is so close and would mean less time out of the classroom and less costs to pass on to parents. We could also use it throughout the year rather than trying to cram our swimming into a week or so to save on time and money.		I point out that these answers are from a curriculum perspective which means the closer the resource the better. As a college we do not want to enter a political battle for a Wanaka Community resource. We would support what is best for the town and make it work. However it will obviously be easier for us to continue our current curriculum if we can walk to the pool.