



Case Story #2

Amberley Swimming Pool 2023

Overview

Council's pool parties have been around since 2009, originally part of the Hurunui Youth Programme. These were set up to provide an opportunity for our youth to 'hang out' before heading back to school. Pool parties were initially held at our bigger pools (Cheviot, Culverden and Amberley) before growing into a yearly summer series called 'Hello Summer Pool Parties'.

Since 2017, the pool parties have been facilitated by our Community Partnerships Team (CPT). The 2021 parties were held at 12 locations to include all school pools and community pools in the district. Our goal as the CPT is to provide an opportunity for all community members, both rural and urban, to engage with one another during the school holidays in a fun and safe environment.

Challenges

- Covid-19 Protection Framework has been a challenge for 2022, as we could only visit two pools for a variety of reasons. Those who attended had a great time.
- Weather! While it is supposed to be summer we can get the occasional cold/wet day which eats into the calendar and staff availability. We like to have the parties completed before school heads back.
- A large district and a lot of pool locations. It is quite time consuming to get to all the locations in short time frame. The furthest location is an hour travel time each way and the closest is less than 10 minutes away.
- Charging for pool entry to assist with covering costs.



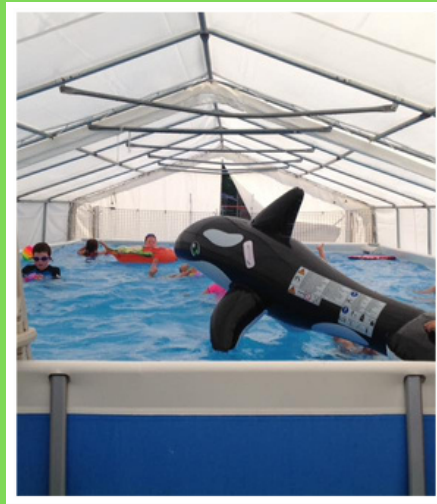
Solutions

- Staffing - we used a staff roster for the team, so its not left to the same people to do all the parties. Allows for some office time.
- The 'party' calendar is booked for most of January once the office reopens after Christmas break and before school returns. Usually Tuesday - Thursday over 3-4 weeks.
- Not to charge pool entry. It is easier to allow free entry, and budget for costs each year.

Outcomes

Each summer, the pool parties are looked forward to by the whole community, not just the youth. We often see the same faces at multiple pool parties. People come from all over to join in on the fun, for example, one family came all the way from their Hanmer Springs holiday home to attend the Rotherham Pool Party, about 40 minutes drive.

Strong community relationships have been formed from interactions at the pool parties which is beneficial for the community development work that our CPT undertakes. We now have a strong network of contacts that we can speak to for other reasons. Council is seen to be giving back and doing something nice for the community.



"All events have a direct and indirect impact on our communities. It's been great to see children who attend our pool parties grow over the years and come back again and again. These parties provide opportunities for participation, social, and cultural development. Each summer they bring something new and it's a great space to hear from our communities."

Rhea Duffy, Community Partnerships Manager
Hurunui District Council

The Future...

That the Hello Summer Pool Parties series will continue each summer to provide some holiday fun for a large geographical rural community that doesn't have easy access to all that a city can offer.

2023 Parties

It was fantastic to get back out into the community after events in 2022 were non-existent due to the Covid traffic light system. This year over 3 weeks we went to 11 locations throughout the district.

Even though a couple of parties were on cooler days we still managed to consume

- 46kgs of sausages
- 3.5 litres of tomato sauce
- 1.5 litres of mustard
- 27 loaves of bread
- 8kg assorted lollies

We would like to acknowledge the support of our schools and community swimming clubs for allowing us to visit and use their pool for the pool parties.

Community Feedback

Staff chatted with the adults at each party and were met with a resounding please continue with the parties - we love them.

"Thank you very much my kids really enjoyed their time".

"So many parents are involved with local community groups and their events, its great to come to a pool party and not have to do anything but relax".

"My mokomoko had a blast".

"We've lived in Hanmer Springs for 3 years and have been each year. Its great to give the local kids something to do".

"Thanks for putting these on for the community. Kids had heaps of fun".

The Future

The parties will continue in 2024 and will still involve a bbq lunch, games, music and most importantly a fun time for youth to hang out with the friends, and for the adults its a chance to catch up with their neighbours and friends.

