



Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Dear RDC Community,

In May we issued an initial communication regarding the proposed temporary closure of the Ringwood Aquatic Centre and the very exciting redevelopment. Since that time the Maroondah Budget for 2010/11 has been approved. This includes funding for the design for the new pool and leisure facility and confirmation the council intends to move forward to replace the current centre. This means likely closure of the Ringwood Aquatic Centre from May 2011 and the new, regional, international standard facility opening around November 2013.

In relation to this development, which clearly affects RDC, the committee has been very active.

- The full executive has met with the Maroondah Council management to better understand their considerations for the new development and ascertain how they can help us in the transition. A key take away from that meeting was that the council must act in some way, if they do nothing, the pool will ultimately close as maintenance costs escalate.
- RDC presented in person at the council meeting to hear submissions relating to the pool development.
- The committee has met with Diving Victoria and discussed their intended involvement at the new facility and their support of RDC. It is clear this provides an opportunity to build a stronger relationship with DV, including injection of additional facilities. DV supports having one controlling club at the facility and that will be RDC. DV has also offered to provide additional support while the new centre is under construction.
- The executive have had a number of meetings with Whitehorse Diving Club, with two objectives in mind, one to help Whitehorse with their program, and the second to strengthen and maintain our good relationship with Whitehorse. The Whitehorse pool is one facility RDC would like to utilise when the RAC is unavailable.
- Preliminary communications have also begun with other pool facilities.
- The RDC committee has initiated a task force to systematically cover all options and define where the club will operate from during the rebuild of the aquatic centre. As part of this we are looking at procuring a venue to be set up as dry land facility to assist with training of divers and also to function as an interactive storage of all RDC equipment during the construction.

Be assured that the committee is aware of divers' and parents' concerns and is actively working towards securing venues that are not too far from Ringwood. This may include separate pool and dry land facilities if necessary to achieve an outcome to best serve our recreational and squad divers.

While the imminent temporary closure of the pool will be unsettling, it provides an opportunity for RDC to grow through extending its reach to other pool facilities. Our research has shown that most new divers come off the pool deck, i.e. where they see diving and want to give it a try.

We will continue to keep you updated and hope you can stay with us on this exciting journey to a new facility.

Regards,

RDC Executive