

11.3 BATLOW & KHANCOBAN POOL OPERATING HOURS - ATTACHMENTS

Attachment Titles:

1. Batlow Amateur Swimming Club Proposal

Attachment 1 - Batlow Amateur Swimming Club Proposal

7 November 2024

Mr Steven Pinnuck
Interim General Manager
Snowy Valleys Council
TUMUT. NSW. 2720

Dear Steven

Thank you very much for the opportunity of meeting with yourself, Brad Beed and Duncan Mitchell last Thursday 31 October 2024 to discuss the Batlow Community Swimming Pool swimming season 2024/2025 with respect to opening hours, volunteer participation and greater community engagement driven by the newly formed Batlow Amateur Swimming Club Inc.

The newly formed Batlow Amateur Swimming Club (BASC) wish to work cooperatively with the Snowy Valleys Council to ensure the Batlow Community Swimming Pool remains an accessible, well utilised community health facility for all Batlow residents, tourists and workers employed on the HumeLink project.

Given the significant infrastructure investment in the Batlow pool over the last FY, including the installation of the accessibility ramp and the children's pool upgrade, we would like to see the pool precinct utilised more by those who need it, particularly our older population many with age related health issues. As mentioned at our meeting, under the auspices of the Murrumbidgee Local Health District, two volunteers from the BASC have recently been fully trained to undertake water aerobics/aquatic training for which there is a strong demand for enrolment in the program within our community.

The BASC is acutely aware of the need to ensure our next generation of children learn to swim. A recent report from Royal Life Saving Australia revealed that more than 200 people have drowned in rivers, lakes or dams in NSW over the past five years, including 19 people aged under 20. Royal Lifesaving stated that 'if people are going to the local river or dam because the pool's not open, a single drowning death is the equivalent of multiple years of an operating budget'. Children have a right to safe places to swim and good programs in which to learn. Furthermore, our local swimming instructor has advised our Committee that only 4 out of 19 twelve-year-old children at our local school are able to swim 25 metres or more.

It is also a fact that Batlow has no health or exercise facilities whatsoever. No gyms, no riding paths, no pump tracks and limited footpaths. It is essential that families are afforded the opportunity of being able to access the public pool, particularly during weekend family time and school holidays.

Below is a list of potential scenarios that the BASC would like SVC to consider:

School Term (7 days = 27 hours) – note these are preferred opening hours with 2 staff members.

Monday – Friday (15 hours)

3 pm – 6 pm

Saturday & Sunday (12 hours)

12 noon – 6.00 pm

Organised Activities at the Pool

Aquatic Training – 2 weekdays per week

11.00 am -12 noon AND 5 pm – 6 pm

Masters Lapping Lesson – 2 weekdays per week

5.00 – 6.00 pm

Learn to Swim

4 pm – 6 pm

Tuesday and Thursday

Water Play Activities

Two days per week

School Holidays (7 days = 42 hours) – note these are preferred opening hours with 2 staff members.

Monday- Sunday

12 pm – 6 pm

School Usage

Batlow Technology School and St Marys School have both indicated that they would like to use the pool for swimming lessons Wednesday – Friday in the hours 11.30 – 1.30 pm.

School Swimming Carnivals

Both schools swimming carnival dates are TBC.

Bree Bowman (a Batlow resident) is currently a AUSSWIM instructor who works at the Batlow Technology School. BASC is paying for her to do the Infants & Toddler Training that will be conducted 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm.

Volunteers of the Batlow Community Pool

A significant number of volunteers both within the BASC and outside are very keen to contribute their time to volunteer in the kiosk of the pool. The BASC will fund the purchase of non-perishable foods that will be offered for sale to pool patrons. All revenue from the kiosk will be put back into funding activities of the Learn to Swim Coaching program to engage young school leavers from the Batlow Technology School (16-18 years of age) to be trained Junior Lifeguards.

Volunteers have already contributed to the marketing efforts of the BASC with the development of a FaceBook page, currently with 50 followers. Activities of the Batlow Pool will be marketed through this channel including how to redeem the Service NSW Active Kids Vouchers, dates & times of the aquatic/aerobic classes as well as the Masters swim times. It is also anticipated that several twilight BBQs for the community will be held at the pool 5.00 pm – 6.30 pm weekends.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding bringing about a successful partnership between the Batlow Amateur Swimming Club to ensure the success of the Batlow Community Pool in conjunction with the Snowy Valleys Council.

Yours sincerely

Elijah Edwards
President
Batlow Amateur Swimming Club