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Local digger drivers show their skills at pool site

Operating a digger is difficult at the best of times and a precise art when excavating to exacting dimensions.

Local operator Andy Smith is among the best.

His skills are evident on the site of the Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre where he is working with Timaru-based earthmoving contractors Paul Smith Earthmoving, scooping out clay to exacting tolerances for the main lap pool.

The new pool will feature a depth enough for diving at the northern end, meaning thousands of tonnes of clay having to be removed. Andy needs to regularly check his depths with a survey pole to ensure the floor graduation is to specifications.

The spoil will not be wasted though. PSE trucks are taking it to the Redruth landfill where it will be used to seal and compact layers of rubbish deposited there as part of the council's 3-2-1-ZERO waste management system.

PSE is part of a local input of construction service providers who have been allocated sub-contract work on the project by main contractor Ranger Construction, also a local company.

PSE had earlier been involved in an early works package on the site where it used revolutionary concrete crushing plant to recycle material from the now-demolished Maori Park pool for re-use in the new complex.

Timaru District Council programme and contracts officer David Hooke said construction work was proceeding with enthusiasm now that the building consent for the project had been signed off allowing work to begin.

And he said building consent had also been granted for alterations to existing pool changing rooms which will mean the now fenced off Maori Park pool facility will be available for an early-November opening.

The Maori Park pool fencing created a totally separate area from the aquatic centre construction site, Mr Hooke said.

"The fence means that the community is not at risk from hazards associated with large-scale construction and when the existing Maori Park pool opens for the season in November, parents could send children for a swim knowing they were safe," he said.

Caption:

Hole for pool.jpg

Jason Goodman of Paul Smith Earthmoving holds a survey pole for digger operator Andy Smith to measure his progress as he excavates for the main lap pool at the Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre.

Public supporters rolling up

A Bluestone School mufti day, which raised \$583 for the Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre, is an example of growing public support for Aquatic Supporters Club's fund-raising drive.

The mufti day cheque was presented to ASC ambassador Danyon Loader, who visited five South Canterbury schools on Friday September 3, as part of a whistlestop tour of the schools that had signed on as public supporters.

Aquatic Supporters Club spokesperson Michelle Pye, who accompanied Danyon along with other ASC committee members, said membership was growing rapidly and the roll of official public supporters was now more than 200.

She said Danyon Loader had been a huge hit with school children and his relaxed style was extremely popular as he told of his Olympic exploits, how important it was to set goals, and just why aquatic centres were an important part of a community's infrastructure.

She said membership of the Aquatic Supporters Club carried privileges such as tee shirts, wristbands, newsletters and the recording of names in the entrance tunnel of the new centre.

"And let's not forget our next BNZ \$500 cash draw will be held on October 6. Another lucky supporter will end that day \$500 better off," Michelle said.

The Rotary organisation district wide was an example of just how enthusiastic supporters of the aquatic centre could make a difference, with the Rotary Club of Timaru's recent Charity auction donating more than \$15,000 to the cause, she said.

"We hope the public will roll up in droves to the next major CBAY supporting event, the Rotary Club of Timaru South's youth variety concert on 30 October in the Theatre Royal, entitled The Magic of Youth in Music and Dance."

Joining the Aquatic Supporters Club was easy, she said.

"Just go to www.carolinebayaquatic.co.nz and register or phone 0800 GO CBAY or 0800 462 229."

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