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## MEDIArelease

Release: **DRAFT**

Prepared for: Timaru District Council

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On: October 11, 2010

Words: 470

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# Waimataitai School raises \$753 for Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre

The sausages never tasted so good. And with every sauce-dripping bite, the Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre benefitted. Even better that the snarlers could be enjoyed out of those tiresome school uniforms and in mufti clothes.

Waimataitai School sizzled its way into fund-raising mode for the new centre recently with a BBQ and together with funds from an earlier mufti-day raised \$753. In so doing they put themselves into a draw to be the first school to have exclusive use of the pool for half a day.

It was a combined school effort that left principal Jane Culhane extremely proud of her pupils as well as parents who helped and her school council, whose idea it was to do something to help fit out Timaru's new swimming facility.

Ms Culhane said her school council was made up of representatives of every class from Year 3 up.

"They get lots of approaches for fund-raising and each meeting the council has to decide which of three or four causes to support," Ms Culhane said.

"But it was the tremendous opportunities the aquatic centre will offer to our entire communities that earned their total support."

School council member and part of the sizzle organising team Year 6 pupil Gracie Roberts put it more directly: "We want our friends from Christchurch to be able to come down here and swim with us in our own beautiful pool instead of us having to go up there all the time."

Ben Sewell, Year 5, said he wanted to see Timaru "on the map".

"I love to swim and I also wanted our school to maybe be the first to use the pool.

“We all paid \$1.50 for a sausage and gave our dollar coin for mufti to the aquatic club. It was great fun counting the money.”

Chairman of the Caroline Bay Aquatic Supporters Club Councillor-elect Damon Odey visited the school this week to thank the pupils.

“The cheque was in my letterbox this week and it is now in the Timaru District Council fund and earning interest,” Mr Odey said.

“Part of the motivation that we set up was for schools to raise money and then go into a draw to be the first school to use the pool for half a day and that’s the challenge for other schools.

“It’s not the amount of money they raise that matters, it is just becoming aquatic supporters and joining in the fund-raising effort that will put schools into the draw,” Mr Odey said.

“Being part of the school supporter programme, having fun with merchandising initiatives as well as recognition in the new centre were examples of how a community can benefit on a group and individual basis and have enormous fun by joining,” he said.

“It’s so easy to join. Just go to [www.carolinebayaquatic.co.nz](http://www.carolinebayaquatic.co.nz) and register or phone 0800 GO CBAY or 0800 462 229.”

ENDS

*Caption:*



*All hands to the pen: Waimataitai School Council members write out a symbolic cheque for \$753 for the Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre ready to present to Aquatic Supporters Club chairman Damon Odey (right). From left are Ben Sewell; Will Rushton; Gracie Roberts; Imogen Christie, and Sarah Dunbar. At rear is principal Jane Culhane.*