

FROM THE COAST

Running a Pool – Or should I say swimming?

When rates time comes around, we are reminded of the services that they help make possible. This ranges from road maintenance to providing services like the library and the Bay of Isles Leisure Centre. The costs of running a swimming pool would never be covered by the revenue raised by the Bay of Isles Leisure Centre alone, but it is an important part of many people's day to day lives. It is great to be able to relax in the spa, keep fit by swimming laps, or to take the kids down for swimming lessons.

To help keep the pool running, the Shire has implemented several changes to keep costs down. In July last year a new condensing boiler was installed which provides heating to the pools, shower and air handling units. Since the new boiler was installed gas consumption has reduced by 40%. The gas consumption for May this year was just under half the amount of gas used for May the previous year. As we come into cooler weather we can expect consumption to increase to keep those keen winter swimmers warm, but with the new boiler the pool is warm and consumption levels are expected to be lower than last year.

It is great to see visitors continuing to use the pool, particularly as it starts to get colder. Attendance numbers are consistent with the number of visitors each month last year, with 1,156 visitors for the month of May 2017.

Power consumption for the Leisure Centre has remained fairly consistent with the usage with the previous twelve months. This year led lighting was installed throughout the facility which draws on less energy.

The pool does use a lot of water, but over the last 4 years the monthly average water consumption for the pools has been reduced by 152,313 litres per month. This has come about through implementing water saving features like using pool blankets and a floor cleaner, installing water saving shower heads, taps on timers and pool staff using water saving techniques within the pool filtration systems.

When something needs replacing the Shire uses the most efficient and cost effective replacement wherever possible and it is fantastic to see results from the changes already implemented. Every little bit adds up and the Shire recognises it is important to conserve water and energy wherever possible.