

**3 April 2009**

## **Swim for life to strengthen in Buller**

Buller children will get double the opportunity to learn to swim with the pending opening of the new Buller Electricity Aquatics Centre.

The aquatics complex, part of the new Solid Energy Centre in Westport, will offer year-round swimming opportunities, including increased opportunity for swimming tutoring.

Chris Morgan, Swimming New Zealand's Regional Learn to Swim Development Manager was in Westport this week meeting with local staff to discuss 'learn to swim' opportunities.

Ms Morgan met with Pat Dudley, Team Leader of Aquatics at the Solid Energy Centre, along with swim tutor Toni Menzies and trainee swim tutor Hanna Nicholas.

"Chris was impressed with the Buller District Council swim school and is looking forward to watching Toni put her skills and knowledge into training and working with new tutors," says Pat Dudley. "Swimming New Zealand has expressed their excitement at the pending opening of the Buller Electricity Aquatics Centre and the extra opportunity it gives us to provide swim for life programmes to the community."

Chris works closely with Water Safety New Zealand with the aim that all children will have the opportunity to learn to swim.

While in Westport, Chris also took the opportunity to visit the local primary schools, Buller High School and met with Westport Swim Club coaches, offering invaluable assistance and advice.

The Buller Electricity Aquatics Centre is near completion with pools due to be filled in the next fortnight. Aquatics services will transfer from the Westport pool to the new centre once the commissioning processes are completed.

**ENDS**

**Further information; Lisa Hankey (Team Leader - Community Services)  
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**Swim for Life – [swimforlife.org.nz](http://swimforlife.org.nz)  
Swimming New Zealand – [swimmingnz.org.nz](http://swimmingnz.org.nz)**