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Selwyn Aquatic Centre fundraising campaign kicks off

The Selwyn Aquatic Centre fundraising campaign launched with a splash tonight when the Selwyn District Council announced a grant of \$100,000 and guests began pledging further donations at a corporate function in Rolleston.

The fundraising campaign needs to raise \$1.5million towards the \$14.7million facility. The Rolleston community has provided \$6 million and the balance is being funded by a loan serviced through a targeted rate and admission charges.

Campaign Chair Mayor Kelvin Coe said the \$100,000 was approved by Council at its meeting this week, to send a firm signal of support to the community. Late last year the project had secured a Lotteries Community Facilities grant of \$680,000. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) had also given the equivalent of \$80,000 in cash and kind towards the project because of its energy-efficient components.

"We want to raise more than our official target of \$1.5million so we're encouraging the community to get in behind the project now and start local initiatives to help out," Mayor Coe says.

Speakers including Selwyn MP Amy Adams and former New Zealand cricketer John Reid of Sport New Zealand talked about the value of swimming in saving lives and pools as community facilities and places for social interaction and fun.

Corporate, community and grant fundraising is being undertaken. The committee will follow up with individuals and businesses over the coming months.

The indoor facility is currently being built in Goulds Rd in Rolleston. It will feature an eight lane 25 metre pool with walk in ramp access, hydrotherapy pool with spa area, learn-to-swim pool and leisure pool, all in a naturally lit, warm, safe environment where swimmers of all ages and ability can participate.

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For further information, contact Council Aquatic Facilities Manager Kathy Moore, 347 2929 or 021 300 034.