



Ōtaki Pool rebuild gets underway



Images: Artist's impressions



Ōtaki Pool is closed now until later this year to undergo a \$5.4 million redevelopment.

The pool's rebuild is one of four key initiatives selected by the Council and community for development as part of *FutureKāpiti* – Long term plan 2015–35.

The pool closed on Friday 24 February for the work to get underway.

Kāpiti Coast Aquatics staff marked the last day the pool was open with a family fun day where everyone could swim for free, the inflatables were up and special guests were hosted at a morning tea.

Parks and Recreation Manager Alison Law says as part of the upgrade the pool hall will be rebuilt with the roof and walls replaced, access into the building will be improved, a ramp added to the main pool and the filtration systems between the toddlers and main pool will be separated.

The reception and entrance will be redesigned to be made more user-friendly, acoustic panelling is

added to the building's ceiling to help with noise reduction and fencing around the perimeter of the building will be removed to create easier access to Haruatai Park.

The pool's changing rooms, plant room and building and pool tanks will remain the same but freshened up with a paint job.

Ms Law says staff have been working hard to ensure the regular Ōtaki Pool patrons are taken care of during the shutdown.

During the closure period Ōtaki residents can swim for free at the Waikanae Pools up until 26 March and the Coastlands Aquatic Centre in Paraparaumu until Ōtaki Pool reopens. Swim clubs have also been accommodated.

"The pool is an important facility for residents of Ōtaki and the wider community. We're committed to upgrading the complex and further enhancing the family-friendly facilities available in Ōtaki," Ms Law says.

Splash pad for Ōtaki

The Council is also building a new community-designed splash pad next to the pool for free public use.

More than 400 people provided feedback through completing online surveys, filling in paper forms at the pool and through face-to-face chats with Kāpiti Coast Aquatics staff.

Ms Law says there was an overwhelming response from the community to first picking a preferred concept design and then what water play equipment they would like.

"We can't wait to build something that our community has helped design, and it will be ready in time for next summer. The splash pad is going to be a great asset for the local community and for Ōtaki visitors alike."

What features will be incorporated in the splash pad design will be finalised over the next few weeks.

