

In summary, I want to emphasize what a major achievement gaining council approval is. For 3 decades, the Wingecarribee Council has been determined not to allow a pool to be built in Robertson. Even as recent as 2013, the council could have facilitated the development by allowing RADSPA to use a tiny corner of Hampton Park, but they would not. It is only in the last 2 years that some councillors have come on-board and made the difference. Without that D.A. approval, no amount of funds was going to make a difference.

I want to sincerely thank the small group of Committee and others who over recent years have brought it to this point. It's now up to the community to get involved and make it a success. The project must not fail.

On a personal note, since personally seeing a privately run, 2.5m heated pool in Warilla and talking to the owner, I've had the belief that a similar, modest and efficiently run facility was do-able in Robertson.

My focus has been on the benefits to the children of the area of such an asset. This was after all the catalyst that prompted the formation of the pool committee when two children drowned in Caalong Creek in 1980.

I realize now, that a larger vision and fresh legs are required to carry the project forward, so I will not be standing for a position on the committee again.

Now I would like to ask Bob Payne to take the chair to oversee the election of office bearers.

John Thomas
President 2015