

## SECTION 11    ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

### LESSONS:

1. Utilize natural light wherever possible as it reduces energy consumption and enhances the pool environment.
2. Have an experienced pool operator involved in the project as early as possible.
3. Ensure pool hall ventilation specifications follow the outcomes you need rather than having minimum specs and being stuck with an uncomfortable environment.
4. Learners pools are necessary to full fill a public pools function. Each site that omitted a learner's pool is either retrofitting one or are planning a new one. Omitting the learner's pool is a false economy.

This section records the comments made in discussion with the respective pool managers regarding what they saw as the advantages and the disadvantages of their facilities. They are the unsolicited views of the pool manager and are not necessarily the views of the writer. My views, observations and opinions are contained in section 12.

The number beside some comments indicates the number of times managers made the same comment.

### ADVANTAGES:

- Extensive use of natural light. (5)
- Good flow from reception to change area and onto poolside. (3)
- Good car parking. (3)
- Having the pool operator involved from the design stage. (3)
- Ramp into lap pool. (2) (See Section 12)
- Rapid river great, the longer and faster the better. (2)
- Good location. (2) ( Interesting to note only two managers thought this)
- No compromise on building materials, low maintenance. (2)
- Pool built around other recreational facilities. (2)
- Plenty of poolside space.
- Pool covers for all pools in a complex.
- Colourful "WOW" factor.
- Deep water included. ( This was the case at one site only)
- Wave machine and slide popular.
- Great view lines for supervision.
- Incorporated energy saving components for longer term operational savings.
- Pool reception being part of the cafeteria area.

## DISADVANTAGES:

- Pool hall too hot, lack of air movement. (5) (See Section 7)
- Lack of a dedicated learner pool. (4)
- Poolside floor tiles too light in colour, difficult to clean.(2) (See Section 8)
- Mild steel pipes used on fun attractions rather than stainless steel.(2)
- Learners pool too close to main pool. (2)
- Reduced construction costs by not having entrance foyer and reception properly ventilated. Required remedial work within four years. (2)
- Lack of poolside space during peak loadings.
- Pool underwater lights don't work. ( This site was 12 months old)
- Pooling of water in change rooms and poolside. (See Section 8)
- Learner pool should have been larger.
- Poolside windows facing sun, pool hall too hot.
- Reception area too open, noise problems.
- Lack of a slope on poolside and change area floors. (See section 8)
- Non-slip tiles are slippery.
- No dry storage area. Lack of space for storing various equipment .
- Reception area too small.
- Plant room too small, no chemical storage area.
- Pool treatment plant undersized, resulting in pool circulating problems.
- Didn't use an architect with previous pool experience.
- Change rooms too small.
- Not thinking about how replacement equipment gets into plant rooms.
- Ozone plant doesn't work.
- Sound system hopeless.
- Open switchboard in plant room.
- Poor crèche design.
- Pool difficult to supervise.
- Inexperienced mechanical services contractor appointed resulting in serious plant problems.
- No skimmers prior to filters.
- Poor tiling work.

It is interesting to note that pool managers saw more disadvantages in their facilities than advantages. Also, the four managers who mentioned the lack of a dedicated learner facility all had a combined learner/leisure pool.

It is also worth noting that Wellington City and Hutt City, who had very experienced pool managers, in positions of influence from day one of the design, experienced only

minor operational problems, compared to the many and varied problems of other sites that appointed the pool management just prior to opening.

My thoughts on many of these comments from the managers are given in section 12.