

Indoor pool fundraising boost

Apollo Bay pool committee members hope a successful grant application campaign will help secure the remaining funding needed to upgrade the coastal town's pool.

The Federal Government announced a \$20,000 grant for the pool which Apollo Bay Aquatic Centre secretary Jane Gross said helped edge the fund-raising tally closer to the \$400,000 needed to heat and enclose Apollo Bay's 25-metre, six-lane pool.

Ms Gross said the committee had raised \$250,000, which included the \$20,000 funding that Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson announced at Apollo Bay on Friday.

Ms Gross said the committee was hopeful a Building Better Regions Fund application would make up the balance and allow the committee to achieve the project.

She said upgrades for the pool included heating and a portal-form polycarbonate cladding structure, which would feature shutters that could open up during the warmer months.

Ms Gross said that if



the Apollo Bay Aquatic Centre was successful in securing the Federal Government funding, she hoped the project would be completed this year.

She said pledges from Apollo Bay P-12 College, the Bendigo Bank, Otway Health and donations from individuals and businesses had helped the committee reach the current tally.

"We're pretty happy with where we are at," Ms Gross said.

"We have had very generous support from

so many organisations and so many individuals who pledged individually and also donations from a huge number of the community as well."

Ms Gross said the community had banded together to be part of fundraising events and had supported the transformation of Apollo Bay's "cold, underutilised pool in to an indoor heated aquatic facility".

"It's been a huge effort for the community and I think an amazing feat to raise that

sort of money from such a small population," she said.

"It's really been a huge community effort, it's something that the whole community of all ages have got behind and that is what I suppose we are particularly proud of; that the community has really banded together to achieve something that really seems a long way off."

"We've got a little way to go yet to close it, but if we happen to be successful with this

funding we will be really happy.

"It's admirable, I just hope we can achieve the remaining funding that we need which will be amazing."

Ms Gross said the committee would find out in June if the grant application was successful.

Turn to page 4 for more news on local projects benefitting from Federal Government funding.

POSITIVE: Colac Otway Shire's Cr Stephen Hart, Apollo Bay's Jane Gross and Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson were joined by, from left, Lucas Humphries, Ashlynn Healy, Madison Humphries, Angus Boyd, Monty Gill, Thomas Toussaint, Tadg Healy and Jonas Murnane, during a funding announcement at Apollo Bay's pool. The community hopes to secure enough cash to heat and enclose the town's existing pool.



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