



Family focus at Aquatic Centre

CENTRE manager with YMCA Mark Zilm (pictured) plans to reinvigorate the Goulburn Aquatic Centre with new programs aimed at creating a family atmosphere.

Mr Zilm, who's heading up the organisation's operation in Goulburn, was this week meeting with user groups to explain his ideas.

He also manages the Mt Annan Leisure Centre and Camden pool for Camden Council.

Nine months ago the YMCA was also appointed to run the Singleton pool.

"At this point it's about looking and seeing how things run at Goulburn," Mr Zilm said.

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YMCA makes a splash

By LOUISE THROWER

THE YMCA has been brought in to manage the Goulburn Aquatic Centre, raising probity concerns among some councillors.

The organisation will take over management from June 1 this year until June 30, 2013 for a \$90,000 fee

Council is aiming to achieve more "business-like" operations at the facility but many see it as a forerunner to full privatisation.

At the end of the YMCA's term, the council will call for expressions of interest in the centre's management.

The move has caught many by surprise, including pool committee members.

Crs Neil Penning and Margaret O'Neill have questioned why Council didn't call expressions of interest before the YMCA's appointment.

"People are worried about this," Cr O'Neill told the most recent council meeting.

"Is there a probity issue here because if

there is, we have a problem...? The community needs to be informed."

Cr Penning, who sits on the aquatic centre working party, said he was surprised by the organisation's appointment.

"I accept the rationale of appointing the YMCA. We all accept the place's management needs improvement but Council has gone too far in not seeking expressions of interest."

He said senior staff had misinterpreted a February committee decision, endorsed by councillors at their March meeting.

The committee had decided that as a "matter of urgency" Council should review the pool's operation and management with a view to implementing a business based approach, better meeting community needs. Secondly, Council would call expressions of interest for management of part or all of the aquatic centre.

Cr Penning said staff had done "a bit of both" but at no time was the committee informed of the YMCA discussions.

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