

Hoping for \$500,000

HOPES for a new home for the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club now rest on an application for a \$500,000 grant.

The club and Bass Coast Shire Council have applied for a grant for new clubrooms, under the State Government's annual Community and Facility Funding Program.

The club now operates out of three shipping containers at the Inverloch surf beach car park - unsatisfactory for the needs of a growing and active club.

Since forming in 1998 with 70 members and just 12 patrolling members, the club has grown to 416 members with 132 on patrol.

A joint club and shire steering committee was formed last year to advance the clubrooms project to ready to tender stage.

That committee included club president Philippe du Plessis, clubhouse building manager Trevor Dando and secretary Alan Bolton, plus Councillor Ross Smith, and the shire's Jenny Churchill, Felicity Sist and Ella Angarane.

Finishing touches were put to the submission over a recent weekend to meet the deadline of Monday, August 17.

"With a bit of luck we will know sometime in November whether we have been successful, which could see the new clubhouse up and going late 2010 to early 2011," Mr du Plessis said.

He also expressed his thanks to all people involved in helping the club reach this point.

Major partners have been: Bass Coast Shire Council, Inverloch and District Community Bank (Bendigo

Bank), Lifesaving Victoria, the Inverloch Jazz Festival Committee, Lions Club of Inverloch, Inverloch Rotary and most recently the Bass Coast Community Foundation.

"As a major community project it has, and will continue, to galvanise a number of disparate recreational, environmental and social community stakeholders," Mr du Plessis said.

"We have had to arrange for club members and supporters to personally guarantee a funding shortfall of \$200,000 otherwise we were unable to apply for the grant.

"We plan to fundraise like mad and set up a debenture scheme to ensure that none of these supporters end up out of pocket.

"I would very pleased to hear from anyone, individuals, community groups or businesses that can help in any way."



All set: ready to mail the finished grant application are Bass Coast Shire Council's Ella Angarane, Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club president Philippe du Plessis and Councillor Ross Smith.

Surf club's funding plan

THE Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club seeks \$500,000 from the State Government's annual Community and Facility Funding Program.

That application was recently lodged with support from the Bass Coast Shire Council.

The club currently operates out of three shopping containers in a surf beach car park.

That is regarded as "totally unsatisfactory" for the needs of a growing and active club.

Founded in 1998, with just 70 members, it now has 416 names.

A club-shire steering

committee was formed last year to expedite the funding process.

It comprises the president, Philippe du Plessis; Trevor Dando; and Alan Bolton; the shire members are Cr Ross Smith, Jenny Churchill, Felicity Sist and Ella Angarane.

The president said: "We may have a response to our application by November.

"A successful result would mean a new clubhouse within 18 months."

Mr du Plessis thanked those involved, including many "community partners".

The were led by the

shire council, the local Bendigo Community Bank, Lifesaving Victoria, the Inverloch Jazz Festival Committee, the Lions and Rotary clubs of Inverloch, and the Bass Coast Community Foundation.

The president said: "Club members and supporters had to guarantee a funding shortfall of \$200,000, or we could not have applied for the grant.

"We will concentrate on fund-raising, and on setting up a debenture scheme, to protect those backers.

"I would be pleased to hear from anyone who can help our cause."



Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club president, Philippe du Plessis, centre, discusses its funding application with Bass Coast Shire's Cr Ross Smith. They are with the shire's Ella Angarane, a club steering committee member.