

Below: Dominion Road in Mt. Eden during the 1900s.



MT EDEN MONDAYS PART #1 !

The Mt. Eden Swimming Pool is over 100 years old, and was built in 1911. The headmaster of the neighbouring Mt. Eden School at the time, Mr. Alfred Hosking, was the first to have the idea to build a public pool, which at the time would have been called "public baths."

Mr. Alfred Hosking took it upon himself to try to fundraise for the construction of the public baths. The school and close community together were able to raise 200 pounds - the equivalent of nearly \$16,000 today! However, this was not enough to buy the land necessary and

fund the building of the pool. When it became clear that Mr. Hosking and the community would not be able to afford building the pool themselves, the Council stepped in to help with the undertaking. When all was said and done, the entire venture cost 1600 pounds - the equivalent of nearly \$250,000 today.

On the opening day of 15 November 1911, the entire community gathered to see Mt. Eden Mayor Oliver Nicholson officially open the pool to the public.

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Unfortunately, Mr. Hosking, the headmaster who had worked so hard to make the Mt. Eden pool a reality, but sadly he passed away before he could see the pool completed.

From the information we have of the time period, we can imagine what the pool must have been like on that opening day. At the time, most of Auckland was farmland, and the boroughs had mostly dirt roads. Carriages were commonplace and everyone was familiar with having muddy shoes. The togs from the period looked very different from what we wear today, with women and men wearing woollen togs that covered most of their bodies. Bathers would have donned their itchy black togs, headed to the freshwater pool, and spent the day enjoying the cool water.

Below: An Australian family in standard togs for the time (1906)



Below: Two women in what would have been quite scandalous togs for the time (1910)



Unfortunately for these swimmers, advanced filtration and heating had not yet been invented, so you can imagine how cold and dirty the water would have been!

Today, we thankfully have very clean and very warm water for our swimmers to enjoy. Remind your friends and family about the pool reopening soon, and be sure to come to our grand reopening on June 1st!