

MT EDEN MONDAYS PART #2 !

In case you didn't hear, we at DGSS are celebrating the reopening of the Mt. Eden swimming pool and facilities by revisiting the long history of the pool!

Last week we looked at what it took to fund and build the pool, which was completed in 1911. This week, we look at the pool's early years and the kind of activities they would have enjoyed.

After the pool's grand opening in 1911, the public came out in droves to swim. At the time, it was considered improper for men and women to swim together in most instances, and so the pool quickly had to establish specific rules about who could swim when. Sports teams such as water polo players and the newly established Mount Eden Swimming Club also were granted time at the pool to practice. With all of these swimmers coming in and out, the pool quickly hired

Below: Competition Night at the Mount Eden Baths

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(Credit: Auckland Council Heritage Images)

a caretaker, whose job included overseeing the emptying and refilling of the pool every day!

It seemed everyone enjoyed the baths immensely. So much so, that in 1920, the grand championship carnival of swimming in Auckland was held for the first time at the Mount Eden baths. Events were held in all of the strokes we here at DGSS are so familiar with - freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, and butterfly. They even had some events we might not be so familiar with, including a race where the entrants were blindfolded!

What a sight to behold carnival night must have been! An Italian orchestra was in attendance and the community once again came out in droves to be participants and spectators alike. While carnival nights like the ones held in the early 20th century aren't as common today, we still like to have lots of fun at DGSS!

Remember to tell your friends and family about our grand reopening on June 1st, where we will be having a celebration of our own!

