

SWIMMING

... Swimming on Fridays. We marched up Penshurst Street to Victoria Avenue, Willoughby, and then travelled by tram to the Spit Baths.

(Arthur Garrett, 1923-24)



The first Roseville Baths were built in the early 1920's.

Swimming trials were held at Roseville Baths, in an effort to increase membership of the Roseville Swimming Club.

For the information of visitors, the following instructions were issued.

Leave train at Roseville Station and take motor bus to Chase. The road is not made sufficiently to enable the bus to go right down, but 5 minutes walk through the beautiful Roseville Chase will bring you to the water. The baths are situated below the boatshed and alongside the bridge now being constructed over Middle Harbour.

(May, 1924)

Swimming at Roseville Baths was a highlight of the week and if you were lucky to have a few pence to spend - ice blocks and Smiths chips with a twist of blue paper containing salt.

(Elaine Aiken (Chaffer), 1933-39)

I used to train in swimming at Roseville Baths and get a penny's worth of broken biscuits from a grocer shop at the top of Babbage Road. We walked everywhere and some boys did not have shoes.

(Geoffrey Paton, 1930-36)

There were swimming classes at the old Roseville Baths which have now gone, I believe. I always looked forward to when it was high tide because I don't think there was much water at low tide.

(Angus Caporn, 1933-38)



Two lyrebirds were disturbed when this photograph was taken.

(Photograph courtesy of Noel Clare)

We did life saving tests in fifth and sixth class which included practical and resuscitation: theory at school and the swimming - breast stroke 55 yards, back stroke 30 yards and towing a patient and then diving for a brick all at Roseville Baths. It was quite difficult to find the brick in the stirred up bottom after so many of us had dived, adding to the whole adventure.

(Shirley Cherry (Whittall), 1935-40)

I got my life saving certificate after diving and retrieving a brick in nine feet of water at the old Roseville Baths. I jumped outside with the sharks once and swam around to the old Smithy's Boatshed east of there.

(Peter Edwards, 1940-48)

Swimming days (Friday mornings) down to the Roseville Baths we would go. We had to learn to dog paddle before we could go over the white line. Back at school we would lay our towels and bathers on the lawn to dry. Pick them up before going home. Where do the children swim now?

(Errolly Holding (Marsh), 1942-49)

Swimming amongst the jelly blubbers at Roseville Baths and then hitting the real big time at North Sydney Olympic pool for the District Swimming Carnival. I remember doing my bronze medallion at Roseville Baths. It was interesting duck diving for the brick in the mud and silt. It was a real challenge!

(Maria Circuit (Theunissen), 1953-57)

SPORT AND SCHOOL YARD GAMES

A Sports Day held at Roseville Park each year was another highlight, when all pupils were encouraged to join in races and ball games.

(Helen Arey (Goddard), 1930-34)

School sports days were on Saturday afternoon at Roseville Park, and were organised and run by the Parents and Citizens. Local businesses often donated the prizes and the refreshments were organised by the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Another notable event was the School Sports day held at Roseville Park; off Clanville Road where we had running races, sack races, three legged races plus ice creams and ginger beer.

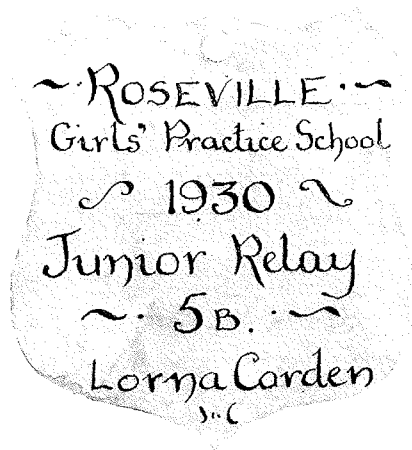
(Angus Caporn, 1933-38)

School sport was held on Roseville Oval and district sport at Waitara. The cask of ginger beer was always a favourite at the school sports.

(George Nethery, 1935-39)

First school Sports Day after the war was celebrated with a treat. Each child received a Violet Crumble bar, unprocurable during the war.

(Marianne Allen (Marx), 1942-45)



I recall in Kindergarten John Treloar wearing singlet, shorts and spikes in the school races. No one else had such equipment!

(Ross Davidson, 1933-39)

The girls were pretty good vigoro players, bowlers and batters alike. We had Australia's best runner, John Treloar. Ron Sharpe ended up Dux of the school and Australia's Butterfly champion

(Peter Edwards, 1940-48)

