

1930s

A proposal for a public swimming pool in Blacktown was first raised but not pursued.



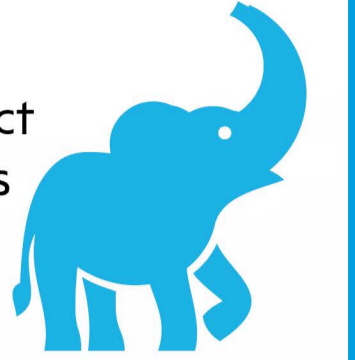
1957

A committee was formed to investigate the costs of providing an Olympic size swimming pool in Blacktown



1958

A public meeting was held at the Blacktown School of Arts on 4 February 1958 to elect a committee to fund raise for the pool. A site that was originally the local brickworks and latterly the local tip was chosen as the pool location. Legend has it that once, when Bullen's Circus came to town, one of their elephants died and the beast was buried at the site of the tip!



1971



A new boiler to heat the original 8 lane pool and 3-metre high wind deflectors were installed.

1968



3 concrete shelters with seating under them were erected on the northern side of the main pool.

1966



Works to improve the entrance to the pool and the kiosk and a new 6 lane 50 metre pool were completed.

1961



Designed by architectural firm Leslie J Buckland and Druce and built by W McNamara Pty Ltd, the new 8 lane Olympic size 50 metre pool, toddler pool and kiosk opened to the public on Saturday 4 November 1961.



Over the 1st weekend, 7,209 people came through the doors. Entry was 1 shilling & sixpence for adults and sixpence for children.

The official opening ceremony came



a month later on 2 December 1961, when Mayor Alderman Alfred Ashley Brown officially opened the Blacktown War Memorial Swimming Pool.

The 1st pool manager was Mr Fred Wilson, a 1st-grade rugby union player and a representative swimmer in surf and rescue operations.

Blacktown Swimming Club was formed in October 1961.

1960



Construction of the pool started in 1960. Funded partly by donations and supplemented by a Council 'special rate' of 2 cents on the ratepayer's council rates the pool was to be named the 'Blacktown War Memorial Pool'.

1973



The heated Blacktown Swimming Pool was opened for the first time during the winter months.

1976



Local swimmer, Michelle de Vries represents Australia at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. At just 14 years of age, Michelle competed in the 100 m backstroke, 200 m backstroke and the 4 x 100 m relay.

1981



On 19 December 1981, the 'club room' was officially named after Michelle de Vries in recognition of her swimming achievements.

1986



Upgrades to enclose the 8-lane pool and install opening skylights, solar heating and spectator seating for about 1,000 people were completed. Electronic timing and touch pads and anti-turbulent wave ropes were also installed.

1992

On 16 February 1992, Australian swimming star, Kieran Perkins sets a new world record for the 800 m freestyle at Blacktown Pool. Kieran would go on to win successive 1500 m freestyle Olympic gold medals at Barcelona (later in 1992) and Atlanta, USA 4 years later.

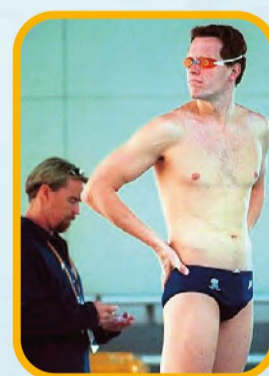


2010

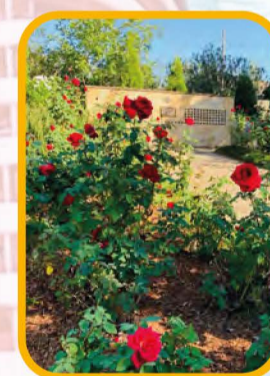


The gardens at the front of Blacktown Aquatic Centre were selected as the site for the National Services Association Memorial. Mayor Councillor Charlie Lowles OAM opens the memorial on 25 July 2010.

2000



The pool was used by Olympians as a training facility before and during the 'greatest Games ever' - the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. A gym was added to the facilities.



On 11 November 1999, NSW Governor Gordon Samuels officially opened the Blacktown RSL Sub Branch Remembrance Garden at the pool entrance. The memorial consists of 7 individual memorial templates signifying major conflicts since the Boer War.



1997



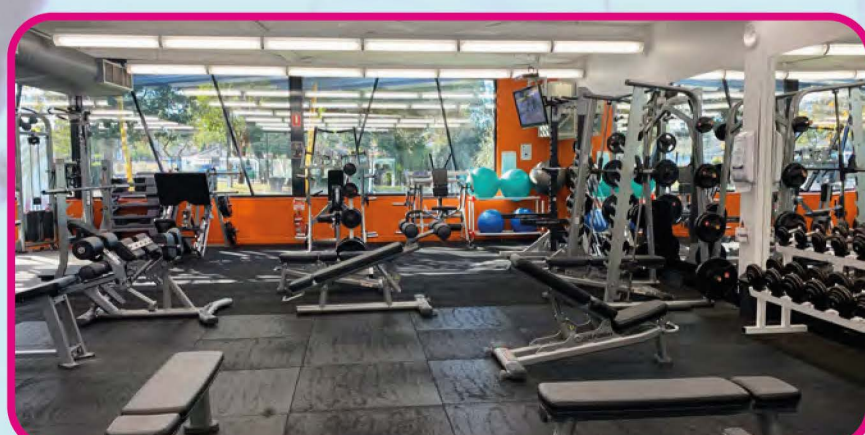
The Blacktown Memorial Swimming Pool name was changed to Blacktown Aquatic Centre.

1994



The NSW Swimming Championships were held at the Blacktown Pool.

2014



A \$1.8 million redevelopment of the Aquatic Centre was announced by Council. The refurbishment saw a new reception built, improvements to the indoor pool ventilation, a revamp of the gym and change rooms, addition of a creche, a freshening up of the 'club room' and upgrades to the pool plant. Works were completed in 2017.

2020



Blacktown Aquatic Centre welcomed back the community through their doors on the 20 June after the COVID-19 outbreak shutdown.



2021



Local swimmer from Kings Langley, Timothy Hodge represented Australia at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. He won silver in the Men's 200 m individual medley SM9, silver in the Men's 400 m medley relay team and bronze in the Men's 100 metre backstroke S9.

Blacktown City Swimming Club celebrates its 60th anniversary.

2022



A new water play park at Blacktown Aquatic Centre is scheduled to open early in 2022.

