

The Mayfield Olympic Swimming Pool



Officially opened to the public
Saturday 12th November 1966
@ 2.30pm

Special Jubilee Issue

COMPANY'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY GRANT Olympic pool for Mayfield

The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited announced today that it would construct an Olympic standard swimming pool as a gift to the people of Newcastle.

Details of the project were made public by Sir Colin Syme, Chairman of Directors of B.H.P., at the official luncheon today — organised to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Newcastle Works.

The project is expected to be completed within six months.

The pool — to be named the Mayfield Swimming Pool — is to be installed at Dangar Park, Mayfield at an approximate cost of \$80,000.

The proposal to install

Tenders for the construction of the pool will be called within the next two weeks.

The 50-metre pool will be situated between the Mayfield Bowling Club premises and the Dangar Park Sports Oval. It will face Ingaal Street, will incorporate six racing lanes, one 1-metre and one 3-metre diving boards and a separate children's pool, but

will have no high diving section.

The children's pool will taper from 18 inches to 2ft. 6in. in depth.

Adequate space for vehicle parking will be provided, and facilities will include dressing rooms, locker rooms, showers and all necessary installations to maintain the pool.

These installations will include a complete filtration plant.

The City Council has guaranteed to minimise the removal of shade trees from the area and Parks and Gardens Committee will arrange to beautify the grounds in similar fashion to those at the Lambton Pool.

The whole area will be fenced to guard against the possibility of vandalism.

The pool will be maintained by the City Council, which will have full control and set the admission charges.

Swimming clubs will be encouraged and will be able to operate with the same freedom as those at the Lambton Pool.

As the donor, the Company will erect a suitable plaque adjacent to the entrance of the pool.

A detailed model of the pool and its environment has been built and will be on display at David Jones' Hunter Street store from next Saturday as part of the Steelworks' 50th Anniversary exhibition.

City Engineer's Report — Page 2

BHP News

THE MONTHLY NEWSPAPER OF THE B.H.P. NEWCASTLE STEELWORKS

JUNE 30, 1965

THOUSANDS WILL COME TO WORKS

Nearly 11,000 men, women and children will visit Newcastle Steelworks during the 50th anniversary on July 2, 3 and 4.

The great demand for these "Family Tours" exceeded all expectations of the management, and, because of this, five extra tours have had to be added.

In addition to the "Family Tours" about 500 guests from Sydney and Newcastle will be entertained at luncheon after a tour through the Works on Wednesday, June 30.

The Premier of N.S.W., the Hon. R. W. Askin, M.L.A., will be present, together with other members of Parliament, local and State dignitaries, customers and distributors.

The Chairman of Directors of B.H.P., Sir Colin Syme, Company directors and officers from Melbourne, Newcastle and other centres will also attend.

The General Manager, Mr. R. Coulton, said employees' response to the tours had been most gratifying.

Over 3000 employees, their wives and nearly 4000 children will inspect the Works on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

An extra 80 buses have been booked for the additional one hour tours which will leave the Visitors' Centre at 11.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. on the Saturday and Sunday.

Buses for the tours were hired from Central Coast Coaches Pty. Ltd., who reported the bookings were in the similar in the Company's history.

Each tour will be accompanied by an experienced Works guide and seven safety officers to ensure maximum safety of visitors.

Visitors will have good vantage points at specially constructed sites to view the iron and steelmaking operations.

Each tour will be followed by a buffet meal in a pavilion measuring 285ft. by 60ft., located at the Western side of the Administration Building.

On Thursday, July 1, a luncheon will be held at the Works for senior officers and their wives. About 120 employees with long service at the Steelworks will attend as well as guests from Central Research Laboratories, Scotland, B.H.P. Northern Colonies and the B.H.P. group of companies in Newcastle.

On Friday morning, July 2, retired officers and their wives and retired long service employees and their wives, totalling nearly 500 persons, will attend.

City Engineer's report work to begin soon

In an exclusive interview with "B.H.P. News" representatives during the week the Newcastle City Engineer, Mr. J. G. Baddeley confirmed that tenders for the Mayfield Swimming Pool would be called in the next few weeks.

Mr. Baddeley said that work on the pool was likely to begin early in September and the project would take ap-



MR. J. G. BADDELEY

proximately six months to complete.

"The entire scheme was designed by the Architectural Section (in conjunction with the Designing Engineer's Section) of the City Engineer's Department of the Newcastle City Council.

"Officers of the City Engineer's Department gained previous experience in the construction of Olympic swimming pools when the Lambton Pool was completed at a cost exceeding £200,000," Mr. Baddeley said.

"Before that project was undertaken, these officers inspected modern swimming centres in various parts of Australia."

Mr. Baddeley said that the parking area would be bitumen surfaced and would accommodate approximately 80 cars.

He said that the children's playground area on the Carrington Street side of Dangar Park would either be retained or relocated.

Mr. Baddeley released the following details of the work to be undertaken for the construction of the pool:

The main pool will be of reinforced concrete construction, completely tiled inside, with dimensions of 165ft. by 50ft.

This will provide six swimming lanes of 50 metres in length.

Suitable modern underwater lighting will be installed in the main pool, which will have a depth of 3ft. 6ins. at the shallow end, increasing to 11ft. 6in. at the deep end.

The pool will have a

capacity of 300,000 gallons. Stainless steel landrails will assist swimmers to climb from the water.

The children's pool will have dimensions of 50ft. by 25ft. and an average depth of 2ft. Its capacity will be 14,000 gallons, but due to the pool's shallow depth, no underwater lighting will be installed.

The pavilion will be of brick construction with a concrete floor and aluminium roof.

The change rooms for men and women will be of modern design and will have adequate hot and cold showers and toilet accommodation.

The floors and walls of the toilets and showers will be suitably tiled.

Bricks will also be used to construct the plant room where the machinery will be installed down the centre of as well as the chemi-

cal store, chlorine room and general storage for swimming equipment, etc.

A balance tank, 50ft. long, 7ft. wide and 11ft. 6in. deep is to be installed at the end of the main pool to provide water for "backwashing" without lowering the level of water in the main pool. It will also provide for any displacement of water when the pool is fully loaded.

The cycle of operation will be for the water to be pumped from the balance tank to the filters; but en route the water is fed with chlorine gas and other chemicals to ensure its continual purity.

Water will gravitate from the filters to the main pool where it will enter along a series of nozzles along a trough located down the centre of the pool.

Hydrostatic pressure likely to leak from the pool. Both pools will be completely tiled and surrounded by a concrete concourse 15ft. to 20ft. wide.

"I was thrilled by the most generous and practical gesture by the Directors of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited, in making a gift of an Olympic swimming pool and children's pool to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the official opening of the Newcastle Steelworks," he said.

Distinguished guests for celebrations



THE HON. R. W. ASKIN, M.L.A.



SIR COLIN SYME, Chairman of the Board of Directors.



THE HON. J. B. RENSHAW, M.L.A.

and business centres in the Newcastle district.

"The provision of a swimming centre would provide much enjoyment and recreation for thousands of men, women and children.

"On behalf of the citizens of Newcastle, I accept this magnificent gift with pleasure and deep gratitude," Ald. Purdue said.

"Company's generous gesture" — Mayor

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Alderman F. J. Purdue, expressed delight at the Company's gift to the City of Newcastle.

"I was thrilled by the most generous and practical gesture by the Directors of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited, in making a gift of an Olympic swimming pool and children's pool to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the official opening of the Newcastle Steelworks," he said.

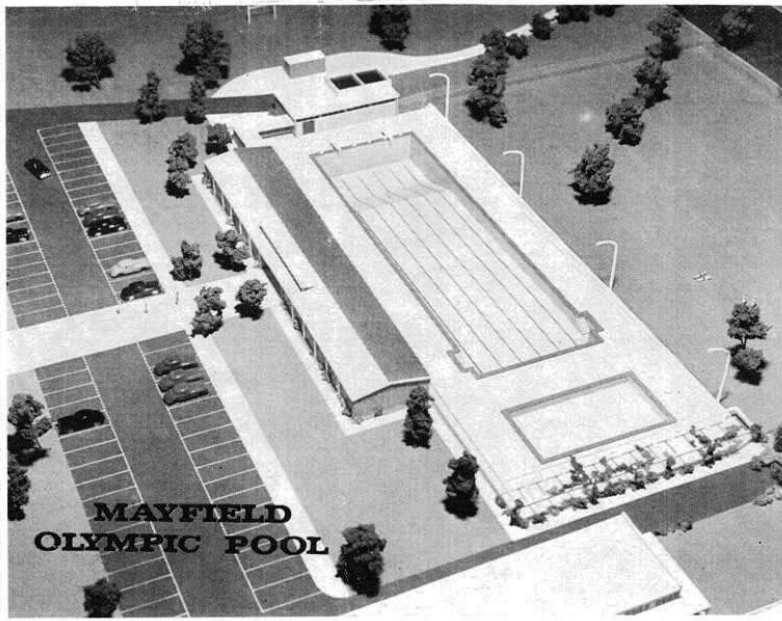


ALD. F. J. PURDUE

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"On behalf of the citizens of Newcastle, I accept this magnificent gift with pleasure and deep gratitude," Ald. Purdue said.



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★ AS 7-7-46

TENDERS CALLED FOR POOL

Tenders have been called for the filtration

plant for the £80,000 Olympic pool given to Newcastle by the BHP.

The Lord Mayor, Ald. Purdue, disclosed this last night when the council formally accepted the gift.

The council decided to send a letter of appreciation to the BHP company and arrange for tenders to be called for the construction of the pool as soon as possible.

The council also endorsed the action of calling for tenders for the filtration plant.

The pool, to be built in Dangar Park, Mayfield, is scheduled to be completed within nine months.

The gift was designed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the opening of New-



● Ald.
Purdue

castle Steel Works, and it was announced by the chairman of the BHP, Sir Colin Syme, during last week's celebrations at the plant.

The new pool will be between the sports oval and Mayfield Bowling Club.

Work is expected to begin by early September.

The Lord Mayor, Ald. Purdue, recently announced that the gift of the pool would not affect the council's plans for future swimming pools in the area.

He said the next pool would be built by the council as soon as the right area was selected and funds became available.

Ald. Purdue said that, based on present development, Beresfield had a priority as the next pool site.

Marking 50 years of steel

BHP GIVES A SWIMMING POOL TO THE CITY

The BHP Company will give an £80,000 Olympic swimming pool to the City of Newcastle to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the official opening of Newcastle Steel Works.

The pool is to be constructed in Dangar Park, Mayfield,

Chairman of Directors of BHP, Sir Colin Syme, announced details of the project today at the plant's 50th anniversary luncheon.

£80,000 gesture

Tenders for the pool's construction will be called within three weeks and work is expected to begin by early September.

The pool will be between the sports oval and the Mayfield Bowling Club, and is expected to be completed within six months.

The entrance will face In-gall St. and the swimming centre will incorporate a main pool and a children's pool, but will not contain a high diving section. The main pool will have six racing lanes, a one-metre diving board and a three-metre board. It will measure 165ft. by 50ft., will be completely tiled and will have suitable underwater lighting.

• Beautification plan for area

The pool's capacity will be 300,000 gallons. The children's pool will be 50ft. by 25ft. and will have an average depth of 2ft. Its capacity will be 14,000 gallons, but no underwater lighting will be installed because of the shallow depth.

The decision to build the pool in Dangar Park is believed to have fallen in line with the City Council's discussions some time ago for a similar project in the same area.

According to the City Engineer, Mr. J. G. Baddeley, the scheme was designed by the architectural section of the City Engineer's Department.

The parking area at the pool will be bitumen surfaced and will accommodate approximately 80 vehicles.

The City Council will remove a minimum of trees from the site, and its Parks and Gardens Committee will embark on a plan to beautify

The area will be developed on similar lines to the surrounding sections of the Lambton pool. The children's playground on the Carrington St. side of the park will be retained or re-located.

All operations at the centre, including maintenance and determining of admission charges, will be fully controlled by the City Council.

Asked to comment on the company's decision to donate the pool, the general manager of the Newcastle works, Mr. R. Coulton, said:

"Several proposals for gifts to employees were considered, but the construction of a swimming pool seemed the most desirable.

• Gesture to Newcastle

"The company's directors preferred this gesture rather than the making of individual presentations since many of the employees who played a part in the 50 years of achievement at the works are now at other centres, while others have retired.

"Therefore, the idea of a community gift was conceived as a permanent gesture to the people of Newcastle."

The Lord Mayor, Ald. Purdie said:

"Coupled with our heartiest congratulations to the Broken Hill Pty. Company Ltd. on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the opening of its

Newcastle Steel Works, is a sense of sincere appreciation for the contribution it has made to the progress and de-

velopment of this city and of the Commonwealth.

"The essential services and facilities rendered necessary by the establishment of this plant have in turn attracted a tremendous amount of industrial and commercial development which has brought economic stability to this area.

"I was thrilled by the announcement of Sir Colin Syme

that to mark this important and historic occasion, the company would present to the City Council, for the citizens of Newcastle, an Olympic swimming pool.

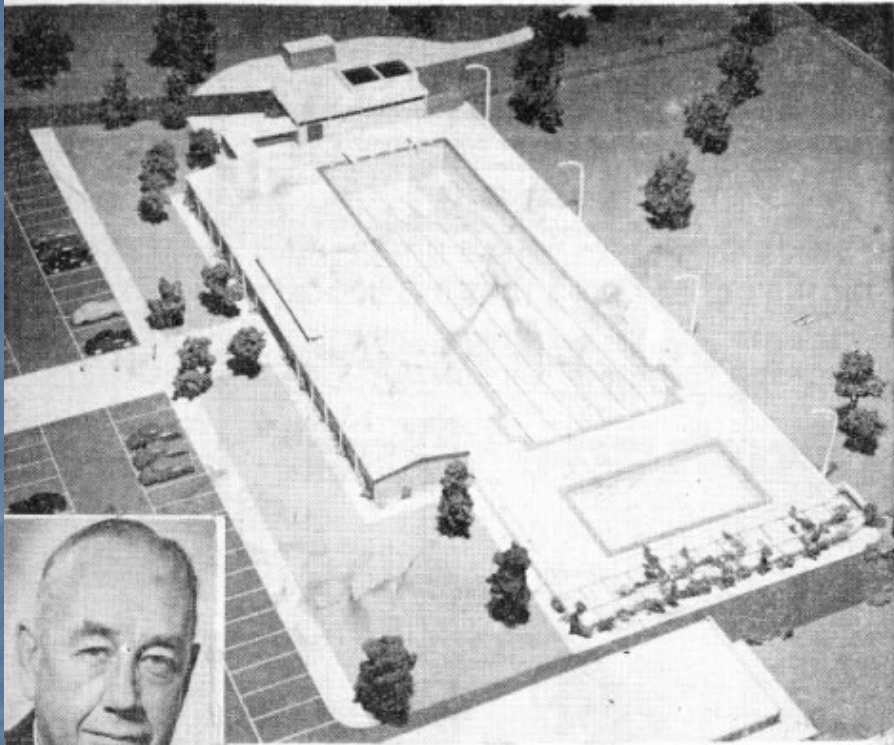
"This magnificent gift will provide most acceptable and enjoyable recreational facilities for many thousands of men, women and children in an area within a short dis-

tance of the works and within easy reach of the homes in which many employees of the company reside.

"On behalf of the council and the citizens of Newcastle, I accept this most generous and practical gift with sincere thanks and deep appreciation."

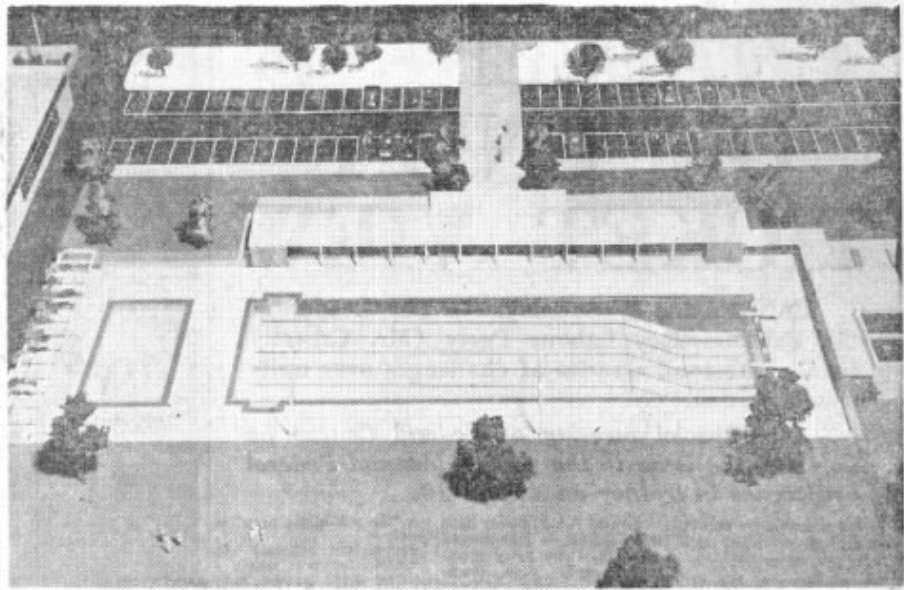
• Premier speaks on Newcastle's future. Page 2.

BELOW: Picture shows how the gift swimming pool will look on completion. The picture was taken from a model.



● Sir Colin Syme

Dangar Park gift pool NWH 1-7-1965



This is what the Mayfield swimming pool—the gift of the B.H.P. Co. Ltd.—will look like from the Carrington-street side of Dangar Park. At the extreme left is the Mayfield Bowling Club rooms, and at the left of the main pool is the children's pool. The car parking area is at the top of the picture. This area facing the entrance to the pool will be on the Ingall-street side of the park. The B.H.P. will build the pool to mark its 50th anniversary.

NMH17-115

B.H.P. gives city £80,000 pool

The B.H.P. Co. Ltd. will donate an £80,000 Olympic swimming pool to Newcastle to mark the 50th anniversary of Newcastle Steel Works.

The Company Chairman (Sir Colin Syme) announced details of the project to 500 guests at the anniversary luncheon at the Steel Works yesterday.

Sir Colin said the project should be completed within six months.

Tenders would be called within three weeks and work was expected to start by early September.

The pool would be in Dangar Park, Mayfield, between the sports oval and Mayfield Bowling Club.

The entrance would face In-gall-street and would incorporate a main pool and a children's pool, but not contain a high diving section.

For children

The main pool would provide six racing lanes, a one-metre diving board and a three-metre board.

The main pool would measure 165ft. x 50ft., would be completely tiled and would have underwater lighting. It would have a capacity of 300,000 gallons.

The children's pool would be 50ft. by 25ft., with an average depth of 2 feet. The capacity would be 14,000 gallons, and because of the shallow depth no underwater lighting would be installed.

The scheme was designed

by the Engineers' division of Newcastle City Council.

The City Council was considering at one time the possibility of going ahead with a similar project in the Mayfield area.

Sir Colin said the parking area would be bitumen surfaced and would accommodate about 80 vehicles.

Council control

The City Council would remove only those trees from the site as was necessary and the Parks and Gardens Committee would embark on a plan to beautify the area similar to the surroundings of the Lambton Pool.

The children's playground on the Carrington-street side of the park would either be retained or relocated.

All operations at the centre, including maintenance and the determining of admission charges, would be controlled by the City Council.

The General Manager of the Steel Works (Mr. R. C. Coulton), commenting on the announcement, said several proposals for gifts to employees had been considered but the construction of a swimming pool seemed the most desirable.

The company directors preferred this gesture rather than individual presentations since many of the employees who played a part in the 50 years of achievement at the works

were now located at other centres, while others had retired.

The idea of a community gift was conceived as a permanent gesture to the people of Newcastle. Mr. Coulton said.

Civic thanks

The Lord Mayor (Ald. Purdue) accepted the gift on behalf of the council and the people of Newcastle.

He said he had been thrilled by the company's decision to donate a pool to the city.

"This magnificent gift will provide most enjoyable recreation facilities for many thousands of men, women and children in an area within a short distance of the works and within easy reach of the homes of many of the company employees," Ald. Purdue said.

Union view

The Newcastle President of the Federated Ironworkers' Association (Mr. Caesar), whose union is the biggest in the Steel Works, said company employees would appreciate the pool.

But he said he believed that yesterday was an appropriate occasion for the company to have made a gesture to its employees.

"The company could at least have given its employees, who are largely responsible for its achievements, a superannuation scheme. The employees have been seeking this for years," he said.

NS29-11-1965

Work starts on Mayfield Olympic pool



A bulldozer and a front-end loader have begun ripping up part of Dangar Park, Mayfield, for the start of construction of the first section of the Olympic Swimming pool.

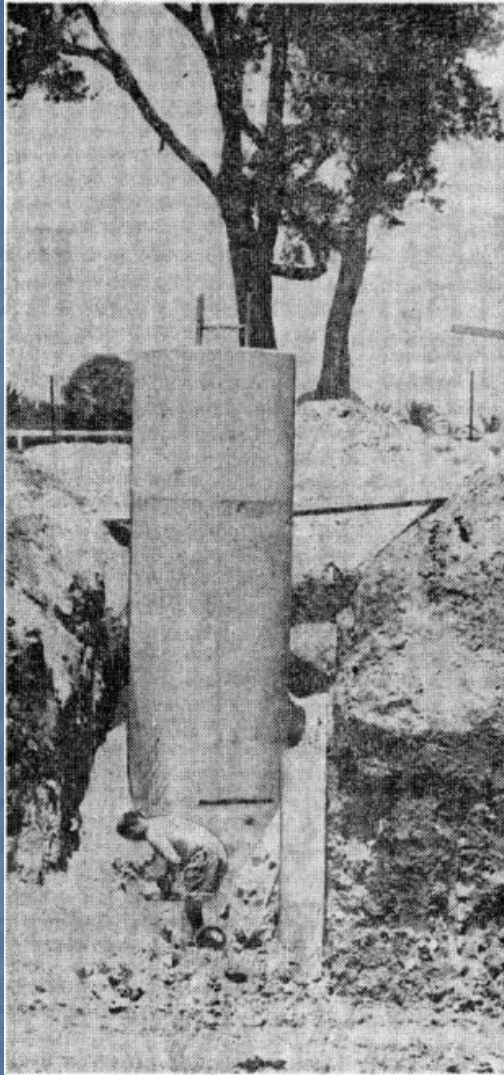
The contract for construction of the pool has been let to Gardiner, Constructions Pty. Ltd., for more than £70,000.

The pool will be a gift from the BHP Co. Ltd.

Announcement of the move was made by the BHP Chairman, Sir Colin Syme, at a function held to mark the 50th anniversary of Newcastle Steelworks.

N.H. 7-12-1965

POOL GROWS



Dangar Park Swimming Pool, a gift to the city from the B.H.P., is under construction. Here a large pipe for part of the filtration unit is lowered into the earth amidst a background of trees and the park.

N.S.S. 3-1966

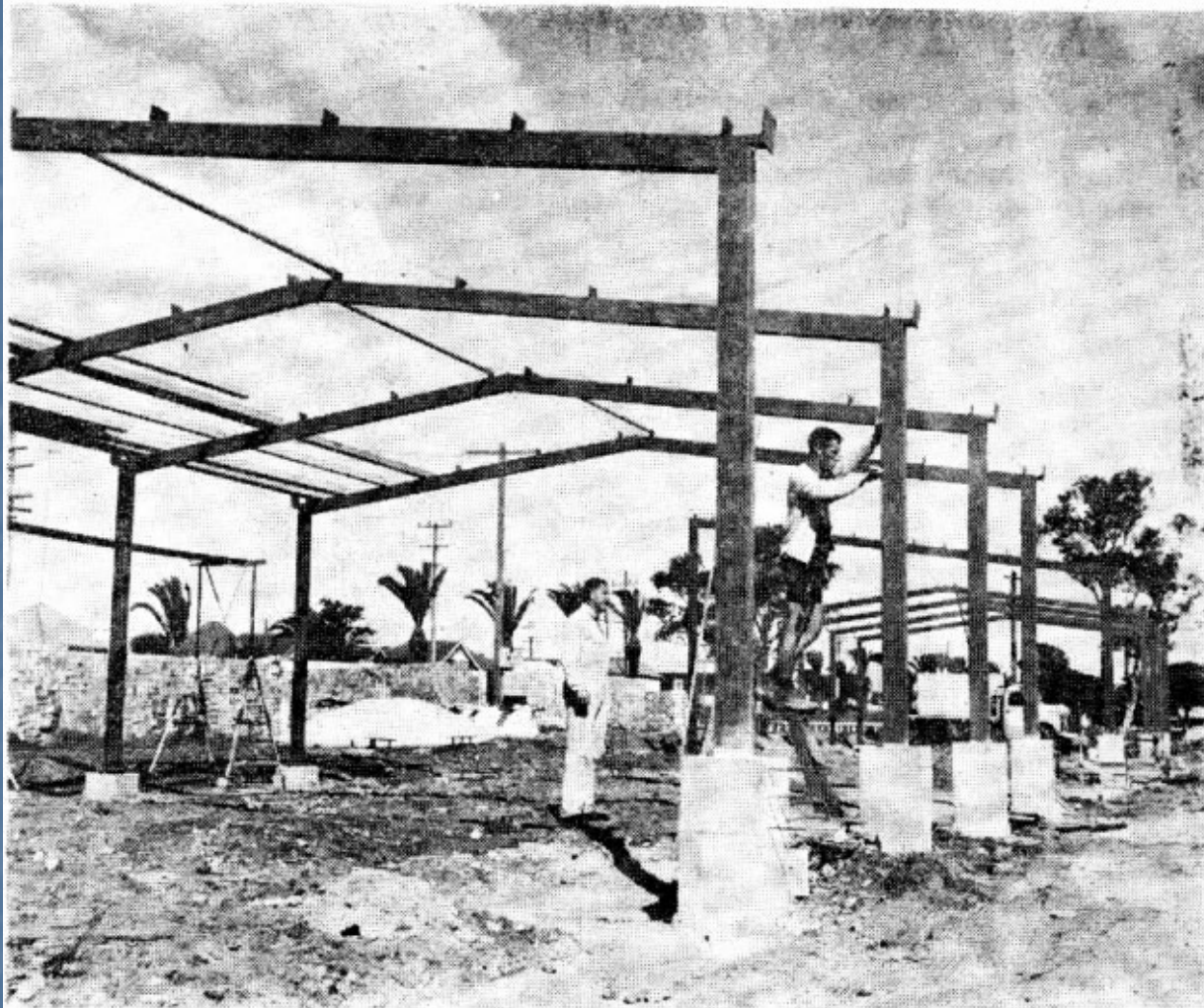
Pool excavation



Excavations and foundation works on the BHP's "gift" swimming pool in Dangar Park, Mayfield East, are nearing completion. Picture shows progress on the \$160,000 (£80,000) project.

NS 3-6-1966

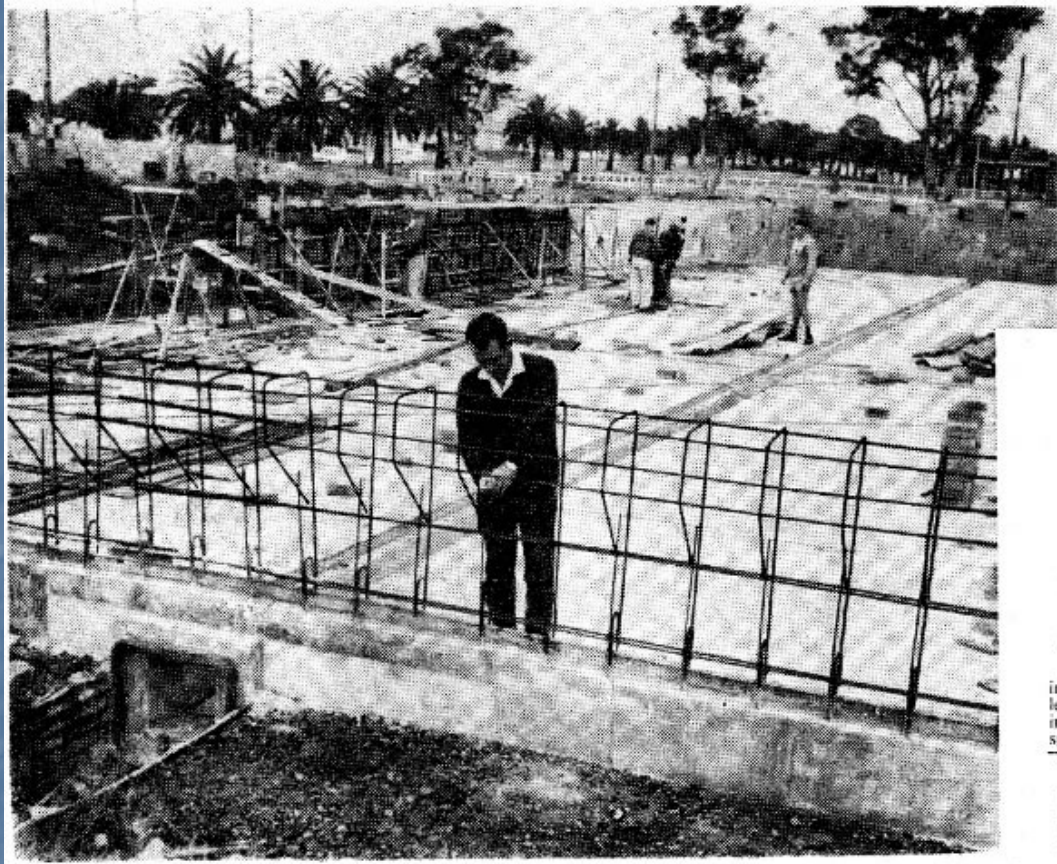
Pavilion for pool



Foreman Don McDonald and workman Ted Bright check measurements on the framework of the dressing pavilion of the new Mayfield Olympic Pool.

The building is of brick and steel construction.

The pool is a gift to the City of Newcastle by the B.H.P. to mark the 50th anniversary of steel-making in the city.



N66-5-1766

City's gift pool

—READY FOR SUMMER

The \$160,000 Mayfield East swimming pool will open for public use next summer, a spokesman for the construction company announced today.

The pool will be completed and opened before the end of the year.

Construction was proceeding to schedule and no problems were envisaged in finishing the work, according to the spokesman.

THE PICTURE: Contractors working on the pool site prepare for the pouring of more concrete today.

The BHP donated the \$160,000 to Newcastle City Council to erect the pool as a gift to the city.

The company's donation was made in conjunction with its 50th anniversary.

Workmen today were busy pouring concrete while foundation works for the dressing pavilion were under way.

Apart from the main Olym-

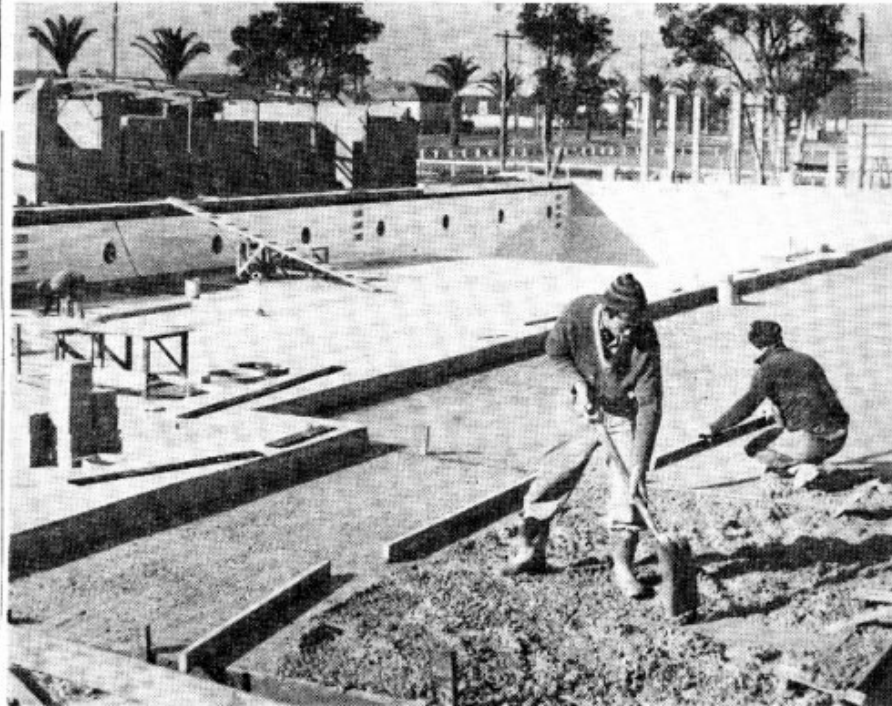
pic-sized pool, the company is also building a kiddies' wading pool which will also be finished by the end of the year.

City aldermen say the new pool at Mayfield West will help to overcome the shortages of swimming facilities which exist in the area.

Some aldermen believe the City Council should set aside funds each year for gradual construction of pools in other suburban centres.

Gift pool takes shape

NS11-9-1966



The new swimming centre in Dangar Park, Mayfield, is beginning to take recognisable shape.

It is expected that the \$180,000 centre will be in operation well before Christmas.

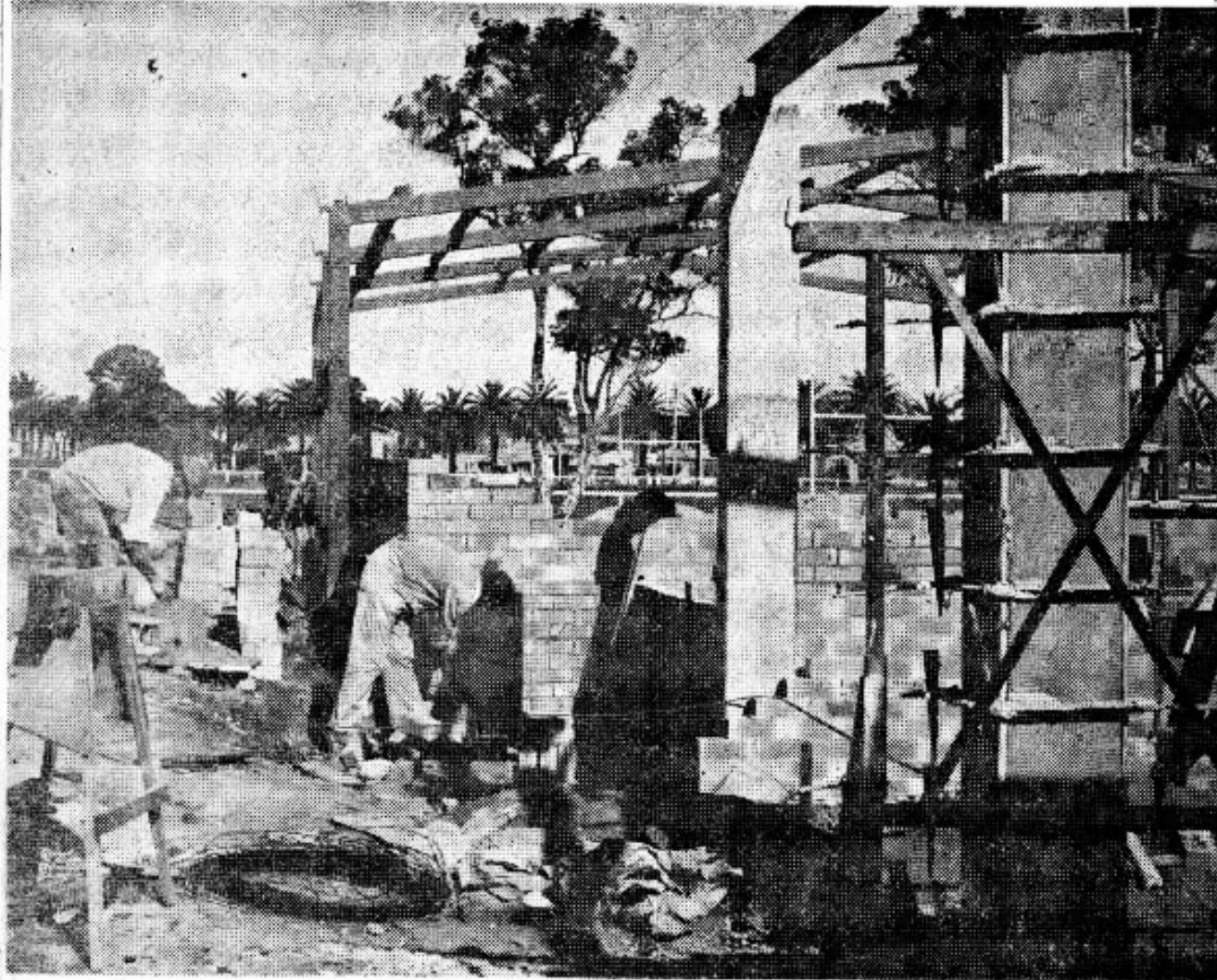
Work is well advanced on the tiling of the pool, although some other parts of the project are behind schedule.

The swimming centre is a gift to the city from the BHP Company to celebrate the 50th anniversary of steelmaking in Newcastle last year.

PICTURE: This view shows the current state of the overall project.

Pool buildings go up

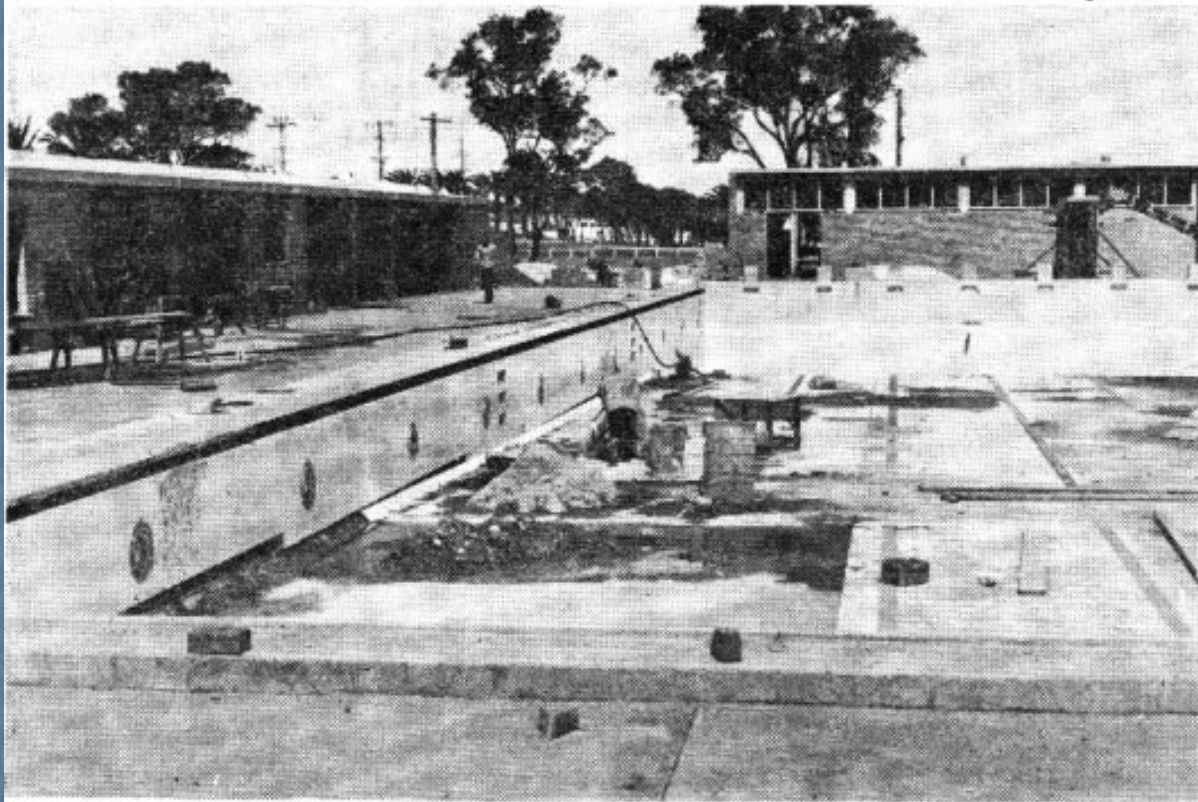
NMH3-9-1966



After months of work on the swimming pool in Dangar Park, the first superstructures have begun to appear. Here tradesmen are at work on dressing sheds.

MAYFIELD POOL:

NS16-9-1966
Ready in four weeks



The builders of Newcastle's new swimming pool at Mayfield expect work to be completed in about four weeks.

The main pool is now virtually complete, and work is progressing rapidly on the dressing sheds and facilities.

Most of the buildings have been erected, and now have only to be finished inside and fitted out.

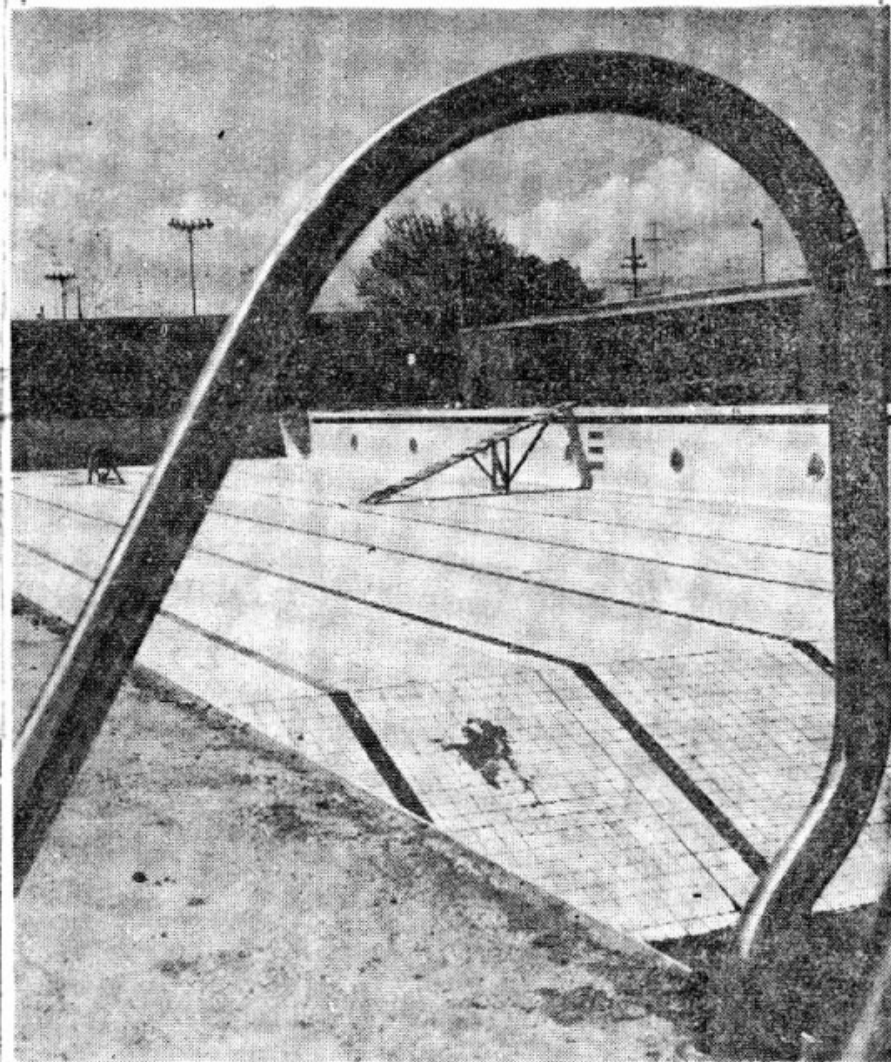
The children's pool is ready for tiling, and should be completed in about two weeks, and the many paths are also under construction.

—LEFT: A view of the pool.

BELOW: A tiler at work.



NMH 30.9.1966
POOL POLISH UP



As the construction of Dangar Park swimming pool approaches completion, the tiles that cover its floor and sides are being polished. The pool and buildings have taken their completed shape, and finishing touches are under way in preparation for the opening, which has been set tentatively for about October 28.



SIR IAN McLENNAN

NMH19-10-1966

Steel man to open pool

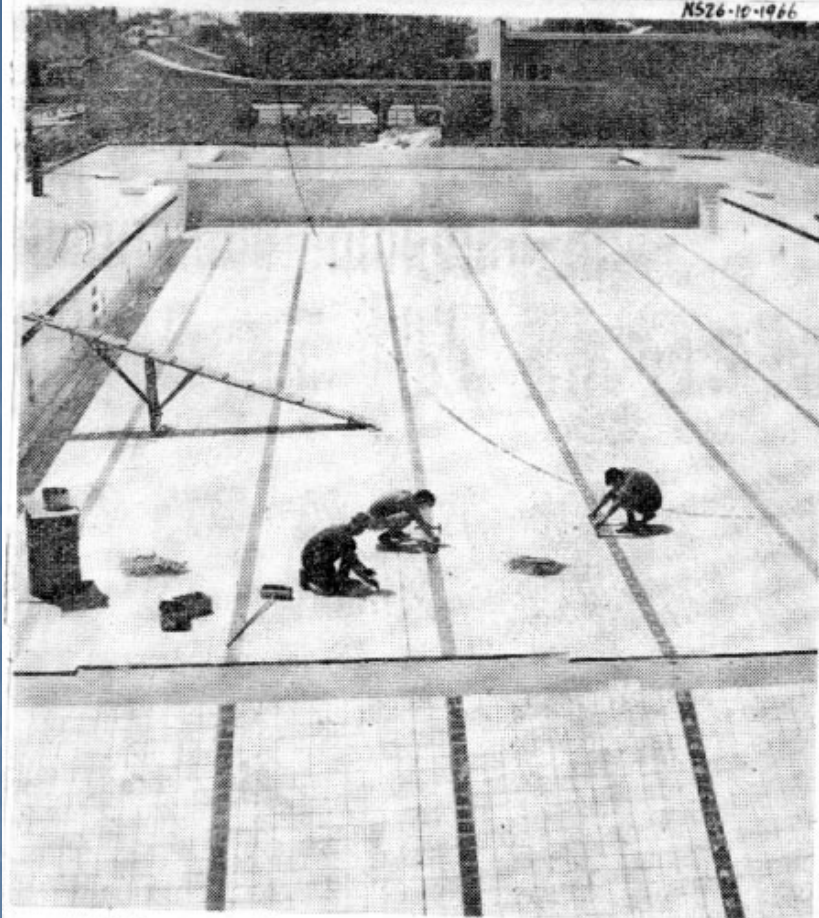
Sir Ian McLennan, Chief General Manager of the B.H.P., will officially open his company's gift Olympic swimming pool, at Mayfield, next month.

The B.H.P. has paid for construction of the \$160,000 pool as a gift to the city to mark the 50th anniversary of its establishment in Newcastle.

The Lord Mayor (Ald. McDougall) said Sir Ian had agreed to open the pool, at

Dangar Park, at 12.30 p.m. on November 12.

Ald. McDougall said it was hoped the pool would be complete by November 12, though the City Engineer (Mr. Baddeley) told him through the week that another delay had occurred in its construction.



Final touches to Mayfield gift pool

Workmen put finishing touches to the new swimming centre in Dangar Park, Mayfield, which will be opened on November 12.

The \$160,000 centre was a gift to the people of Newcastle from the BHP Co., to mark 50 years of steelmaking in the city.

Chief general manager of the company, Sir Ian McLennan, will officially

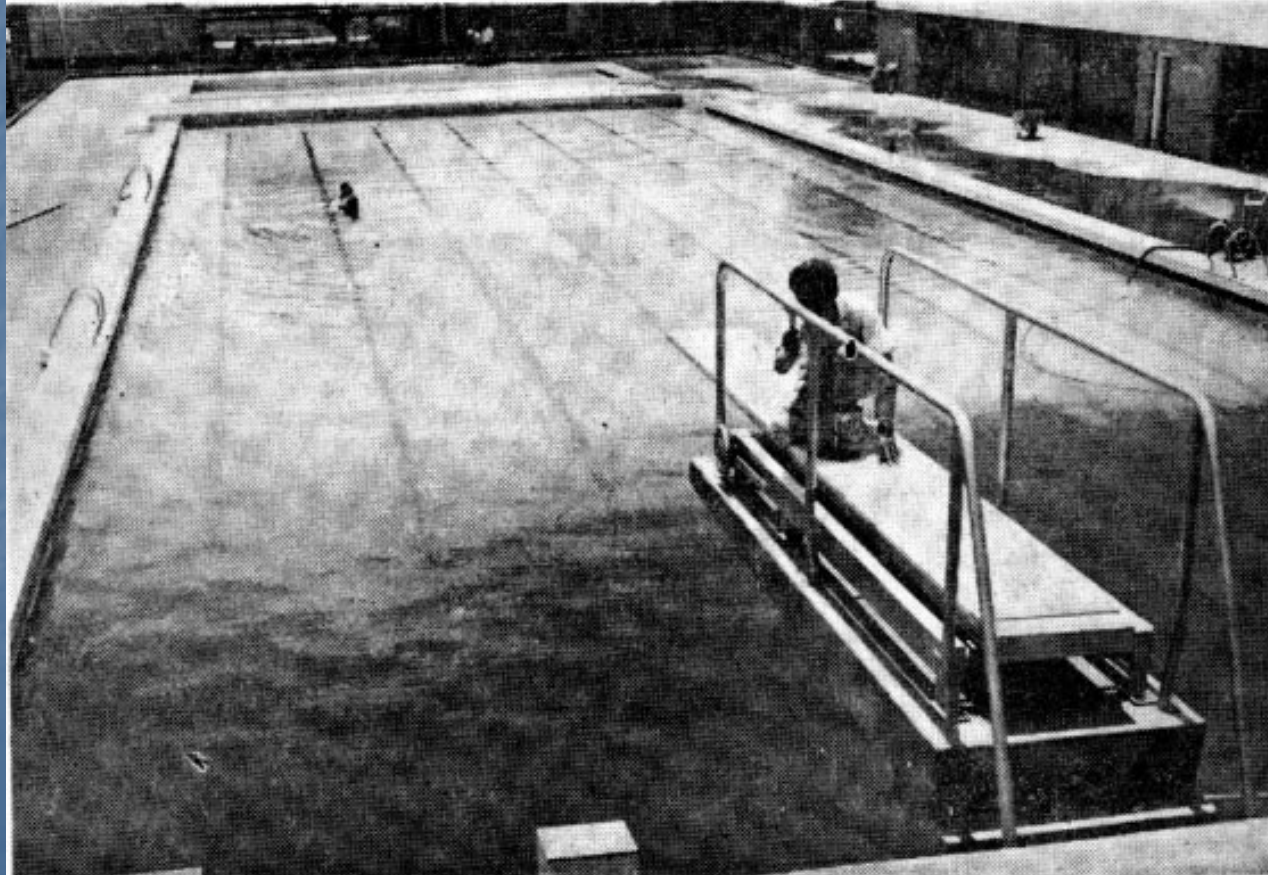
open the pool at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, November 12.

The new pool, conveniently located in a heavily populated area, will go a long way towards relieving overcrowding at the Lambton Swimming Centre.

NM 110-1966

New pool filled

The new Dangar Park swimming pool has been filled. But the man nearly up to shoulders in the water is not there for pleasure . . . he is doing some construction finishing-off job. At the nearer end of the pool another workman is painting the diving platform. The pool will be opened at a ceremony on Saturday.



● \$160,000 BHP GIFT TO CITY

NS 11-11-1966



Mayfield pool opening tomorrow

The Chief General Manager of the B.H.P., Sir Ian McLennan, will hand over his company's \$160,000 "gift" swimming pool to the City Council tomorrow afternoon.

The official opening ceremony of the Dangar Park pool is scheduled for 2.30 p.m.

After the official opening a group of leading district swimmers will give exhibitions.

The new pool will then be declared open for public use.

The Lord Mayor, Ald. McDougall, will "receive" the pool on behalf of the City Council and the people of Newcastle.

The BHP donated the Dangar Park pool to the city to mark the company's 50th anniversary of steelmaking in Newcastle.

The pool will be opened at 6 a.m. on Sunday for the public.

The 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. operating system will remain in force till December 3.

After this date the pool will operate from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily until further notice.

PICTURE: Workmen put the finishing touches to the pool in readiness for Saturday's opening ceremony.

MMH-11-1966

GIFT POOL OPENS TO-MORROW

Symbol of city's affluence

by BRAD. POMFRETT

FOUR years ago Newcastle was a city without one of the modern symbols of community affluence — an Olympic swimming pool.

In January, 1963, the city's first chlorinated, fully-tiled freshwater pool came into use and a new era in bathing began.

That swimmers prefer the cool, clear freshness of a modern pool is evident from the thousands who stream through Lambton Olympic pool's turnstiles every summer. And pay for it.

But one of these symbols of affluence is not enough for a city of Newcastle's size. The B.H.P.

probably realised this when a gift to mark the 50th anniversary of Newcastle Steel Works was considered.

The company wanted to give something to the thousands who are working, and have worked at its Newcastle plant. So Newcastle was given a \$160,000 Olympic standard swimming pool as a gift. It will be opened to-morrow.

The pool is in Dangar Park, Mayfield, between the sports oval and Mayfield Bowling Club with the entrance facing Ingall-street.

It incorporates a main pool and a children's pool, but has no high diving section. Two diving boards — a three-metre and a one-metre — have been provided.

The main pool, 165ft. by 50ft. with a capacity of 300,000 gallons, is completely tiled and has underwater lighting.

The children's pool, 50ft. by 25ft., has an average depth of 2ft. and a capacity of 14,000 gallons.

The parking area is bitumen-surfaced and will hold about 80 cars. The area surrounding the pool has been landscaped.

When the gift was announced, the General Manager of Newcastle Steel Works (Mr. R. C. Coulton) said several proposals for a gift to employees had been considered but the pool seemed the most desirable.

The council had at one time considered going ahead with a similar project at Mayfield.

The idea of a community gift was conceived as a permanent gesture to the people of Newcastle.

With Mayfield one of the most densely populated suburbs in Newcastle, the pool is ideally situated. It is good for the heavily industrialised suburb.

At first it was feared Dangar Park might not be suitable because of possible undermining. Subsequent drillings to 40ft. — revealing 35ft. of clay and 5ft. of rock — were made and work on the pool started.

Newcastle's first tiled Olympic pool at Lambton proved popular from the start.

The swimming club using the pool — Central Newcastle — has grown to one of the highest in the State. Mayfield's pool should be equally as popular.

The President of the

N.D.A.S.A. (Mr. R. Faraday) said top Australian and State swimmers would give exhibitions at the opening to-morrow.

Lyn Bell (Belmont), Christine Deakes (Gosford), Robina Robertson (Kurri) and Scott Derwin (Mere-wether) will swim. A diving display will also be given.

Mr. Faraday said he believed the new Mayfield pool would raise the standard of swimming in the Newcastle area.

Newcastle was the biggest area in the N.D.A.S.A. but at the same time was the weakest when it came to turning out first-class swimmers.

Areas such as Gosford and Maitland were stronger because they had gained their Olympic pools long before Newcastle.

With the introduction of the Lambton pool, and now the Mayfield pool, the situation was improving all the time. "Tremendous progress should result," he said.

Before the Lambton pool was opened a move in Newcastle City Council to allow free admission to it was narrowly defeated.

To-day the charge is 20c an adult and 5c a child.

The charges will be the same for the Mayfield pool because the council fears patronage will drop sharply at Lambton if admission at Mayfield is free.

Money raised from charging admission at Lambton does not meet running costs. This will also be true of Mayfield pool.

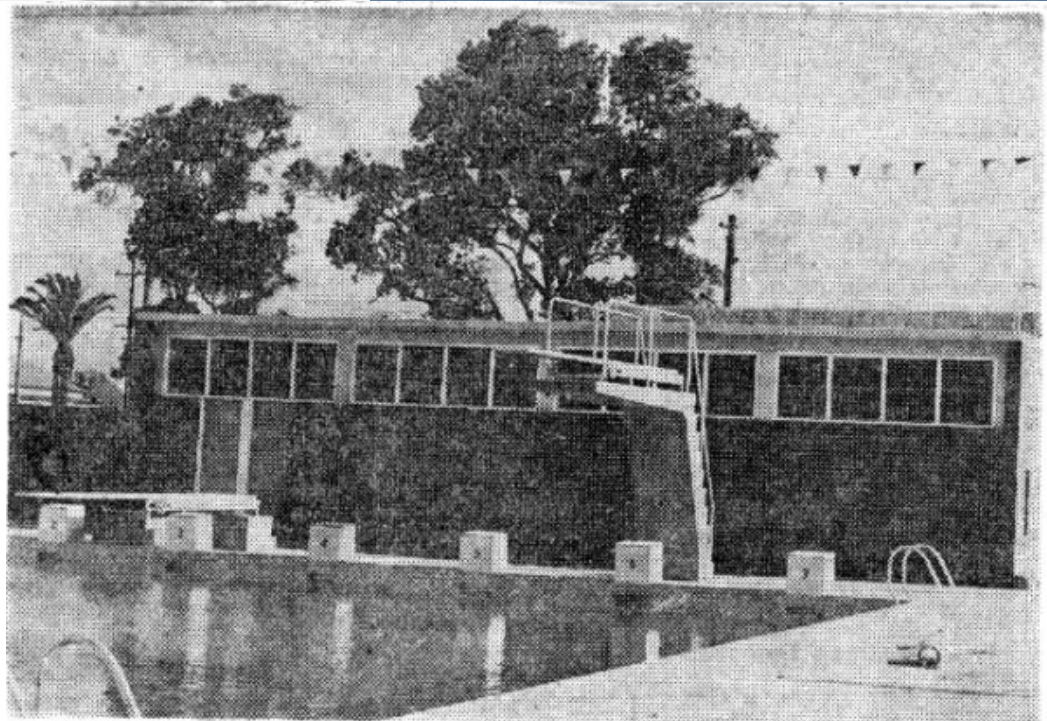
With Stockton and Beresfield vying for the next pool in the Newcastle Council



Lyn Bell (left), Scott Derwin and Christine Deakes, three of those who will swim at the Dangar Park pool opening.

—Mayfield, Lambton, Swansea and Speers Point.

It is just a matter of waiting and seeing which suburb — Beresfield, Stockton or Charlestown — gets the next.



Picture across the Dangar Park pool shows starting blocks, one of the diving boards and one of the bath's buildings.

NAM 14-11-1966

'Must be fee' at new pool

Newcastle City Council would like to throw open the new Mayfield swimming pool but unfortunately there must be a charge, the Lord Mayor (Ald. McDougall) said on Saturday.

He was addressing hundreds of people, including swarms of children, at the opening of the pool.

The \$160,000 pool is a gift from B.H.P. to mark

the 50th anniversary of the opening of the company's Steel Works in Newcastle.

"Maybe some of you are wondering why you can't go in for nothing," Ald. McDougall said. "Unfortunately the pool will cost a tremendous amount to run.

No profit

"The council has no intention of making a profit from this pool or any pool."

The admission fee would not detract from B.H.P.'s wonderful gift.

Congratulating B.H.P., Ald. McDougall said perhaps the greatest thing the company ever did was to come to Newcastle.

But for the B.H.P., Newcastle might to-day be just a quiet little village, he said.

The Chief General Manager of B.H.P. (Sir Ian McLennan) unveiled the plaque acknowledging the company's gift.

Well served

Sir Ian said: "I have looked over the new pool and it has exceeded my greatest expectations.

"The company has been well served by the people. I hope the people can also say they have been well served by the company.

"If the pool can be a help to young people then the company will feel justified," Sir Ian said.

Ald. Purdue, who was

Lord Mayor when the gift pool idea was conceived, said he had been thrilled when asked if the council would accept a \$160,000 pool as a gift.

"I had no hesitation," he said.

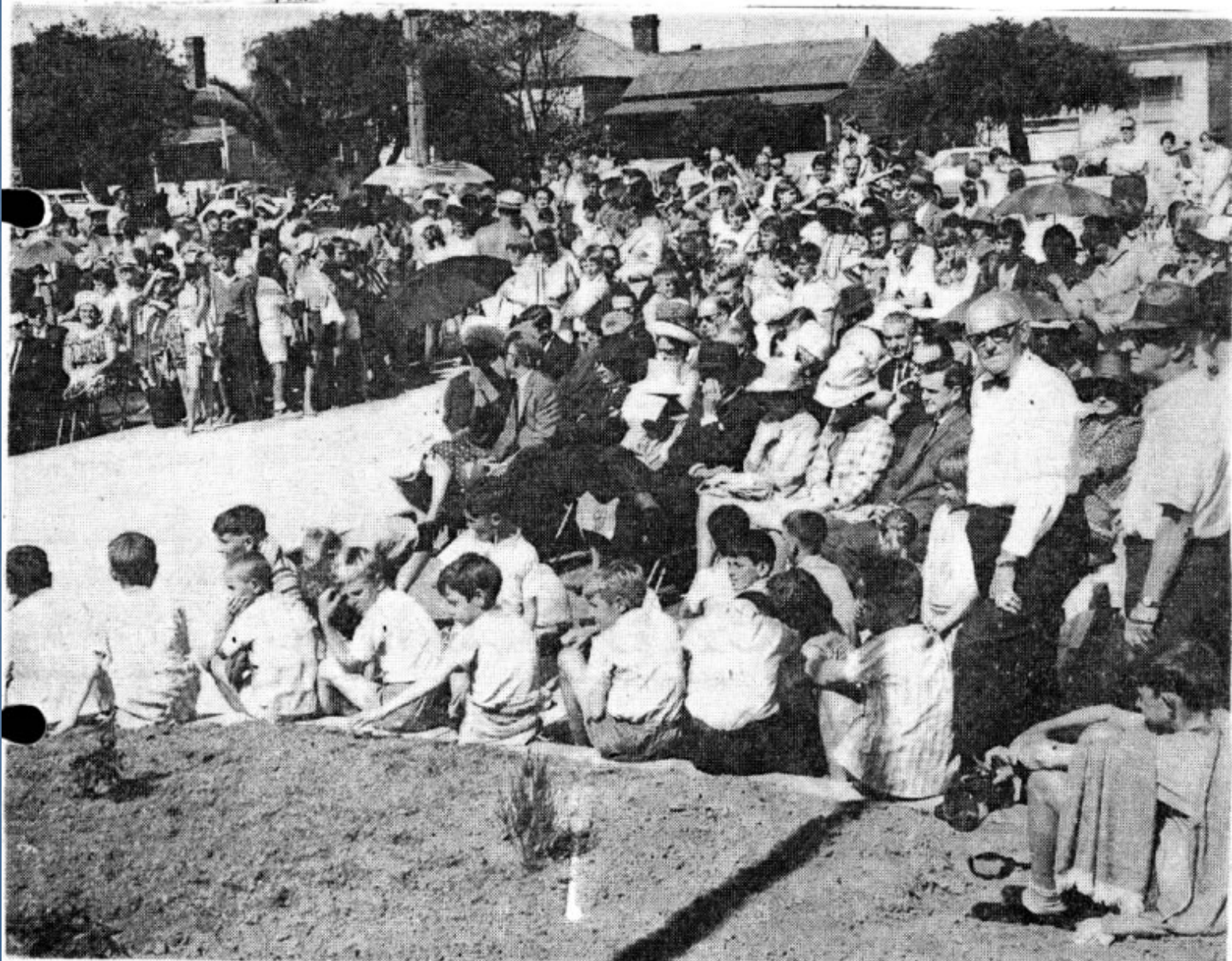
The Chairman of the council's Beaches and Baths Liaison Committee (Ald. Clarke) said the swimming pool was a symbol of what B.H.P. had achieved in the past 50 years.

He invited Sir Ian and the company's directors to join the city's aldermen for a swim in the pool sometime.

"When there is a little more seclusion," he added,



Spectators listen quietly as Sir Ian McLennan unveils a commemorative plaque and declares the pool officially open.



MAYFIELD GIFT POOL IS OPENED.

BHP News Nov. 1966 p1
**“Exceeded
expectations,”**

BELOW: Sir Ian McLennan unveils the plaque at the Mayfield Swimming Pool that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Newcastle Steelworks. Next to Sir Ian is the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Ald. D. G. McDougall, and, on the left, is former Lord Mayor, Ald. F. J. Purdue.



B.H.P.'s Chief General Manager (Sir Ian McLennan) officially opened the \$160,000 Mayfield Swimming Pool at Dangar Park on November 12.

The pool is the Company's gift to the City of Newcastle to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Newcastle Steelworks.

In unveiling the plaque that acknowledges the Company's gift, Sir Ian said:

"I have looked over the new pool and it has exceeded my greatest expectations.

"The Company has been served well by the people.

"I hope that the people can also say they have been well served by the Company.

"If the pool can be a help to young people, then the Company will feel justified," Sir Ian said.

The Lord Mayor (Ald. D. G. McDougall) told hundreds of people at the opening that 'perhaps the greatest thing the Company ever did was come to Newcastle.'

"But for B.H.P., Newcastle might be just a quiet little village," he said.

He said that the council regretted that there had to be a charge at the pool since it would cost a tremendous amount to run.

But the Council would not make any profit from it, he said.

NOV 11 1965

Turnstiles rushed



Above: Hundreds of young people crowd the turnstiles for a first-day free swim in Mayfield Pool on Saturday. Police do the best they can with such a pressure of enthusiasm.

Lower: For youngsters, once inside the baths, it is a case of all in together to celebrate the occasion.—
"Must be fee," P. 4.



LOCAL NEWS

Mayfield Pool

On the 11th of November, 1966, Mr. Ian McLennan officially opened the Mayfield Swimming Pool.

It was the second Olympic size pool in the Newcastle district, Lambton being the first in 1963. It was given on the 50th anniversary of the Newcastle Steel Works as a gift to the city that had provided it's labour for 50 years. BHP wanted to provide a gift that was a recreational facility in contrast with the hard work nature of the steel industry. It stands today almost identical to it's original state there in Dangar Park.

The pool cost close to \$160,000 in total to construct. It holds 300,000 gallons of water and is 165 feet long and 50 feet wide. At the time it was opened, the admission fee was 30 cents per adult and 5 cents per child. Photographs of the opening day show crowds of people rushing the turnstiles and literally hundreds of people crammed around the edge of the pool.

*Aust. Coal, Shipping Steel + The
Harbour Dec 1966 P41*

Sir Ian McLennan, Chief General Manager of B.H.P. is to officially open his company's gift Olympic swimming pool at Mayfield, Newcastle, during November. B.H.P. paid for the construction of the \$160,000 pool as a gift to the city to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the company in Newcastle.

Newcastle

Compass January 1967

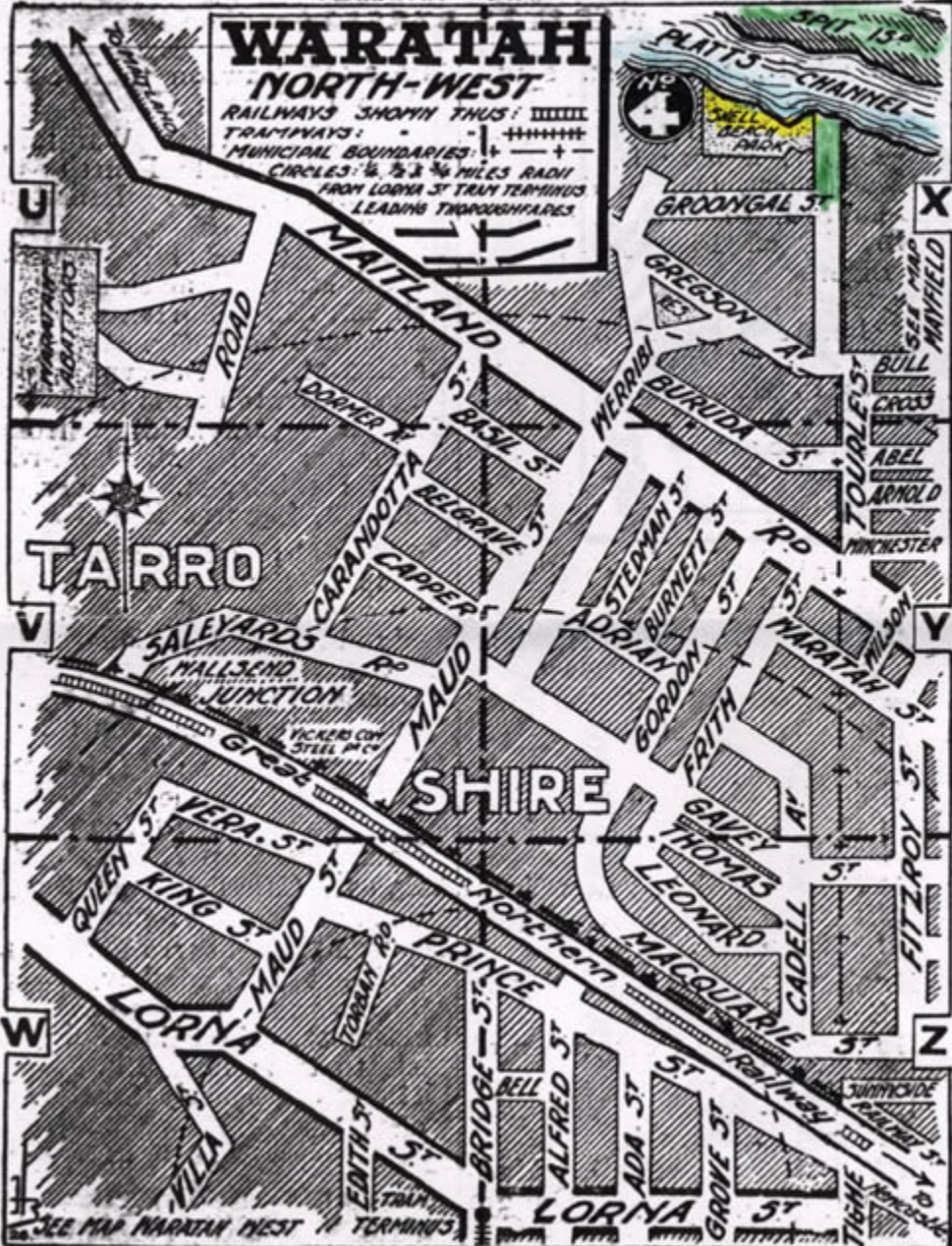
A new swimming-pool has been presented by the B.H.P. Company to the people of Newcastle to mark the company's 50th anniversary of steelmaking at Newcastle. The \$160,000 pool is in Dangar Park, in the suburb of Mayfield.

The Mysterious Story of Shelley Beach

How Mayfield lost its last piece of
riverfront land

WARATAH NORTH-WEST

RAILWAYS SHOWN THUS: [Symbol: thick black line with cross-ticks]
 TRAMWAYS: [Symbol: thin black line with cross-ticks]
 MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES: [Symbol: dashed line with cross-ticks]
 CIRCLES: $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ & $\frac{3}{4}$ MILES RADI
 FROM LORNA ST TRAM TERMINUS
 LEADING THROUGHFARES



TARRO

SHIRE

SEE MAP WARATAH WEST TERMINUS

What happened?

- Shelley Beach, or Shell Beach Park, was a coastline recreation area for the people of Mayfield, the last area of waterfront land from Newcastle to Sandgate that formed part of the Platt's Channel.
- It was filled in by B.H.P. in 1950 after a deal with the Local and State Governments that saw the channel being given to the company in exchange for land located at Shortland, upon which the University of Newcastle now rests. The machinations began on the 13th November 1941 and ended with the first shovel of fill being thrown on 21st April 1950.

In the historical records...

- The first mention of Shelley Beach is in the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence. John Laurio Platt, upon whose grant the beach lay, writes on the 28th June 1835 that "he readily gave him the lend of a man to assist in having one thousand bushels of lime on the shell bank close to my house." It was in all probability an Aboriginal midden that contained evidence of thousands of years of Aboriginal habitation in the form of shells that had been harvested from the channel, it could also have been a burial ground. Platt used it as a wharf when he settled on his 2000 acre grant, with the original intention of exporting timber.

Ellen Lane's Recollections

- The late Mrs Ellen Lane grew up on the land now occupied by the Steel River Site. Site of John Laurio Platt's farm, mill and house, and was later sold to the A.A. Company in 1839. The company later built their manager's residence, known as Argyle House on the land. Later sold to the Catholic Church who turned it into the Murray-Dwyer Orphanage.



A Mr Cruise had a boat on the beach and many times we had our photo taken on it."
The five "Meehan" girls photographed circa 1925 -1926 in Tom Cruise's boat at Shelley Beach. [Photo courtesy Vera Deacon]

Ellen Lane's Recollections

- But the greatest pleasure of all was "Shelly Beach".
- As children, my sisters and our friends spent many happy days there. It was a popular Sunday walk for families and courting couples.
- We used to race over the green, grassy banks, through the sweet smelling lantanas, to the fishermen's wharves to fish, or to borrow a boat to row on the channel.
- At the foot of the river banks was a cottage in which lived a fisherman, his wife and two children. One day the lady became ill and was taken away. The children went to live with the relatives, and Old Quail, the original fisherman, was joined by one Bob Ashby. Together they fished the river for many years.
- Old Bob, as the kids knew him, was something of a mystery. He was very well spoken, with the faintest accent American we learned. He had great tales to tell about his travels throughout Australia, shearing sheep and cooking in shearing sheds. He admitted leaving America as a young man, but still had contacts there. He never talked about it, but he used to give me American stamps.
- He was very musical and on Summer evenings he used to bring out an ancient concertina and play anything from classics to jazz. His waltzes were accompanied by the tapping of his heavy boots. It was fun, and many times boats would anchor in front of the old place, just to listen to his music.
- A Mr Cruise had a boat on the beach and many times we had our photo taken on it. In mid stream was a house boat built by a Mr Sam Palmer, who lived on it. After the War things changed. B.H.P. offered an undisclosed sum for the property. Two channels of the Hunter River were filled in, and with it went the fishermen's cottage. Progress, they said, plagued with dust, smell and noise.
- The last straw was when the Industrial Highway was built.

Vale Shelly Beach

What can we learn from history?

- The story of Shelley Beach is also the story of how Mayfield and Newcastle lost all the riverfront land to progress and industry.
- We must ensure that the sanctioned environmental vandalism that destroyed an entire channel, a recreation beach, that irrevocably poisoned the South Arm of the River, and saw the entire riverfront taken from the people of the area, never happens again to any place and time.
- We need to achieve some equilibrium between the goals of human industry and development and the needs of the natural world, upon whom we all owe our true living and prosperity.
- Mayfield Olympic Swimming Pool is our local waterhole and must be enhanced for future generations of families to enjoy.

Prepared by Mr Gianni Di Gravio
Archivist, University of Newcastle

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Mrs Vera Deacon
Cultural Collections (Archives) University of Newcastle

