

We had a good time. It was clean, wholesome, there was no trouble. We were fit and healthy, and pretty happy. When you look back you realise how lucky you were.
Nola Campbell

In the 1950s the Saturday morning races were an important social occasion. The parents would go and have a beer or morning tea in the plant room. Everyone became close friends and worked very hard to raise money for various events. When you're young, it's your social life as well, it's all-consuming.
Susan Costin, Australian backstroke champion



Children at a Parramatta City ASC presentation night, about 1956
Courtesy of Colleen Pettiford

Granville's aquatic clubs

Since the formation of the Granville Amateur Swimming Club in 1936, several aquatic sports clubs have gathered at Granville pool for training, socialising and competing. The longest running club is the Parramatta City Amateur Swimming Club, which has been active for over 50 years. The coaching, comradeship and focus provided by these clubs has produced several national and international swimming, diving, water polo and synchronized swimming champions.

Swimming clubs play an vital educational role, and also promote and encourage community involvement. Over the years, many members have progressed to learn-to-swim and life-saving instructors, and parents have become swimming officials. All work together to help raise funds for special events and uniforms.

Granville Amateur Swimming Club

Granville Amateur Swimming Club was formed in 1936 by the first pool manager Rob Chalmers. A separate ladies' club was also formed, although women were still permitted to join the main club.

Nola Campbell joined both the Granville ASC and the Granville Ladies Amateur Swimming Club aged twelve. Under coach Tom Penny, Nola trained after school, competed in Sunday races, and joined the squad in winter training sessions at White Bay or Bunnerong power stations. After she stopped competitive swimming aged 17, Nola remained active in the club as a learn-to-swim teacher.

Dave Ramsay grew up close to Granville pool, joining the swimming club in the 1940s. He remembers that during the Second World War, many of the good swimmers had joined the forces, giving him the opportunity to win several titles.



Above: Nola Campbell, centre, with some of her swimming pupils at Granville, 1950

Below: (left to right) Barbara Baxter, Kay Kleeberg and Judith Baxter, holding Granville ASC championship pennants, 1950
Photos courtesy of Nola Campbell

In 1946 – 47 I won three championships over about a week. For presentation night they put on a dance over at the Rechabite Hall in Granville. I'd already won quite a few pennants and thought that would be my prize. It was a bit of a surprise when I walked in and saw this big cup with my name on it.
Dave Ramsay



Below: Dave Ramsay wearing his Granville Amateur Swimming Club costume, 1946
Courtesy of Dave Ramsay

