

In the 1950s Granville was the only pool between Liverpool, Penrith and Auburn that was available to swim in. We had to go elsewhere on the weekends to swim because it was too crowded. There must have been a couple of thousand people at the pool on a hot day - you could walk across the pool without touching the water.
 John Devitt, Australian swimming champion and Olympian

Granville RSL Amateur Swimming Club

In 1958 Granville RSL formed a youth club to provide healthy activities for local young people. In 1961 the Granville RSL Youth Amateur Swimming Club replaced the Granville Amateur Swimming Club. The club had about 100 members at its peak, and organised weekend training and races, as well as learn-to-swim classes.

Former swimming club president Don Ganter (1975 - 1981) remembers swimming carnivals held at Walgett and Muswellbrook, and the time the club travelled to a carnival in Auckland, New Zealand. Longtime club secretary Bev Gow (1966 - 1990) recalls that the club members particularly enjoyed going to Dubbo for the RSL State championships in 1987 and 1989. One swimming club member, Naomi Young, went on to represent Australia in synchronized swimming at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. The RSL swimming club folded in about 2002.

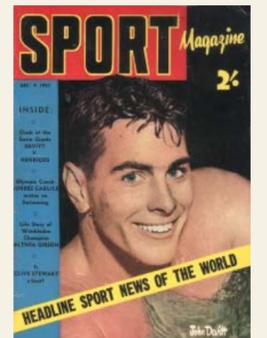


Above: Granville RSL president Charlie Gardner with the swimming team which represented Granville at the 1989 RSL State championships in Dubbo
 Courtesy of Bev Gow

Clyde Amateur Swimming Club

Schoolteacher and coach Tom Penny, previously with Granville Amateur Swimming Club, formed Clyde Amateur Swimming Club in 1946, taking top swimmers like John Devitt and Barry Darke with him to the new club. In winter, Penny's team travelled long distances to swim in the fast-moving water heated by the Bunnerong or White Bay power station, wearing sandshoes to protect them from the oysters. The club operated for only two seasons.

Right: John Devitt on the cover of *Sport Magazine*, December 1957



Above: RSL Youth Swimming Club learn-to-swim classes at Granville, 1970s
 Courtesy of Don Ganter

