

**IMAGES OF YALLOURN**

**THE SWIMMING POOL AT THE LATROBE RIVER**

**SUMMER - 1930.**



A working bee was arranged at Yallourn in preparation for 'Learn to Swim' week.—An excavation was made on the bank of the Latrobe River so that beginners might learn to swim in the shallow water of the River. More than a hundred men participated. The photographs show the volunteers at work.

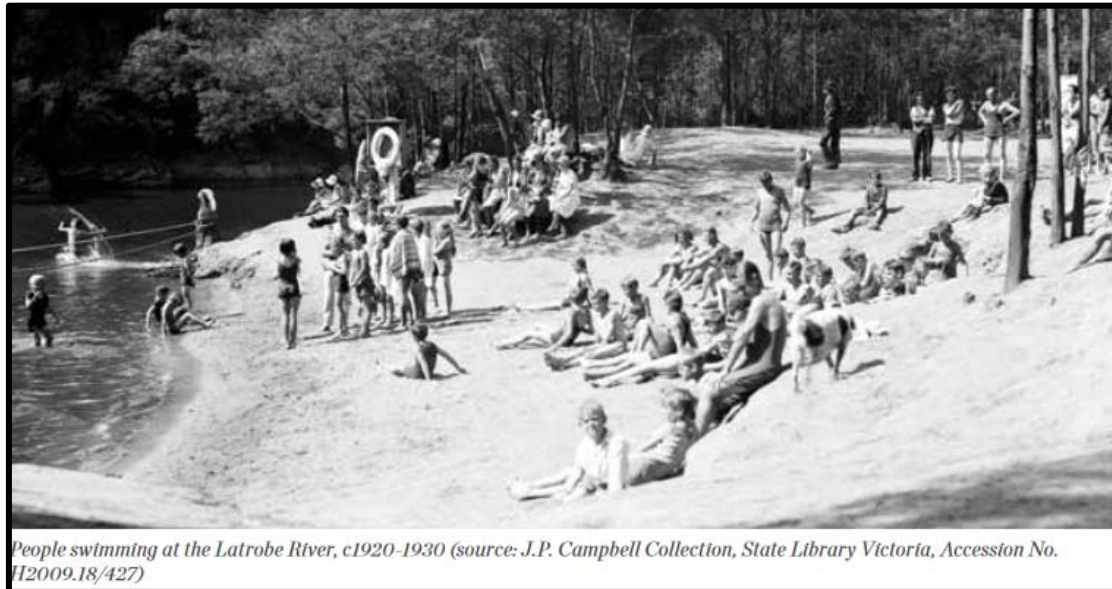
Source: 'Weekly Times' February 1<sup>st</sup> 1930. Page: 40

Caption text below the photographs: "A working bee was arranged at Yallourn in preparation for 'Learn to Swim' week. An excavation was made on the bank of the Latrobe River so that beginners might learn to swim in the shallow water of the River. More than a hundred men participated. The photographs show the volunteers at work."

**Note:** In the original copy of that edition of the 'Weekly Times', these two photos, were part of a full page spread which depicted various aspects of country life including: the Mallee, harvesting wheat in Illawarra and Hall's Gap.

The photograph (below) of an idyllic swimming scene at the Latrobe River in the 1930's was taken by one of Australia's most eminent photographers James Pinkerton Campbell (1865-1935). An article about this celebrated resident of Yallourn can be found at:

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/node/32887>



**Caption text: 'People swimming at the Latrobe River ( 19320-30 )'**

**Source; J.P. Campbell Collection. SLV H2009.18/427**

Yallourn Swimming Club stalwart, Arthur Brogan, who was awarded the prestigious Swimming Victoria Award in 1973, wrote a comprehensive and enlightening history of the Yallourn Swimming Club which can be found by following this link...

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/story/yallourn-swimming-club-arthur-brogan-circa-1991-and-footnote-kevin-brogan-2015>

Another story, which relates to the Yallourn Swimming Club, is about one of stars of the YSC and Gippsland swimming, Lois Gust...

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/stories/lois-gust-sporting-memories-yallourn-swimming-hockey-athletics-and-more>

A collection of photographs and articles regarding the history of swimming at Yallourn can be found, on this website, at the following links:

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/search?search=swimming>

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/node/30506>

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/node/29581>

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/node/27877>

<http://www.virtualyallourn.com/node/26794>

Younger readers may be also interested to see a photograph (below) of the Lake Pool (which preceded the 'Olympic Pool' - as it was often called). A diving platform was also a feature of the earlier town pool. This photograph was taken on February 6th 1937; and the title of the photograph was listed as 'Public Swimming Baths, Yallourn Vic.' The photograph summary stated: 'Elevated view of swimming baths and people in and around the water.'



**Source: State Library of Victoria. SLV Reference: H2009.92/54**

The well-known photograph (below) shows the massive crowd which attended the opening of the 'new' Yallourn Pool on November 7<sup>th</sup> 1959. The ultra-modern/ chlorinated pool was a 'spur' that drove the YSC to a long list of noteworthy achievements in local and state-wide competitions. It is not an overstatement to say that the children of Yallourn loved their summer days of fun and friendship at the pool. Furthermore, the sport of swimming captivated the minds of the town's children and, in turn, the YSC produced a wealth of first-class young swimmers and divers.

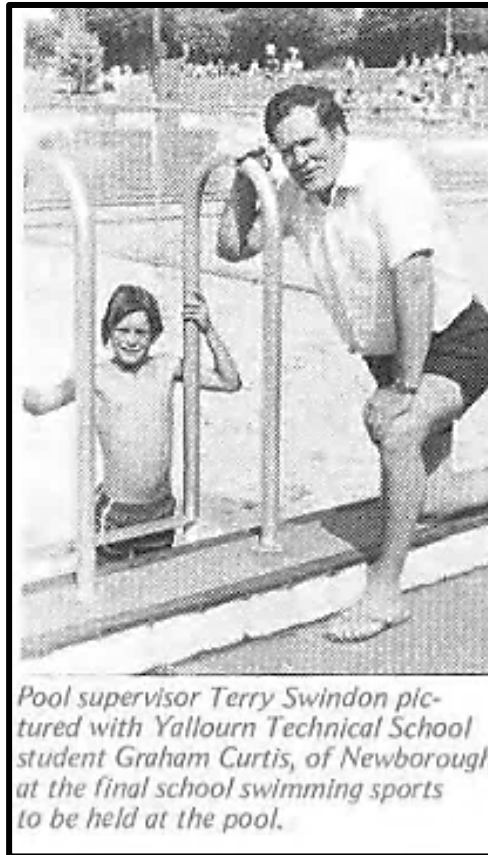


**Source: 'VirtualYallourn file'**

The Olympic-sized pool had a 'short life-span' of only 21 years but, in its day, was the pride of the town; and the Yallourn Swimming Club was one the most successful and broadly supported clubs in the township.

Other articles and photographs about the people and events of the Yallourn Swimming Club can be found by:

1. Typing the word 'Swimming Club' into the search field at the top right hand side of this page.
2. Press 'Enter' on your keyboard.



### **The last days of the Yallourn Swimming pool-1980**

**Caption: 'Pool supervisor Terry Swindon pictured with Yallourn Technical School student Graham Curtis of Newborough at the final school swimming sports to be held at the pool.'**

The above photograph, taken in 1980; was part of a story related to the closing of the Yallourn Swimming Pool (which was scheduled for the last day of March that year).

### **CAN YOU HELP TO BUILD THE HISTORY OF YALLOURN SWIMMING CLUB?**

The Yallourn Swimming Club originated from the most humble beginning's (on the banks of the Latrobe River-as shown in the top photograph); and, in time, became one the most respected swimming clubs in Victoria

By the 1960's, the YSC had more than 600 registered members; and not only achieved resounding success in swimming and diving carnivals but also excelled in life-saving competitions.

Many wonderful memories abound from those days at the 'pool'; and Julie would appreciate any photographs and/or anecdotes related to the history of the Yallourn Swimming Club.

Information such as the names of entrants for various events, relay team members, individual placings, club results, carnival reports (eg regional meetings, Victorian championships, school sports) and individual awards/trophies would be valued to post on the website. Thank you.

This article was prepared and presented by Roger Spaul and Julie George for the Virtual Yallourn website in February 2021.