

Olympic Pool – Newmarket

Built in 1939, this Art Deco building was opened in 1940. It was the first 50 metre pool in the country. The pool was the envy of many of the boroughs, but a great asset for the whole of Auckland. The Olympic Pool is part of the lives of generations of Aucklanders. Many local Newmarket residents and businesspeople recall the serious business of learning to swim, keeping fit, or just having a fun day out there. In 1950 when Auckland hosted the Empire Games (now known as the Commonwealth Games) the pool was the venue chosen for the swimming and diving events. It has since remained the headquarters of competitive swimming in Auckland.

Di Goldsworthy remembers, “For me personally, my lessons at the pool in late 1940's are more memorable for the luncheon sausage and tomato sauce toasted sandwiches, earned if I paid attention to the swim instructor. I was never much of a water baby!”

In the early 1990's the Olympic Pools was enclosed, and a multiplex theatre and carpark built on top. In 1994 the revamped facility reopened to include a fitness and recreation centre. Today, the venue is still state of the art and known as The Olympic Pools & Fitness Centre with a holistic range of facilities including Sauna, Steam Room and Spa Pool.