

# TOP SWIMMERS

Chinese submarine threat, ac-  
sional hearings made pub-



"Advertiser" Photo.

THE eight finalists in the Mr. and Mrs. Boucher Memorial race at the Bendigo East Swimming Carnival on Saturday night. Front row: Barry Baines, Roger Baines and Dianne Francis. Back row: Wendy Gibson, Robert Hassett, Joan Cleaver, Tony Baines and Suzette Irwin. The final was won by Hassett. (Story on Page 7).



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# BENDIGO IS NOT "IN THE SWIM"

By a STAFF REPORTER

"Dry swimming" could become an entirely new and strictly exclusive sport for citizens of the Golden City.

There are more "dry-swimming-pools" per head of population in Bendigo, than anywhere else in the world.

Only two swimming pools are filled with water — yet another nine are either not in use, not yet in use or closed down by councils.

A list of the available pools — most of them bone-dry — shows why Bendigonians this year are just not "in the swim".

Bendigo is by far the most unfortunate city of its size in Australia — with the greatest number of waterless, so-called "swimming pools" — and the smallest number of pools in operation.

And while everywhere else, even the poorest city councils try to establish a sufficient number of swimming pools for their citizens, Bendigo City Council is putting the brakes on whenever it can.

And it finds plenty of opportunity to apply the brakes.

But while the Olympic Swimming Pool — the only one for which the city council has accepted liability — is overcrowded like a sardine-tin on warm summer days, the other "swimming pools" remain waterless in the heat of Bendigo.

They look more like deserted cattle yards or badly levelled-off rubbish tips than anything fit for a human being.

### A Pathetic Sight

Long Gully's weed-studded ex-swimming-pool provides a pathetic sight. The diving board extends over countless bricks, which form the bottom and the side-walls of the waterless pit.

Greenery is abundant — where there should be water; emptiness is yawning — where there should be scores of healthy young people enjoying themselves.

And yet, all it would need to bring it back to life is a little bit of attention and a small sum of money.

It would take half-a-dozen men about one working day to clean the pit of weeds, wash the sidewalls and the bottom and to have everything ready for the water to flow in.

### Depot or Pool?

What can be done, is clearly shown by the appearance of the City Council Depot at Adam Street, which serves only as a depot and not as a place of relaxation. But the best lawns in Bendigo can be found there.

To transfer this no-good heap of bricks and mortar into a bubbling sporting centre would cost not more than a few hundred pounds — and that would include a modern filtration plant as well.

### No Need

There is no need for elaborate equipment — like the one used in the Olympic Swimming Pool — a small unit, like the ones used for private backyard swimming pools would be sufficient. There is no need to turn the whole content of water through the filters every eight hours — once every three days would be ample.

A spokesman for the club said yesterday that the club had received only £25 from the City Council last year (maintenance account) and it had — for the first time — received £75 towards payment for a keeper.

He said: "The City Council has done a bit of sewer work, but it is incomplete and actually has been laid where it matters least — behind the toilet blocks. Only half the cisterns have been fixed," he said, "I don't know why they didn't do the lot."

The spokesman said: "We cannot understand the City Council. Last

## LIST OF POOLS

Kangaroo Flat	closed 1965.
West Bendigo	filled in by Council.
Long Gully	dry.
California Gully	dry.
Hilda, Kennington	dry.
East Bendigo	operating.
Eaglehawk	not completed.
Golden Square	dry.
White Hills	operating.
Quarry Hill	not operating.
Olympic Pool	Overcrowded

year it sent us a bill for excess water of £45."

"As our pool contains only 50,000 gallons of water, that would mean we would have changed the water 89 times during the season. This, of course, is absolutely ridiculous — we don't change the water every day, as we also use chlorination."

(For comparison: Golden Square swimming pool contains 1,750,000 gallons of water, 35 times as much — but they were served with an excess water bill of only £85 for last season.) He said the City Council had finally agreed to pay the bill.

### Filtration to Come

Long Gully — the oldest pool in the district — constructed about 70 years ago — will soon have filtration plant.

The rather unique unit will be constructed of 44 gallon drums, a small pump and some piping.

The spokesman said, the principle was such employed by farmers who had small swimming pools and who wanted cheap filtration. He said it would cost the club about £150 to have this new unit installed.

The playground has been re-equipped, costing £125, after the City Council had refused any help. The money had come from the Long Gully Progress Association and the Buckley Street Progress Association had contributed £35.

The spokesman was very critical about the City Council's attitude towards maintaining the pool-surroundings. The Progress Association had asked the Council to cut the lawn around the pool, but Mr. Anderson had refused, saying that Council property could be damaged, the spokesman added.

Membership of the Progress Association is more than 100 families, who will try to keep the pool going.

But the difference between a costly "king-size" unit and a backyard-type instalment means the difference between an outlay of about £10,000 and a mere £250.

### No Blame

The citizens' management committee is not to

be blamed for this eyesore. One look into the brick-pit assures one that, as every brick has been laid by voluntary labor, these local parents have surely done what could be expected from them, and maybe a lot more.

A couple of lost children were standing on the churned-up soil which now forms the bottom of the dry swimming pool.

A trench across marks the beginning of a new works-program to modernise the pool—but work has ceased and apart from a few drops of rainwater there does not seem to be any prospect of this "pool" being available for swimming this summer. Or during any season thereafter.

The children told us it was a nice place to let a kite go up, or to play hide and seek . . . but swimming?

• SEE PAGE 10.

## SAY POLICE SHOT FIVE AFRICANS

**SALISBURY, Wednesday (AAP)** — In Dar-es-Salaam, one of Rhodesia's banned African nationalist parties claimed police shot dead five Africans during disturbances in the Rhodesian town of Bulawayo on November 23.

A Rhodesian Government communique on that day reported one African had been shot dead. It said police made many arrests.

But in a statement issued from its office in Lusaka today, the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union said police killed four Africans at Bulawayo's Mpopoma township and another was shot dead at a bus stop at

**WANT "WET" PAY MELBOURNE, Wednesday (AUP)** — The Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union is seeking \$/9 a day extra for postmen who make deliveries when it is raining.

## Desolate



... into the Long Gully Pool-filtration plant could turn this pool area — but more manpower and to add modern improve-

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and two years for payment bought on hire-purchase Council.

## Meeting