



## **Background**

The Mt Eden Swimming Club was incorporated as an Incorporated Society in 1955. While its incorporation was more than 60 years ago we understand that it has been functioning as a swimming club for over 100 years now.

Research suggests that the decision to incorporate may have come about, partly at least, with a long term project for acquiring, for the Club, the Mt Eden swimming pool.

At the time of the club's incorporation the Mt Eden swimming pool was a 33 1/3 metre pool in its present location. It was an open air pool with a high diving platform and associated deep pool. The pool was then owned and operated as a Council pool by the Mt Eden District Council.

The swimming club, at that time, would have had limited funds. It borrowed money to help fund the work it did on the pool and right through to the 1980's the pool was subject to a mortgage. What the swimming club had, mostly, was people with skills, enthusiasm and ability. They provided the technical expertise and put in countless hours of voluntary labour. Through the efforts of its members and its helpers, the club transformed this open air Council pool. They removed the high diving platforms, they filled in the deep end of the pool, and they fully covered over and enclosed the pool. This was all finally finished in 1965 and all done by the Mt Eden Swimming Club and not the Council. The club transformed the pool into an all seasons, covered over, and heated pool facility.

Those efforts by the Mt Eden Swimming Club provided the basis for the Council agreeing to transfer ownership of the pool to the Club. A close Council/Club close relationship was established at that time, and through succeeding Councils it has largely continued to this day.

## **Mt Eden Pool Ownership**

Almost alone amongst swimming pools in the Auckland Council region, the Mt Eden pool operates as a public pool facility, for most of its opening hours, but it operates with no subsidy at all from the Council.

When transferring the ownership the Council still put in place a strict regime and requirements to ensure that this would always remain a facility catering primarily for the public. Also, protected, at that time of the ownership transfer, was the provision of an ongoing learn to swim facility to the adjoining Mt Eden Normal Primary School and restrictions on the hours of operation for the surrounding neighbourhood.

The structure that was put in place, at the time, to own the pool, was the result of consultations and agreement between both the then Mt Eden Swimming Club committee and the Council. That structure was the creation of an entity that was separate and independent of the swimming club committee. It established a Trust Board to run and administer the pool for the benefit of the Mt Eden Swimming Club, but at all times honouring the commitments that had been made to the Council, as to the way in which the pool should also operate i.e. for the benefit of the community, the public, the local school and the neighbourhood.



The Trust Board is a separate entity from the Mt Eden Swimming Club. The Trust Board is incorporated and registered as a charitable trust. It is registered as the owner of the Mt Eden Swimming Pool complex. In accordance with the Constitution of the Trust Board it supervises the use, of and has overall monitoring and administration responsibility, for, the Mt Eden Swimming Pool complex. The Trust Board sees its primary function as being to ensure that the pool facility is held, maintained and improved, for the benefit of the Mt Eden Swimming Club, and as a community facility.

The Mt Eden Swimming Pool complex was transferred to the Trust Board in 1965. Over the 50 plus years that have passed since then, and over its period of administration of the pool, the Trust Board has sought to not only continue the swimming complex, as a facility for the swimming club and the community, but also to carry out improvements to the pool, to benefit everyone, as and when funding has become available, whether that funding is provided by way of grants, or by other funding sources.

In carrying out improvements to the pool and in maintaining the facility to no less a standard than it has been previously, the Trust Board has been helped by the close association it has developed with its pool lessees (the current lessee Dean Greenwood Aquatics) and by trust grants that it has sought out and received, from time to time, for specific projects. These grants have, principally been provided by the ASB Trust, or the previous Auckland City Council, with whom it entered into a partnership arrangement for the maintenance of the facility.

Because the pool operates without a subsidy, it is essential that the pool leasing arrangements, made by the Trust Board with its lessee, enable the pool lessee to recover, at commercial rates, the pool time and space that the club takes up, with its swimmers and its swimming programme. Without the Club being able to raise and provide that funding for the time that they need at the pool, the facility, without that funding, would not be viable. It would not survive for long.

## **Competitive & Club Swimming**

From the very outset the intention of the Mt Eden Swimming Club, through the Mt Eden and Kelston Girls College (KGC) facilities, is to provide for competitive training for its Club members. This involves the Swimming Club membership having priority, at the pool, for the early morning training times when for the most part the Mt Eden pool is not open to the public. The training squads also occupy much of the pool in the late afternoon/evening.

The first head coach, when the indoor pool was completed, at the Mt Eden Swimming club was Morry Doidge. In those early years he trained many of New Zealand's top swimmers. Hisashi Inomata came to New Zealand in 1965 to take up a contract with Morry Doidge for the coaching of the competitive swimming squad of the Mt Eden Swimming Club. The current coaching team is led by Director of Coaching Dean Greenwood with Glenn Hamblyn & Don Mckenna running the various squads across the two facilities.

Over the years the Mt Eden Swimming Club competitive squads have included numerous swimmers who went on to represent, and have international success, at World Championships, Commonwealth and Olympic Games.



## The Kelston Association

In 2011 the Dean Greenwood Swim School (DGSS) was approached at the KGC pool to rent some pool space to a small group of swimmers who had been swimming with Duck n Dive swim school and competing for a small swimming club they had running at that time.

DGSS employed their coach and established a development level training program to accommodate the swimmers at KGC. As they were already competitive swimmers, and DGSS was associated with Mt Eden Swimming Club, it was decided to transfer the swimmers to Mt Eden Swimming Club so that they could continue racing.

The programme grew from both internal graduation from the swim school and as an alternative to other west Auckland swimming clubs. The squads that operate out of the KGC facility now form an integral part of the Mt Eden Swimming Club.

## The Laser Name

In the mid 2000's the Mt Eden Swimming Club became known as Laser Mt Eden (noting that the incorporated name was never formally changed) in recognition of the donation received from the Club Chairman of the time, Peter Bassett who was a major shareholder of the Laser Group of companies. It was decided by the Committee at the time that this support was to be shown by having the Laser logo on caps & uniform.

Following Peter Bassett's very unfortunate death in 2010, it was discovered that this donation was actually a personal payment from Peter Bassett and that, there was no commercial agreement with the Laser Group. The Mt Eden Swimming Club approached the Laser Group to establish a more 'commercial' sponsorship arrangement however they duly declined the request. Out of respect to Peter Bassett, the Committee of the time, agreed not to drop the Laser name immediately from being associated with the club. As a token of gratitude the club has found another way of honouring Peter Bassett's memory through a trophy that is awarded each year at the annual club prize giving.

Given the association with Laser has now been terminated for some years the current Committee has agreed for all reference to the Laser name is removed from the Club.

## Summary

The club, the Trust Board (of the Mt Eden pool) and the competitive swimmers, continue to have a never-ending financial battle, to generate sufficient funds to keep, in particular the Mt Eden pool facilities up to a good standard and to continue to be able to provide, at the Mt Eden pool, competitive swimming programmes and opportunities for the club members, that are so essential for their progress and success.

This is a club, with a very long and proud history as the Mt Eden Swimming Club.