

# Moana Pool

## Hey guess what?

'Moana' seems a particularly appropriate name for a pool, being the Māori word for sea or lake. But Moana Pool's name was chosen for an entirely different reason: because it was located on the site of the former Moana Tennis Club.

## Who's who

Dunedin-based legendary swimming coach Duncan Laing, OBE, CNMZ, and Life Member of both Swimming New Zealand and Swim Coaches and Teachers of New Zealand, officially retired from swimming duties on 1 October 2006. The Duncan Laing Swim School operated from Moana Pool. Famous ex-pupils include double Olympic gold medal winner, Danyon Loader.

Swimming races, life saving demonstrations, a water polo match and a display of diving were all part of the Water Carnival programme presented by the Otago Centre of the New Zealand Amateur Swimming Association at the opening of Moana Pool in Littlebourne Road, Dunedin on 14 November 1964.

The pool was designed by the Dunedin City Corporation, architect W Hesson, and constructed by Downer and Co Ltd. In 1964 it was only the second pool of its size in the southern hemisphere to be fully roofed in. It contained 250,000 gallons of water and there were four underwater viewing panels in the side wall of the main pool. Floors were covered with stiletto heel resistant linoleum, and the Moana Pool Restaurant proprietors were Arthur and Madgolna Soros.

Moana Pool soon served a national role, hosting the New Zealand swimming and diving championships in March 1965 and a Poolside Spectacular presented on the occasion of the royal visit of the Queen Mother in 1966.

Now one of four public swimming pools in Dunedin, Moana Pool today has a range of swimming areas and fitness facilities including a toddlers pool, a wave machine and two 'hydroslides' – one fast, one not quite so fast. The new 25m long Dive/Lap Pool is available for aqua jogging and lane swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo, as well as diving. And don't miss the adults only Swirl Pool.



The Moana Pool hydroslide



Synchronised swimming training at Moana Pool

