



Golden Square Pool

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
OF COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT**



GOLDEN SQUARE POOL INC.

2022/2023

ANNUAL REPORT



Working hard
everyday to be a

**vibrant, dynamic
and empowering**

community hub that

connects and grows

Golden Square and
Bendigo

OUR

ORGANISATION



Committee of Management

Sam Kane President
Barb Lomas Vice President
Margaret Hand Secretary
Linda Howell Treasurer
Helen Barton
Debra Butt
Casey Ely

Operations

Kirsten Boyd Manager
Barb Lomas Volunteer Manager
Linda Howell Business Manager
Tracie Kane Kiosk Manager
Natalie Kurzke SwimAware Bendigo Manager

Teams

Pool Operations

Andrew Penna, Kirsten Boyd, Adam Reaper, Will Boyd

Maintenance, Grounds and Facility

Andrew Penna, Margaret Hand, Steve Hand, Catherine Doyle, Dave Kane

Digital and Communications

Sam Kane, Barb Lomas, Carol McCormack, Noel Clarke

Finance and Risk Committee

Sam Kane, Linda Howell, Deb Butt, Kirsten Boyd

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

IT GIVES me great pleasure to present our 2022/2023 Annual Report - a year where we celebrated a decade of community management, our organisation took strides in new directions, and where we were named as the state's best seasonal facility.

This year we were back at our full capacity after two years of restrictions - and our community returned in numbers equal to that before the pandemic. 18,052 patrons passed through our gates, including nine schools, many sporting clubs, and hundreds for classes including water aerobics, paddleboarding and VicSwim.

A highlight last season was our events program - the biggest we've ever had. We kicked off with our New Year's Eve celebration in December, had a film night in January, our huge 10 Year celebration in February (with over 800 guests!) and Pools for Paws to close off the season, which proved even more popular than last year.

In March we again partnered with the Indian Association of Bendigo to host Bendigo's annual Holi Festival of Colour. This year the event expanded significantly, and we welcomed 1,600 guests for a day of food, music, good times - and colour! Our team played a central role in planning, leading, managing and overseeing this event, and it's a true testament to the calibre of our volunteers and their ability to successfully engage our community.

It's always hard to capture everything that happens at Golden Square Pool in words - but this summer I know this: every single day the site was a hive of activity, truly living our vision of being a place where there's something for everyone - no matter who you are, or when you visit.

SwimAware Bendigo had its fifth successful year - with 20 participants registered to receive lessons each week from our volunteers. This program always makes me smile, and it's enhanced by partnerships with Life Saving Victoria, Bendigo Community Health Services and Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services. We also expanded the offering this year with a dedicated kids' program thanks to VicHealth, which saw 40 children receive lessons to boost their skills. Thanks to everyone who was again involved in the program this year.



We also installed all-access steps into our 50m pool, thanks to funding from The Frances and Harold Abbott Foundation. This addition was welcomed by many in our community and expanded our offering.

In addition to our volunteers, this summer we employed 20 staff - the highest number we've had. This goes to the strength of our workplace offering and programming. My thanks to each of them for their power of work in making each day happen. Thank you also to our Manager Kirsten Boyd for her enthusiasm and what she did over season - often unrecognised - which ensured we could respond to the demands of a busy facility.

This year we were named as Aquatic and Recreation Victoria's Seasonal Pool of the Year for 2022. The award acknowledges the organisation's commitment to facility management, community impact, developing a strong strategic direction, and retaining community involvement post-pandemic.

To think that in 2012 the pool was closed, and a decade later volunteers have reimagined the place to be recognised as one of the top managed facilities in the state. It is an outstanding achievement. It proves the power in our model, and the power of everyday people coming together to achieve something great.

Receiving this award endorses the strong strategic, governance, risk, asset and maintenance work again completed across 2022/2023 to ensure our organisation is robust and able to meet the demands of growth.

VIC'S TOP SEASONAL POOL AWARD WIN

There has been lots achieved on this front this year in line with the Strategic Plan 2020-2024, including further review to the staffing structure, HR processes and compliance. We also undertook a three-month review of the organisation's structure and direction - involving volunteers, staff and council - to ensure that it meets our current and future needs.

Whilst all the aforementioned areas undergo constant improvement, we are in a strong position as a not-for-profit organisation to weather challenges and embrace opportunities.

This season we celebrated 10 Years of Community Management - marking a decade since a group of determined locals got together to fight for what they believed in - that our pool needed to stay and had so much potential for our community. A wonderful project encapsulating our 100+ year history was completed as part of these celebrations, thanks to Barb Lomas.

In ten years we've achieved more than anyone could have imagined - and now, have ongoing and long-term operation. There's so much to be grateful for.

The reason we've been able to do this is because of the people we have involved. 255 volunteers in that time - and still 100 now - giving their time to transform a once tired pool into a place for the people. Our volunteers are our greatest asset - and without them, we simply wouldn't be here.

We've also been backed time and time again by our members, patrons, supporters, businesses and the industry.

To everyone who has been involved in the journey - whether last season, or since 2012 - I extend my thanks and great appreciation for your support of the little pool that could (that isn't so little anymore).

Whenever I walk into our pool - the true beating heart of Golden Square - I can't help but smile. Smile at all we've achieved, smile because of the great team we have, and smile at what's possible next.

Because if the first decade is anything to go by - like the end of a book you just can't put down - then I can't wait for the sequel.

Sam Kane President

On Friday 24 June 2023, we were thrilled to receive the Facility Management Award for the top Victorian seasonal pool for 2022 at the Aquatics & Recreation Victoria Awards.

This award acknowledges the organisation's community impact, strategic direction, and retention of community involvement post-pandemic.

We are so proud of the pool's team of mighty volunteers, staff and community supporters for uniting to transform the facility over the past decade. Our dream to save our pool and make it something unique has created this very special place for our whole community.

Although the pool was closed in 2012, in 2023 it has been recognised as one of the top managed facilities in the state. This is an outstanding achievement for our volunteers - and proves the power of everyday people coming together to achieve something great.

Comments from the Aquatics Recreation Victoria judges:

Golden Square Pool is managed by a passionate group of individuals and a large number of volunteers that support the site. They are genuinely caring and catering to their community, retaining community participation following the pandemic.

They were able to clearly articulate the things they have done in the past 12 months to bring the community back to the facility and retain volunteers.

They introduced their first celebration colour event which directly engaged the Indian community and have developed a four-year strategic community direction.

Golden Square Pool is a community hub, more than just a place to swim.



FROM OUR MANAGER

My second year as Pool Manager at Golden Square Pool was a big year, with plenty happening throughout a huge season. If it had not been for a bout of cooler weather causing some closures, we would have achieved a record number of visits.

A highlight among our events was the 10-year celebration which was a very successful evening. With a large crowd in attendance, our lifeguards were incredible, and we received great feedback regarding our management of the evening.

We held another Stand Up Paddleboard morning which increased the offerings to our patrons and allowed people to try this fast-growing sport in a managed environment. We also hosted a number of sporting clubs for training sessions which was great to see and is a fantastic way for teams to build fitness in the hot weather.

Our Water Aerobics program was back to full strength this season and very popular with patrons. We were even able to add a third session late in the season and that is something we hope to build on next year.

Events kept going until the very last minute, including a successful Pools for Paw weekend which built on the success of last year. We were also proud to host the Holi Festival which was the biggest event we have ever attempted. This event required a great deal of planning and management and was a credit to all involved. I was particularly proud of the Lifeguard team who did a great job on the day, this was especially important as a lot of visitors were unfamiliar with the aquatic environment. After this day, we were all ready for a rest!

Across the season, we welcomed a number of new paid staff to the Lifeguard team, young and old, who have been a wonderful crew and an asset to the organisation. I am particularly proud that we were the only pool in Bendigo not struggling to open due to staff shortages.

Kirsten Boyd Manager



YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

Season operated by community	10
Season entry total	18,057
Combined entry total since 2013	158,667
Members	301
VicSwim visits	592
School programs and lessons visits	4,158
SwimAware visits	393
Volunteers Total	96
	Adults (54), Juniors (42)
Kiosk Volunteer hours during the summer season	1318
Kiosk Junior Volunteer Team hours worked during season	504
Followers on social media	5,196
Water aerobics participants	286
Lap Club	5
Holi attendees	1600
Pools for Paws visits	330
10 Year Party attendees	834
Friends of Golden Square Pool	249





**OUR
PEOPLE**

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteer team is back to full strength and full of optimism for the future.

There was a lot of activity this season and the volunteers were undaunted as they stepped up to take on the many tasks required and to fill extra shifts.

Our dedicated and hardworking volunteers are committed to the future of our organisation and manage most aspects of the daily running of the facility. This includes carrying out maintenance, operating the kiosk, running events, managing social media and communications, maintaining the gardens and facilities and of course, managing the governance and compliance of the pool.

We were pleased to welcome some new recruits this season who have been great additions to the team and quickly become quite indispensable. Taking part in the New Year's Eve party, Holi Festival, Paws for Pools and 10-year celebrations were some great highlights.

Volunteers are the face of the pool and help make our visitors feel welcome and valued when they come to enjoy the great atmosphere and facilities at Golden Square Pool.

We are working towards encouraging volunteers to take on a higher level of participation and skill development to ensure our organisation continues to thrive and grow as a valuable community asset.

OUR JUNIORS

Thanks to the growth of family teams, the Junior Team now makes up nearly half of the volunteer workforce.

We are so proud of our juniors for the work they do and the enthusiasm they bring to the pool. Our family teams definitely give us a unique advantage over many volunteer groups, and we are very grateful for the parents and grandparents who have embraced our volunteering culture.

There is no doubt about the contribution that the Junior Team makes, with over 500 hours served by members of the team this season. That figure only includes rostered hours and not all the incidental tasks they do such as helping the Lifeguards pack up, picking up rubbish and emptying bins and putting out the flags.

Our hardworking and reliable young people are learning valuable skills in customer service, money handling, handling stock and sticking to a schedule. They are gaining first-hand understanding of the value of volunteering and what it means to belong to a community. Some of our Juniors have clocked up five seasons in the kiosk, which is an awesome effort and we can't wait to see what they do next.

OUR STAFF

This season we employed 20 casual staff, consisting of a Manager, Project Manager, swim teachers, fitness instructors and 14 lifeguards.



OUR MEMBERS

This season, memberships were on the rise again as people settled back to their well-loved summer routines.

The word is out that Golden Square Pool is the place to be, and many people love the value for money that memberships offer. In addition, it's a great way to show support for the pool.

As well as the usual benefits for members, including discounted classes and no extra charge for access to our events, this season's members received a discount on the Program MultiPass, making it even better value.

All funds from GSP memberships and City of Greater Bendigo Season passes sold at Golden Square Pool stay with our community organisation and are used to finance programs, events and new infrastructure, as well as to support day-to-day operations.

Golden Square Pool Memberships sales

GSP only adult membership pass – 35

GSP only adult concession membership pass – 10

GSP only child membership pass – 8

GSP only family membership pass – 73

GSP only family concession membership pass – 25

Total GSP only membership sales – 151

City of Greater Bendigo Season Pass sales

COGB adult Season Pass – 7

COGB adult concession Season Pass – 1

COGB child Season Pass – 2

COGB family Season Pass – 75

COGB family concession Season Pass – 65

Total City of Greater Bendigo Season Pass sales – 150

Total combined membership and season pass sales – 301

OUR COMMUNITY

Our little piece of paradise - the hidden oasis and the pool with a park, is living out the vision we had ten years ago - to create something for the community and the neighbourhood.

Over 158,000 visits later prove that the people of Golden Square and Greater Bendigo love the old-school charm of an outdoor facility where children can play safely, people care about each other and there's always something happening.

Golden Square Pool's commitment to building an inclusive and welcoming community is reflected in our ongoing success, as each year we achieve new milestones and continue to grow. Our volunteers are dedicated, hard-working and committed to the success and future of this community organisation. Our patrons are loyal and appreciative of the unique facility Golden Square Pool has become.

This pool is about people first and foremost, and that motivates the team to provide a wide range of offerings such as movie nights, fitness classes, swimming lessons and community gatherings.

Our pool - Golden Square's true beating heart, is testament to everything the community has contributed and what has been achieved in the past ten years.



FACES OF THE SQUARE



DEB, EVIE AND BRAE

"The benefit of volunteering at Golden Square Pool is that we all get that happy feeling of being part of a great team with the aim of providing support to our local pool."

Meet our terrific trio Deb, Brae and Evie, valuable members of the team who get in and get the job done to support our community.

Deb first joined us back in 2020 after being a swimmer for many seasons. She jumped in the kiosk - and later joined the Committee of Management. The next summer her granddaughter Evie joined her as part of our junior program, closely followed by Evie's Mum (and Deb's daughter!) Brae.

Now, the three of them volunteer together - serving patrons, and allowing Evie to learn skills to help her later in life.

"We volunteer at the pool because we love community involvement with this fantastic team," Deb said.

"The long-term impact on our health and lifestyle from volunteering at Golden Square Pool is enjoyable for us - to meet new people each week and give back to somewhere we gain value from."

For Deb, there's been some wonderful moments being part of this community - including getting to contribute with her girls. "There's so many happy times at the pool including the movie night, Holi festival and learning to swim as well as making lots of friends," she said.

"We keep going there to enjoy the vibe of a patch of paradise that's so close to us physically and mentally.

ANDREW

"It was the early 90s that Andrew Penna first got involved with Golden Square Pool - and he loved it so much, he came back to help us save it!

He used to bring his kids down for a swim, and before too long one of his work mates asked him to join the committee. Back then, volunteers ran the kiosk and activated the site, before the pool returned to council management.

"I made so many friends back then through the pool," Andrew said.

He stepped back from that committee in 2004 - but always with a watchful eye on the place, and jumped into action in 2012 and joined our campaign when we were under threat.

"I was delighted in the fact that a group had formed to save our pool again in 2012 - and I have been involved since that day," Andrew said.

Andrew is integral to everything we do - all year around. From maintenance to pool ops, advice and even jumping in the kiosk back in the day, he's the one we call when we need a hand or a piece of knowledge about the place.

"And from my pool journey, I have been privileged to have met so many wonderful people."



MARGARET

"Volunteering to help keep this 'park with a pool' in Golden Square is one of the things I'm most proud of."

It was around six years ago that Margaret Hand first visited the pool - and began to take notice of our quest to save it from closure for good.

"I loved how much the people of the 'Square were putting up a fight - and thought if I want this very cool local piece of paradise to stay, I'd better get on board," she said.

Then, in a case of serendipity, she met a fellow volunteer Helen 'out in the wild' - and next thing she knew, she took on a Saturday kiosk shift with Helen, joined the Committee of Management, and began assisting the Maintenance Team.

She said becoming part of the pool family is one of the best things she's done - not only for her health, but for her connection to her local community.

"I tell people I don't need to go on a summer holiday, I have a resort 'in my backyard'," she said.

"I swim every day, jump in for water aerobics, meet friends and connect with so many people in my community that I never would have met without the pool. Roll on the next 10 years!"



**COMMUNITY
ACTIVATION**

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



On Saturday 11 February, we celebrated a significant milestone for our community, when we marked ten years since the pool was saved from closure and reimagined.

This was an opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and achievements of 255 volunteers, our partners, members, and community, working together to transform Golden Square Pool over the past decade into the special place for families, neighbours and community that it is today.

To help us commemorate the occasion, we were joined by many current and past committee members, volunteers and supporters, as well as local politicians and representatives from our partner organisations.

After a few speeches to acknowledge the importance of the occasion, we cut a celebratory cake – made by volunteer Janene Hewitt in the likeness of our pool and unveiled the History Project in our entranceway.

Afterwards, what better way to celebrate than to enjoy a pool party! With free entry, more than 800 people joined in the festivities, with live music from Ally Gook and food trucks, it was a night to remember that will go down in our history books.



CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY

As part of our 10-year celebrations, we were thrilled to unveil our Golden Square Pool History Project - transforming our entranceway.

This is an idea we have been working on for many years, and thanks to the Local History Grants Program from the Public Record Office Victoria, we have been able to preserve and share the story of our pool that began almost 150 years ago.

Now our story is on display for all to see and enjoy. At the same time, we were also able to acknowledge and celebrate the 255 volunteers who have been part of our journey since the pool was saved ten years ago.

The research and preparation of this display has been a project for our Vice President Barb Lomas since our centenary in 2018.

The whole enterprise came together with help from Bart 'n' Print for their incredible design work, and our Maintenance Team, Margaret and Steve, for painting and preparing the building.



HOLI FESTIVAL OF COLOUR



Golden Square Pool and the Indian Association of Bendigo partnered for the second time to bring the fun and colourful Holi festival to Bendigo that was bigger than ever. Held on Saturday 4 March, the festival demonstrated the strength and vibrancy of Bendigo's growing multicultural community.

Holi festivals are a Hindu tradition, famous around the world for the use of coloured powders and water to celebrate love and new life.

The event is the biggest of its type in regional Victoria and was a great day of fun for everyone. People of all ages and cultural backgrounds streamed into GSP to enjoy a party that was safe, fun and inclusive. Attended by 1600 people, this is the biggest event that the pool has ever attempted and it was a huge success.

The event featured a live DJ, dancing, food, drinks and activities for the children as well as all the colour. Festival-goers dressed in white and went home colourful!

Every member of our team contributed to making this incredible event what it was - and it further showed what a vibrant space we have.



POOLS FOR PAWS

Once the humans were finished for the season, the dogs had their turn.

Our second Pools for Paws event was bigger and better than ever. With a whole weekend of doggy fun there were pooches of all shapes and sizes, running, swimming and playing at the pool. Follow it up with a puppachino and a doggy treat as well as a coffee for the human, and you have a guaranteed great day out.



SWIMAWARE BENDIGO

SwimAware is our program that offers free basic water safety and swimming lessons to adults who haven't had the opportunity to learn to swim. The ability to swim and be safe around water is an important skill for all people living in Australia, not only to be safe but also to create social and health opportunities.

This season we welcomed the Diversity team from Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS) along with Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services (LCMS) to assist with enrolments and coordinating participants as well as providing a support worker.

The program commenced in early December with induction and continued through the season. Each lesson has a different focus and participants were grouped according to their ability and development.

Many participants speak little or no English this create a huge challenge for both participants and instructors. A combination of interpreters and actions helped overcome this.

There were 27 participants across the season, with an average of 14 participants per lesson run by our five qualified swimming instructors. At the end of the season, we were proud that participants felt safe and secure in the aquatic environment and valued the lessons on water safety.

A highlight of the season was the Water Safety course run by the Diversity Inclusion Team from Life Saving Victoria. The team ran our participants through various scenarios focused on staying afloat, conducting rescues and understanding different waterways.

A postscript to the SwimAware season was the opportunity for Golden Square Pool to present a Case Study of our program to the Life Saving Victoria Inland Water Safety Forum. Barbara Lomas and I outlined the history of the program, the positive outcomes and ways that the program could be adapted by others. The presentation was well-received by delegates mostly from local government areas and other inland aquatic facilities.

Natalie Kurzke
SwimAware Manager



SWIM AWARE KIDS

SwimAware Kids has been on the wish list for a long time and was finally delivered thanks to the financial assistance of the VicHealth JumpStart! grant to deliver swimming and water safety lessons for multicultural children.

We partnered with Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services (LCMS) and Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS) to identify and coordinate suitable families for the program.

The program began in early December with Renae Knight as the primary instructor.

The program commenced with 37 participants who were mostly familiar with water and previously had some exposure to pools and waterways. However it was apparent that while they had some basic skills, they had little consideration of risks that most people would associate with water.

Although the numbers did drop away throughout the season, those that came consistently had a great improvement in their ability in the water and feedback from parents and the program partners was very positive.

A total of 196 lessons were given over a nine-week period and if we have taught just one more child to swim and saved them from drowning, then the program is successful.

Kirsten Boyd
SwimAware Kids Coordinator



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Daffodil Day Morning Tea

Members of our community came together on Sunday 11 September to help create a cancer-free future. Thanks to the generosity and excellent baking of our team, we enjoyed a social morning tea and raised over \$400 for cancer research. This was a great pre-season event to bring people back to the pool.

New Year's Eve

Golden Square Pool is definitely the place to be for early New Year's Eve celebrations. Our reputation as the place for family fun is unequalled when it comes to a safe, friendly and alcohol-free way to say good-bye to the old year. We had music, hotdogs, ice-creams and lots of green grass and shade for everyone. This was a great party that still allowed families to catch the early fireworks.

Australia Day

Although our Australia Day celebrations were low key, there were many people through the gate, making the most of the fantastic weather, free entry and a public holiday. It was the perfect opportunity for a picnic at the pool with plenty of ice-creams on sale. The Great Inflatable Race was back with lots of spills and fun for everyone.

Movie Night

Saturday 21 January was the perfect summer night for an outdoor movie. People grabbed a spot on the grass and settled in to watch the family movie Encanto. While many people brought a picnic dinner, the kiosk did a great trade in dim sims and ice-creams.

Pink Patrol

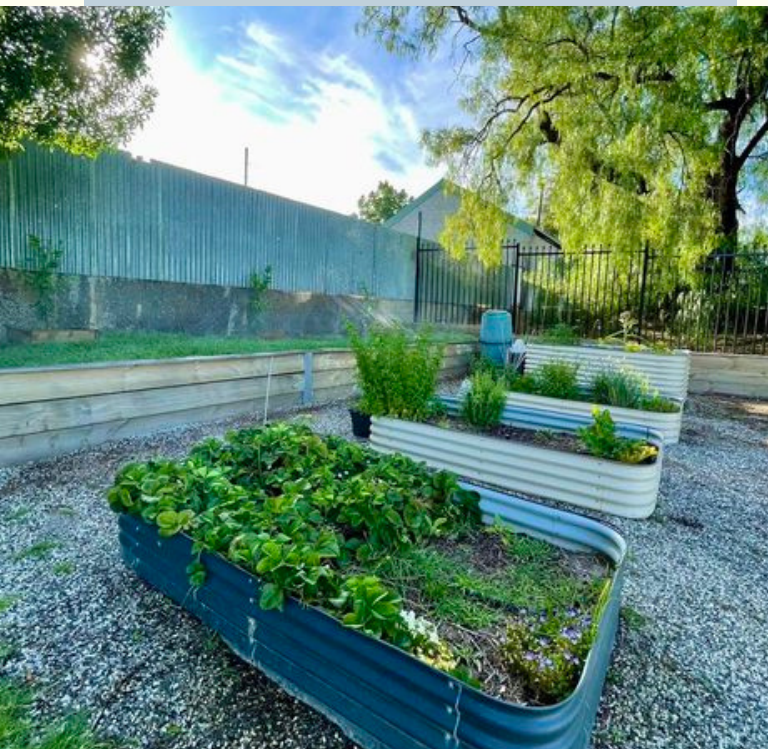
On Saturday 25 February we marked Life Saving Victoria's Pink Patrol initiative, which acknowledges the many contributions women play in aquatics and lifesaving. To celebrate, we had a special Saturday Water Aerobics class with many, including our Lifeguards, wearing pink for the day.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Prior to the commencement of the season, Margaret and Steve from the Maintenance Team put in a lot of work to finish landscaping parts of the community garden, including backfilling the top garden and planting espalier lemon trees.

Throughout the summer our vegetable seedlings were supplied free of charge by the Department of Justice and Community Safety - Community Plants Program - Us2You. Although the garden could use more volunteers, it was kept in good order thanks to Lisa Uren who popped in whenever she could.



LESSONS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

At Golden Square Pool we are more than just a place to swim and committed to promoting the physical, mental and social health of our community.

Water Aerobics

Water Aerobics classes were more popular than ever this season. The workout, which is suitable for all fitness levels, was enjoyed by a core group as well as a growing number of casual visitors. Netball teams also took advantage of the sessions to do some pre-season training.

Towards the end of the season, we were fortunate to add another instructor to our team so that we could offer an extra evening.

Programs

Wheely Smart Kids

In May 2023 we partnered with our good friends at Bike Bendigo to hold another bike skills workshop for local kids. This was the final part of our Healthy Golden Square program and a great way for kids to learn important safety skills and road sense.

SUP

On Sunday 5 February we ran a Stand Up Paddle Board morning. This activity was open to all ages and gave people the chance to try this fast-growing sport in a safe and controlled environment. We were fortunate to have a perfect summer morning and all attendees had great fun.

VicSwim

We had 90 students take part in VicSwim lessons over three weeks in January. As always our teacher Anne - a Golden Square Pool stalwart, helped participants feel safe and comfortable in the water, and pick up new tips too.

Sporting clubs

Many sporting clubs took the liberty of the weeks and weeks of hot weather to train at the Square. The pool was a hive of activity many nights!





FACILITY AND BUSINESS

Life Saving Victoria

LIFEGUARD

GROUNDS, FACILITY AND MAINTENANCE

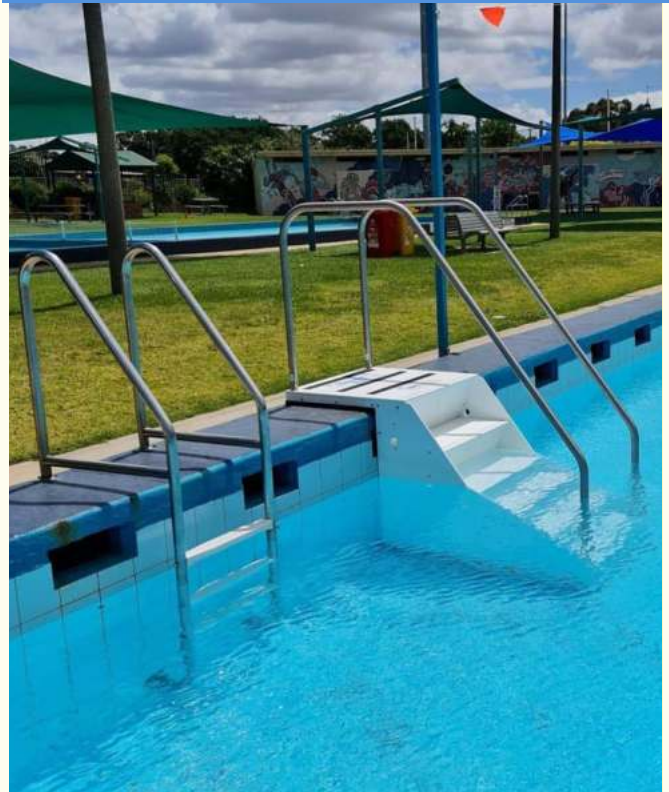
NEW STEPS

Over the last twelve months, we've been working hard on maintaining the lawns and surrounds of our lovely Golden Square Pool. The Maintenance Team have worked on the following:

- This year we completed the rejuvenation of the building by painting the kiosk and rooms (outside) cream. Alongside the mural finished a few years ago, this has completely transformed the facility for our community when they come to visit - giving it a modern, slick look!
- We received funding to replace a ripped shade sail. It's part of our plan to update all the sails over the next few years.
- We were pleased to have Reece from Nacho Station, come and enliven our entrance with great street art on the Bowling Club shed walls. This was completed in time for our 10 year Community Management celebrations.
- Gardens behind barbeque area have been pruned and weeded to allow for new spring and summer growth

Aquatics and Pool Operations

Regular maintenance and assessment of all aquatics related infrastructure occurred as per requirements. This included inspection and works to the shell and pipework, and a new Acid Pump, as per the Asset Management Plan. Our Pool Operations Team contracts the support of Adam Reaper to ensure compliance.



For years we've known that the pool ladder is difficult for many people to enter our pool and stopped people from visiting - so, we've found a way to make it easier! We've installed brand new steps.

Now swimmers of all types can enter the pool - elderly, arthritic, expectant mothers, young learners or anyone who is uncomfortable with, or has difficulty using traditional vertical swimming pool ladders.

At Golden Square Pool we're committed to making our pool as welcoming and accessible as possible. We have many challenges to overcome that are a legacy of when the pool was built - but we are doing our best to address them.

We are grateful to the Frances and Harold Abbott Foundation for making it possible for us to purchase these custom-made Platypus Pool Steps.



STRATEGIC PLAN ANNUAL UPDATE

THE FUTURE

We're in the fourth year of implementing our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. This plan provides leadership, vision and guidance to Golden Square Pool Inc. Committee of Management in establishing a strong, sustainable and viable future as Golden Square's beating heart.

This plan aims to solidify the operation from a business and financial perspective, while keeping and expanding the organisation's community focus. The strategic platforms were developed via a detailed analysis of current services and operations.

In 2024, a new Strategic Plan for Golden Square Pool Inc. will be developed. This will provide a new set of goals for the organisation as it embarks on the next decade of operation.

The Golden Square Pool Inc. Committee of Management is committed to leading a modern and sustainable not-for-profit that is responsible, inclusive, lives out our vision - and is conscious of the changing economic climate we're operating under.

We see that - in addition to providing a premier aquatic and community facility, being strong across the areas of finance, people, risk, governance, asset management, HR, technology, policy, operations and strategy is key to our future.

Again, all of these areas have been a focus of the past 12-months. This has been spearheaded by our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and further internal controls.

This year we also undertook our first ever major organisational review - involving volunteers, staff, council and the Committee of Management.

The aim of this review was to make sure the organisation is investing its limited resources in the most effective way - understanding that we're again experiencing significant growth.

The results of this review are currently being implemented, and will further ensure that Golden Square Pool - as it enters its second decade under the current iteration of community management - can continue to thrive.

We continue to play an active role at a regional and state level in the aquatic industry - acknowledged in being named as the state's top Seasonal Pool for 2022. Our model of operating an aquatic facility is unique - and we continue to advocate to ensure that we're considered in policy and financial discussions.

We are also mindful of our maintenance, asset and facility responsibilities - and actively work to ensure that we remain on-top of issues and continue investing in our great facility.



FUNDING

The team has been working hard behind the scenes to secure funding for variety of upgrades and programs. 2020/2021 has been our most productive season ever in terms of successful applications.

The following funded projects are currently underway or were completed this year:

Community Shade Grant - funding to replace one of the centre sails that was breaking.

Lisa Chesters Stronger Communities Grant Program - funds to enable upskilling of volunteers (underway)

The Frances and Harold Abbott Foundation - Pool Steps Project. Funds to purchase custom removable pool steps to increase accessibility in the main pool. The steps were installed in time for the 2022/2023 Season and were an immediate success. The steps enabled many people to access the pool easily and were in constant use.

VicHealth JumpStart! - Swimming and water safety lessons for multicultural children at Golden Square Pool. The program ran throughout the season and provided lessons to almost 40 participants.

Public Records Office of Victoria Local History Grants Program - funds to preserve and share our history which was used to display our story in the entrance at the pool. The grant is aimed at encouraging and fostering community activities that preserve, record and share the local, social and community history of Victoria and Victorians.

Multicultural Festivals and Events Program - funds to share and celebrate different cultures and traditions was used to run the Holi Festival of Colours 2023.



SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS

We wouldn't be where we are today without the valuable work and support of local businesses - including the ones below over the past year:

- Bart n Print
- Goldfields Tag & Test
- Terry Lamprell and Nola Thomas
- Bunnings Kangaroo Flat
- Teaporium
- Hip Pocket Golden Square
- ASQ
- Haymes Paint
- Eaglehawk Hire
- WebSmith Productions
- Department of Justice and Community Safety
- Golden Square Dry Cleaners
- Golden Square Fire Brigade
- Nacho Station





GOLDEN SQUARE POOL INC.
14a Maple Street, Golden Square VIC 3555
www.goldensquarepool.com.au