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Ambitious Proposals to Improve Swimming Pool

Interesting Discussion at Council Meeting

Recently a committee of the Braybrook shire council, comprising the president (Cr. W. Dempster), Crs. Dedrick, Parsons and Garde, accompanied by the engineer (Mr H. Robinson) met officials of the Sunshine Swimming Club, to discuss improvements desired by the club to the swimming pool at Kororoit Creek.

On Monday evening Cr. Dedrick submitted the suggestions put forward by the club, which were as follows:

1. Each bank of the pool to be faced and beached with concrete extending 110 yards north from the weir at the south end of the pool, facing to be at least 9 in. above water level, and fitted with a handrail 4 in. out from concrete facing and 4 in. above water level.

2. Caretaker to be appointed to Selwyn Park, and made responsible for the caretaking of our pool. W.C. to be rebuilt and adequate servicing of same to be maintained.

3. Water supply to be inspected by shire engineer, with a view to improving supply; existing service pipes too small to supply demand.

4. Lighting.—Pool to be floodlit, and power to be made available for lighting of sheds.

6. Trees to be moved from

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6. Trees to be moved from west side and diving tower to be erected. Sand to be spread over learners' pool.

5. Weir to be made of concrete at north end of pool, 110 yards from existing weir at south end.

Cr. Dedrick said that the engineer estimated the improvements to cost more than £1000, but the club did not ask that they be undertaken at once. If they were spread over a number of years it would be acceptable. There had been one fatality, and it was hoped that there would never be another.

Cr. Garde: What struck me was not what ought to be done, but when we are going to do it. The first thing that should be done is to make the bank secure on the far side, as it is a menace to young people.

Cr. Parsons said swimming formed a great part of the life of the people, and a move should be made to improve the pool on the lines suggested.

The President (Cr. Dempster): Many municipalities have baths, but we have a natural pool. It is not going to cost us anything to put the water there. The children's pool is not big enough. A comprehensive scheme should be drawn up and the most urgent parts done, and the remainder progressively.

Cr. Lowe thought that the pool, being so deep, was a danger, and also likely to be contaminated, as it was not flowing. Investigations

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also likely to be contaminated, as it was not flowing. Investigations should be made to discover whether it was satisfactory from a health point of view. He would like to see something done, but before he would agree to spending £1000 he would like to know that it would be permanent. The scheme outlined would cost considerably more than £1000.

Cr. Robinson said he knew a great deal about the pool a few years ago, when he had a band of volunteer workers making the children's pool and other improvements for six weeks. These men did a wonderful job, and all found permanent positions later, which they deserved. The pool, with its slimy banks, was definitely unsafe. The council could not afford to spend £1000 on it, and at any rate that amount would only touch the fringe of it. People did not value anything they got for nothing. When he was working on the pool hundreds of tons of stone were taken out, and after 5 o'clock at night there were more than 50 men there with horses and drays, shifting the stuff. If the wages of the 16 men who were there more than eight hours a day for six weeks had been paid it would have amounted to over £500.

The Engineer (Mr H. Robinson) agreed that £1000 would not look at the job.

Cr. Robinson: It would be an endless job to find the depth of the walls. To think that the improvements we put up are still there shows what a good job we made of it. In the municipalities where they spend \$15,000 on baths there is a regulated depth, but it will never be

safe at the Kororoit Creek pool. The council will never be in a position to spend £10,000, for a filtration plant would be necessary. The pool is a

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would be necessary. The pool is a flowing stream, but the flow is hardly noticeable. When the water gets down to a certain level there are springs which rise it up again. I think the council should do something, but we must remember that Maribyrnong, Maidstone, Braybrook and Deer Park will have to be considered.

Cr. Drayton said the area around the pool lent itself to beautification, but the council must watch the pool from a safety point of view. It was stated that it was impossible to recover a body from the pool by human effort. Within the last few days two lives were lost at Collingwood through bathing at a dangerous spot, and that council was going to prohibit bathing there. The Braybrook council might have to consider something of the kind at the pool. Before any money was spent the land around the pool had to be secured. Portions of it could be got under certain conditions.

Cr. Treloar: If the pool has a depth of 40 to 50 feet it will never be safe. By improving it you will be inviting people to participate in the danger. It is not right to encourage people to bathe in a creek of unknown depth. It would be better to consider the construction of proper baths. Money would be lost, but that did not matter. Children had to be taught to swim, otherwise they would be drowned.

Cr. Parsons said in Kororoit Creek the district had an asset greater than was realised. There were other pools beside the one at Forrest Street. Mr Andrews, the former shire engineer, suggested at one time the erection of a concrete wall to form a weir that would give a good stretch of water through the town. Coburg had turned what was an eyesore into a place of beauty, and Sunshine had a stretch of creek that could be made just as beautiful. Possibly the Government had

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ful. Possibly the Government had money available for the improvement of streams. He moved that the secretary make enquiries.

Cr. Detrick seconded the motion. He liked the idea of Cr. Parsons to improve the whole stretch of water.

The motion was carried.

Cr. Lowe then moved that the engineer prepare a report for a small expenditure at the pool.

Cr. Robinson believed that the council could spend a couple of hundred pounds a year for the next five or six years. Since the present improvements had been made a lot of people had got a great deal of pleasure. "They are going to swim, whether you want to save their lives or not," concluded Cr. Robinson, amidst great laughter.

Cr. Lowe: A private citizen, Mr W. Roberts, has erected a bathing pool on his property and given enjoyment to hundreds, and he was deserving of a great deal of credit.

Cr. Detrick said the swimming club did not want a palatial bathing pool up there. The council had its estimates prepared, but there was nothing to prevent a certain amount of money being spent each year.

The motion that the engineer prepare a report was carried.

Some years ago the firm of Hugh McKay and Sons offered a number of acres of land adjoining the pool to the council, providing £1000 was spent within three years.

Cr. Drayton moved and Cr. Lowe seconded that the firm be approached to make available the land without conditions.

Cr. Robinson was of the opinion that a gift which had conditions attached to it was not a generous one. The land was not much good to the firm, as it was in a creek bed and could not be built upon. The council went into Selwyn Park with its eyes shut. Roads had to be built and other things done. The park

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and other things done. The park was in the "never-never," and was years before its time. The capital expenditure was £5000, and the scheme looked well—on paper. If the land had not been given for a sports oval there would have been an arena in a more central position before now.

The motion was carried.

"What are your prospects?"

"Pretty good — unless your daughter's been misleading me."

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