

SOUTH AUSTRALIA STATE AQUATIC CENTRE

What's all the fuss about?



“The best aquatic facility in the southern hemisphere”.

- Swimming South Australia General Manager Craig Hobart

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Located in what is known as the ‘Marion Domain’ in the Adelaide suburb of Oaklands Park, the \$100 million facility is part of a master-planned aquatic, recreation and health precinct; that will also include a purpose-built GP Plus Health Care Centre creating a new model of health care accommodating a range of health specialists including doctors, nurses, dentists, psychologists, social workers and health workers.

The Centre will be capable of hosting major state, national and selected international aquatic events and will be compliant with the requirements of world swimming governing body FINA for diving, water polo, synchronized and open water swimming. Up to 4,500 spectators can be accommodated in the

facility and the in-house design team worked closely with lead structural

engineers and architectural teams to deliver a project with optimal consideration of water activities and clear sightlines in keeping with its status as an international standard sporting facility. The focus was on implementing leading technologies and innovation from around the world and introducing them into the local setting, which has been the key to the project's success.

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The SAC facility offers...

At the core of the Centre, AVP Commercial Pools were engaged to design and construct the competition and dive pools along with the facility's leisure water area. AVP's \$10 million plus contract has seen the provision of:

- Two FINA compliant 50 metre pools, one for competition and the other for water polo and diving.
- The ten-lane competition pool, measuring 52 metres x 25 metre x 3 metres deep, includes viewing windows, a movable boom, starting blocks and associated pool equipment and features.
- The dive pool has an additional five metre deep dive bowl. The water polo/dive pool, measuring 55 metres x 25 metres, also contains viewing windows, movable boom, starting block, dive air sparges, starting blocks and associated equipment and features.
- The facility also features a 25 metre program pool, a 15 metre x 12 metre x 1 metre deep Learn to Swim Pool, a toddler pool, a 'splashpad' deck with interactive play features and a slide entry pool.
- Three spas (two Thermal Hydro Spas and one Polar chilled hydro spa) have also been added, one adjacent to the dive tower and the remaining two located in the recovery room.
- All pools are constructed using **Myrtha stainless steel technology.** The Centre's leisure water include a 29 metre x 15 metre leisure pool with

variable depth from 0 to 0.9 metres

- An interactive water playground structure with mini waterslides, valves, water cannons, dump bucket and many other attractions.
- In terms of water treatment, Mandelt explains that "the pools use Ultra Fine Filters and **Defender Regenerative Media Filters from Neptune Benson,** which provide superior water quality by filtering down to 1 Micron and removing over 99.9% of crypto in a single pass. These filters also save significant amounts of money on backwash water and associated energy costs.
- Water chemistry is controlled using chlorine gas and soda ash (while) Ultra Violet units are also provided to ensure advanced water and air quality is maintained. A state of the art water treatment distribution board complete with touch screen display and integrated controls provides the operator trend logging (and) remote alarm capabilities.
- The Centre also features a well-equipped health club, group fitness studio and function rooms.

The South Australian Government has announced that the YMCA had been appointed as the preferred operator of the Centre. The facility has been benchmarked against the best in the world (and is) FINA-compliant."

Striking & Functional... Inside SAC's aquatic triumph...



<http://www.adalaidenow.com.au/>
- by Gordon Kanki Knight

THE new State Aquatic Centre is an architectural triumph and its opening marks a key moment.

Jt seems that the only problem with the new State Aquatic Centre, which opened next to the Marion Shopping Centre this month, is that your swimming stroke could be swept off course due to distraction as you admire the building's impressive form and functionality.

The centre's external structure rolls into your vision as you approach, appearing like a series of giant waves - a shape that impressively communicates its intent. Designed by aquatic design specialists Peddle Thorp Architects, the wave-themed steel roof rises to 15 metres before folding down to a lower roof that ripples at the edges around a grand old gum tree that was protected throughout the build.

The wave-form roof and cloistral white interior is as striking as it is functional. The

centre houses a 10-lane Olympic-class

competition pool, 55-metre water polo pool, five springboards, four fixed diving platforms and five training boards. The diving tower and competition pools have been designed to meet the strict international standards of world aquatic sports body FINA, as has the mammoth 3460-seat grandstand - its 34-degree angle (the same as the MCG) ensuring a clear view of the action from every seat.

Inside, Peddle Thorp, acknowledged as one of Australia's leading competition swimming pool architecture practices, has integrated a raft of technological features to bring out the best in every swimmer and diver. "We can assist competitors by designing certain things within the pool that help them to achieve their goals," says project architect Robert Abajas.



The Latest Technology...

The Water Deck - set at water level, the deck is super efficient at soaking up waves. It allows waves to spill over the edge of the pool and down into large overflow tanks set below ground. "If you're swimming in a body of water, you're creating a wave," says Abajas, adding that the centre's lane ropes, designed by Queensland firm Anti Wave, also help dissipate waves to ensure a fairer competition and smoother swim. "Otherwise the person next to you could actually ride off that wave."

A Deeper Pool - Like the pool used for the Beijing Olympics, our new competition pool is deeper than most, at three metres, which also makes for a better swimming experience.

Vented Walls - the final, and perhaps most important, wave-soaking trick can be found at the ends of the competition pool. "If you hit the wall, turn and come back, you don't want waves to wash onto the end of the pool and come back and disturb you," says Abajas. To avoid this energy-sapping problem, the ends of the pool feature vented walls, which prevent waves ricocheting.

A Hydraulic Diving Board - Diving Australia will use the centre to identify kids with talent and develop their skills. To help young divers overcome the fear and technical difficulties of jumping from a springboard, a board that can be adjusted hydraulically - the only one of its kind in the southern hemisphere - will be used. The board can be slowly raised from one metre to three metres to get divers used to jumping from the full height.

What the Olympic Athletes are saying...



<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/>

OLYMPIC swimming medallist Hayden Stoeckel and reporter Reece Homfray road test the State Aquatic Centre.

Centre of excellence gets thumbs-up for being fast, flexible and fun

HAYDEN STOECKEL

Likes: The competition pool is 3m deep the whole way along. You can dive in and don't have to worry about the bottom and when I'm swimming in a deeper pool like this I feel like I'm going faster than a 1.5m pool. It reminds me of the Beijing pool and I had great swims in that.

Likes: **The light water.** It might sound weird but it makes a difference. Because its chlorine gas the water feels a lot lighter and you can always tell whether water is heavy or not. The pool feels like you're floating on air and you don't have to try as hard. I'd been out of the water for a week and was sick before that when I trained there this week and was surprised because I did some really good times.

Likes: Everything is in the one place. For SASI swimmers, divers and water polo players, having a gym, recovery facilities and training venue in the one place is a huge bonus. When I was preparing for the

Beijing Olympics I'd swim at the aquatic centre in North Adelaide then jump in the car and go to the gym at Kidman Park. At this centre you can do a hard gym session then jump straight in the pool.

Dislikes: The two pools look quite close and at last week's age championships I heard someone accidentally jumped in after hearing noise from the opposite pool. For the national short-course championships it would be a good idea to put a barrier or temporary wall in between because you want to be 100 per cent focused on the starting block.

Undecided: Water slides. Everyone loves a water slide; it looks a fun place for families to take their kids. I'll have to wait until next time to have a go.

RATING: 8/10 Outside of Beijing, it's the best pool I've swum in. Beijing is the one place where everything was perfect, especially with 16,000 people crammed

in, that was the ultimate. Adelaide's new centre looks state-of-the-art and has everything elite swimmers need. Australia's best swimmers will be amazed at how fast they'll swim in the national short-course titles in July.

REECE HOMFRAY

Likes: The water doesn't leave you smelling like chlorine for three days afterwards. The new pools are run on chlorine gas as opposed to chlorine liquid which is commonly found in pools. It's cleaner, doesn't smell and doesn't leave you feeling dehydrated.

Likes: Air flow. More than 6000 people went through the centre on opening day Tuesday, after more than 1500 hit the water the week before for the Australian age championships. It was warm outside yet the centre was refreshingly cool. There's not much worse than a humid indoor pool which leaves you feeling exhausted.

Likes: Lanes galore. Both pools are 10 lanes wide, meaning you're unlikely to be packed in like sardines and grabbing the swimmer's foot in front of you. Current programming will make a minimum of 10 lanes available to the public at all times.

Likes: Facilities. Change rooms and the pool deck are spotless, which is what you'd expect from a brand new centre. Change rooms are easy to find, some are a little small, but clean. Lockers are easy to find and use and there's lots of room on the pool deck and in the grandstand for swimming bags and spectators.

Dislikes: The pools cut in half with a boom. If it's your first swim in a while you'll gladly take the 25m laps but if you want a decent hit-out you want the full 50m. Otherwise you spend more time pushing off the wall than actually swimming. It's frustrating when

there are two 50m pools next to each other, but it may stay that way until after the national short-course titles in July.

Undecided: Cost. Adults will pay \$7.20 for a swim and \$2 for a locker to keep your phone and keys safe while you're in the water. That's good value to swim in a brand new elite swimming centre, but three times a week you're looking at just under \$30.

RATING: 9/10 The big drawcard for the casual lap swimmer is a clean centre, where you won't be jammed in the one lane and it won't cost you the earth. Free parking in the multi-storey car park next door is a bonus and opening hours of 5am to 10pm weekdays gives users flexibility. My only qualm is having two 50m pools both cut in half but that could be temporary. The \$100 million centre is money well spent.

MICHAEL KLIM



<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/>

Michael Klim at the opening of the State Aquatic Centre, says aquatic centre 'perfect'

SOUTH Australia returned to international swimming in superb style with the official opening of the new State Aquatic Centre at Marion.

Olympic swimmer Michael Klim and diver Robert Newbery were among the first to

sample the pools yesterday and declared them among the best in the world.

Klim described the centre as "the perfect facility" after a few laps. "This is just superb, it feels very fast and the water is so crisp and clear," he said.

LIBBY TRICKETT



<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/>

TRIPLE Olympic gold medallist Libby Trickett can't wait to test the water the new State Aquatic Centre.

Libby Trickett will race in a 100m freestyle time trial at the State Aquatic Centre.

"I've never swum in Adelaide so it's going to be really exciting," Libby says. "I have a few friends down there and I'll get to visit what I hear is a beautiful city."

The 26-year-old, on the comeback trail after nine months away from swimming, will race in a 100m freestyle time trial on June 29 with the goal of making the World Championships team.

Libby says she has recently been in contact with Australia's other comeback kids - Ian Thorpe, Michael Klim and Geoff Huegill - as they take aim at next year's London Olympics. "It's funny how we've all decided to come back to the pool and race again," she says.



<http://www.couriermail.com.au/>



BIG SPLASH - Sports Minister Tom Kenyon and SA Premier Mike Rann at the State Aquatic Centre opening at Marion.

ADELAIDE will lay claim to the fastest waterslide in the country in the new Marion Aquatic Center.

The slide is just one feature at the \$100 million centre which gives Adelaide a world-class aquatic facility.

Last week the competition pools hosted the Australian Age Swimming Championships and in July will be the venue for the Australian Short Course Championships

The centre is also bidding to host next year's Olympic trials.

Premier Mike Rann said Australia's fastest waterslide would be one of the main attractions among the 1000 metres of leisure

"The leisure and recreational water area is truly impressive and I am sure everyone will share my excitement when they start using the centre," Mr Rann said in a statement.