

Swimming's out at Oakleigh

Pool's last splash

*Monash
Council
5 June
2006*



Picture: Ted Kloszynski

By **Cameron Lucadou-Wells**

OAKLEIGH'S outdoor pool will not be refilled for summer, or ever again.

The Monash Council is expected tomorrow night to announce its closure.

Oakleigh councillors Gerry Kottek and Denise McGill said the pool's closure was assured and they planned to unveil an alternative plan for the site in coming months.

Cr Kottek said details of a \$3.5 million splash-pad park, which would utilise water-spraying interactive structures, would be "fleshed out" by August.

Following community consultation, he expected work on the new park to begin in September.

"The general feeling in council is this is a great idea," he said. "The costs for running it will be about a tenth of the cost of running the pool at the moment."

The news comes more than four years after the council was poised to close the pool, which has been dogged by maintenance issues.

Cr McGill said the "21st century" proposal, which had no peer within Melbourne, would use \$1.5 million already set aside for the pool's redevelopment.

"What we have in mind is delightful. We've come up with an answer that serves families on a hot day and complements Monash's other recreational centres."

She said the splash-pads would replace a "1950s pool with a 1930s plant, which has outlived its useful life", and would be accessible to all users.

She said the \$10 million cost for a new outdoor pool was

unappealing, with the council already committed to the \$25 million Clayton Community Centre and completing the Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

Councillors Kottek and McGill, who with Cr Stephen Dimopoulos sat on the Oakleigh pool steering committee, said another pool on the site could be an option in the future but not in the short-term.

What do you think? Write to PO Box 4305, Wantirna South 3152, or email journal@fcnvic.fairfax.com.au

THE HISTORY

- FEBRUARY 2002: Monash Council agrees in principle to close Oakleigh pool.
- March 2002: After public uproar, the council narrowly votes to keep Oakleigh pool open.
- June 2003-05: There's speculation on the pool's future as a \$300,000 review of the recreational needs of

Oakleigh pool is continually delayed. Meanwhile, \$1.5 million is set aside for redevelopment of the pool. ■ June 2006: Pool closure expected to be announced, with a \$3.5 million splash-pad park facility built in its place.

Cricket club coup

nce Christmas. scribed his brother's coup, and said the alian cricket star attract badly-nsorship dollars and club's young talent. magnet for us." senior players are be unsettled by the and former club im Johnston, who enn Jones in the s questioned the

results. Johnston said claims of electoral fraud involving forged signatures had been handed to Glen Waverley police, who had since said they would not pursue a criminal investigation. Johnston said a number of membership applications were not signed by the people 'applying'. "Two people have said their signatures were forged,

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