

Oakleigh 'kids' campaign' revived

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Pool pioneers rally anew

By Cameron Lucadou-Wells

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John Bradford, Doug Loveless, Ray Parker, Dianne Petzke and Betty Sibly, ex-students of Oakleigh High School, were part of the 'kids' campaign' that helped raise more than £20,000 to build the pool.

Mr Bradford said children of the time were the "driving force" as they doorknocked streets in gangs such as the Atherton Street Arrows and Henry Street Horrors.

With the support of teacher Merv McKay, the children raised £5000 in four months, and continued the drive for four years until the pool was built in 1958.

That year, the learner and main pools were opened at a cost of £62,000, financed by a combination of council rates and loans, a State Government grant and community fund-raising.

Mr Loveless, one of the



Founding fund-raisers: Doug Loveless, Dianne Petzke, Ray Parker, Betty Sibly and John Bradford at Oakleigh pool.
Picture: Ted Klosynski

Arrows, said 1000 children from Hughesdale, Huntingdale and Oakleigh formed the campaign.

He recalled swarms of children taking their first dip in the pool at the official opening attended by Prime Minister Robert Menzies.

"After the ceremony, they

counted 'one, two, three' and we all jumped in ... it was such a big day."

Mr Loveless was "devastated" by news of the pool's closure.

"They really need to consult. It was not built by the council, the money was raised by the kids and

parents of Oakleigh," he said.

"To make some sort of authoritarian decision is not on — if you want to do it, make it an election issue."

Mr Parker, whose mother was on the founding pool committee, pointed to a statement in a pamphlet that

marked the pool's opening in 1958 which "summed it all up".

The statement reads: "It is to be hoped that those who use the pools in years to come will show the same spirit in caring for this ... playground that truly belongs to the people of Oakleigh."

Ms Sibly said losing the pool would be a tragedy and she wondered if the community should rally together to raise money again to save it.

She said four generations of her family had dipped in the pool and lounged on its surrounding lawns.

She feared future generations of children wouldn't be able to continue the summer ritual of walking to the pool after school for a swim.

"You expect a suburb to progress, not regress."

Ms Petzke was shocked at how run down the pool had become.

"It's been neglected," she said as she looked out at the pools filled with tepid, swamp-coloured water last week.

Angry ratepayers question councillors over pool closure

MONASH councillors came face to face with community wrath on Tuesday when 90 protesters voiced their outrage at the council's decision to close the Oakleigh pool.

The Monash Civic Centre public gallery overflowed with ratepayers who fired off 18 questions about the pool's closure.

The questions focused on the council's failure to consult residents before it closed the pool, and the council's costings for repairs.

Acting Mayor Paul Klisaris told the gallery the decision to close the pool was largely "on the grounds of public safety".

Cr Klisaris said it would cost \$5 million to refurbish the existing pools and a further \$7-10 million for a heated, indoor swim centre.

'What we got back was very generic and didn't give specific detail. That simply isn't good enough.'

Brian Little

He said the council had consulted with Community Life Action Group (CLAG) in 2002 to draft a report about the pool's future.

Several teenagers asked the council about what they would do in the summer holidays if the nearest pool was the Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre in Glen Waverley.

Councillors responded with a standard line: the council was looking at

a range of suitable options for all ages and welcomed hearing their response when the concept was completed.

CLAG member and former Monash councillor Brian Little, who was among the crowd in the public gallery, said the council "failed lamentably" to answer specific questions.

"What we got back was very generic and didn't give specific detail," Mr Little said.

"That simply isn't good enough." He said young people were sceptical about the council keeping its promises.

"They accepted the council's promise in 2002 and don't understand how they can break a promise to maintain the pool."

Seniors refuse to share halls

FROM PAGE 1

Acting Mayor Paul Klisaris said the main goal of the review was to achieve greater fairness in how community groups got access to the 19 halls available.

"While I can't pre-empt the outcomes of the review, I can assure community groups that they will continue to have appropriate access to a hall," Cr Klisaris said. "But at the same time we also believe that through some simple changes, such as the sharing of facilities, more community groups can have better access."

He said users would be fully consulted before any change was made.

Senior citizens and older persons' groups would get highest priority in the allocation of halls, followed by community groups that provide a social support function and have limited other support or ability to raise funds.

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DEFINITIONS

AMINME

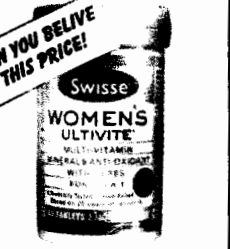


RRP \$89
\$42.95
 SAVE \$46



cos/Chond+MSM
 n PK RRP \$170.90

104 FOR 2
 SAVE \$75



Womens Multi Support 90T
 RRP \$41

\$19.99
 SAVE \$21



Complete 4KG
 RRP \$181.95
\$99.95
 SAVE \$82

Object object

RACY billboards and unrealistic images of women are a fact of life in the modern world — I refer to 'Is billboard too racy or just a storm in a D-cup?' (*Journal*, June 12).

The thing that is most confronting about the image on the bus billboard is the fact that it explicitly turns the woman featured into an object.

She is in an extremely sexualised position and her face is turned away from the viewer.

The fact that this woman has no face makes her nothing more than an object.

Not long ago an advertisement for an alcoholic beverage was banned because it had an image focusing on a woman's breasts and legs — the only difference between that image and this one was she was wearing clothes.

It is not appropriate that people, especially children, be exposed to images that turn human beings into things to be ogled. One other point for the Advertising Standards Board is why is the only important part of a breast (as far as the 'code' goes) the nipple?

Could a woman who did not have nipples walk around topless all the time without being considered to be portraying nudity?

Eleonora Gasco
 Mount Waverley

In full view

THERE was mention of the bus billboard in question that it was found to be "not overly graphic". I found it to be so.

If the lady with the jeep walking past is any indication of size, I find it extremely over-emphasised on a large bus, and offensive.

Unlike TV ads, it cannot be switched off if the viewer does not wish to view it for themselves and especially their children.

Mrs J Fisher, Mount Waverley

Cuts a fine line

THE Advertising Standards Bureau claims that a 'Kittens' (tabletop venue) car wash billboard displaying a scantily-clad woman in Oakleigh is "not overly graphic, in that

they did not expose the breasts or genitals in any way" (*Journal*, June 12).

The ASB cuts a very fine line between accuracy and trying to camouflage reality.

Their 'reasoning' shows how immune they have become to community values and sensitivities.

This kind of image can and does have a powerful influence on the minds and emotional growth of children who can't avoid the public view.

The billboard is another example of the disappearance of the values and norms that have helped to sustain our society, which continues to be afflicted with the approval and widespread acceptance of such advertisements.

The ASB should be held accountable.

Peter Phillips,
 Australian Family Association,
 Springvale

Debate deepens

I AM outraged that the council is again proposing to close Oakleigh pool.

The pool was built by the community for the recreation and enjoyment of that community.

It seems that it is now the fashion of councils to close them.

What has changed in the past 40-50 years that councils no longer think that the community needs these facilities?

Oakleigh pool is unique in the fact that it still has a 10-metre diving tower. It is a way for kids to face their fears, to be challenged and to achieve something in a safe and controlled environment.

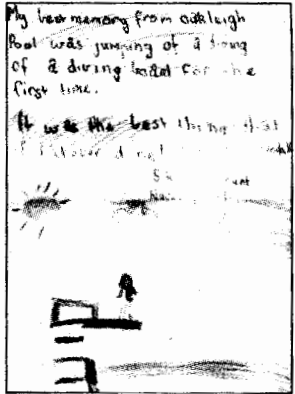
I have three teenage children. I know I can drop them at the pool and they will be well looked after by staff.

The kids also know that they will meet many other kids from their school.

The proposed 'splash pad' will not be used by teenagers and is not something that the community wants or has asked for.

The only reason given for not rebuilding the pool is money.

Well, if we can rebuild it for \$10 million and the community gets another 50 years' enjoyment out of it, I would say that is money well spent.



Memories: Debate deepens.

Why not have teenage bands playing on weekends and at twilight to encourage pool use on cooler days.

A bit of thought and consultation with our teenagers will come up with many ideas to attract patrons throughout summer. Please don't shaft Oakleigh residents again.

We may only be a small portion of the municipality, but with our growing young population, we need facilities for our kids.

Kerri Beinke, Oakleigh

Depth of feeling

I HAVE been going to the Oakleigh pool for years. It is the closest pool to all my friends; it's our meeting place.

My mother has an old car with no air-conditioning and if you were to close the pool down we'd have to get in the stuffy old car and drive 15-20 minutes to get there [another pool].

But with Oakleigh pool, I can ride my bike along Scotchmans Creek trail and I'm there in five minutes.

It's not about money, it's about the community and how we feel.

I have been in high school for all this year and my friends go to different schools and that's where I can meet up with them.

It's really nice to swim outside and it's nice for my mum to watch my little brother and me swim while she sits under a tree and reads her book.

The place has lots of memories. I just want to say that you [council] are breaking a lot of hearts by closing the pool.

Cara Thomson, 13,
 Oakleigh

Coffee break

ACROSS

- 1 Those
- 4 Billiards shot
- 9 Mosque official
- 13 Mulberry
- 14 Set sporting match
- 15 Turkish leader
- 16 Radar image
- 17 Sheen
- 18 Ruse

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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29	30	31		32	33	34		35	36	37	38
39						40					

- 23 Rhythm
- 24 Amid
- 25 Scrap
- 26 Red colour
- 29 Play division
- 30 Promise
- 31 - Amin
- 33 Horse command
- 34 Intention

Get on board

A FEASIBILITY study into the Rowville rail link proposed by shadow transport minister Terry Mulder (*Journal*, June 26) is a breath of fresh air to Monash commuters.

Anyone travelling through the area, be it by road or public transport, can see a massive investment is needed to get Monash moving again.

After seven years in office, and having invested little in road or rail, the State Government should have completed this study years ago.

And with [an expected] increase in Melbourne's population by more than one million in the years ahead, the Government should cater for this with targeted investment in growth areas such as Monash.

Matthew Knight, Malvern East

Hail to Socceroos

A BIG congratulations to the Socceroos!

This is yet another reflection of the success of multiculturalism.

Following the inspirational performance of Australia at the World Cup, I hope to see more kids getting involved in football.

There are some great clubs in our community, including the Glen Waverley Junior Soccer Club, Monash City Junior Soccer Club and the Waverley Wanderers.

It is also important that Australians continue to celebrate the game of soccer.

I urge the Howard Government to change anti-siphoning laws to protect free-to-air coverage of the national representative soccer teams.

At present, only FA Cup and World Cup matches are protected - other games, including qualifying matches, are not.

Anna Burke,
 Federal Chisholm MP

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