

Pool back on agenda

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By **Cameron Lucadou-Wells**

MONASH Council has moved swiftly after this month's spirited public meeting to put Oakleigh pool back on the agenda.

Councillors agreed last Tuesday to consider a pool among a range of options for the site.

In June when the council closed the pool, it excluded the possibility of a replacement pool on the site.

A community consultation process will begin by October and \$3.5 million will be set aside for the site.

Cr Stephen Dimopoulos said community consultation was previously too narrow if it presented a range of options without a pool.

Cr Denise McGill reiterated her opposition to a pool on the site but supported the motion to extend the steering committee's brief.

She said the public meeting was a "ripper", and a reminder of "everything I've loved about the spirit of Oakleigh".

Cr Geoff Lake, in a turnaround from his previous stance, congratulated the community campaign to save the pool.

"I'm more confident of the value-for-money of providing a pool rather than a splash pad or other option."

The changing tide had not swept up all councillors, with

councillors Tom Morrissey and Ryan Brown voicing forceful opposition to the pool last week.

Cr Morrissey said he was disappointed that after placing his mayor's casting vote to save the pool in 2002, the strong community support for the pool hadn't translated into attendances.

Cr Morrissey said research showed 1950s-style, cold-water outdoor pools were not attractive to recreational users.

Cr Brown said a \$3.5 million

investment in an Oakleigh pool would be negligent.

Community Life Action Group spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said the group would continue to press for the retention of the existing Oakleigh pool with heating.

She said the public meeting had changed the councillors' minds. "It showed them the pool really was an issue in the community and we weren't just a bunch of crackpots."

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Water passes test

I WOULD like to assure all Yarra Valley Water customers they can have every confidence in their drinking water.

The test results reported in the media on Sunday are routine results taken from YVW's website.

They do not indicate a health risk, rather that something changed in the water supply system.

Whenever this happens, further tests are always held to confirm the quality of the drinking water.

Thousands of tests every year are undertaken by an independent laboratory and all results are posted on our website.

Yarra Valley Water's test results comply with or exceed the drinking water quality standards laid down by the Victorian water quality regulator, the Department of Human Services, which also monitors laboratory results on a monthly basis.

Tony Kelly,
managing director,
Yarra Valley Water

Quietly rejected

I APPLAUD the City of Monash for engaging a solicitor for the upcoming VCAT hearing defending its permit refusal for a nine-unit development on the former CSIRO car park.

However, what has left residents perplexed is why this

redevelopment on former government-owned land is being treated separately from the larger CSIRO land parcel awaiting rezoning by the State Government. Surely a wider area of residents should have been informed of the redevelopment of part of this landmark site in the heart of Glen Waverley?

It has been left up to a few passionate locals to spread the word when the City of Monash, in the first instance, should have organised a public meeting. It may be a case of shutting the gate after the horse has bolted.

Sandra Feleppa,
Glen Waverley

Pool of support

WELL done, Oakleigh.

The public meeting on August 3 again proves what indomitable spirit the community has.

The Community Life Action Group has nothing but admiration for the hundreds of people who turned up with their banners and their enthusiasm and their simple message to the council regarding the Oakleigh pool.

A couple of quotes from the meeting were: "Both as an ordinary citizen and a former councillor, I hate to see what is happening to our community. We are losing the facilities we have treasured for many years; we are losing part of our family lives", and "I find it strange that in Aus-

tralia, the greatest swimming nation in the world, we are debating whether to close a 50-metre pool."

**Brian Little, Community Life
Action Group**

Tumble turn

AT the Oakleigh Pool meeting on August 3, I was amused to again hear Cr Stephen Dimopoulos claim innocence over the closure of the pool by remarking that he didn't vote for it.

While that's true, as I understand it, he did, along with the other Oakleigh councillors, sit on the steering committee that produced the report that recommended the pool close.

He and the other Oakleigh councillors effectively loaded the gun to execute the pool, then handed it over to non-Oakleigh councillors to fire the fatal shots.

While I totally disagree with Cr Denise McGill's decision, I do respect her for at least having the courage to stand up for what she believes in.

As Cr Klisaris said following his election: "There is no room for division, nor will it be tolerated."

David Dickens, Wheelers Hill

Inside job

THE Oakleigh pools should at least have the change room, toilet and shower upgraded to modern facilities.

I feel this at least should have been done.

But I ask, as a person who used to keenly attend the pools, why can't they be turned into indoor pools and be made into a better swimming complex than the one in Glen Waverley?

David Crisfield, East Oakleigh

Losing Kingsway

COULD Monash Council please tell me, a resident of Glen Waverley for more than 45 years, and other concerned residents what plans it has for fixing the disaster in Kingsway?

Setting up more cafes, eating places and food stores has resulted in traffic congestion seven days a week. What has happened to our once-lovely Glen Waverley? How can those who care cure it, or is it too late? It seems we either have to get some age and brains on the council or accept defeat and move.

Robert Mason,
Glen Waverley

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