

# Swimming chief sees the pool of the future

MONASH JOURNAL 21 AUGUST 2006

By Cameron Lucadou-Wells

AN aquatic recreation representative has called for forward thinking for the Oakleigh pool site's future.

Monash Council's pool steering committee has been considering options for the site since the council closed the pool in June.

Andrew Whittaker, chief executive of Aquatics and Recreation Victoria, said pools of Oakleigh's vintage no longer met users' expectations.

He said a survey of the 277 local government pools found 79 per

cent were more than 25 years old.

He praised the legacy of older pools, but major works would be required to bring Oakleigh's 48-year-old pool up to modern standards.

"We have seen the end of any-one building a single-purpose pool in Victoria," Mr Whittaker said.

He said cold-water pools such as Oakleigh's needed to be heated, which would make a "significant difference" to attendance numbers.

"There's a changing usage of our pools, with an ageing and

more diverse population that doesn't use them much for lap swimming any more."

Oakleigh's diving tower was unique and increasingly rare, but it had clear risk management issues, including the diving pool's deep water.

He said the council might have to "bite the bullet" and put in something that would attract users the year round.

As for the splash-pad aquatic playground, Mr Whittaker said the concept was gaining momentum around the world, particularly in New Zealand.

"It brings families back in and it's based on fun."

He said the drawback was that lap swimmers weren't catered for.

Community Life Action Group spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said the group wanted an outdoor, heated 50-metre pool and to retain the "1950s style of swimming".

"A lot of people enjoy that outdoor setting... that's what they like about Oakleigh."

"Maybe down the track we can have an indoor facility as well... but we're a long way off the council spending a lot of money in Oakleigh."

## Popular opinion drowns opposition

Since 2002, Cr Geoff Lake has opposed keeping a public pool open in Oakleigh. Now, in a surprising backflip, Cr Lake has voiced his support for a pool. The *Journal* asked him to explain his new stance.

I HAVE gone full circle in my position on the Oakleigh pool. However, I've been consistent all along.

In 2002, the council voted to close the pool.

I supported that decision because of low patronage, ageing infrastructure, the high cost of a new facility and the availability of other aquatic facilities nearby.

This decision was then narrowly rescinded, which I did not support.

In June this year, the council was confronted with the reality that the pool had deteriorated below minimum standards and could not be reopened.

This situation ushered in the question of whether to re-establish the pool on the site.

I supported the majority council position to reject a future pool on the site because of the high cost that would have been required to rebuild a decent facility.

I now realise my reasoning was wrong.

I based my support for the permanent closure of the pool on an incorrect equation — the cost of a new pool versus other competing community projects.

However, as the council had already committed



Full circle: Geoff Lake.

\$3.5 million for the site, the question was whether to spend \$3.5 million on rehabilitating the current pool or spend \$3.5 million on a "splash pad" or a non-aquatic option.

The facts and reasons had not changed, but my conceptualisation of the question had.

I could no longer justify spending \$3.5 million on something the community had comprehensively rejected, versus the overwhelming support for it to be invested in the existing pool.

I freely acknowledge that I got it wrong in June.

## Robbery insults heroism

A WAR hero has refused to grovel to robbers for the return of 20 prized war medals.

Mieczyslaw (Mike) Dudycz's Mandowie Road home in Glen Waverley was burgled while he was away on a two-week respite stay between August 2 and 15.

Mr Dudycz said little was taken except for his World War II decorations, including the Military Cross for his bravery at Tobruk, the Polish



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All letters for publication must contain the author's name, full address and telephone number. Preference is given to concise submissions of 220 words or less.

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### School is special

RECENTLY your newspaper published an article about funding for maintenance at Pinewood Primary School.

My son is a student at Pinewood and I would like to tell your readers why I send him to this school.

Even though Pinewood does not have the fancy facilities of other schools in the area, there are many reasons why people choose it for their children's primary education.

The most important part of any school is the people.

The staff, students and parents of Pinewood form a community to work together to benefit the students.

They are regularly involved in out-of-school-hours activities, such as working bees, staff and parent cocktail parties, Christmas concert and open nights, so that the teachers can interact with parents and students in a relaxed environment.

The school runs an excellent environmental sustainability pro-

gram, including Habitat Haven (lizards and birds in a lovely garden setting), Japanese and vegetable gardens and a worm farm, and it encourages healthy food and daily physical activity.

The school community regularly celebrates events such as science, literacy and numeracy weeks.

Pinewood is a caring, exciting school for students. As one of the smaller schools in the area, it provides an environment where children are individuals and everyone knows each other.

pool gets cloudy with presentations for and against.

With swimming one of the greatest sports in which Australians compete on a world scale, there should be no closing of a pool without adequate consultation. Monash Council should move quickly to get the Oakleigh pool ready for summer.

**Richard M Maslowski**  
Wheeler's Hill

### But what does he do?

HONG Lim presents an interesting dilemma for me when I try to work out what he does in his role.

He is the parliamentary secretary for Victorian communities, which makes him a junior minister.

Yet there is very little material on the parliamentary website about what it might be that Hong Lim does in this role.

There is in fact very little on the website about what a MP might actually do.

But what is Hong Lim's value to his electorate and the wider Victorian community?

Records of Victorian parliamentary debates (Hansard) show Hong Lim makes few speeches, and those he does make tend to just applaud the Labor Government and talk about the odd festival conducted by some local government body.

These speeches are quite elementary and lack content or substance.

Which raises the question: What does the parliamentary secretary do? Who writes his speeches?

The media statements attributed to him do not seem to come from actual personal media interviews but from some office spokesperson.

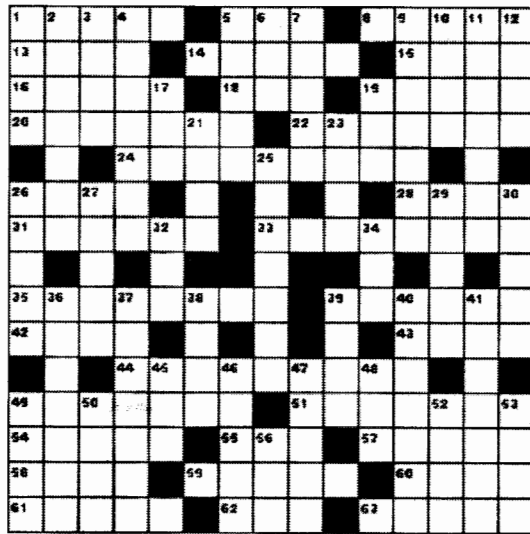
Again, what does Mr Lim contribute to his electorate and community?

**Michael Carty**  
Liberal candidate for Clayton

### Coffee break

#### ACROSS

- 1 Ladle
- 5 Feline
- 8 Anger
- 13 Molten rock
- 14 Wooden shoe
- 15 Duelling sword
- 16 Open
- 18 Fled
- 19 Steeple
- 20 Continue
- 22 Lei
- 24 Queensland nut
- 26 Neck hair
- 28 Whales
- 31 Assumed name
- 33 Rover
- 35 Scab
- 39 Painting on dry plaster



#### water

- 57 Dress which flares from top (1-4)
- 58 Old injury mark
- 59 Excellence in objects of art
- 60 At one time
- 61 Virile male
- 62 Witness
- 63 Barracouta

#### DOWN

- 1 Splash
- 2 Primitive man
- 3 Finished
- 4 Rowers
- 5 Magna Declaration of rights
- 6 Arab garment
- 7 South-Western Pacific island

#### kingdom

- 9 Substitute
- 10 Western Samoan capital
- 11 Threefold
- 12 Obey
- 17 - Maria, coffee liqueur
- 19 Asian republic, - Lanka (Capital Colombo)

- 21 Confidence trick
- 23 Prayer ending 25 Widow
- 26 African snake
- 27 Wanderer
- 29 Rub out
- 30 Grain fungus
- 32 Tibetan ox
- 34 The (German)
- 36 A permit
- 37 Crater formed by volcano
- 38 Ear part
- 39 Floating ice field
- 40 Greek letter
- 41 Rhythm
- 45 Donkey
- 46 Fertile desert spot
- 47 Angry
- 48 America (Abbr)
- 49 Sprint
- 50 First man
- 52 Floor covering
- 53 Search for
- 56 Before
- Solution in classifieds.**

## Fairfax

COMMUNITY NETWORK

142-144 Frankston-Dandenong Road, Dandenong, 3175

Phone: 9837 7000

Fax: 9801 2890.

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#### ADVERTISING

Sales manager: Sue Moore  
Regional sales manager: Georgina McLeod

#### CLASSIFIEDS

Phone: 13-24-25  
Fax: 9238 7676  
Classifieds Manager: Sue Harper

#### EDITORIAL

Editor: Peter Simcock  
[journal@fncvic.fairfax.com.au](mailto:journal@fncvic.fairfax.com.au)  
Telephone: 9837 7000

#### HEAD OFFICE

General Manager: Colin Moss  
Sales Director: Martin Sellers  
Managing Editor: Glen Rohan  
Marketing Manager: Sharee Farmer  
Operations Manager: Wayne Stanley  
Distribution Manager: Barbara Dalton  
[circulation@fncvic.fairfax.com.au](mailto:circulation@fncvic.fairfax.com.au)  
All Account Enquiries: 9238 7777

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### Shops look sloppy

SPOT on, Robert Mason, about the increasing traffic congestion resulting from the transformation of Kingsway (*Journal*, August 14).

We totally agree, but add to that that Kingsway in our 'once-lovely Glen Waverley' is starting to resemble a western suburbs shopping strip.

Shopfronts are covered in newspaper clippings, convenience stores have products spilling on to the footpath, and nasty odours emanate from accumulating rubbish at the rear of the shops.

Monash Council needs to take a good look at traffic flow through the area and at shops which clutter the public footpath with their wares.

Council may be revelling in the income generated directly and indirectly as a result of these businesses, but at what cost to liveability for the locals?

**Frank and Sandra Feleppa**  
Glen Waverley

### Buoyant about pool

THE controversy over the closure of Oakleigh swimming