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Bring on election

WHEN is Monash Council going to stop pandering to the minority and realise there is still a majority that lives here as well.

Leave the senior citizens groups alone.

Who gave you the mandate to interfere with senior citizens clubs?

Where was it raised on the election material that part of your policies was to harass senior citizens?

We should be entitled to a 'recall

election' to remove these people [councillors].

If you actually did a survey, you would probably find that most minority groups have better facilities than the senior citizens clubs.

They have achieved this by picking an area, setting up facilities as they want and, when eventually informed that the use is not appropriate for the area, cry racist and milk the system until they get what they want.

This system still appears to be in operation, as this council can

instantly provide money to light up a minority sport but at the same time was unable to provide adequate maintenance to Oakleigh pool.

So they [councillors] have potentially sabotaged a community facility to justify its [pool's] closure and sale to pay for their 'ego' projects.

They have now been shocked back into reality on that issue, but still shouldn't be considered trustworthy in trying to cater to community issues.

Bring on the election and the candidates who are actually for the area and the whole community, rather than the councillors who are obviously being controlled by very flawed external policies, influences and egos.

Ian Palmer, Hughesdale

ition in society in the form of their own meeting place.

I would like to send the council a very loud and clear 'no' to lumping our senior citizens in with various other community groups.

Fiona Caskle, Oakleigh South

Actions destructive

COMMUNITY halls should be accessible to our entire community. The recent actions by the Oakleigh Senior Citizens [Club] in blatantly derailing a community halls access program is ignorant and destructive.

A mandate was given to the management of halls and the allocation of free use to all Monash senior citizens groups.

For the club's senior citizens to be selfish in their approach in protecting the interests of a small group is simply wrong when you consider the guarantees given to their continued use of this community facility.

Is it not unreasonable for a premier, community-owned facility, that is centrally located, fully renovated, has disabled access and a \$250,000 replacement roof, to be used by a wider number of groups over a seven-day period?

It would appear the OSCC sees itself as more important than other senior citizens groups and community organisations.

The OSCC can never again claim to be disadvantaged when you consider this group has received sole rights for access over many years.

It is now its turn to apply for free access, along with the other 99 per cent of community groups that have applied for hall access.

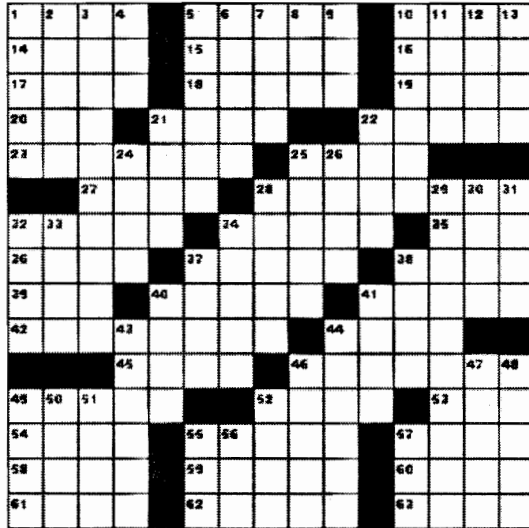
Cr Dane Manzie,
Monash Council,
Glen Waverley Ward

Coffee break

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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@fcnvc.fairfax.com.au
Telephone: 9837 7000

HEAD OFFICE

General Manager: Colin Moss
Sales Director: Martin Sellers
Managing Editor: Glen Rohan
Marketing Manager: Sharee Farmer
Production Manager: Rocky Papandrea
Distribution Manager: Barbara Dalton
circulation@fcnvc.fairfax.com.au
All Account Enquiries: 9238 7777

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■ Solution in classifieds.

2 OCTOBER 2006

FROM PAGE 14

Seniors must stay

CR Dane Manzie, outraged at Oakleigh Senior Citizens Club, states that "they're holding the municipality to ransom".

One could say that it's Monash Council that is holding the senior citizens clubs to ransom.

It is quite obvious that the councillors have little respect for our senior members, who are ratepayers — unlike some of our councillors who are not ratepayers and do not even live in Monash.

A title search has verified the fact that the Oakleigh Senior Citizens building was entrusted to the citizens of Oakleigh.

The Oakleigh Council gave the land to the senior citizens and they raised all the money to build their club.

On completion, it was totally free of debt. The extension to the Library/Mechanics Hall, which changed the entrance to the club, was funded by the State Government, not the council.

After continuous use by the Oakleigh Senior Citizens Club for more than 54 years, what gives the council this communitistic attitude that it will do what it thinks is best for senior citizens?

It is time the council had some responsible representatives and not these self-opinionated make-believe community representatives.

Jack Davis JP,
president,

Monash Ratepayers Association

Why close?

AS a grandmother visiting

Oakleigh, I am astounded to learn of the horrifying consideration that the pool should close.

In past years, I have taken my grandchildren to this fabulous recreation area for whole-day outings.

On a hot day it was a haven where they swam, lolled about, picnicked and played in the wonderful large picnic area.

Do the councillors not understand that the only other pool in the City of Monash is not easily accessible to people without private transport?

Public transport is limited to one direct bus from Oakleigh station. It does not run on a Sunday and takes close to an hour to get there. The bus stop is about a 15-minute walk from the pool.

The town where I live has a population of only 22,000 and an outdoor swimming pool complex with two 50-metre pools, one of which is heated.

We are not fortunate enough to have such extensive grounds with lovely mature trees that make Oakleigh pool so special.

So come on, you councillors, take a look at all the blue ribbons on fences and trees, each one representing a supporter of the pool, and get behind your constituents.

Vida Handebo
Armildale, NSW

Pool season

SUMMER is approaching and seasonal, heated outdoor pools are beginning to open.

Yesterday (October 1), the 50-metre outdoor pool at Prahran opened.

The outdoor pool at Noble Park will open on November 6.

The two pools in the City of

Glen Eira will also open early next month before the council begins major works at the sites. Both sites will retain outdoor pools. To quote Mayor David Feldman, "You can't put a price tag on the sense of community that these outdoor pools provide and the council is committed to supporting these community facilities".

In Balwyn North, another outdoor, heated pool will open with fanfare at the Boroondara Sports Complex on October 9.

This pool is very similar to the Oakleigh pool. Built in 1959, it has a diving pool, a 50-metre lap pool, and a learners' pool.

The pool, which opens only three months of the year, had been a cold water pool in a state of disrepair.

Patronage had been declining, and Boroondara Council decided to retain and refurbish the pools and heat the 50-metre and learners' pool. Pumps, pipes and filters were replaced and, apart from the base, the 50-metre pool was rebuilt.

All this has just been completed at a cost of \$3 million.

If Boroondara Council can do it, I'm sure Monash Council can.

Julie Clearwater, Oakleigh

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