

Public faces long wait over Oakleigh pool options

FULLY-costed options for the future of Oakleigh pool may not be presented to the public until February.

Monash councillor Stephen Dimopoulos, who is part of the council's pool steering committee, said costings for fixing the existing pool were expected to be delivered by council officers last Friday, but had been delayed by two weeks.

He said the committee would not be able to brief the council until next month and it was preferable not to consult with the community during the Christmas-New Year period.

It was previously expected community consultation would take place next month.

Cr Dimopoulos said he was disappointed over the delay, considering the process had

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Stephen Dimopoulos

begun on August 8. However, he wanted the costings to be "absolutely concrete".

"We've waited until this council term to deal with this,

and having waited this long I don't want to fudge the process."

The councillor said three options were shaping up for

public consultation: renovating the existing pool complex, a splash-pad water park or a hybrid option, including a 25-metre pool.

Of the three, only the splash pad had been costed in detail.

Cr Dimopoulos said the splash pad was "not far from" the budgeted \$3.5 million, but he wouldn't say if it was higher or lower.

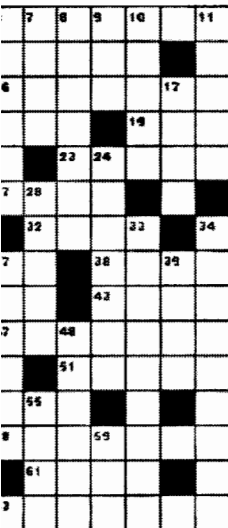
Consultation wanted

'CONSULTATION before confrontation' — this is the policy of Monash Ratepayers Association.

If Cr Dane Manzie would stop making insulting remarks about our senior citizens and allow council officers to do their job, we would not have this reluctance by our senior citizens to trust the council to protect their little corner of peace and harmony.

If not for the efforts of past and

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44 Wise
46 Person owing money
48 Insane person
49 Military trainee
50 Singing voice
54 A Great Lake
55 Crazy
57 Become firm
59 Hog
- **Solution In classifieds.**

present senior ratepayers who contributed time and money, we would not have these wonderful facilities that everyone is so keen to grab on to. The senior citizens clubs have all stated they are willing to share their facilities.

They want some guarantee from the council that their furnishings and equipment will be protected from any abusive use by other groups, who complain about equal opportunity but have not contributed to these facilities.

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History should not be thrown out just because someone doesn't understand how it came about.

Cr Manzie should keep his comments out of the public arena. His remarks are divisive and highly emotive.

Jack Davis J P,
president,

Monash Ratepayers Association

Works done, but . . .

STATION Street in Oakleigh is finally reopened after the place had been dug up for months. I was looking forward to easier access there, but when I first drove in, I was shocked by the new set-up. Some bedraggled palm trees have been planted where we used to park. Every two spaces there is a stupid tree not sturdy enough to withstand car bumpers. How much did this cost?

Haughton Road was dug up a few years ago to replace pipes. On one side was a concrete kerb; the other had no kerb. Now we have wide bluestone kerbs on both sides.

Traffic may move more slowly there, but its terrifying on my bicycle when anyone passes me. The travel lanes are narrower, and with the stone gutters I can't pull to the side.

And then there's no pool. I figure if you look at the wasted money on palm trees, fancy kerbs, etc. and then include the money not spent on maintenance on the Oakleigh pool, we'd have a great local facility. We don't need status symbols. We need facilities that meet our local needs.

Martha R. Hills, Oakleigh

Lift your game, Telstra!

I REFER to the Monash Mayor Joy Banerji's comments on Telstra as reported by Emma Tyner (*Journal*, September 4).

The mayor is absolutely right. Public phones on roadsides throughout Australia are an essential part of the communications infrastructure and meet local requirements of social obligations. The removal is a harbinger of what we can expect when Telstra is fully privatised and more dedicated to profit incentives to improve board and senior executive benefits.

Another example of Telstra's dodgy methods is the Telstra phone card. Over many years the card, with its unnecessary and unconscionable expiry date, has unfairly netted Telstra hundreds of thousands of dollars as the cards expire while, often, still in substantial credit. Does Telstra have a conscience?

Norm Geschke, Oakleigh

Leave station phones

MR Howard is sad about phones being removed from railway stations. Telstra is removing most of the pay phones. At least one will be left at each station, we are told. (And when it is broken?) Mr Howard said today he feels sad for parents who had some security in the fact that there were a number of pay phones at train stations.

Mr Howard, you are the person who sold off Telstra! You are the one who made all this possible! I don't care if you feel this is a bad decision. I care about what you actually do, not what you say. Stop playing the sympathy card, trying to convince parents to still vote for you (next year) and your party (this year and next year). You put the process in place that is now seeing the phones taken from the railway stations.

You, Mr Howard, are responsible for this classic example of why some things should never be privatised.

Jim Reher, Greens candidate for South East Metro upper house region.