

Delay angers pool group

MONASH JOURNAL 16 OCTOBER 2006

By Cameron Lucadou-Wells

LINGERING doubts over Oakleigh pool's future are causing Community Life Action Group members to boil over with frustration.

Last Tuesday, Sports Minister Justin Madden reserved a pool from the FINA world championships as a replacement for the nearby East Bentleigh Memorial Pool in the City of Glen Eira.

Cr Stephen Dimopoulos said Monash hadn't lost an opportunity with the FINA pool and was on a "different timeline". "I didn't expect to get it at all, I expected it to go to a marginal seat."

Monash Council's community consultation on three future options for Oakleigh pool may be delayed until February, because final costings on the options haven't been completed.

He said all three options — to retain the pool, to have a splash-pud water park or a hybrid option — would require State Government Better Pools funding.

"We're going to need an extra bit of funding for any of the options.

"[Oakleigh MP] Ann Barker and I have spoken about this a couple of times...ha, she's a very good activist for the local area and I've got confidence she can secure the funds."

He said the council would be providing 90 per cent of the cost.

Ms Barker said Monash Council had to finalise what

Boys' idea sign of the times in Oakleigh

IN an initiative to save Oakleigh pool, two brothers have come up with an eco-friendly alternative to the blue plastic bags campaign.

Jack, 12, and Michael, 9, of Amsleigh Park Primary School, have designed blue signs to replace the bags hung outside homes and trees in protest.

The brothers are selling aquamarine laminated signs at Oakleigh market on Sundays. The signs have a simple message: 'Save Oakleigh Pool'.

Their mother Christine Dennis said the children were worried that blue plastic bags could get blown into nearby wetlands.

She said the signs, paid for out of the boys' pocket-money, could be securely placed on fences, shopfronts and in cars and front windows.

"They want to get as many people as possible displaying signs to let the council know just how many people feel the Oakleigh Pool belongs to Oakleigh and the council has no right to take it away."

She said the boys loved to leap off the diving tower at the pool. The signs are on sale at the Rotary Oakleigh Sunday market in Hanover Street this month.



Raging waters: Jack, left, and Michael, right, with Tim and Nadia. Picture: Ted Kłoszynski

the project was before she could support their funding bid.

"There have to be costings as urgently as possible... Monash haven't determined the project. It didn't take Glen-

Eira Council that long to get it done."

Community Life Action Group spokeswoman Julie Clearwater, who was expecting consultation by the end of the month, said she was very

disappointed by the delay.

"What have they been doing since August 8 [when the community consultation process was announced]?"

"We are worried that we have waited for four years

since the pool was saved and that we get fobbed off again and again?"

She said she wondered why community consultation was necessary on options other than retaining the pool.

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forests. Between the ages of 40 and 60 the trees are at their thirstiest. This is presently the logging rotation in catchments.

Water is far more valuable than the woodchips and logs coming out of catchments.

Georgette Courtenay
Mt Waverley

Consult us

ONCE again the residents of Oakleigh and surrounds receive unfavourable pool news through your paper ['Public faces long wait over Oakleigh Pool options,' *Journal*, October 9].

Apparently, the Oakleigh Pool Redevelopment Committee won't be ready to consult with us on the fate of the site until February.

It's a great pity the committee members didn't think their job was important enough to consult with each other between August 8 and their first meeting on October 6.

And it's a huge shame that it didn't consult the council officials who were working on options for the site to find out if they were meeting the October deadline.

It is as if supporters of the retention of a pool on a 'pool site' have monopolised the debate so loudly that those who want a splash pad or a 25-metre pool have not had the opportunity to say so.

Julie Clearwater, Oakleigh

Around Town

■ **Tiled creations:** Learn or enhance the creative technique of mosaics at the Waverley Community Learning Centre 1-4.30pm Saturday, November 11 and 18. Details: 9807 6000

■ **Gallery meeting:** The Highway Gallery annual general meeting 7.30pm Tuesday, October 31 14 The Highway, Mt Waverley. Guest speaker is Anna Driffin

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