

# Children left high and dry by Monash Council vote

MONASH JOURNAL 18 DEC 2006

By Cameron Lucadou-Wells

A TODDLERS' pool is not an option for the Oakleigh pool site, according to a list of potential developments.

In the community consultation process, submitters will be asked to number their preferences for the listed options.

The four options included restoring and heating the 50-metre pool and diving pool, but learners' and toddlers' pools were overlooked.

Community Life Action Group spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said she couldn't understand why a toddlers' or learners' pool wasn't on the original list.

She said CLAG and many individuals sent submissions in August asking for a pool for younger children.

Ms Clearwater said she thought it would be "very difficult" for a pool for younger children to figure in community consultations.

"It's ridiculous it's not included. If the council is going to spend a large amount of money on the process, why close it off to all the options?"

At last Tuesday's council meeting, Oakleigh Ward councillor Stephen Dimopoulos, chairman of the pool steering committee, proposed the 11th-hour amendment of adding a

toddlers' pool option. He said the move was motivated by about 10 phone calls on the previous weekend from concerned residents.

The amendment was narrowly voted down by councillors.

The steering committee report released last week shows every option is expected to exceed the \$3.5 million budget.

Cr Dimopoulos estimated the learners' pool alone would cost "not much more than" \$300,000.

A council spokesman told the *Journal* that a learners' pool had not been costed.

Oakleigh Ward councillor Gerry Kottek, a steering committee member, said although he "internally" favoured the fifth option, further costings would delay the consultation process.

Oakleigh Ward councillor Denise McGill, who's also on the steering committee, said community consultation wouldn't exclude further options.

Monash Ratepayers Association president Jack Davis said Cr Dimopoulos had "duped" pool supporters. "Cr Dimopoulos chaired the consultative committee and was responsible for the report that went to council. So why did he not have this option included?"



## Cuddly companions

As is the unfortunate Christmas custom, two litters of kittens have been abandoned on the roof of Brandon Park Veterinary Hospital. The hospital has desexed, wormed, vaccinated and microchipped the six kittens, aged five to 16 weeks, and is ready to find them caring homes. Natalie Carter said she was concerned for the two elder kittens, Lemony and Lionel. "As the older, they become less appealing, but these two have gorgeous personalities and are very friendly." The kittens, at 675 Ferntree Gully Road, Glen Waverley, are \$160 each. Call: 9560 6966.

Picture: Melissa

## OPTIONS FOR OAKLEIGH POOL

### ■ Water play

Combination of water play, dry play and sensory play areas for toddlers to teenagers. Facilities would include amphitheatre, terraced street skate zone, a café, improved building entrance and bike path connections to Brickmaker Park. Centre to be open all year, with free entry.

Project cost: \$4.1 million; annual operating costs: \$86,216.

### ■ 50-metre heated, outdoor pool

Rehabilitation and heating of existing 50-metre pool, shaded and terraced area for social or family use on diving pool site, new changerooms, improved building entrance and bike trail

connections. Extended opening hours for a six month season from October to March, with entry costs comparable to previous fees. No learn-to-swim programs. Project cost: \$4.6 million; annual operating costs: \$286,196.

### ■ 50-metre heated, outdoor pool and heated diving pool

Rehabilitation and heating of

existing pools, new change room, improved building entrance and bike trail connections. Open from October to March, entry fees comparable to previous fees, no learn-to-swim programs. Project cost: \$5.39 million; annual operating costs: \$353,565.

### 25-metre 'free-form' heated, outdoor pool

Free-form pool with space for toddler play, conversion of existing pools to grassed area, new change room, improved building entrance and bike trail connections. Includes swim programs; school holiday program expected to be minimal. Project cost: \$5.59 million; annual operating costs: \$251,134.

## OPTIONS FOR OAKLEIGH POOL

### ■ **Water play**

Combination of water play, dry play and sensory play areas for toddlers to teenagers. Facilities would include amphitheatre, terraced street skate zone, a café, improved building entrance and bike path connections to Brickmaker Park. Centre to be open all year, with free entry.

Project cost: \$4.1 million; annual operating costs: \$86,216.

### ■ **50-metre heated, outdoor pool**

Rehabilitation and heating of existing 50-metre pool, shaded and terraced area for social or family use on diving pool site, new changerooms, improved building entrance and bike trail

connections. Extended opening hours for a six month season from October to March, with entry costs comparable to previous fees. No learn-to-swim programs. Project cost: \$4.6 million; annual operating costs: \$286,196.

### ■ **50-metre heated, outdoor pool and heated diving pool**

Rehabilitation and heating of

existing pools, new change room, improved building entrance and bike trail connections. Open from October to March, entry fees comparable to previous fees, no learn-to-swim programs. Project cost: \$5.39 million; annual operating costs: \$353,565.

### ■ **25-metre 'free-form' heated, outdoor pool**

Free-form pool with shallow area for toddler play, conversion of existing pools to grassed landscape, new change rooms, improved building entrance and bike trail connections. No learn-to-swim programs; school use expected to be minimal. Project cost: \$5.59 million; annual operation costs: \$251,134.