

At the 'shallow' end

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THE public will have its say on the fate of Oakleigh pool, but it won't be the deciding factor, a pool steering committee member says.

Monash Council has advertised four costed options for the pool site, but two community groups have backed alternative options.

Community Life Action Group has advocated for the retention of the toddler and learners' pools, and the diving and 50-metre pools.

The Monash Ratepayers Association favours an indoor pool.

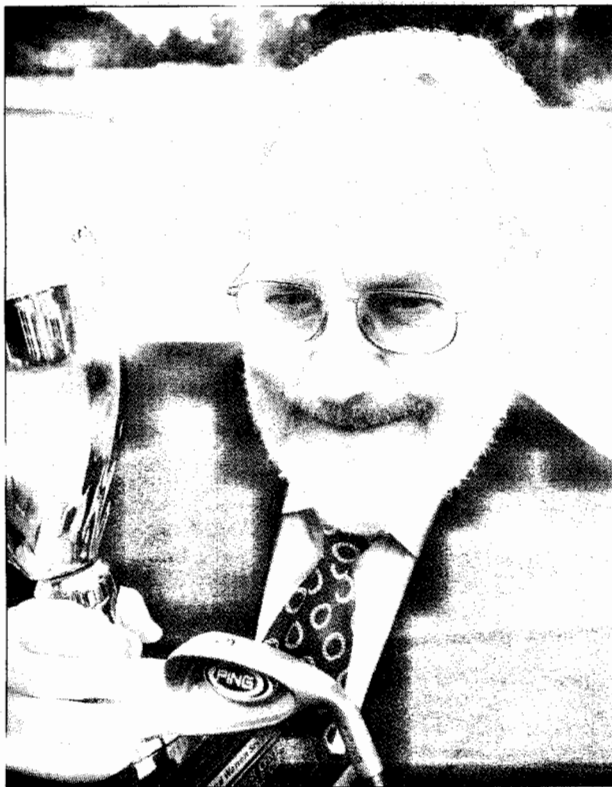
Cr Stephen Dimopoulos said cost and functionality, rather than "popularity", would determine the outcome.

Councillors would base their decision on a summary report of public submissions prepared by council officers.

Cr Dimopoulos said the council could afford CLAG's option, which could cost up to \$5.9 million — \$300,000 more than the most expensive proposal being considered by the council. He said the consultation process over the next two months would be "one of the best ever".

CLAG spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said she felt uneasy about how much the public had in the process. "Why didn't the council ask the public what it wanted before it made the options?"

The written public submission process closes on February 26.



Full swing

Golfers will tee off in the Oakleigh Centre Charity Golf Day at the Metropolitan course next month. The event raised \$34,000 last year, and this year's proceeds will go to construction of a \$5 million community centre at the Oakleigh Centre's current site. Chief executive Robert Preston, pictured, says the centre will be a day training base for people with intellectual disabilities and cater for outside community groups. Registration: 9569 0603.