



Seeing red: Early indications show most voters favoured 'none of the above' when it comes to the Oakleigh pool.

MONASH JOURNAL
12 MARCH 2007

Colourful pool vote not black and white

RESIDENTS have cast their handprints as well as their voices into the consultation on the future of Oakleigh's pool site.

Council-funded Speak Out sessions, held at Eaton Mall and Oakleigh Recreation Centre, consulted Monash residents as they'd never been consulted before.

At a paint booth, interviewees could dip their hand into a colour representing one of the council's preferred four options for the pool site — or into red for 'none of the above'.

Their 'votes' were cast on a large canvas.

Community Life Action Group spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said the handprint census, dominated by red hands, showed a majority wanted 'none of the above'.

At another booth, interviewees could design their favoured aquatic facility by sticking features, such as extra shade or a shallow pool or child-care facilities, on to site maps.

Another method was to create a list of what people wanted at a new aquatic centre and what ages of people would benefit.

Interviewees could also have a spoken interview with a consultant.

The 'speak outs' follow a stakeholders' meeting and written surveys completed last month.

Consultant director Andrea Cook said about 150 people completed the surveys at Eaton Mall on March 3.

She said those surveyed gave the evaluation process an average 86.7 score out of 100. The imaginative methodology, especially the handprints, had been designed to engage children.

"There's a tendency in surveys to favour verbal methods, but a lot of people often think in non-verbal ways.

"We want to encourage people who are not enthused enough to use the traditional form of consultation."

Ms Clearwater declined to say what option or non-option was most favoured by the community so far.

Her report on the community consultation is due for completion next month.

Oakleigh councillor Stephen Dimopoulos, who heads the pool steering committee, said the consultation techniques caught a wider net of respondents than a written survey.

He said he'd like to use the same process to survey the Oakleigh Village concept.

The final Speak Out session is at Oakleigh Community Festival, Warawee Park, on Sunday.



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'Airy-fairy water play' not on

THANK you to Monash Council for the public consultation about the Oakleigh Pool redevelopment.

I hope the councillors are listening to the public. We want the existing pools retained, using as much 'green' technology as possible, particularly

for heating. We do not want any airy-fairy water play. This would not be able to be used, anyway, during our present water restrictions.

Monash Council sport and recreation officer Ian Swan admitted this at last month's stakeholders' meeting.

Therefore it would be a waste of valuable funds.

I strongly urge Monash residents to speak up at the Speak Out at Oakleigh Community Festival, Warrawee Park, on Sunday.

**Betty Sibly,
Oakleigh**

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