

# Report: pool is significant

MONASH JOURNAL

23 APRIL 2007

By Cameron Lucadou-Wells

HERITAGE Victoria believes the closed Oakleigh Pool is historically significant and should be protected by Monash Council.

A HV report has recommended Oakleigh Pool's inclusion on the council's local planning scheme heritage overlay.

The report, released last week, has recommended listing the

pool, its grounds, brick entrance, winged storage and amenities building on the heritage overlay — a recommendation that contradicts a council decision seven years ago.

The report found the pool had local cultural significance as the last swimming pool of its 1950-1960s vintage in Monash.

The report stated the pool was architecturally important because of the involvement of renowned architect Peter

McIntyre, and the intact diving pools and tower.

"[It] is a fine example of a public outdoor swimming pool constructed during the post-war period".

In 2000, consultants recommended to Monash Council that the pool be protected on the basis of the site's history as a swimming spot since the 1930s. The council overruled them and denied the pool heritage status on the basis of limited architec-

tural significance, despite its association with McIntyre.

HV executive director Ray Tonkin stopped short of claiming the pool had enough state significance to be listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

He said the public had 60 days to make a submission before a final decision was made by an independent body, the Heritage Council of Victoria.

He said if the Heritage Council agreed with this recommen-

dation, the decision to include the pool on the heritage overlay would rest with Monash Council.

Community Life Action Group spokeswoman Rose Nocera said she hoped the council would follow HV's recommendation, which would effectively preserve the existing pool.

Oakleigh Ward councillor Denise McGill declined to comment until she'd seen the report.



Community fury: Oakleigh pool supporters are still strong in numbers and voice.

Picture: Lucy Di Paolo

# Supporters upset over accusations

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OAKLEIGH Pool supporters have reacted angrily to suggestions they are led by the nose by Community Life Action Group.

A number of residents took exception to comments in last week's *Journal* by Monash councillor Denise McGill, who claimed CLAG had tainted the public consultation process for deciding the

closed pool site's fate.

The residents, who denied they were CLAG members, banded together to meet the *Journal* last week to show the depth of community support for the pool.

Betty Sibly, who has attended "one or two" CLAG meetings, said there was a lot of passion independent of the

community group to save the pool.

"I think we should be thanking [CLAG spokeswoman] Julie Clearwater for giving us a voice. If we succeed in keeping the pool, she should open it."

Chamaine Krueger said that, as an adult, she had made her own decision to fight to retain the pool. "No group can

force upon us what to think and feel. If we're in agreement, well, so be it."

Louise McMahon said no CLAG member had influenced her. "I've been filling in petitions, hanging blue ribbons, writing to council, writing to the papers, because I'm concerned about the pool."

Cr McGill declined to comment.

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