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MONASH JOURNAL 11 JUNE 2007

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The \$250,000 lake, to be created alongside Gardiners Creek, near the corner of Warrigal Road and Power Avenue, is contingent on \$125,000 of

State Government funding.

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Batesford Reserve, which could include a community garden for public housing residents at Jordanville.

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Pool pride: Julie Clearwater, students and residents celebrate the pool's revival.

Picture: Lucy Di Paolo

Council backflip wins loud acclaim from pool stalwarts

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The council unanimously voted for the refurbishment in front of about 100 residents who were wearing blue ribbons, symbol of the 12-month "Save Oakleigh Pool" campaign.

Last June, the council voted to close the pool and not re-establish an outdoor pool or diving tower.

The \$7 million redevelopment will include a refurbished 50-metre pool and diving pool, a shallow pool with water-play elements, an outdoor spa, new kiosk

and changerooms, and a plant to recycle pool backwash.

The council will provide \$6 million from land sales and cash reserves, and apply to the State Government to fund up to \$1 million.

An exuberant Community Life Action Group spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said she was pleased with the result of the community consultation, which delivered a pool with broader appeal.

"It's good to have the water-play and outdoor spa as well for elderly people and gym users. It means it has a bit for everyone."

Resident Betty Sibly, who helped raise funds for the pool when it was built in the 1950s, said she was pleased the pool would be there for coming generations.

"It's going to be a fantastic asset for the community and for all of Monash."

Construction works aren't expected to start until next April, with a target reopening set for "summer 2009".

Mayor Tom Morrissey said: "It has been something of a bumpy ride to reach this position but hopefully the community will appreciate that large expenditure of rate-payers' funds always needs careful, considered action by council."

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Monash to claim 'the lowest rates'

By Cameron Lucadou-Wells

RATEPAYERS will pay an expected 6 per cent increase in rates, the Monash Council's draft 2007-08 budget reveals.

Mayor Tom Morrissey said the rates increase was in line with the council's financial plan forecast, and the council was likely to be the lowest-rating Melbourne municipality.

This year, the average rates assessment will be \$906, up from \$862 last

year. In 2002-3, ratepayers were paying on average \$664.

Fees and charges will rise by an average of 2 per cent.

The council unveiled a \$41 million capital works program for 2007-08, including \$13 million to complete the \$24.2 million Clayton Community Centre and \$1.35 million for the \$2 million Mulgrave Community Centre — both due to open in March next year.

The council will spend \$337,000 to install traffic lights in Cooke Street and Centre Roads for access to the CCC.

Oakleigh pool final design work (\$400,000) was also funded.

The long-neglected Davies Reserve athletics track will be resurfaced, and the council's pavilion upgrade program was boosted by \$225,000 per year.

Cr Gerry Kottek said the track resurfacing could boost numbers at Oakleigh Little Athletics Club three- or four-fold.

"The club is very happy. Their track hasn't had much done to it for a significant amount of time."

The council's equitable access program, which focuses on access for disabled persons at council halls and activity centres, was given an extra \$100,000 a year.

The council also contributed half to a \$600,000 equitable access project at

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For the arts community, the community arts grant program was boosted from \$50,000 to \$60,000, and a \$50,000 program to install public art across the city was introduced.

The council has also allocated \$800,000 to refit office space at 297 Springvale Road, under construction next to the Monash Civic Centre — suggesting it will lease office space in the six-storey, hotel-office complex.



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BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Revenue — \$116.4 million

Roadworks and footpaths — \$5.3 million, down \$138,000

Reserves — \$2.26 million, up \$652,000

\$13 million to complete Clayton Community Centre by March, 2008

\$1.35 million to complete Mulgrave Community Centre by March, 2008

\$300,000 upgrade to Clayton Hall

\$1.225 million for sports pavilion upgrades, up by \$225,000

\$500,000 for new Electra Reserve pavilion, Ashwood

\$50,000 for upgrading Jack Edwards Reserve lighting

\$470,000 to upgrade Wilkinson Pavilion, Warrawee Park, Oakleigh

\$300,000 for equitable access works at Waverley Netball Centre

\$125,000 to create Holmesglen Valley Lake, by Gardiners Creek

\$50,000 for inaugural public artwork program

\$10,000 boost to community arts grants program

\$800,000 for office fit-out works at 297 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley

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Knife wielded in Chadstone chocolate shop

A CHOCOLATE shop worker was held up by a Stanley knife-wielding thief at Chadstone shopping centre on May 31.

The man walked behind the counter in Darrell Lea Chocolates at 7.30pm and

demanding that the staff member hand over money from a safe. The robber, in his late teens or early 20s, fled through the Coles supermarket, escaping through the Warrigal Road end of the store.

William Matthews
FUNERALS

Curtains & Blinds
AT 12 MONTHS
INTEREST FREE

BEE BRAZILIAN



Do you know
someone who
deserves an award?