

Cash splash for pool

MONASH JOURNAL MONDAY 21 APRIL 2008

By **Cameron Lucadou-Wells**

THE final design elements for the 'deluxe model' Oakleigh pool redevelopment are close to being finalised, with works predicted to be finished by June next year.

Monash councillor Stephen Dimopoulos confirmed that the \$8 million project, which has been boosted by a \$2 million State Government grant, will include a new thermal pool with a spa for older visitors and

children, a new water-play or "splash-pad" area, as well as a refurbished 50-metre pool and diving pool. The diving tower will be preserved, though the 10-metre platform will be closed.

Cr Dimopoulos said the only remaining design doubts were whether the budget would include all the desired "green features".

Plans for solar heating may be shelved, but plans for tiling the pool, recycling pool backwash and collecting rainwater from the neighbouring recreation

centre's roof are expected to be retained. Cr Dimopoulos said the design was close to going to tender, with works expected to start before the end of the year and the pool on schedule to open for summer 2009-10.

"I'm ecstatic," he said. "This has long been an intractable problem. There's been consultation with the community, unlike anything done in Monash before, and we've put the jigsaw pieces together."

Last month, the council discussed

design options with the Community Life Action Group and Monash Ratepayers Association.

MRA spokeswoman Felicity Smith said the plans had "good potential" and were "better than anticipated".

She was impressed with the beach-like entrance to the children's pool but said more thought was needed on disabled access to toilets and changerooms.

She said the pool should also include a permanent shadecloth to protect swimmers.

Taxi kills cabbie

A TAXI driver was killed when he was run over by his own cab in Glen Waverley last Tuesday night, police say.

Glen Waverley police said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the incident, which occurred in Solway Drive.

They are investigating whether the 65-year-old Northcote man's death was linked to a medical condition and will prepare a report for the State Coroner.