

Your View

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Pool of thought

IN response to Mr Lynton's letter ('Solar solution', *Monash Journal*, April 28), I would like to commend his enthusiasm for a solar-heated pool, but I baulk at the suggestion that shelving plans for solar heating is "last century".

Having worked at swimming pools for a number of years I would like to respond to his plan of "a simple pump and some black tubing".

Whether a pool is indoors or outdoors, solar heating poses problems.

For a commercial swimming pool to prosper it needs to be run at a temperature which will ensure bather comfort. This is not guaranteed with solar heating.

Cooler days mean that patrons may be faced with a pool of sub-standard temperature. As a result, the pool would lose business and incur substantial running costs on such days.

Present environmental concerns, while a necessary consideration, cannot always be the decisive factor. Such concerns need to be balanced with, among many other things, the need to provide a facility catering for patrons of all ages and programs to be run, including swimming lessons and fitness classes.

Such a balancing exercise can hardly be considered "last century".

I would suggest a compromise: a solar heating system supplemented by a gas/electric system when the solar cannot maintain a suitable temperature.

But I am sure this has already been considered.

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