



Pooling together: Julie Clearwater front, Paul Klisaris, left, Ann Barker, and Steven Dimopoulos celebrate the redevelopment of the Oakleigh pool. Picture: Jane Steel

Happy pool of thought

By Kirsten Leiminger

THE "team effort" in saving the Oakleigh pool was celebrated as \$9.21 million redevelopment works began at the site last week.

Community Life Action Group president Julie Clearwater, who led a long campaign to save the pool, said it was exciting that works were finally starting.

"It's a really happy win for the community and good on the council for actually listening to us.

"My family and I used the pool when it was originally open and we'll continue to use it when it's reopened".

She said the pool would be a meeting place for residents of all ages. "Most pools in the area are indoors and this is unique, because an outdoor pool is a place where people are free to turn around in the open."

The redevelopment includes a refurbished outdoor heated pool, dive pool, outdoor spa, new shallow leisure pool, change rooms, canteen facility, and a water conservation system.

Oakleigh MP Ann Barker said she was thrilled when the council last year reversed its decision to close the pool.

"There is no doubt the pool was saved by the community and they deserved nothing less."

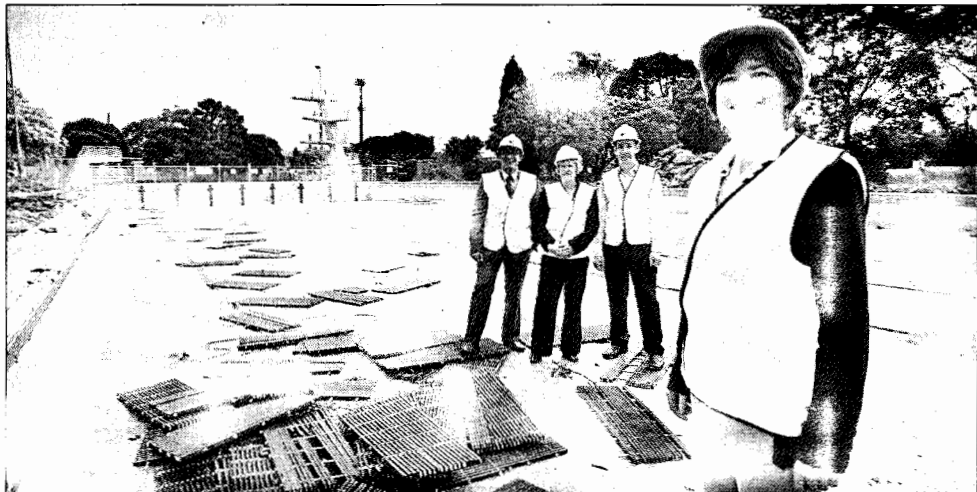
Cr Stephen Dimopoulos said the redevelopment scratched an itch that was previously out of reach.

"I think we'll see a resurgence of outdoor activity.

"The changing demographics of Oakleigh mean that as kids become teenagers, there will be a new generation of memories created at the pool."

Mayor Paul Klisaris said saving the pool was "a team effort that saw two levels of government and the community working together to achieve a fantastic outcome".

The redevelopment is expected to be completed in time for summer next year.



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