

Pressure to build up over pool closure

Oakleigh Monash Leader

Jon Andrews

25 July 2006

OAKLEIGH residents fighting to save their swimming pool say they will step up their attacks on Monash Council, with more protests and a concerted public campaign in the pipeline.

For the second time, nearly 100 angry residents filled the council gallery demanding their ward representatives overturn their "narrow-minded" decision to shut the pool.

A massive 1840-strong petition slamming the pool closure was also presented to the council meeting on Tuesday, July 18.

At the meeting, six people fired questions at besieged councillors.

This followed 18 public queries voiced at the June 27 meeting, which was attended by more than 100 pool lovers.

Community Life Action Group vice president Julie Clearwater said nearly 2000 people could not be wrong. The battle would not end until the pool was saved, she said.

"The pressure hasn't really started yet - we have much more to come," Ms Clearwater said.

"We will be constantly writing, emailing and phoning council-

lors to put our view across. People are getting very tired of being ignored."

She said the group would continue to pack the gallery at every council meeting, hold an open forum next week and maintain its anger through newspaper letter pages.

Mayor Joy Banerji, Deputy Mayor Paul Klisaris and Oakleigh Ward councillor Denise McGill all said public safety and lack of usage concerns were behind the June 6 decision to shut the pool.

Cr Banerji said the council was "now looking to create a multi-function asset that is not based on one single element".

She also said 429 signatories of the petition were from outside Monash.

Cr McGill said the deteriorating condition of the pool had forced the council's hand.

Cr Klisaris said closing the pool was a good financial decision, and even if the pool was redeveloped, patronage numbers would still not increase.

The group is holding a public meeting on Thursday, August 3, at 6.30pm at Oakleigh Hall (formerly the Mechanics Institute), 142-144 Drummond St, Oakleigh.

Give the pool back to us

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I'M 10 years old and I love the Oakleigh pool! It's unfair that you are closing down our pool.

We have nowhere else to go because all the other pools are too far away.

Who wants to travel by public transport on a very hot day? We don't want a sprinkler.

WHY CANT YOU JUST GIVE US OUR POOL BACK!!!

If you close down our pool where are we meant to go because not everyone has a pool in their back yard.

Claudia Maquire, Oakleigh

Little faith in council

I AM really angry at the proposed closure of the Oakleigh pool, one of our community facilities that the council has let run down over a number of years.

I consider their current proposal of a splash playground crumbs tossed at Oakleigh residents.

If they can allow the water playground at Brickmakers Park to deteriorate as it has, I have little faith in their intent for any future water playground in Oakleigh.

The current councillors have not consulted the wider community, nor have they followed their own recommendations.

**Judith Ward,
Oakleigh.**

Represent the people

I AM appalled that Monash Council has decided to close the Oakleigh pool.

The population of the area is increasing in the Oakleigh/Clayton area.

The council readily puts out its hand

Have your say

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*Oakleigh Monash
Leader*

to collect the extra rates, yet does not have the foresight to provide recreational facilities for the people.

Where are they supposed to go on a hot summer's day? It's time the Monash councillors started representing the people who elected them.

Bernadette Pearson, Oakleigh.

Install ISP-level filters

AFTER all the stalling over internet filters in Monash libraries ("Backflip after porn filters deal", *Leader*, June 27) it is time to focus on the central issue of protecting children from internet pornography, violence and other harmful content.

Filtering at ISP level is the most foolproof way. Efficient, accurate and effective filter technology is available and yet the \$116.6 million federal package does not go far enough.

The time for stalling is over.

Now is the ideal opportunity for Monash Council and the libraries to rearrange priorities and act upon instal-

ling ISP level filters while the library service undergoes a major computer system upgrade until August 2.

**Peter Phillips,
Australian Family Association, Springvale.**

Protect our children

OUR lovely Monash libraries are upgrading their computer systems, which the ratepayers are funding.

What an opportunity for the library and Monash Council to stand up for the wellbeing of our children.

Please put the porn filters on our library computers and safeguard the children of our city. We deserve no less.

The protection of children is a higher priority than the pleasure of a few adults. It's not the job of over-worked librarians to constantly monitor computer use.

Please, councillors, protect our children.

**Carol Manning,
Whealers Hill.**

Ban the trucks

ISN'T it about time somebody sat down to work out about congestion of traffic in the Clayton Rd shopping centre?

My complaint is about the large and heavy transport trucks that use the shopping centre as a through road. This congests the traffic, holds up the buses, is very noisy and causes air pollution.

There are overpasses at Huntingdale and Westall roads and these should be used by heavy transport.

PLEASE BAN THE TRUCKS!

**Lyell,
Oakleigh South.**