

# Oakleigh Monash Leader

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2006

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## Protest at plan to close pool

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■ Report: Page 3



Picture: MARTIN REDDY  
NOEWG711

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*Picture: MARTIN REDDY*  
N06WG711

ly 15 species that can get into houses and eat timber. Most termites are beneficial."

The CSIRO will open the doors of its Clayton research laboratories to celebrate the organisation's 80th birthday.

The open day includes laboratory tours, expert talks and displays and will run from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Parking available in the Monash University car park.



Scientist Jim Creffield wants to teach people about termite management at an open day this Sunday.

Picture: MARTIN REDDY N08VQ707

# Public anger boils over

Steve Drill

PROTESTERS have made their loudest statement so far in the battle to save the Oakleigh pool.

More than 400 people packed into Oakleigh Mechanics' Institute Hall last week to voice their anger at the council's decision to close the pool.

Community Life Action Group president Julie Clearwater, who has been behind the push to save the 50m pool, said the council must back down on its decision after the furious public outcry.

Speakers rallied the crowd at the gathering as angry supporters chanted "Save our pool".

"I hope they have listened. But how can you ignore that?" Ms Clearwater said.

The emotion-soaked meeting was attended by a former mayor, people who had helped build the pool in 1957, children, sporting clubs and elderly residents.



## OAKLEIGH MONASH LEADER 8 AUGUST 2006 Frustration and outrage: Welcome to Oakleigh

MEMORIES, tears and anger flowed as people spoke about their love of the Oakleigh pool at a rowdy public meeting.

Former Oakleigh mayor Heather Norling (left) was released from hospital only three days before but said she felt it was important to attend even though still unwell.

"I helped raise funds to build that pool and my seven children learnt

to swim there," Mrs Norling said. "It was a wonderful day out for a family group."

She said Monash Council was misguided if it thought the new 25m indoor pool at Clayton could replace the Oakleigh pool.

Oakleigh resident Betty Sibley accused Monash Council of failing to maintain the pool. "It is the height of arrogance to think they

have allowed this thing to happen and then tell us that it's too expensive to repair," Ms Sibley said.

Doug Loveless collected cans to raise money to build the Oakleigh pool in the 1950s.

He said the councillors' decision could signal the end of their local government careers.

"You will ignore our pleas at your own peril," he said.

Oakleigh Ward councillor Stephen Dimopoulos also attended and said he wanted to save the pool.

"I voted against the closure. I didn't agree to the decision but you will have to chat to my colleagues and see where they stand," Cr Dimopoulos said.

Monash councillors voted seven to four to close the pool at their June meeting.

Cr Dimopoulos, Mayor Joy Banerji, deputy mayor Paul Klisaris and fellow councillor Gerry Kottek voted against the closure. But Cr Geoff Lake was

firm in his opposition to the pool despite the packed public meeting.

"I can't say the community are wasting their time but this is not surprising," Cr Lake said.

"I don't believe this (changes) the facts this decision was based on." Cr Dane Manzie said repairs to

the Oakleigh pool would cost up to \$10 million to provide a heated facility or \$5 million for a non-heated pool.

Monash Council will spend \$25.7 million on the new Clayton Community Centre, which will include a six-lane 25m indoor pool.

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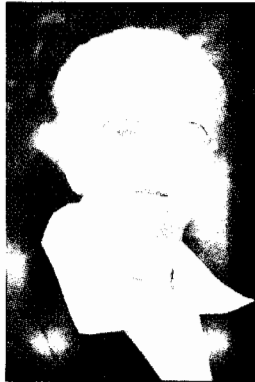
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# Mobile fuss a bit rich

WAVERLEY MONASH OAKLEIGH LEADER 8 AUGUST 2006

I REFER to the front-page article headed "Monash's mobile madness" (*Waverley Leader*, July 18).

Sgt Mark Morewood may be "very disappointed in the motoring public" but surely couldn't be as disappointed as some of us in the way traffic is sometimes policed, as well as the sensationalising of such news.

First, note that seven people were caught talking on their mobile while driving, which – yes – is definitely dangerous and needs to be policed.

But they also got two people who had pulled over into the emergency lane, presumably after getting a call and wanting to do the right thing.

Astounding, and, dare I say, it smacks of revenue-raising.

As for the sensationalism – the *Leader* reported there were about 50 offences in the first 48 hours of the Operation Linker blitz. How many cars use the Monash in a 48-hour period? About 100,000? Up to 200,000?

Are the 50 offences about 1 per cent or maybe only as little as .01 per cent of drivers on the Monash Freeway in this period?

Rather than "angry police" being "very disappointed", the traffic task unit should be congratulating and praising the presumably 99.99 per cent of the motoring public that were obviously driving within the law.

**Peter Young,  
Mt Waverley.**

## At council's mercy

MUCH has been written about the Oakleigh pool and the perceived attitude of the Monash councillors to the people of Clayton, some of whom

## Have your say

Readers can write, fax or email to the *Leader* letters page.

■ **Write:** 1 Chapel St, Blackburn, 3130

■ **Fax:** 9875 8344

■ **email:** monash@leadernewspapers.com.au

Preference is given to short, typed letters. We reserve the right to edit letters. Letters must carry full name, address and phone number.

believe they are treated like stepchildren. It is obvious that some Monash councillors say one thing in council and another thing entirely contrary in private.

The depth of the feeling about keeping the pool open is evident from the letters that have appeared in the *Leader* on June 18.

The comments made by former Oakleigh mayor Heather Norling and Julie Clearwater about a splash pool and the neglected water feature must also be taken into consideration.

Cr Stephen Dimopoulos appears to be running with the hares and hunting with the hounds, while Cr Paul Klisaris does not appear to have made up his mind one way or the other.

The only ray of hope is that Oakleigh MP Ann Barker has stated that funds from the State Government's Better Pools Funding are still available but the council must make the first decision, do a feasibility study, and

other requirements. Therefore the ball is back in the council's court.

**Morley Perelra,  
Glen Waverley.**

## Helping you grow

IT WAS inspiring to read the story "Road to recovery" (*Waverley Leader*, July 11) regarding two women who have recovered from long-term drug addiction.

In order to recover, it is important to treat both the addiction and the mental or emotional problems.

I applaud organisations such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous for the wonderful work they do.

Many people who attend these organisations also find it helpful to attend GROW.

GROW, which is also a 12-step program, is specifically for people with emotional/coping problems or any mental illness but is different from AA and NA in many ways.

We hold weekly self-help mutual support meetings in about 60 locations throughout Victoria. Meetings are small and free.

Members can share their problems and receive help, support and advice from others who have been in similar situations.

We also have an educational program, used in every meeting, that teaches you how to change your thoughts, feelings and actions to better deal with your problems.

To find a group near you, phone 9890 9846 or go to [www.grow.net.au](http://www.grow.net.au).

**Bernadette Blake,  
GROW program secretary, Surrey Hills.**