

'Scavenger' a dirty word for some

I WISH to protest at the "Hard Green Waste and Metals Collection" pamphlet delivered in my area for Monday, August 11.

It is rather insulting coming from an official council-approved document to be referred to as a "scavenger" when you regard yourself as the opposite - a community-supported recycler.

I am sure the vast majority of ratepayers would prefer their neighbours to recycle their unwanted goods than a commercial outsider take most of their items to the tip.

The commercial people claim they recycle everything and therefore discount their charge for the job.

The main reason is the more we locals reclaim, the less their job exists and the less they can legitimately charge.

In this case, the old Aussie "dob in your mate" doesn't apply as they recommend on the pamphlet.

**Jeff Amey,
Glen Waverley.**

Hindsight is golden

A WEEK is a long time in politics but it can be a most positive time, resulting in enhanced outcomes.

It provides time for reflection and improved problem solving.

Congratulations to the Monash Council for revisiting the indefensible decision to close the Oakleigh pool.

It is a management disgrace that the council has allowed the pool to deteriorate to its current condition and then express surprise that patronage has not increased.

School had no chance

I AM saddened to hear of the closure of Monash Secondary College at the end of the 2006 school year.

I went to an information night in 2003 and was impressed with the deaf facility the school had to serve the hearing-impaired students.

Everyone who attended the information night was made to feel welcome and the atmosphere was very warm and positive. The students who gave us a tour of their school seemed to feel very much at home and part of a caring community.

During the tour, I was disappointed to see the school's state of disrepair; the walls in some of the corridors were very old and badly needed a makeover.

The school had a home economics room that looked new and a large, well-resourced science room.

I came away from this night feeling that Monash Secondary College was a very caring, nurturing school that tried to cater for its students' needs in every way possible but that the school's lack of aesthetic appeal would probably turn prospective students away.

I find this very sad because the school seemed to offer something

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However, in dollar terms, the 14,000 entrants compares very positively with the number of entrants to the multi-million-dollar aquatic centre.

It is painfully obvious that the



Letter of the Week

This week's winner receives an environmentally-friendly shopping bag.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper or its staff.

that the larger, better-resourced schools lack - a real sense of community where every student matters.

What happens to these students now? Many are from non-English-speaking backgrounds or are students with special needs.

They will now be forced to travel further to get their education.

I strongly believe that this school was earmarked for closure by the State Government a long time ago because it is in an industrial zone.

Minimal government funding caused the school to fall into further disrepair until it no longer had enough students enrolled to keep it open.

The State Government is far too ready to close a school down without considering the impact it will have on the students and staff.

Which school will be next in the Monash municipality?

**Sally-Anne Vega,
Hughesdale.**

Have your say

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

■ Write: 1 Chapel St, Blackburn, 3130

■ Fax: 9875 8344

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

heated Oakleigh pool ready as soon as possible.

The refurbishment and heating of the Oakleigh pool is a high priority.

As the State Government is benefiting from a huge amount of the insidious gambling tax from Monash residents, it is reasonable that it form a partnership with the Monash Council and make a positive, long-term contribution to the health and wellbeing of the Monash community.

**Ronald Millett,
South Oakleigh.**

Reality check, please

IN THE August 22 edition of the *Leader*, Cr Ryan Brown criticised residents for swearing at councillors in front of children at a July council meeting and for bad behaviour at the recent public meeting (which Cr Brown didn't attend) to discuss Oakleigh pool's fate.

It is unfortunate that this happened, but Cr Brown must also acknowledge that the children at these meetings (who hold placards and banners and give up their evenings in front of televisions and computers) are heavily involved in the process to save the Oakleigh pool.

Many are from families that once fundraised to build the Oakleigh pool and I'm sure they are mature enough to cope - old enough to attend a council meeting, old enough to know what is going on in the world.

The closure of Oakleigh pool is a highly emotional issue and it is also a social issue as there are no facilities in Oakleigh for youth like other areas in the City of Monash.

There is no skate park or recreational facilities that do not require membership/joining.

Cr Brown should travel by public transport (as I do frequently) and attend footy matches to get a grip on reality.

These comments of Cr Brown are a side issue to infer that supporters are rabblers and not ordinary residents concerned for the demise of their pool.

Oakleigh has little to offer apart from palms trees and agapanthus.

It has been stated that Monash Council will make a decision in October this year regarding the site.

Again where is the public consultation? Another rubber stamp saying 'too hard'?

Are the Oakleigh residents and ratepayers of City of Monash the poor relatives once more?

**Janis Grant,
Murrumbeena.**