

Heritage protection bid

OAKLEIGH MONASH LEADER 31 OCT 2006

Steve Drill

AN OAKLEIGH pool campaigner believes restoring the building's heritage status is the key to saving it from closure.

Rosetta Nocera said the pool, which was opened by then Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies in 1957, was an important Oakleigh monument. "It's about keeping alive the people who put a lot of work into building the pool," she said.

But the pool's future hangs in the balance, with Monash Council officers now investigating how much it will cost to fix the pool despite voting in June to permanently close it.

Ms Nocera has now called for people with old photos, newspaper articles and architectural knowledge to help her make a case for heritage listing.

Malvern's Harold Holt Swimming Pool, the City Baths in Swanston St, the Maryborough Swimming Pool in country Victoria and a natural pool in the Hepburn Spa complex already attract protection from Heritage Victoria.

Heritage classification will not prevent the pool being upgraded. But any redevelopments can only be carried out once Heritage Victoria has given the all-clear.

Heritage Victoria director Ray Tonkin said the group

had received an application for the pool in 2002, but campaigners failed to provide enough information.

Mr Tonkin said Heritage Victoria could only list the pool if it was proven to hold "state significance". He said the pool might be more likely to attract local protection.

But the council removed the pool from its heritage overlay list in 2000 against its own officers' advice.

Former Monash councillor and Oakleigh and District Historical Society president Felicity Smith said the council should protect the pool. Ms Smith said she believed the council removed the pool's heritage protection just so it could close it.

Cr Stephen Dimopoulos, who is head of a committee to decide the pool's fate, said a council heritage listing would not save the pool.

"If it was a council listing we would have the power to remove that listing," he said.

Cr Dimopoulos said heritage protection could harm the pool because restrictions would be placed on redevelopments.

Anyone with historical information about the pool can call Ms Nocera on 0412 545 533.

■ Do you think the pool should be heritage listed? Write to us at 1 Chapel St, Blackburn, 3130, or email monash@leadernews.com.au.



Felicity Smith wants Monash Council to put the Oakleigh pool back on its heritage overlay list.

Picture: JOANNA FINCHAM H18W0718

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Reduce wastage and save

THE solution to the problems of overflowing rubbish bins behind shops is to waste less, so fewer bins are

needed, and rats and crows get nothing.

No restaurant should need "five more bins" for all its wasted food (*Leader*, October 10 and 24.)

Australia's continuing drought means less food is being grown. Every kilo of wheat costs 8kg of topsoil to grow, and petrochemical fertilisers to make up will become more problematic. World fish stocks are running short. Half the world goes to bed hungry. And food that goes out as rubbish in bins is a cost for the business and an extra cost for the customers too.

There are solutions at every level to keep high standards of hygiene and freshness.

In wartime Australia, our college ate pork every Sunday - that had been raised on our own food scraps.

In Britain, even after the war, families had their food scraps collected weekly to feed pigs. The bins were horrible messes, and there were probably good reasons for why the practice was later dropped. But science and technology can surely find ways to stop what we are doing now.

We break the food chain by throwing out as rubbish so much that could be re-used or recycled or directly returned to grow more food through composting and worm farms.

The CSIRO might be able to help local restaurateurs and fresh food shops in the community to turn their food rubbish to better uses, and prevent so much waste.

Many older Australians can remind the younger generations how an urban family



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.

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.

of six used to have a weekly rubbish collection in a single bin only as high as your knee - a bin lined with newspaper, and no plastic at all. Many migrants have grimmer memories of the need not to waste.

And see the series, *Waste Nothing/Waste Watch* in the internationally read Australian e-magazine www.bonzer.org.au, run by Alan Wheatley of Croydon.

OAKLEIGH MONASH Valerie Yule,
LEADER 31 OCT 2006 Mt Waverley.

CLAG represents all

I SENT an email to Monash councillors on the Oakleigh pool and the council replied that they were very aware of what CLAG (Community Life Action Group) wants, but they also have to consider the views of other Oakleigh residents.

Well, who do they think CLAG represents? We represent Oakleigh. We represent every person who is showing blue to save our pool. We represent every person who is not showing blue, but who has signed numerous petitions. We represent the people discussing the pool at family gatherings in school grounds and sporting events. And we represent every person who has

signed up to receive newsletters from the clag.net.au website.

So my question to the council is: who are the other people to ask? Maybe you should spend as much time in Oakleigh with the people as I do and then you would understand just how big the support is for the pool.

Catherine Dennis,
Mt Waverley.

Bring on traffic islands

MY HUSBAND and I have been residents of Haverbrack Drive since 1980.

Over the past 26 years we have witnessed countless accidents or near-accidents at Haverbrack Drive as a result of speed.

One of the accidents we witnessed was a car colliding at high speed with a parked car out the front of our premises. In addition to the serious concern of speed and the high potential for an accident to occur the noise generated by many motorists exceeding the set speed parameters is also of concern.

Haverbrack Drive has become more of a main road as the residential property development boom continues and is referred to by many as a race track.

The long and twisting turns are too much a temptation for many, in particular inexperienced drivers who see the road as an opportunity to explore the power of their machines.

So, in short, my husband and I are very much in favour of the development of traffic islands in Haverbrack Drive.

I think the council should be congratulated for this initiative, as it will most definitely mitigate some risks on the road.

After all, what is 20 seconds if it can save a life?

Marla and Maurie Gaglic,
Mulgrave.

You said it

What do you think about the Government's plan to sell land at Oakleigh South Primary?



“If the schools aren't there any more it's better to put housing on them. Lots of old school blocks have housing on them.

SARA SKINNER, Mt Waverley



“I don't think they should sell it. I've got kids and they need to run around and play.

ADRIANA VANTRIE, Mt Waverley



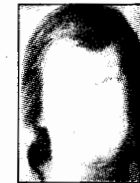
“Sell it. You've got to change. I don't like people who resist change. If everything stayed the same we would be nowhere.

MICHAEL O'REGAN, South Yarra



“They are already building townhouses in the area and they are taking away the ovals. We need schools and we need parks.

DEBBIE ASMAR, Mt Waverley



“It's better to have the parkland. There's enough housing and you need an area to walk your dogs.

CARMEL GROSEK, Vermont South