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N22WG714

OAKLEIGH MOWASH LEADER 28 NOV 2006

Hope floats for pool campaign, next year

Steve Drill

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The outdoor complex, which usually opens on December 1, will remain closed for the summer while Monash Council looks into the cost of repairs.

Oakleigh pool campaigner Julie Clearwater said she

was sad to think the pool would not be open for the start of summer.

"I think it's a shame it's not opening. Whatever type of summer we have it would be great if locals had a local pool to go to," Ms Clearwater said.

But she does have hope after a round of election promises saved the Pakenham pool.

The Liberal and Labor parties promised before the elec-

tion they would fix the pool. The promises prompted Cardinia Shire Council to award tenders and the pool, which closed in 2001, will be fixed and reopened.

Monash Council will have public consultation about the Oakleigh pool in February and expects to make a decision about its future in May.

"I'm hoping it will be open next summer," Ms Clearwater said.



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Respect for support

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I WOULD like to give my support to Councillor Dane Manzie for coming to the aid of marginalised groups, such as Project Respect, in our society.

David Oatea,
Clayton South.

What a waste

HOW can so many councillors justify spending \$500 a day and staying at the Hyatt Hotel (November 14)?

Monash Council continually states that it does not have the funds to repair our beloved Oakleigh Pool. There is state government funding available, but the council has not even attempted to make an application for this.

Instead, it seems to be determined to pay \$12,000 to Project Respect to counsel prostitutes in the Monash area - even though this group does not want counselling.

It would seem that the Monash Council is working against health and school groups that are trying very hard to promote the health and fitness of our children.

It would seem that our councillors are in great need of being educated if eight out of 12 must attend this conference.

Rosetta Nocera,
Oakleigh.

Comments insulting

I WRITE to clarify comments made in the *Oakleigh Monash Leader* relating to Monash Community and VMC grants.

In the debate, as well as in my personal statement to council, I clearly stated that I fully supported both the Victorian Multicultural Grants, as well as the



In the spotlight, Cr Denise McGill.

Monash Community grants to all senior citizens groups.

The comments in the article by Cr Paul Klisaris that "she's (myself) voted against every item on the agenda which involved ethnic groups" are patently untrue and the council record shows his statement for the lie it is.

I have proudly lived in a multicultural environment my entire life, from school days in Port Melbourne, as an Oakleigh councillor, state MP for Oakleigh, (where I was chair of the Government's multicultural committee) and currently as a councillor for Monash.

To dare suggest that I have a discriminatory bone in my body is insulting, untrue and more than a little sad.

Denise McGill,
Monash City councillor.

Query justified

COUNCILLORS Dinopoulos and Klisaris may have been outraged, but it seems that Cr Denise McGill (November 7) querying the amounts allocated by council to ethnic senior citizens' groups was justified.

If the name of the organisation is any indication, the amount given by council

Have your say

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to independent ethnic clubs for the aged (mainly Greek and Italian) in 1999/2000 was about 66 per cent of the total allocated to independent clubs for the elderly.

This percentage increased until it had risen to more than 96 per cent in 2003/2004 before dropping back to about 88 per cent in 2004/2005.

By comparison, according to your article, ethnic people represent only 35 per cent of the population in Monash.

The amounts represented by these percentages do not include the amounts devoted by council to general ethnic services, which considerably exceeded those given to the ethnic aged organisations directly over that period.

Nor do they include amounts from the state.

Surprisingly, only about 7 per cent of the total in 2005/2006 was given to senior citizens groups catering for Asians, who must now represent a sizeable proportion of Monash's population.

One wonders what considerations determine the allocation of these grants.

Paul Brand,
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