

# Make pool a payer – lobbyist

OAKLEIGH MONASH LEADER 30 JAN 2007

Steve Drill

SPENDING millions of dollars on an outdoor pool at Oakleigh would be robbing ratepayers of their hard-earned money, a Monash Council watchdog says.

Monash Ratepayers Association wants an indoor pool to replace the derelict outdoor complex at Oakleigh, which is now the subject of fierce debate about its future.

The closed pool's turnstiles haven't clicked this summer after a backlog of overdue maintenance on the filtration system raised fears of health risks.

The council, which closed the pool last June, has called for written submissions from the public before February 26 on four controversial redevelopment options.

The *Leader* is also running a

**OUR POLL**



**Do you want to save the Oakleigh pool?**

Text "WGYES" or "WONO" to 0482 967 387  
OR  
Click on [www.leadernews.com.au](http://www.leadernews.com.au) and follow the links.

website and text poll for people to vote if they want the original pool restored to its former glory.

Ratepayers association president Jack Davis said he wanted a pool at the site only if it could pay its way.

"People don't consider the fact it's going to cost \$350,000 a year to maintain it. I represent ratepayers who want value for money," Mr Davis said, referring to a council

## The big four

Monash Council has proposed:

1. \$4.1 million water park;
  2. \$4.6 million heated 50m outdoor pool;
  3. \$5.4 million heated 50m outdoor pool and diving pool;
  4. \$5.6 million 25m outdoor pool that includes a toddlers' section;
- OR

■ residents who want the original 50m pool, toddlers' pool and diving pool to be repaired can outline this on their feedback form.

report that estimated a redeveloped 50m outdoor pool and diving pool would lose money each year despite increased attendances.

But pool campaigner Julie

Clearwater said she paid rates, too, and so did the thousands of other people who wanted to keep an outdoor pool in Oakleigh. She said support for a complete restoration of the pool was huge.

"Do they want to have a council that doesn't spend any money?" she said. "An outdoor pool has a beautiful picnic setting, it's about the social and community feel of it."

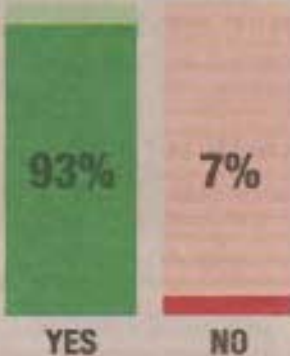
Mayor Tom Morrissey said people on all sides of the debate should be patient and wait for the results of public consultation.

Once written submissions close next month the council will hire consultants to run public meetings. Feedback forms are available from Monash libraries and [www.monash.vic.gov.au](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au).

The council will decide the pool's fate at its May meeting.

## CURRENT POLL RESULTS

Do you want to save Oakleigh pool?



Online poll closes February 16.  
Go to [www.leadernews.com.au](http://www.leadernews.com.au).

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## CURRENT POLL RESULTS

Do you want to save Oakleigh pool?

93%

7%

YES

NO

Online poll closes February 16.  
Go to [www.leadernews.com.au](http://www.leadernews.com.au).

# Fight obesity, reopen pool

OAKLEIGH MONASH LEADER 30 JANUARY 2007

ONE swimming pool for the whole municipality of Monash is nowhere near adequate.

Have you seen the queues at MARC on a warm day? Have you tried to find a car park at MARC to take your kids for a swim?

This is a huge area we live in and we deserve better facilities. People who live in the Clayton/Oakleigh area have an unreasonable distance to travel to access a public pool.

More cheap "exercise" facilities are needed to help combat our growing obesity problem - what better way to encourage some physical activity than a swim at the pool on a warm day?

And I bet the kids won't even realise they are exercising.

Please, reopen Oakleigh pool.

**Lisa Kroph,  
Glen Waverley.**

## Support from Sunbury

ALTHOUGH I live in Sunbury I would just like to inform you that I am very against the closing of the Oakleigh pool.

I am in Oakleigh quite often and I swam there a lot.

The Oakleigh pool is a fun place for all so save it.

**Tessa Donaldson,  
Sunbury.**

## Councillors, you are wrong

OAKLEIGH pool, especially the diving pool, needs to stay. It has to stay.

Kids, teenagers and even adults have an absolute ball diving off the platforms and these days, with our summers becoming hotter and hotter, the pool will be used much, much more.

Oakleigh pool also offers the 50m lap pool for those wanting a casual swim and/or lap

## 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

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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.



Exercise, go for a swim.

swimming. The councillors of Monash are wrong. It is a disgrace.

May Oakleigh pool stay.

**Pieter van Pinxteren,  
Oakleigh South.**

## It's all about dollars

WELL, here we are, another long hot summer.

The kids are out of school but they can't play under the sprinkler or fill the backyard pool, due to the drought.

They shouldn't be inside with the air-conditioning on, not only because of global warming, but they might also end up obese.

Of course they could hang out at the airconditioned shopping centre, but then they become not only obese, but poor as well.

Previous years they could meet all their friends at the wonderful Oakleigh outdoor pool, but thanks to the Monash Council

deciding to close our pool, that is no longer possible either.

It's a pity so many of our elected leaders turn out not to be leaders, but accountants instead.

**Leanne Tully,  
Oakleigh.**

## A facility we deserve

THE sight of the empty and forlorn Oakleigh pool tugs at my heart strings.

On these hot summer days, our pool is so near and yet so far away.

Please, Monash Council, give your Oakleigh constituents what any local community deserves - a place close to home where all ages can meet, socialise, leap, lap, paddle and cool down.

**Gill Read,  
Hughesdale.**

## Residents left high and dry

TO THE councillors of Monash: can't you see that 94 per cent of Monash residents who have already voted in Leader's online poll want the Oakleigh pool restored to its former glory?

Only 6 per cent don't, and they must be the councillors themselves.

The pool wouldn't be in the state it is if council had maintained it properly.

In all the years the pool was open, it was always used by residents and schools.

Naturally they go elsewhere now because you, the councillors, have abandoned the people of Oakleigh.

You all come out of the woodwork when it's time to be elected with all your promises - so prove me wrong and save Oakleigh pool.

We need our pool.

**Josephine D'Ambrosio,  
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