



Wide net cast on pool fight

OAKLEIGH MONASH
LEADER 6 FEBRUARY 2007

Steve Drill

A Mt Waverley teenager has taken her personal fight to save the Oakleigh pool into cyberspace.

Lauren Dalman, 15, has set up a page on global internet chat forum Myspace.com to ask teenagers to vent their anger at Monash Council's decision to close the pool.

Lauren, who lives 10 minutes from the now deserted pool, has been forced to spend an hour on the train to have a swim this summer.

The teenager said it was easier to get public transport to Mordialloc beach than to get to Glen Waverley's Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

"I've been to Mordialloc beach five times this summer and I've only gone to MARC once," Lauren said.

"In the summer I always used to go to the Oakleigh pool but now it's travel an hour to the beach or go to Chadstone Shopping Centre."

Pool campaigner Julie Clearwater said the pool's closure meant teenagers had lost an important part of their youth.

"They did miss out a lot this summer. My daughter and her friends spent a

OUR POLL



Do you want to save the Oakleigh pool?

Text "WGYES" or "WGNO" to 0402 967 337
OR
Click on www.leadernews.com.au and follow the links.

lot of time at our house but they would have been down at the pool if it was open," Ms Clearwater said.

But there is still hope for the venue. Public pressure has forced Monash Council to rethink the closure and councillors have called on the public to have its say on the pool's future.

The *Leader* is also asking people if they want to save the Oakleigh pool via an SMS and online poll until February 16.

Mayor Tom Morrissey said he would put "no obstacles in the way" of the pool's redevelopment once the council had a clear idea of what people wanted.

To view Lauren's page, log on to <http://www.myspace.com/151706974>.

Lauren Dalman is taking her fight for the Oakleigh pool to the internet.

Picture: RICHARD BERONG N32WG706

Unique Timber Floor



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A fair go for all, council

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I THINK it smacks of hypocrisy that Monash Council wants to close Oakleigh pool and refuses to consider the option of repairing/renovating the original 50m pool, toddlers' pool and diving pool.

I cannot recall being "consulted" when MARC was built. I certainly don't think councillors or ratepayers would have voted for a \$17 million pool, I know I would have been against such a sum, yet the further construction went, the more the cost kept increasing.

If the centre of Monash can get such a facility, why cannot the disregarded edges of the city have good facilities also?

I have two children who have been going to MARC for swimming lessons each week for more than four years.

They only go to MARC as lessons were not available at Oakleigh.

Oakleigh pool had limited hours, even on very hot days. It was infuriating to see on the news that other pools stayed open late at night during hot days when Oakleigh pool closed at 6pm.

Why would you go to the pool for half an hour after getting home from work?

Needless to say many people stayed away, contributing to the low attendance numbers that the council seems so quick to refer to.

I thought that councils were supposed to provide services to their ratepayers. I also thought that there was a very large voter backlash after the council first decided to close the pool; only Cr Lake survived to the next term.

The sooner councillors start listening to the people who elected them, the better our community will be.

Sure the ratepayers in Mt Waverley and surrounds will say "no" to the Oakleigh pool, but they already have their modern facility.

Why can't we have an adequate facility as well?

Some of the behaviour I have read about during council meetings I would not credit to kindergarten children, yet these people want us to think that they are responsible and trustworthy.

I realise that the council needs to be financially responsible (this was not the case with the construction of MARC and subsequent sacking of the catering provider) but they also need to provide services.

With the State Government able to fund a third of the cost, surely this "fifth" option is now within the council's reach?

It would be irresponsible of them not to explore every avenue of funding possible.

I implore council to stop their petty bickering about trivialities and get on with providing services to all of the City of Monash, not just parts of it.

**Russell Bunce,
Oakleigh.**

Penalise dog owners

RE the dog attack on Ms Corteling's labradoodle (January 16, Page 3).

To be honest, I'm appalled that someone would flee the scene after such a disturbing attack.

I think that owners (I myself am an owner of a beagle) should be liable for vet bills should something like this happen.

And as much as I wouldn't want to see any dog get put down due to it being a dangerous dog, I think those two german shepherds should be put down, and those owners be given a harsh penalty for fleeing the scene.

It's pretty stupid of those owners to think their dogs would be placid, when there has been lots of cases of attacks by

german shepherds. I hope they get what's coming to them.

**Matt,
Mt Waverley.**

Theatre needs venue

IN RECENT years the Monash Secondary College theatre complex has been an invaluable resource for several community drama groups, including the Waverley Players.

With the closure of the secondary college by the Education Department, the theatre appears likely to be bulldozed to make way for commercial development.

In moral terms, the theatre belongs to the Notting Hill community and the surrounding area of North Clayton, because the funds to build it were supplied not by the Education Department, but by the parents and friends of the school, many of whom still live nearby.

Its current excellent state of preservation is due to money and labour contributed over the past few years by the Waverley Players.

There are no venues for amateur theatre in Monash other than the college theatre complex.

We understand that the Waverley Players have no alternative venue, and that the Knox Theatre Company is also keen to use the site.

We have contacted both the Monash City Council and the Education Department expressing our concerns on this matter.

We would welcome contact with any other Monash residents with an interest in preserving the theatre as a community resource.

**Marian Quartly,
Notting Hill.**