

# Closed pool's high price

OAKLEIGH MONASH  
LEADER

13 FEBRUARY 2007

Steve Drill

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Last week a Chadstone school spent more than \$3000 to hire 18 buses to drive students to their swimming carnival.

Meanwhile, Oakleigh Sacred Heart Girls' College will travel to Caulfield pool this year, while South Oakleigh College will swim at the East Bentleigh pool.

Glen Waverley's Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre has also had a jump in school bookings because of the Oakleigh

closure. A Freedom of Information request seen by the *Leader* shows swimming carnivals were Oakleigh pool's bread and butter.

In 2006, 16 schools used the pool, while in 2003, 18 schools used the pool for carnivals including Nunawading Primary.

Schools have been tight-lipped about their search for alternative outdoor pools ahead of a stakeholder meeting with Monash Council on Thursday, February 15.

But South Oakleigh College principal Vincent La Ragy said his school had used Oakleigh in previous years and was dumbfounded that any council would close a pool.

"I can't fathom how any place that promotes active recreation would be closed down given the obesity problem," Mr La Ragy said.

Monash mayor Tom Morrissey said most schools that used the pool were from outside Monash.

"Our records indicate that only three local schools - Salesian College, Wellington Secondary College and Ashwood Secondary College - used the facility for carnivals in the previous summer," Cr Morrissey said.

Pool campaigner Julie Clearwater said more Monash schools would have used the pool if the council had maintained it better.



OUR POLL

Do you want  
to save the  
Oakleigh pool?

Text "WGYES"  
or "WGNO" to  
0402 967 387

OR

Click on [www.leadernews.com.au](http://www.leadernews.com.au)  
and follow the links.

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# You said it

Do you think Monash Council should restore the Oakleigh pool to its former glory?

“ I certainly do. It's the only pool around with a 10m diving board. If anybody wanted to train for diving, where would they go?

KEN MAGINNESS, Mt Waverley



“ Definitely, young people need something to do. Why can't they spend money on people who want to go for a swim?

MARJ DROHAN, Ashwood



“ Fix the pool. I pay rates, I don't care how they do it, just save it.

KLAUS KURFURST, Mt Waverley

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“ I'm 50-50. I don't know how many people used the pool. I'm not convinced, cost is the big factor.

BARRIE YOUNG, Mt Waverley



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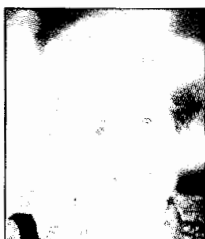
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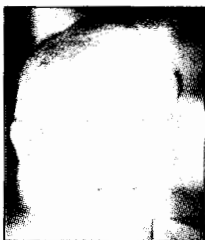
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# Pool belongs to community

OAKLEIGH MONASH LEADER

THERE are many services in communities that do not, as Jack Davis puts it (*Waverley Leader*, January 30), "pay their way".

I don't see any financial return on, for instance, the Federation Centre and the local history collection, nor would I expect to.

But I certainly support conserving our local heritage, and I strongly support keeping our local Oakleigh pool.

Not all benefits can be measured in financial return. It's time social responsibility came into the equation.

Give back the Oakleigh pool to the community.

**Julie Pearce,**  
Murrumbena.

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## Pay for the privilege

IF LOCAL residents want the use of a pool, be prepared to pay for the privilege.

Don't expect the whole community to support the few locals who want a pool in their back yard.

There is a perfectly good pool in Waverley Road. Why not use this?

Don't tell me it's too far for the Oakleigh residents to travel.

If this is your argument, then finance your own pool in your own back yard. Problem solved.

If you can't afford one - don't expect to get one from community funds.

If a pool can be maintained and be profitable from proven revenue generated from local users, then its development can be justified after it is determined how it is to be financed.

Use of ratepayer money to pay for the privilege of a few locals cannot be tolerated.

Borrowings cannot be repaid from its revenue base. Putting Monash into debt is out of the question.

Government grants, if available, are the only means by which it can be financed.

## 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.

Otherwise - don't bother. Put the land to better use.

**Ratepayer,**  
Glen Waverley.

## Fight on, Oakleigh

I AM a resident in the Notting Hill area and cannot believe that once again, a community has to fight for something it already has but is losing it because Monash Council has spent too much money on one thing that's in the heart of Waverley.

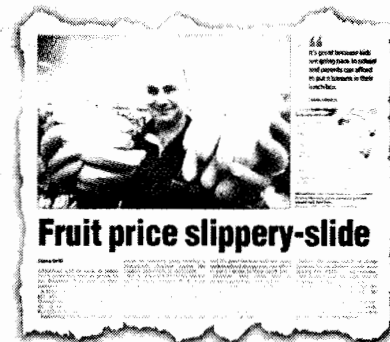
The council has forgotten that it is here to serve the whole of Monash - that includes all suburbs within the boundaries of this area.

It appears to me that the council was happy to let this facility go without maintenance with the knowledge that it would be redeveloped further down the track without much fuss from the local community.

Well fool on you, council.

Why are there only four options? Why does one age group seem to have to miss out on something for them at the pool? It's for the entire community - elderly, middle-aged, young and young at heart, toddlers and babies.

By giving only four options, they are now causing members of the community to have to argue between themselves over what they have to go without and subsequently take the focus



Our January 23 report.

off what they should all have. Stick together Oakleigh, stay strong and fight for everything you believe you should have. Where's Hong Lim's support in all of this? Hmmm, I wonder?

Perhaps it's the same place he was when Notting Hill needed his assistance with losing our three schools.

Go Oakleigh!

**Notting Hill Cheer Squad.**

## Shop at Brandon Park

I REFER to the "Fruit price slippery-slide" article in the *Waverley Leader* of January 23.

While it was great to see that bananas are back on the shelves at lower prices, we'd like to clarify that the fruit shop featured in the article is Brandon Park Fruit Market located at Centro Brandon Park in Wheelers Hill.

Frank, the co-owner of Brandon Park Fruit Market, would like to encourage all readers to visit the store at Centro Brandon Park and take advantage of their great fruit and vegies on sale at affordable prices.

**Maree Sanderson,**  
marketing manager,  
Centro Brandon Park.