

Pool funding too shallow

OAKLEIGH MONASH LEADER 6 MARCH 2007

Steve Drill

OAKLEIGH pool campaigners want to know why Monash art galleries and libraries receive generous subsidies from the council but the beleaguered pool's future remains under a cloud.

Monash Council has budgeted for the Monash Gallery of Art to lose \$294,000 this financial year, while libraries will cost ratepayers \$2.1 million. Monash Council

officers predict the annual operational costs for a restored pool will be \$250,000.

The pool received almost 15,000 visitors in the 2005-06 summer over three months, while the art gallery has an average of 50,000 people walk through the door each year.

Gallery visitors receive free entry because of a \$200,000 sponsorship deal with ConnectEast, which is behind the EastLink project.

Pool campaigner Julie Clearwater said the

pool, like the art gallery and libraries, was a service that should be subsidised.

"I don't begrudge the art gallery for its funding - it's great that it's there - but I hope people don't begrudge us the chance to use the Oakleigh pool," Ms Clearwater said.

"I'm a ratepayer, too, and I don't want to see money wasted, but some things do cost money."

Monash Mayor Tom Morrissey said there was little point in comparing the pool with

art galleries and libraries and urged people to think of their hip pockets. "Monash City Council has the second-lowest rates in metropolitan Melbourne," Cr Morrissey said.

"This low rate base means we have to be very cautious in incurring new or extra costs, which is something I am sure our ratepayers expect and appreciate."

Public consultation on the pool is continuing and a decision will be made in May.

Decision for heritage bid draws near

OAKLEIGH
MONASH LEADER

HERITAGE Victoria could put its weight behind a recommendation to protect the Oakleigh pool as early as next month.

Executive director Ray Tonkin was looking into the Victorian Heritage Register bid for the 1950s pool last week.

His adviser, Angie Phelan, told the *Leader* Mr Tonkin could advertise his finding on whether the pool had state significance as early as April.

Each month Heritage Victoria lists properties it has recommended for protection in the *Herald Sun*. At the latest, if Mr Tonkin did consider the Oakleigh pool worthy of saving, it would be advertised in May.

The public will then have 60 days to make a submission, which will be considered by the Heritage Council of Victoria.

The independent body will then make a final decision on the pool's protection bid.

The heritage bid coincides with an expected Monash Council decision on the pool's future.

Monash Mayor Tom Morrissey said a final vote on the pool would come at a May council meeting.

The Victorian Heritage Register is established under the Victorian Heritage Act 1995 and provides the highest level of protection for heritage places and objects in Victoria.

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Ban is ludicrous, butt . . .

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I'M parent of small children and I frequent local parks and playgrounds in my area.

I very rarely see parents smoking but I would only ask that the butts go in the bin, not on the ground.

As for a ban (*Leader*, February 27), I find it ludicrous that parents or carers who are doing the right thing and getting out to a park, spending time with their kids, should be penalised if they light up.

Smokers are addicted to tobacco and a ban can't change that, but it can cause them to say "sorry kids, but the park's out for us".

Let's applaud and encourage playtime between parents and kids and provide rubbish bins so that butts can be safely and hygienically disposed of.

Here's a thought – how about a sign imposing fines on excessive mobile phone use at playgrounds? Not much fun for the kids . . .

**Non smoker,
Oakleigh South.**

Pool resources

IT WOULD be a great asset to repair the existing, badly neglected, Oakleigh pool, which was originally financed by local people – unlike the Waverley Rd pool.

Healthy, fresh air living, swimming and toddlers' pools are much needed in the area

and the setting could be delightful with imaginative landscaping as the pool is surrounded by a golf course, tennis courts, indoor ball courts, bicycle track, Brickmakers Park, barbecue and play equipment. All this on the banks on Scotchmans Creek, away from the noisy, polluting traffic.

Competent management would achieve the repairs with much less than the stated estimates. Obesity is of concern and encouraging healthy, outdoor exercise would be a wise investment in the future.

**Name supplied,
Oakleigh.**

We think it's cool

I THINK the Oakleigh Pool should stay open because it's awesome.

I love it and my family loves it.

It's great to go to because I can have fun and it's no ordinary pool – it has a diving pool, a deep pool, a kids' pool and a baby pool.

It is all good.
So please help save the Oakleigh pool.

**Olivia, aged 10,
Burwood East.**

Poetic times

THE Oakleigh pool I've always enjoyed.

Everything about it, I try not to avoid. I have fun, I go wacky, I enjoy my time there.

Getting rid of it, is just not fair. Ask anyone,

They don't want it to go. The water so lovely, From my head to my toe. I go so much,

I absolutely love it there. Please don't close it, Don't you dare.

Take this into account, A lot of people like the pool. Have fun, fun, fun, That is a good pool rule. Thank you, and please don't close it! Please!

**Kathryn De Sousa,
Oakleigh.**

Save history

PRESERVE the Oakleigh pool! That's the last of our old-style pools.

It has a memory and history akin to Brighton Baths.

It's not replaceable. Keep it!
**WJ van Veen,
Mulgrave.**

Hands off, it's ours

I HAVE read with interest the debate regarding the future of the Oakleigh pool.

I would bring to your attention the fact that the pool belongs to the residents, as when it was proposed to be built the residents or, more

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appropriately, the children collected bottles over a long period to help finance the project.

When it finally opened, letters were sent to a number, my brother included, inviting them to the opening and thanking them for their efforts in raising the monies to make the pool possible.

This pool was, and is, a community project and asset and shouldn't be cast aside by people who neither appreciate nor have any knowledge of how much work and effort was required to make it possible.

**R. Richards,
Mulgrave.**