



John McDonough wants Monash Council to think harder about the Oakleigh pool.

M36W3703

OAKLEIGH MONASH LEADER 20 MARCH 2007

# Include centre in plan: plea

## Steve Drill

UNLESS the Oakleigh Recreation Centre is included in plans, an upgrade of the Oakleigh pool is a waste of millions of dollars, a basketball coach says.

The Oakleigh Recreation Centre, which is next door to the pool, has 400,000 players using its indoor courts for basketball, soccer, volleyball and netball each year.

Ashwood Wolves Basketball Club president John McDonough said any decision about the pool should also consider the recreation centre and the tennis courts, which shared

the site. He said the council's plans to fix the pool were "extremely shortsighted".

"We don't train there (at the centre) because there's not enough room," Mr McDonough said.

"We have 50 teams. If there was another two courts we could fill it up every night between 5.30pm and 7.30pm, 10 times over."

Mr McDonough said his club, which has 380 members, was already turning young players away because it could not get access to courts.

Monash Council will decide on the pool's future in May, with repairs expected to cost

more than \$6 million. Public consultation on the pool continued with a "speak out" at the Oakleigh Festival on March 18.

Mayor Tom Morrissey said the focus had been on the pool because the council had a budget for its repair.

"But we are definitely looking at the whole complex," Cr Morrissey said.

Pool campaigner Julie Clearwater said the push to restore the pool to its former glory, which started in 2002, would fall over if the recreation centre was included now.

"If they (council) had to decide that, too, it could take 10 years," Ms Clearwater said.

John McDonough wants Monash Council to think harder about the Oakleigh pool.

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