



# Glory days gone

Residents have almost certainly lost their fight to restore the Oakleigh pool to its former glory, with Heritage Victoria knocking back a call to recommend the site for the state's highest heritage protection.

■ Stacy Allen reports: Page 3

Digital image: inset photo supplied by the State Library of Victoria

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# Heritage bid drowns

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Stacy Allen

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Heritage Victoria has knocked back a last-ditch call to place the pool, which opened in 1958 and closed last June, on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Instead, executive director Ray Tonkin recommended the site be included on Monash Council's Heritage Overlay - for which it has been already nominated, and rejected by councillors, following a heritage study in 2000.

The public now has 60 days to submit pleas for a rethink before the Heritage Council of Victoria - an independent body - makes the final decision on the pool's protection bid.

In his recommendation, Mr Tonkin said Oakleigh pool was "important in the local context" but did not possess any significant cultural heritage to warrant inclusion on the register.

Monash Mayor Tom Morrissey said the council, which has flagged four redevelopment options for the site, hoped to make a decision on the pool's future in May.

He said there was "little value in revisiting the heritage issue" and urged residents to instead focus on the pool's future.

Residents mounted an impassioned campaign to save the pool last year, and organised petitions, public meetings and protests.

Another petition supporting a move to reject any redevelopment and restore the pool to its former glory will be tabled at tonight's (April 24) council meeting.

Rosetta Nocera, who nominated the pool for heritage listing, said Mr Tonkin's recommendations were disappointing.

The lifetime Oakleigh resident said the pool had strong social significance.

"The Oakleigh pool is the heart of Oakleigh... there's not a lot for children in Oakleigh but the pool was there for them," Ms Nocera said.

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Oakleigh pool, which opened in 1958, was found to have local social significance. Photos supplied by the State Library of Victoria.



## Schools not cool over pool



July 18, 2006

## Leader

### Heritage protection bid



Oct 31, 2006

## Wide net cast on pool fight



February 6, 2007

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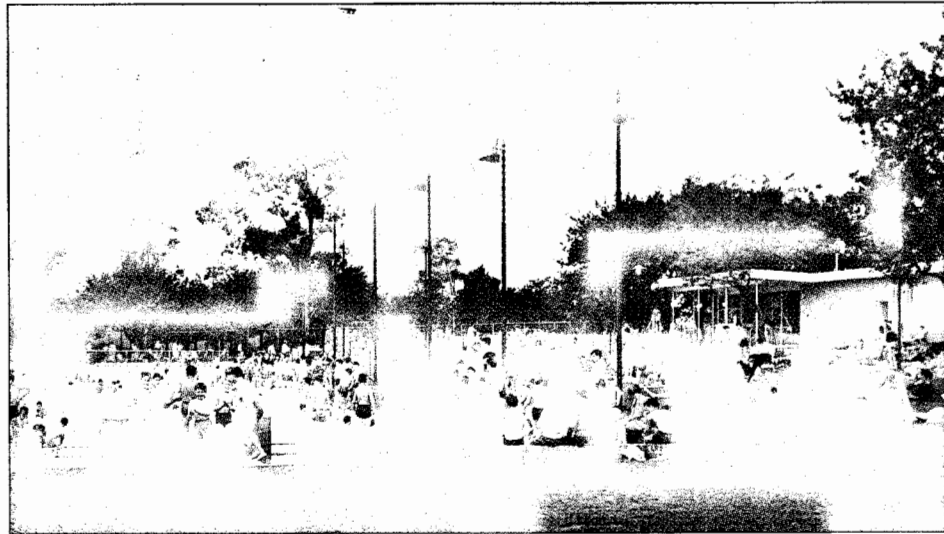
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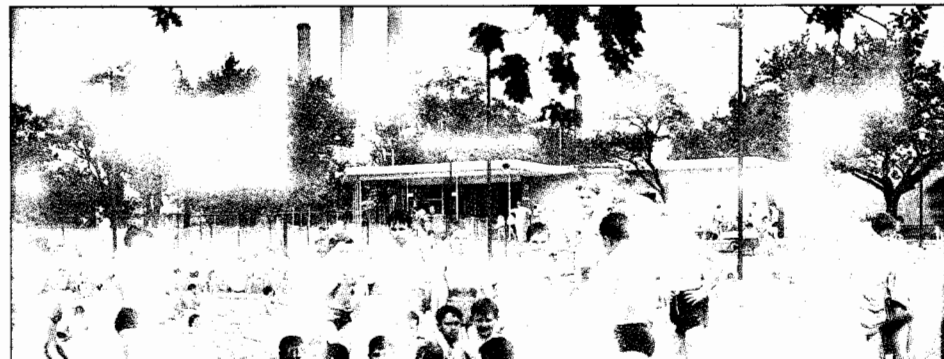


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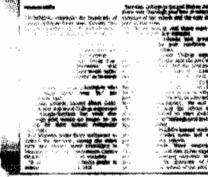
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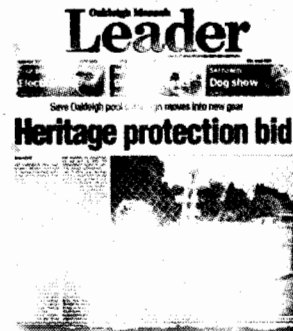
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## Social significance not enough

HERITAGE Victoria's report recognises the social significance of Oakleigh pool, but does not recommend the site for the State Heritage Register.

The report, seen by the *Leader*, highlights the pool's architectural significance but remains unconvinced it is worthy for Victoria's highest heritage protection.

The pool was "important for its local historical and social connections to the community", the report states.

"The Oakleigh swimming pool is of

architectural importance for its associations with architect Peter McIntyre but is not one of his major works.

"Architectural involvement in the construction of municipal swimming pools was rare with most municipal swimming pools being designed by the council's engineer."

The report says the pool is of local architectural significance for its diving boards and tower and is a fine example of a public pool built in the post-war period.



The now closed Oakleigh pool.



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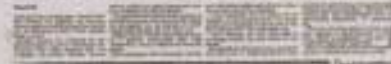


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