

Oakleigh Monash

# Leader

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TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007

50c Incl. GST

# \$7m backflip!





The gates were locked, hope had faded and the Oakleigh pool was destined for redevelopment, but a Monash Council turnaround has saved the historic site. Report: Page 5

Picture: MARK STEWART/NOOWATTS

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# Pool thrown a \$7m lifeline

Stacy Allen

PEOPLE power has triumphed in the long-running battle to save the Oakleigh pool, almost a year to the day since Monash Council closed the iconic site.

The council approved a \$7 million plan at its June 5 meeting to restore the run-down pool, with about 100 pool supporters packing the public gallery to hear the historic decision.

A heated debate, complete with both cheers and jeers from the gallery, preceded the unanimous decision to restore the pool, built in 1958, to its former glory.

The plan will see the existing 50m pool restored and heated, the diving pool restored and a new shallow leisure pool and water play area constructed.

An outdoor spa will also be built and a kiosk and change rooms upgraded.

The pool's water treatment infrastructure will be replaced and new water conservation and recovery systems will be built.

The council has allocated \$6 million to the project, from cash reserves and land sales, and will apply for State Government funding through the Better Pools program to cover the shortfall.

If successful, work is expected to start in April to have the pool open for the 2009-10 summer season.

A steering committee - comprising Oakleigh Ward councillors Stephen Dimopoulos, Gerry Kottek and Denise McGill -



Monash Mayor Tom Morrissey and Cr Stephen Dimopoulos are all smiles after announcing a multi-million-dollar lifeline for the Oakleigh pool.

Picture: MARK STEWART NSCWJ709

recommended the plan, which was not one of the four development options flagged for the site.

Tempers flared during the debate with Cr McGill accusing the Community Life Action Group (CLAG) of hijacking the consultation process.

But CLAG spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said the decision

was a win for Oakleigh and the wider Monash community, and praised residents for their support.

"It sometimes felt like we were talking to a brick wall but we've convinced the council that it's something we want and something that will be a positive for the community," Ms Clearwater said.



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JULIE CLEARWATER

## You said it

What do you think of Monash Council's decision to spend almost \$7 million to save the Oakleigh pool?

"I support that, absolutely. It promotes exercise. We have to keep what we've got.

WARREN FRICKE, Huntingdale



"It's great. It's a good little pool. People use it over summertime.

SUSIE GIBBS, Malvern East



"The council's done its research and it's a viable business option. It's a coup for the residents of Oakleigh.

STACEY APEITOS, Oakleigh 5th



"It's great; fabulous that the whole complex is being restored. They should have done it three years ago.

MRS ZEMAN, Clayton



"It's a good decision, good for the community. I use it often in summer when it's open.

CLEM VAN ROOYEN, MR

Waverley



- Felicia Yiannis, on work experience

Going to

SAFETY

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- Felicia Yiannis, on work experience

# Vaccine imposes on choice

OAKLEIGH MONASH LEADER 12 JUNE 2007

THE enthusiasm of Monash school principals ("Principals back vaccine", *Leader*, May 29) in applying the Federal Government's Gardasil vaccination program is an imposition on students' freedom of choice that should be respected - with or without parental support.

Experience of ill effects by 26 girls at Oakleigh's Sacred Heart College should not be treated lightly.

The attempt by college principal Christopher Dalton to brush aside those effects by questioning their real cause displays a misunderstanding of, or turning a blind eye to, possible emotional responses in some young adolescent girls who may be suddenly confronted with the fear they could be at risk of being sexually assaulted and raped.

The stress factor is very real.

It could be even more real in young girls from families who live in a deeper ethical environment of sexual integrity. It is most unlikely they would feel comfortable even considering a Gardasil vaccination as they would genuinely see no need for it. Even though the manufacturer must be confident of raking in millions of dollars from this vaccine, it seems the Federal Government, school principals and others have not taken this real and highly probable stress factor into account.

Peter Phillips,

Australian Family Association, Springvale.

## Explaining my support

TO THE Oakleigh community, in relation to last week's pool decision, I offer my files, reports, emails, letters, hand-written notes and anything I have for their scrutiny.

It is my view these documents will show a passage of passion, commitment, manipulation, mistruths and bias by many who have contributed to the final outcome.

I admire the passion, and have waited until



Line-up for a cervical cancer vaccine injection.

all consultations and processes were concluded before speaking at the council meeting last week.

I supported the vote on the basis that both CLAG, Labor branch members and other community members were duded by the previous ALP-controlled council that failed to advise the community that it was working on another option that did not respect the former resolution to reinstate the pool.

Often I have not appreciated nor respected some of the tactics employed during the process of our consultations; nonetheless, I do respect that campaigners have fought on and were able to win the day.

## 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.

I am disappointed that only just over 1 per cent of the community engaged in the process.

I am also disappointed that we are refitting an old pool, that sees us with a pool outside present standards.

The community appeared split on the need for a diving pool, and on this issue I would have preferred to see any forthcoming funds from the State Government to lessen the need for land sales to pay for the pool.

In the end, no matter the means, the most passionate 1 per cent have won the day.

It is expected that the pool will be completed in 2009. I urge the silent 99 per cent to fully support its use and enjoy this facility when it arrives, as no one can doubt that we do indeed have a unique space in this precinct of Oakleigh.

Denise McGill,

Oakleigh Ward councillor.

## Time precedent set

EVERY day we hear about the problems of childhood obesity and the many associated health concerns and costs.

We should be encouraging all children to be as physically active as possible.



This makes the direction of the City of Monash to discontinue netball games starting before 9am at the Waverley District Netball Association Courts in Ashwood's Cassinia Ave incongruous with both public opinion and medical evidence. Games have been played at 8.15am for many years at Ashwood, allowing nine- to 11-year-old children, mostly girls, a first taste of competitive sport.

About 440 children are already affected by a reduction in game time from 40 minutes to 32 minutes to move games to 8.30am.

In future seasons the children are being asked to play even shorter games or at times much later in the day (which will not be family friendly) to ensure games will not start before 9am.

I suggest that as games have been played at the Ashwood courts for many years at the 8.15am time, a precedent has been set and should be allowed to continue at that time.

We cannot allow participation in physical activity to be curtailed.

Joanne Croagh,  
Malvern.