

Faithful

Mayfield to unveil giant mosaic after four years' work

By JANEK SPEIGHT

PROTESTERS against the closure of Beresfield swimming pool are hopeful a rally held last night will have grabbed Newcastle City Council's attention.

More than 500 people attended the site to voice their opinions on the pool's future.

The rally comes amid a report in the *Newcastle Herald* last month stating that Beresfield pool, among other services, could be closed or sold to address worsening council deficits.

President Greg Skinner said the big turn out was a "really pleasing response".

"The canteen ladies were looking at us in exasperation," he said.

"There were a lot of old faces, people who were associated with the

pool in the past, and there was certainly a fair bit of passion.

"It was the last club night of the season but we'd like to think we'll be back next summer."

The rally was held as an information session with questions opened up for attending councillors Jason Dunn, David Compton and federal Labor candidate for Newcastle Sharon Claydon.

Mr Skinner said the pool's closure would harm the community's health, with the swimming club, school kids and elderly all active users of the facilities.

■ AS Beresfield Pool faces an uncertain future, the current plight of Mayfield Pool is more encouraging.

A 50-metre-long mosaic will be officially dedicated to the com-



munity tomorrow after four years of planning and construction.

The initiative was organised by the Save Mayfield Swimming Pool Campaign, which successfully appealed against a council decision to close the pool in 2007.

The mosaic will be unveiled at 10am.

rally to save pool



VOCAL: The community voices its concerns.
Pictures: Mason Max-Hubers



MESSAGE: Barracudas president Greg Skinner.

Public has more time for urban strategy comment

HUNTER residents have another month to comment on the government's proposed urban renewal strategy for Newcastle.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has extended the deadline for submissions until April 19, after requests from

member of the community.

The strategy proposes upgrades of the Hunter Street Mall and Wheeler Place, eight new crossings across the inner city rail corridor to reconnect the inner city with the waterfront, and designates the city's west end as a future

commercial hub with improvements to Birwood Park and Cottage Creek.

The draft strategy can be viewed at a number of Newcastle City Council premises and information can also be found online at planning.nsw.gov.au/revitalisnewcastle.



HEY LOOK: Sharon Claydon with Seth Moore, 11, of Thornton.