



# Sewage suggestion dumped

## BRENDAN CRABB

A REQUEST for a sewage caravan/campervan dump point at the northern end of Bombo Beach has been rejected by Kiama councillors, because of the belief it would increase the illegal camping in the area.

As reported by the *Kiama Independent* in April, the holiday season resulted in an unusually large influx of campers at the northern end of Bombo beach. At the time residents took to social media to vent frustrations about the tourists.

In April, a Kiama Council spokesperson said the land was zoned E2 Environmental Conservation and owned by Sydney Water.

"E2 zoned land does not allow use of the land as a designated camping ground," the spokesperson said.

A report to the May council meeting said camping at Bombo Beach, particularly last Christmas, increased dramatically and was the subject of complaints.

The council report was

provided in response to a request by Councillor Warren Steel at the February meeting to investigate the installation of a sewage dump point.

"Council has received numerous complaints from local residents about the impact of camping including disturbance to local residents, fires, noise, scattering of rubbish, condition of amenities and restricted local access to parking," the report said.

"In addition, council's own cleaning staff have also reported additional cleaning costs associated with litter collection and amenities cleaning.

"The installation of a sewer dump point is expected to increase the use of the area for camping."

A sewage dump point was provided at Kevin Walsh Oval, Jamberoo, which according to the council has increased camping at this location.

"While this is understood to have a positive impact on the local economy there have been a number of issues around the expectation of the provision of facilities such as toilets and showers."

Sewage dump points are also provided at the council's Holiday Parks at Kendalls Beach, Surf Beach and Seven Mile Beach for paying guests.

"Given the above restrictions and issues which apply to Bombo Beach and the increasing demand for this type of camping from the travelling public, it is recommended that the council not proceed with the installation of a sewer dump point at Bombo Beach but investigate the provision of a suitable location for an additional primitive camping site which is removed from the coastal zone and commercial and residential areas of Kiama," the council's report stated.

Cr Steel said he had since changed his mind.

"I didn't realise so many people would be against this . . . I thought it was a good idea at the time, but if the people don't want it you have to be pragmatic," he said.

The cost of installing a dump point, associated water supply and backflow prevention valves was estimated at \$6900.



## HARD RUBBISH

After two years of successful trials the Adelaide Hills Council has decided to continue its hard waste service next financial year.

However, elected members have voted to put the service out to commercial tender for 2014/15.

Previous trials were run by the disabilities services organisation Finding Workable Solutions (FWS).

Waste, health and regulatory services manager Chris Button told a recent meeting that FWS conducted the trials within budget and with "good feedback from the community".

The service, which is capped at \$100,000, offers residents a limited booking pick-up or a drop off service for \$20 or \$10 concession.

In 2013/14 FWS did 417 pick-ups and the council provided 130 tip passes for \$90,000.

Just under 48% of the items collected were diverted from landfill to be reused or recycled.

The pick-ups ranged from Mylor and Scott Creek in the south to Kersbrook and Forreston in the northern Hills.

## DUMP POINTS

The Mt Barker Council is working to establish recreational vehicle (RV) dump points throughout the council region. The facilities provide a place for mobile travellers to dump their wastewater, and have been identified to maximise tourism benefits by drawing these types of travellers to the district.

An RV dump point was installed at the Mt Barker Showgrounds late last

### Council Matters

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year, while additional dump points will be established at the Callington and Meadows recreation grounds this year. According to a council report, "the campervan and motorhome industry is one of the largest tourism growth aspects in Australia".

"Members spend a considerable amount of time travelling and whilst they do not want to pay high costs for campsites, they do spend well on experiences, food, wine and attractions," the report stated.

The council is working with the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia to install the facilities.

## COMMUNITY HEROES

The Mt Barker Council is calling for nominations for its 175th celebrations Community Heroes awards.

The council is commemorating the 175th anniversary of Mt Barker, Nairne and Hahndorf throughout 2014 and as part of the celebrations will present awards to nominated 'community heroes' throughout the district.

The awards will be presented in conjunction with the Mt Barker Rotary Club on Friday, August 8, at Auchendarroch House.

Nominations are being received for heroes from each town within the council district.

Nomination forms are available on the council website and must be received by 5pm on Friday, June 30.

## STIRLING LIBRARY

The Adelaide Hills Council library at Stirling has a new ceiling mounted drop down screen and projector thanks to donations from the Friends of the Library Stirling and the Mt Lofty Districts Historical Society.

"Together with the sound system already funded by the friends, the new equipment will enhance both community and council functions," council chief executive Andrew Aitken said.

"The friends are also sponsoring children's chess sessions on weekends during the winter months."

In other news, the Friends of the Library Woodside donated \$1000 for new games, puzzles and early development toys for the toy collection at that library.

The Stirling Community Shop supported the needs of older residents in the district by gifting \$2000 for large print paperbacks and audio books.

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The Adelaide Hills Council's mobile library truck has been revamped with a new paint job in bright yellows and greens.

Council chief executive Andrew Aitken told councillors last week that the highly visible makeover gave the truck a more contemporary look and ensured it could always be seen on the road.

The library visits 19 locations every fortnight after recently adding the Hills Christian Community School in Verdun to its run.



# Norty Bits: A Platypus in Every Pond

*Heading towards the North East Coast of Tasmania, over the Sideling Range State Forests the Jabiru charabanc had to take a squiz at the Scottsdale.*

With over 8,000 km on the clock, the German Apolloflex solar panels fitted on the roof are working at 10% producing 3 amps of power and the cabin heater is jammed on the Mercedes motorhome. Fortunately the weather sunny with a 20 C maximum range. We must be getting used to it.

Whizzing through the windy forested roads on the Tasman Highway we descend into Scottsdale to refuel. Before you could say "self service" a pump attendant popped out of nowhere, asked us what we wanted, clicked the pump over and filled up the diesel tank. Excellent.

Scottsdale 63 km east of Launceston and 200 metres above sea level a timber town.

Named after the Government Surveyor, James Scott the area was surveyed in 1858-59. It was settled predominantly by Scottish and English settlers and by 1868. The railway had reached the town and by 1893.

Refueled and no diesel on my hands we hit the tarmac only to take a rest stop at the Northeast

Park free campsite on the other side of town.

Tasmania has a strong ethos of welcoming motorhome and caravan travelers. Set in the Scottsdale township the North Eastpark free campsite provides free camping for tents, caravans and campervans. All sites are unpowered and available for up to seven nights. Amenities include hot showers, toilets, dump point and gas barbeques.

Set in peaceful park surroundings, I found a couple sipping a glass of dry white sitting in there camp chairs alongside their caravan, by a mill pond. I asked them what they were doing? "waiting for the platypus to surface" the lady replied.

The conversation turned to the free camping. I was surprised that this idyllic camp site was free and platypi thrown in as it were. The lady added that they would not stay in a paid campsite even though she used to manage one, she added that "over charging caravan parks lose money, they are better to charge lower rates and be full than half empty". This determined point of view is becoming a recurring theme as we see small towns around Australia go out of their way to encourage

the motorhome and caravan public to stay longer and contribute to the local economy.

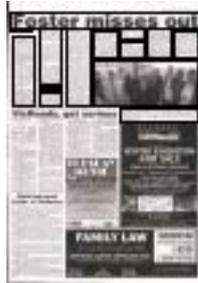
I left them to their monotreme monitoring. Next stop St Helens and the Bay of Fires to see what they have to offer the motorhome and caravan

traveling public.

Scottsdale under the Dorset Council is definitely RV friendly.

Norts





# Foster misses out

By Brad Lester

THE Foster community will have to wait to establish free camping for recreational vehicles and reap the economic benefits of that growing industry.

South Gippsland Shire Council adopted its Recreational Vehicle (RV) Strategy last Wednesday.

That plan will develop long vehicle parking in the shire, erect new signs and conduct a trial of RV parking at Terrill Park Recreation Reserve at Fish Creek for six months over the peak tourist season, with a maximum stay of two nights.

The strategy will also maintain the Bass Valley Camping Ground between Loch and Poowong, and Franklin River Reserve near Toora as free camping sites, with a maximum stay of two nights.

Council will also work with the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia to promote the shire as a RV friendly destination.

The Foster community had hoped council would support the creation of a free camping spot for RVs at the Foster Station Park. If that proposal proceeded, a dump point would be built at the town's service station.

While council did not back that plan last Wednesday, council has not ruled out considering the proposal in the future.

Council will offer communities wishing to attract motorhomes up to \$3000 to install dump points to boost

tourism.

The points will enable travellers to dispose of waste and council hopes they will spend money in town while doing so.

Cr Andrew McEwen successfully pushed for council to support dump

points financially.

"The RV market is growing rapidly," he said, noting the industry was worth billions of dollars.

Cr Mohya Davies said the strategy was a start and would help promote South Gippsland as an attractive destination for RV users.

"It is important we adopt the strategy and look at it within 12 months time," she said.

"I know the Foster Community Association will be disappointed with me but we have to make a decision that suits the community as it stands at the moment."

Cr Davies noted the Foster Chamber of Commerce had not commented on the strategy because it felt it should support small business and caravan parks were small businesses.

Some caravan park operators are concerned establishing free camping would rob them of income.

Foster CFA captain David Jones addressed council, also speaking as a member of the Foster Station Park Advisory Committee, in support of establishing an RV stop at the park.

"There will be virtually no cost to council of policing the area but the benefits to the Foster community and to the shops would be immeasurable," he said.

"Foster could be South

Gippsland's first RV friendly town."

Toora Newsagency proprietor Irene Spooner said every town in the shire seeking RV facilities should be supported.

"Our motto is come for the beauty. Let's not make it stay if you pay," she said.

"Why should we restrict some people from coming to

our shire because we don't like the way they come?"

Karen Barwick lives opposite the Franklin River Reserve and said many RV users find the site appealing and well maintained.

But not everyone was in support. Victorian Caravan Parks Association representative Fenna Van der Meulen read a letter from

Toora Tourist Park proprietor Rachel Brown opposing free camping at Franklin River, given that would take business from her park.

Ms Brown wrote that she had been treated with hostility by council when she addressed council recently, and therefore Ms Van der Meulen read the letter.