

CONTACT US

PHONE \ 03 9249 5327
FAX \ 03 9741 7925

LOCATION \ Suite 1/75 Watton Street, Werribee

DISTRIBUTION \ 1300 656 678
distribution@fermax.com.au

ADVERTISING

SALES DIRECTOR \ BEN SUTTON
bsutton@starweekly.com.au

SALES MANAGER \ JAMES STUART
jstuart@starweekly.com.au

GENERAL SALES INQUIRIES
westads@starweekly.com.au

CLASSIFIEDS \ 1300 666 808
FAX \ 5945 0667
EMAIL \ sales@networkclassifieds.com.au

EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF \ STEPHEN LINNELL
slinnell@starweekly.com.au

GENERAL EDITORIAL INQUIRIES
westeditorial@starweekly.com.au

COMMUNITY CALENDAR ENTRIES
communitycalendar@starweekly.com.au

Domain

REAL ESTATE SALES DIRECTOR \ JACK GILLESPIE
jgillespie@starweekly.com.au

ACCOUNT MANAGER
KARLY TURNER \ kturner@starweekly.com.au

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THE HILLIER VIEW

Kevin Hillier wants the council to live by the letter

This week's column is brought to you by the letter R. Many believe local government should concentrate on the 3 Rs and leave the rest to those above them in the political totem pole, but for a variety of reasons those days are long gone. The three Rs in question are roads, rubbish and rates, the traditional domain of councils and rightly so, though the roads get murky when local roads become state roads and the funding and maintenance is the higher authority's responsibility.

That letter R (responsibility) gets thrown around a lot in government circles but is usually preceded with the words 'not our' or 'that's their'. Roads are still a major issue and big bucks are involved, with \$37.1 million budgeted for in the next year by council, who are quick to alert everyone to the difference between the roads the state pays for and the ones they do. Here's a new R to cover that - rats. As in, We the Ratepayers (the most important R) don't give a rat's who claims to pay for it because we do anyway. Just get it done.

I am pleased to see rubbish is still high on

the agenda, actually most things to do with rubbish are high. The hill ours sits on in Werribee is very high, as is the pungent odour, if the wind is high to very high. The cost of travelling overseas to see what to do with our rubbish is also very high, as is the number of people it takes to visit these overseas places on fact-finding missions. The level of interest and action after these trips is generally not as high as the UV reading in the European cities these events are held in. I personally can't wait for the report on the three week visit which can then be recycled so the circle of rubbish can roll on.

Another R that is rearing its head more often is rorts. This has been more prevalent at state level, where those not implicated are saying it is not because they did not want to be, it's just that they weren't asked. Really? If that is how you really feel, here are another two R words - resign or retire, or as we like to say in the west - rack off.

Here is a Reality Report for all those in any elected office - get off your Rs and work for the people who voted you in. ■

If you have any news or events, let me know at kevin@howdypartnersmedia.com.au



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Briefs

Robbery charges

Police have charged another two people over a series of armed robberies in Altona and Hoppers Crossing on April 18 and 19. A 41-year-old Altona man was arrested in Werribee and charged with three counts of armed robbery, aggravated burglary, false imprisonment, assault-related offences and an attempted carjacking. A 30-year-old Point Cook woman was also arrested and charged with two counts of armed robbery. A 39-year-old Werribee man was arrested in relation to the robberies last month.

Reconciliation Week

Wyndham council will host a range of events for Reconciliation Week from May 27 to June 3. Performer Ian Michael will also present his show *HART*, about the experiences of stolen generations, at the Wyndham Cultural Centre on June 1 and 2. Details: www.wyndham.vic.gov.au

Grants available

Applications are open for the Westpac Foundation's annual community grants program. Two hundred grants of \$10,000 each will be available for not-for-profit organisations that are working towards a fairer nation. Applications and nominations are open until 5pm on Friday, June 8. See www.westpac.com.au/grants for details.

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WESTERN PLAINS SOUTH GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Background Report

Wyndham City and City of Melton are in the first stages of jointly preparing Management Plans for the Western Plains South Green Wedge to support sustainable land use, sustainable land management, and sustainable development of the Green Wedge.



Come along to a community drop in session to find out more, chat to council officers and the consultant, at any time during the following sessions.

MELTON
Tuesday 22 May, 5pm - 8pm
Melton Library & Learning Hub, 31 McKenzie Street, Melton.

EYNEBURY
Thursday 24 May, 11.30am - 2.30pm
Eynesbury Discovery Centre, 481 Eynesbury Road, Eynesbury.

WERRIBEE
Tuesday 22 May, 11.30am - 2.30pm
Werribee Civic Centre, 45 Princes Highway, Werribee.

LITTLE RIVER
Thursday 24 May, 5pm - 8pm
Little River Mechanics Institute Hall, 8 Rothwell Road, Little River.

To find out more visit: www.theloop.wyndham.vic.gov.au or Sam Freeman-Mok 9742 0777

