

Online chatter about mayor Clinton Mead

It was a backroom deal – what would he know, he's a novice. Fred Borg should have been voted in. Next time give us, the voters, the choice. **Linda Jokinen**

After dealing with the local council for both business and personal issues I have come to the conclusion that they are a complete waste of time. **Mick Smith**

Clinton Mead is a great choice! He may be young, but has lived in Campbelltown his entire life and is passionate about the area. He is intelligent and a forward-thinker and unlike some of his older counterparts, he has the energy and drive to get things done. **Julianne Horsman**

Should be Fred Borg in the chair. **Sharon Galway**

Now Campbelltown can go forward with a young and vibrant leader with the Liberal approach. Well done! **Steve Johnston**

Very concerned; he is from the same party as the new senator for NSW who believes that the streets are safer if more people carried guns. **Angela Catallo**

I didn't get to vote for mayor? Why? **David Connor**

Congratulations to our new mayor and I hope to see him at many Campbelltown Chamber of Commerce meetings. **Anne Parnham**

Get behind him. Despite reservations about backroom deals, it's over now and we have a new mayor. Clinton is young, enthusiastic and competent. He deserves our full support. **Roger Powell**

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Scenic Hills cemetery

The relative silence that first greeted the latest attack on Campbelltown's Scenic Hills can probably be explained by the way the Catholic Cemeteries Board blind sided the community about its proposed cemetery for the Scenic Hills.

The board gathered its information in secret and launched its project at an invitation-only media conference that included influential Catholic community leaders, (we, the owners of Varro Ville House in the middle of this proposed cemetery were not invited and only briefed later). The role of these Catholic leaders seems to have been to "spruik" the project for the press and within the community.

The board of the Campbelltown Catholic Club, Bishop Ingham and state MP Bryan Doyle (who is NOT the MP for this area at Varroville) have all come out supporting the concept. This is a cynical use of the church and church leaders for commercial purposes.

Scratch beneath the surface and it's clear that there is a lot of money in this and a lot of unanswered questions about the choice of this site. It's time for all good Catholics to stand up and let their leaders know that they won't be told what to think, say and do . . . and overturn the money lenders' tables in the temple. **Jacqui Kirkby, Varroville**

Goodbye, koala column

I was saddened to see Robert Close would be closing — excuse the pun — his Mac Koala column. For 20 years it has been a feature I have looked forward to reading.

I have to admit I have not sighted a koala in the local area, although I have heard their mating roars near Wedderburn. With the incoming government ramping up what is

euphemistically called "infrastructure" (more roads, heavier traffic, more building) I think we have a right to be concerned for the impact on our wildlife. **Freddie Hill, Eschol Park**

Rob Close has kept us all enthralled with the antics of the local koala population for years, freely giving of his time and funding much of the work himself. The respect he has earned from the local and wider community is well deserved. We would like to thank Rob and his dedicated team for all their hard work, and the *Advertiser* for backing their work. But ask the public to remember the koalas still need us all to keep an eye on them so that our healthy furry friends can be with us for many generations to come. **Pat Durman, Macarthur branch of the National Parks Association of NSW**

Cut perks to MPs

Apart from Tony Abbott's highly likely influence on our physical fitness as a nation, we hope his reforms will include a tidying up of pay and entitlements to politicians, through a comprehensive review of financial perks, including free taxis, daily allowances, resettlement entitlements, and perhaps much tighter management of expenses claimed for meals and drinks.

The Australian citizenry is sick and tired of the government's fiscal irresponsibility, deficits and debt, and unscrupulous spending and licentious living by bureaucrats, all at the expense of the taxpayer. Recent research does show that Australian MPs are among the best paid in the world, enjoying more perks in domestic and global travel, Gold Pass benefits for retired MPs, with pay rises that are a lot more than many earn annually! **Dr Poobal Naidoo, Blair Athol**

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Chatter from website and Facebook

[Our last Mac Koala column — a huge thank-you to Rob Close] My favourite part of the newspaper! **Tammy de Farria**

I love this column! Thanks so much for all the great info you have shared with our community about our beloved koala population! I met you one day when you found "Charlotte" in our tree! So exciting. **Mark N Kathy**

Rob's column was always a delight for Fairfax production people. His tidy English complements great science. Thank you, sir. **Fairfax Community Newspapers sub-editor Paul Wiggins**

[Might a local face have won Werriwa for the Liberals?] Mark Koosache appears to have a very high opinion of himself — go away, we don't need Kevin Rudd behaviour in the Liberal Party. I am a constituent and would have come under the same technicality as Mr Koosache. He could have done what I did — and helped Kent Johns. Mr Koosache also appears to be ill-informed; there have been other local candidates who have run for Werriwa who have not achieved anywhere near the swing Kent Johns achieved and that is because he had a team who respected him. I am sure Mr Koosache, with his comments, can forget his political aspirations in Werriwa. **Paulene Radley**

Hey Paulene, you are welcome to your opinion. My initial application was white-anted by members of the party who wanted Mr Johns to run, despite him not being a local and despite not really having the numbers at local level. Paulene, you don't understand the slightest about the issues that led to me being dumped as a candidate so please don't comment. Nobody — especially me — claimed Kent to be anything but a good guy. **Mark Koosache**

[Parents want kids' ward at Campbelltown Hospital to stay] What a joke! I'm pretty sure the hospital managers don't have any clue what they're doing. **Mystified**

We need more facilities in Campbelltown Hospital not less. Has the government heard our population is increasing? **Mary**

[Campbelltown bush battle for koalas won against the odds] Two questions. Was the public meeting in 1988 to galvanise support to save the koalas held at one of the reserves in Airds (possibly Smiths Creek), subject of the proposed redevelopment? After 27 years, has Campbelltown Council approved a Koala development plan? **Wendy Davies**

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