

Relieving nappy stress

Unneeded, disposable nappies sitting in the cupboard could make a real difference to families in the Kingborough community.

From May 7 to 21, national charity The Nappy Collective is encouraging locals to clean out their cupboards and donate their leftover, unused disposable nappies to babies of families in crisis.

According to the charity, 280,000 Australia children across 150,000 families don't have enough nappies to keep them healthy and comfortable, resulting in a situation known as "nappy stress".

The Nappy Collective said over the last two years, the nappy stress figure has worsened by 12 per cent, with families faced with a difficult choice between buying other essentials, such as food and medicine, or enough nappies.

The charity said nappy stress affects families living below the poverty line or in crisis and can have serious impacts on the financial, social, physical and mental wellbeing of families and children.

"Nappy stress is driven by lack of income, high cost of living and broader social disadvantage, all of which have

been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic," commented CEO of The Nappy Collective, Nataly Bovopoulos.

"Single mothers have been hit the hardest by unemployment during the recession and increased housing costs across Australia are making it more difficult for some families to be able to afford nappies.

"Many women and children who seek refuge from family violence flee their homes with nothing, so this support means the world to them and to us."

The charity also works with We Care Connect to distribute nappies where they are needed.

"We know that in poorer families nappies just don't get changed enough," stated Derryk Klarkowski, Executive Officer at We Care Connect.

"But what do you do if your purse is empty and you don't have the amenities to wash reusable nappies, not to mention buying them in the first place?"

Kingston nappy collection points include the Kingston Community Health Centre at 29 John Street, the Mother Goose Baby Shop at 21 Westside Circle and at the Good Price Pharmacy Warehouse at 3/14 Channel Highway.



Tasmanian leader of The Nappy Collective Kelly Direen of Margate recently met with Kingston local and Tassie Mums founder Clair Harris as part of The Nappy Collective Drive running during May. The Nappy Collective hope to provide Tassie Mums with enough nappies to fill their yearly needs thanks to the drive. (PS)



COMMENT COLUMN

with Kingborough Councillor Gideon Cordover

Tree-lined street strategy

I would like a Street Tree Strategy for Kingborough. Let me explain what it is and why I think it will be helpful.

A Street Tree Strategy contains a vision, principles and goals for trees in the public realm.

I'd like it to include canopy coverage targets and a plan for improving our townships' green living infrastructure.

It is a document that explains best-practice guidelines for how to establish, manage, protect and enhance Kingborough's urban forest.

Our municipality is blessed with incredible natural landscapes and vistas.

From our remnant native forested hillsides to our incredible coastal cliffs, if you like nature, Kingborough has it all.

We are also in the midst of a growth spurt.

Our community has record levels of development, with new families moving in droves to benefit from the great lifestyle that living in Kingborough affords.

We should be planning now for decades ahead, so that the growth we experience today does not come at the expense of our future neighbourhood amenity.

One way of improving our built environment is to make plans for beautiful, tree-lined streets and to recognise trees as critical 'green infrastructure' which provide economic and social value just like our 'grey infrastructure' does.

I would argue that our urban forest has some ethereal and spiritual value too, but we will leave that conversation for another day.

In Hobart, residential streets like Fitzroy Place and Landsdowne Crescent have benefitted from far-sighted street tree planting in the 1930s.

Whilst native trees have their own beauty and charm, deciduous trees allow for shade in summer and solar access in winter.

Some species are also better at handling pollution than others.

The City of Hobart Street Tree Strategy is a wonderfully informative document that asks, 'Is Hobart a beautiful city in a beautiful place or a city in a beautiful place?'

I think we should ask the same question about Kingborough's townships and urbanised areas.

People are moving into Kingborough because of its natural setting, but are we doing enough to ensure that in 50 or 80 years that we will have welcoming boulevards like Salamanca Place or Landsdowne Crescent?

The same report for the City of Hobart extolls the benefits of street trees.

For example, "trees absorb particulate matter and are a key mechanism in scrubbing a city's air; indeed, they are one of the only and best 'dust mops' available!"

The report gives evidence for trees improving physical health and wellbeing.

In commercial areas, trees improve the economy by attracting customers and enticing them to stay longer and spend more.

Studies have shown that living in a street with 10 or more trees gave health benefits equivalent to being seven years younger.

Street trees lower the crime rate, reduce vandalism and improve childhood development.

One study from Perth found that "a broad-leaved tree on the street verge increases the median property price by about \$16,889".

The ecosystem services provided by trees in urban environments are significant, intercepting stormwater, sequestering carbon and cleaning the air.

In the City of Dandenong, you can even browse the edible fruits and veggies being grown by their council gardeners on roundabouts and verges.

In developing the Kingston Place Strategy, over 1850 people were asked what future directions they wanted for central Kingston.

Overwhelmingly, people said they wanted their central business district to be green, clean and connected.

People asked for lush green shaded streets and unique natural features, bringing nature into the centre, increased tree canopy, scenic views and green spaces.

Currently, there is no master plan for our urban forest. A Street Tree Strategy for Kingborough will give us a way forward.



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Cat prohibited area consultation

Kingborough Councillors unanimously voted in favour of consulting the community on a proposal for Cat Prohibited Areas in council reserves near the Peter Murrell Reserve.

The decision was made at a council meeting on May 3. A Cat Management Strategy, which included eight recommendations for improving cat management across Southern Tasmania, was also accepted by the councillors.

In a media release on May 6, Cr Paula Wriedt said Peter Murrell Reserve is already declared a Cat Prohibited Area as it is a biodiversity hotspot and the unanimous decision to approve public consultation on nearby council reserves was a positive step forward.

"The Kingborough Council has been one of the leading councils in dealing with cat management," Cr Wriedt said. "This is a positive step forward in further strengthening our management of cats."

"The Algona, Coffee Creek and Huntingfield Reserves are all owned by council and lie immediately adjacent to the Peter Murrell Reserve."

"Peter Murrell Reserve is already declared a Cat Prohibited Area as it is a biodiversity hotspot."

"We have other prohibited areas around Kingborough such as Borenia Beach and the Suncoast track," Cr Wriedt noted.

"Cat Prohibited Areas are a very important part of protecting the wildlife in those areas."

"Anyone who's ever owned a cat will know that if you let them outside they roam, so it is important that we create areas which are safe from cats and bring the community along with us."

"A stray cat will kill 750 animals and birds every year, so this is an important area to protect."

"Nineteen native mammals and 90 bird species have been recorded within the diverse habitats of Peter Murrell Reserve."

"Among the conservation-significant species are the threatened eastern quoll, eastern-barred bandicoot, Tasmanian devil, forty-spotted pardalote, grey goshawk and Swift parrot."

Cr Wriedt said the Cat Management Strategy provided direction for future cat management activities and highlighted that there was more to do to increase public education in responsible cat ownership.

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