

also witness unattended dogs pooing in barbecue eating areas, kids playgrounds, sports fields (where people land in it when playing sport) and grass areas where mums and bubs clubs gather and the babies crawl in it. The list goes on.

Yes, the rangers and park staff patrol but the ownership and responsibility is the dog owners'.

Please think of others and pick up after your pooch!

And a big thank you to the responsible and considerate dog owners who do pick up after their dogs. I'm sure the park staff love you!

**Name and address not supplied**

### RESCUE DOG

Here's a pic to show Knuckles settling in with the family after living with us for four weeks. Thanks to Monika's Doggie Rescue, all are happy. Please consider whether you could do the same for another dog, especially an older bloke. Knuckles is ten years old and will have the best for the rest of his life.

**Mary Goldfinch, Bondi Junction**



### THE QUEENS PARK PUPPY KICKER

In reply to Narelle from Waverley's letter about the man in Queens Park who kicked her puppy (Letters, The Beast, June 2013), I think I have also encountered this man who jogs with his son. My whippet ran over to him and he started yelling abuse at the dog and me. I had an argument with this arrogant piece of work too.

Perhaps he shouldn't be jogging in an off-leash area? He seemed like an upper class self-righteous jerk and I hope Beast readers run into him again and give him a mouthful. Sorry to hear about your pug Narelle!

**Nicole, Queens Park**

### HORSE'S REPLY

Dear Rebecca (Letters, The Beast, June 2013), Thanks for your

concern and for pointing me in the right direction. As I write this letter I am some 7000kms away in a place called Cambodia. Look it up on the map. It's a Third World country and one of the poorest in the world. I am a volunteer for a Cambodian human rights organisation called Equitable Cambodia. Look it up.

These people are the most content people I have ever met and can raise a beaming smile and have a joke despite their circumstances. They do not worry about where they will buy their next Bugaboo, latest four-wheel drive, or when the next supermarket is being built. They simply get on with their lives.

So please don't preach to me about "sitting on the fence". As far as the Bronte RSL development goes, yes, I was the president of the Bronte RSL and as such could not get involved in any development proposal issues. It's called conflict of interest. Look it up!

As the RSL Club Ltd is no longer trading we no longer have any say in what happens to the building - not that we ever did - as that is a matter for the Bronte RSL Sub-Branch, which owns the property.

According to the development plan a space has been allocated for a new "RSL club".

But the costs of setting up a new Bronte RSL Club are well out of our reach as the club was bordering on insolvency due to lack of support and once the news got out about the sub-branch selling the building we were on a hiding to nothing.

I care about the Bronte area. My kids went to school and grew up here. There were no four-wheel drives parked at every school intersection then, or houses selling for \$16 million, or trendy cafes... and on it goes.

If you care about the area so much why not oust the council and form your own Save Bronte political party? It's all right flying banners and polluting the area with posters and the like, but if you people are really serious then do something serious about it.

So next time some of you people pull into the driveway of your multi-million dollar homes with your three-car garages, remember that some people also objected to your development plans. It can be called hypocrisy. Look it up.

If you really want to see how people value life, pop over to Phnom Penh and do something to really help a community. It's called compassion. Look it up!

**Duncan Horscroft, former President of the Bronte RSL Club Ltd.**

### ENTITLED TO OPPOSE

I don't understand why people like 'The Broke' (Letters, The Beast, June 2013) have this 'it's all your fault and may you burn in hell' attitude to those of us who are against a massive non-complying overdevelopment at the Bronte RSL site.

Actually, the fact that the Bronte RSL social club went broke has nothing to do with me but has a lot to do with changes in society. It might be sad and frustrating for The Broke and his very few friends but these days less and less people like going to these type of social clubs.

The Bronte RSL is not alone. The Clovelly RSL is gone, the Newtown RSL is gone and the Randwick Rugby Club is gone. Bowling clubs, political parties, community groups and clubs all over the Western world are struggling for members. Society changes all the time and Sydney is a very different place than it was in the 1940s.

The argument that I should have gone to a club that I had no interest in attending and stopped it going broke is ridiculous. By this logic we should all go out and buy a Ford to stop the company leaving Australian shores. I used to like going to video rental shops but the one in Bronte closed some time back. Should I now go on some sort of jihad against downloaders because they caused the shop I liked to disappear?

Why should I be forced into an activity I have no interest in doing? We live in a free society. I can choose what activities I like to do and where I spend my hard earned cash. I can make donations to whatever causes I like, and I do, but the Bronte RSL social club was never high on my list of organisations in need.

Like it or not, the Bronte RSL building has been decaying for many years (no, it didn't just suddenly start to fall apart last year). It does seem that it was allowed to fall into a state of disrepair so it could be flogged off to the highest bidder. Even if you accept The Broke's

bizarre argument that I and others opposed to the DA should not have let the RSL social club go broke, the community doesn't deserve the building currently proposed. The developer and his RSL-out mates could have put forward a building that complied with the local planning laws and still made a handsome profit and had a space for the RSL social club. This development proposal is a grab for cash at the expense of us residents. Arguing that locals opposed to the overdevelopment deserve some sort of revenge building that will be a permanent scar on our neighbourhood shows an obnoxious and vindictive trait in those who spout this view. Let's have a debate based on facts and logic not one laced with venom and schadenfreude.

**Bronte Boy, Bronte**

### LET SLEEPING GODS LIE

In response to Liam of Coogee's 'Free Advertising Space for the Chosen Few' (Letters, The Beast, June 2013): Liam, seriously mate, why would you let yourself get riled up about a bunch of flowers and a couple of statues in a tiny little corner of Coogee? I'm not at all religious and I find the idea of worshipping a fence post quite bizarre, but sometimes it's best to let sleeping Gods - I mean dogs - lie.

**Meni, Coogee**

### MARY OF COOGEE

Thank you, Liam of Coogee (Letters, The Beast, June 2013). Your feature on the ridiculous Mary of Coogee shrine at Dunningham Reserve is spot on.

How can Randwick Council possibly justify letting a prized spot at Coogee be taken over by some religious zealots? What place does religion have in our parks? None.

Council's stance on this matter opens the door to any group in society to take over a bit of the park for their own personal message board. It's time Council removed the 'Mary of Coogee' shrine.

**Johnno, Coogee**

### THE VIRGIN OF THE FENCE

Regarding the shrine at the northern headland of Coogee Beach, I'd like to point out that the "appearance of the Virgin Mary" was not a hoax. It was a very interesting optical

illusion, spotted by the then owner of the Coogee Laundrette, and well documented in photography and TV (it was shown on Ten News, whose publicity triggered the hordes that consequently arrived there).

The illusion could only be seen from a small stretch of Beach Street near the laundrette in the late afternoon, when the shadows of the slightly crooked fence posts gave the illusion of drapery seen in typical statues of the Virgin - the imagination did the rest.

Being an artist, I actually did a painting of the illusion at the time.



People, in their ignorance, started leaving flowers and icons, ironically destroying the very illusion they had come to worship. The destruction was completed when angry residents pushed down the fence - the repairs to the fence never gave quite the same result.

I have no personal objection to the shrine. It is a tribute to people's ignorance and the flowers are nice, especially when they fall into the ocean and get washed up onto Coogee Beach.

**Heidi Hereth, Coogee**

### BATTLE OF THE BILL POSTERS

Dear Beast, I am not one to speak up much nor use profanities, but something has me really irked. I live on Old South Head Road and witness the battle between bill poster and anti-bill poster citizens.

We are now at the level where some \*insertyourfavouriteexpletive\* are cutting down the posters and leaving them at the base of the posts. I just don't get it. These crunched up masses of poster and sticky tape lining the street are aesthetically worse than the posters.

What do they think happens to them? An anti-litter fairy comes along and picks them up? Well I can tell you they don't; they sit on

the street or end up in the gutter. No wonder the drains get blocked and overflow when it rains. As a resident I would much prefer to look at a poster on a pole than to have them make my street look trashy. If you are bothered by the posters that much, cut them down, but do yourself and the community a favour and put them in a bin. I look forward to being relieved of the urge to shout profanities at you.

**Annie Hopps, Bellevue Hill**

### SHARING IS CARING

Dear Beast, In relation to the letter printed in the June edition regarding dedicated parking bays for shared cars, I would firstly like to applaud Waverley Council (and other Sydney councils that have also taken this initiative on board) for their forward thinking approach in facilitating this type of service to exist. Secondly, I'd like to ask the author of the previous letter one simple question: If a person lives in Bondi Junction, which is a service and transport hub, why does this person need their own car?

There are trains and buses that go in all directions within a (maximum) ten-minute walk. There are also shops and services to fulfil most needs within a ten-minute walk. It would seem that given all these conveniences, a personally owned car is actually not essential.

In consideration of the above situation, then perhaps the newly aware car-less Bondi Junction/ Sydney resident might then be quite pleased that there is a shared car, located within a convenient walking distance, there for them to access on those infrequent occasions when it is preferable to be able to use a car.

If I haven't already done so, I'd like to strongly encourage the previous author (and her neighbours) to ask herself those very important questions about 'needing' a car, relative to living so close to (almost) everything.

**Isabelle, Bondi**

### A LETTER FOR PEARL

Hello Pearl, I have been a bit slow in getting around to reading the April edition of The Beast. I note you gave yummy mummies a spray for their parking practices, one of which was the use of nanna's disability parking permit.