

Council happenings . . .

with Mayor
Glenn Wall

Martins Creek Quarry Meeting.

Last Thursday evening in excess of 100 people attended a public meeting in Paterson to hear of Railcorp's proposed expansion of the Martins Creek Quarry.

Residents from Paterson, Martins Creek and surrounding areas expressed their concerns in relation to the current operations of the Quarry and its impact upon them now without considering the prospect of any increases. They expressed concern regarding Railcorp's lack of communication.

Other key issues raised at the meeting included the volume of truck movements, driver behaviour, dust and noise, pollution from the site, the impact of blasting operations on nearby properties, operating hours, curfews on truck movements, the heritage of Paterson Village, impact upon native flora and fauna, and condition and funding of roads.

Railcorp accepted that it has a lot of work to do to address these issues, and agreed to improve its communication with the community. Also, they will establish a Community Reference Group to address the issues for consideration with a DA, which as state significant development would be submitted to the Minister for Planning under Part 3A of the EP&A Act.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Hon. George Souris, Member for Upper Hunter, Mr. Mitchell Bennet (DECC), Mr Owen Henry and Mr. Owen Gill from Railcorp, and the community for attending the meeting.

Child Safety in Driveways.

Most drivers are aware of their car's blind spots, however, when reversing; there is a large blind spot space behind the vehicle. An NRMA Insurance study measured the reversing visibility for many popular vehicles. The study shows large differences in results even with some of the best vehicles having a substantial Blind Spot that could easily hide a child from a driver's view.

Tragically one child, often a toddler, is run over in the driveway of their home every week in Australia. The vehicle is usually only moving very slowly and is often driven by a parent, family members or friends.

Please remember; always supervise your children whenever a vehicle is to be moved. For further information visit www.kidsandtraffic.mq.edu.au or www.nrma.com.au/reversing

NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards.

I would encourage Organisers of Local "Not for Profit" organisations to nominate their most dedicated workers or members for the inaugural "NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards".

This is a wonderful initiative to honour the contribution the State's 1.4 million volunteers make to NSW. Within our own local communities, we appreciate the tremendous amount of exemplary work undertaken by our volunteers. The Awards are being promoted and conducted on a Regional basis throughout the State. Regional Award Ceremonies will take place in October with Regional winners then taking part in the State judging. The Awards ceremony to honour all winners will be held on 5 December 2007 which is International Volunteer Day.

The organisers of the Awards, The Centre for Volunteering, is the peak body for more than 330,000 Not for Profit Organisations in NSW. For further information about the Awards, or to nominate a Volunteer contact "The Centre for Volunteering" on (02) 9261 3600 or visit www.volunteering.com.au
22 August 2007