

Food van fury over council trading ban

■ Sophia Constantine

Popular food trucks setting up shop at Dreamers Corner in South Hedland were last week told to pack up and leave the area for seven days, with claims they were in breach of council policy.

The Town of Port Hedland says its trading in public places policy states no more than three vendors at a time can use the nominated sites.

Mayor Camilo Blanco said food vans operating in the area, on the corner of North Circular and Hamilton roads, had been in breach of the policy.

They had been unable to resolve the issue themselves and the council had been forced to step in and ban all vans from the area until a resolution could be found, he said. But many traders branded the policy unfair and said the loss of a week's income had hit them hard.

Ando's Kebabs manager Don Kanishka, who has been operating in the area for more than five years, said he was disappointed to be told to stop trading for a full week.

Mr Kanishka said he respected the council's limit on foods vans but believed it was unfair those who had been there the longest had to suffer.

"I have always been first or second to arrive for almost six years to trade at this spot and we have never had to change our location," he said. "Vans that normally trade in Port Hedland have come to this spot and don't respect the council."

Putri's food van owner Rapie Bilda said the loss of seven days of income had had a significant



Dawns Putri Bilda and Rapie Bilda. Picture: Sophia Constantine

impact on his business. Mr Bilda suggested the council review its policy instead of handing out more trade licences.

"We've tried everywhere but other areas are so quiet, which means we are not getting a sustainable income," he said.

"Dreamers is the only place that we have received really good business."

Mr Bilda said there was a high level of competition in the area and vans often arrived on-site as early as 5am to secure a spot.

He said the area often looked like it had been transformed into a food market, which people enjoyed.

Mr Blanco said while a "first come, first served" policy had previously applied, the issue had

since been resolved with the introduction of a new schedule between the vendors, which would allow for each van to be allocated time at different locations around the town without breaching any policies.

"If disputes arise that cannot be resolved by vendors and the town is called in to adjudicate, a report will go to council recommending a cessation of all licences involved in the dispute until the matter is resolved," he said.

"The policy exists because there needs to be a balance between the presence of food vans, who do not have overheads such as rates and rent, and established food vendors, such as restaurants, cafes, who do have these overheads."

Lucky escape after car swept off crossing

■ Sophia Constantine

Four people had a lucky escape after their vehicle ended up partly submerged in the Turner River about 56km south of South Hedland last week.

A police search and rescue mission started with SES Water Police about 8.30am on Friday to

find the occupants after the vehicle was spotted submerged in the Turner River. It is believed the car had been washed away from Pippingarra crossing.

Police said about 10.30am on Friday, BHP Billiton staff advised an ore train had collected four men the night before after it was flagged down. Police were

told the men were wet and in shock, stating their car had been washed off the crossing, forcing them to swim to safety.

South Hedland Senior Sergeant Dean Snashall said police were still investigating the whereabouts of the vehicle's occupants to obtain more information about what occurred.

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OBSCURA | WORN LAND EXHIBITION - FINAL WEEKS

15 local photographers turn an abstract lens on our Pilbara backyard - experience its 100-metre gorges, prehistoric mountains, and hidden swimming holes as you've not seen them before! Exhibition closes end of April.

Courthouse Gallery
16 Edgar Street, Port Hedland

SAT 8 | SUN 9

9am - 4pm
both days

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Courthouse Gallery

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If you're a maker, crafter, artist, designer, foodie or musician, apply to be a stallholder at the 13th May edition of the West End Markets. Complete the application form on the Courthouse Gallery website, and submit it to markets@form.net.au before Monday, 17th April.

www.courthousegallery.com.au



For all events, RSVP: KATIE@FORM.NET.AU

Port Hedland Courthouse Gallery,
16 Edgar Street, Port Hedland, WA 6721

New speech clinic to service town

■ Sophia Constantine

A Perth-based speech pathology clinic has expanded its private services to Port Hedland for the first time this month.

Smart Talk Speech Pathology's Genevieve Wilmot, who recently moved from Perth to Port Hedland to start up the private service, said she realised there was a need for speech pathology services in Port Hedland and saw the area as a good opportunity. "The hospitals in

Kids in regional areas need the same support as kids in metropolitan areas.

Genevieve Wilmot

regional areas are often quite overloaded because they have so many different areas to service with long waitlists," she said.

"Kids in regional areas need the

same support as kids in metropolitan areas and having a private service means they can access it (the therapy) more regularly.

She said it was important speech and language therapy services were made available on a regular basis because long waiting times were a disadvantage for a patient who suffered from language and speech impairments.

Speech Pathology Australia data has revealed 20 per cent of four-year-olds have difficulty under-

standing or using language and 14 per cent of 15-year-olds have only basic literacy skills.

Common signs of speech impairment may include difficulty reading, spelling and writing, and stuttering.

St Cecilia's Primary School and Port Hedland Primary School have provided a space for Ms Wilmot to work out of as an alternative to home visits.

Ms Wilmot said operating in a classroom environment made it

easier to communicate with teachers while observing children in class.

She said it also made it more convenient for parents, who often had to take time off work to take their child to an appointment.

Port Hedland Primary School deputy principal Trent Collins said the service was beneficial because it provided parents with another option.

More details are available at smarttalk.net.au.

Contest to unearth talents

■ Taylor Amonini

Local performers will set South Hedland's town square alight next week as they show off their singing, rapping, dancing and other skills for National Youth Week.

The week of auditions will culminate at the annual Hedland's Got Talent final next Friday.

Entering its eighth year, the Youth Involvement Council event is open to entrants aged eight-25 to attend auditions at YIC HQ on 34 Lawson Street during the week.

If they are successful, participants will go through to the final at Hedland Town Square.

YIC manager of youth development Kristal-Kareen Wyllie said

she was excited to see what this year would hold.

"The YIC holds the HGT competition during National Youth Week and it is our way to acknowledge young people for their individual talents," she said.

"It is a really enjoyable night and each year keeps getting bigger and bigger."

At the final, YIC will also present the Hedland Youth Awards in which young people are nominated for their contributions to the community in the categories of sport, community and culture, arts and writing and education/vocation.

To find out more about how to take part in the talent contest, contact YIC on 9140 1272.



Harrison Norman, 4, takes part in Harmony Day. Picture: Sophia Constantine

School celebrates Harmony

■ Sophia Constantine

Students at Baler Primary School in South Hedland were last week among the many Australians to take part in Harmony Day.

Harmony Day represents and celebrates Australia's cultural diversity through inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging.

Baler Primary School teacher Alana Hartley said as a school community, the school had decided promoting Harmony Day to students in every class from kindergarten through to Year 6 should be a priority since it underpinned everything indicated by the school motto.

She said encouraging community involvement was a crucial element of the school's values.

The students were encouraged to wear orange clothing, the official col-

our of Harmony Day, or their cultural dress or costume of choice.

"This year is a little different as we are opening our classrooms to families willing to share culturally significant items such as stories, flags and artworks," Ms Hartley said.

"In Australia, particularly South Hedland, we live in such a diverse community with people from all walks of life.

"In order for us all to live peacefully, we need to embrace the Harmony Day motto: 'Everyone belongs'.

"It is also indicated by our school motto: 'A Sea Of Cultures'."

This year, the theme at Baler is "extending the hand of friendship", which is aimed at encouraging students to display a friendly, welcoming attitude towards others.



Our grants help local community groups.
Our Community Grants helped Hedland Little Athletics purchase a trailer to carry their equipment.



HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME FOR ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH PORT HEDLAND & ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH SOUTH HEDLAND

DATE	CELEBRATION	PORT HEDLAND	SOUTH HEDLAND
9/4/2017	Palm Sunday Mass	Saturday 6:00pm Sunday 8:30am	Saturday 6:30pm Sunday 9:15am
13/4/2017	Holy Thursday Mass (Mass of the Lord's Supper)	7:00pm (Followed by prayer at the Altar of Repose)	7:00pm (Followed by prayer at the Altar of Repose)
14/4/2017	Good Friday (Celebration of the Lord's Passion)	9:00am (Stations of the Cross) 3:00pm (The Lord's Passion)	9:00am (Stations of the Cross) 3:00pm (The Lord's Passion)
15/4/2017	Easter Vigil Mass	7:00pm	7:00pm
16/4/2017	Easter Sunday Mass	8:30am 3:15pm (At Seafarers Centre)	9:30am

APR 2017