

Public to have a say on city's planning

KATE MORRIS

Maitland councillors voted last night to approve the draft local environment and development control plans that will guide the city into the future.

The two documents will now go on public exhibition, giving the community the opportunity to have their say before the plans are gazetted.

Proposed changes to the LEP include prohibiting outdoor recreational facilities and functions centres in rural zones, removing the

buffer zone around Aberglasslyn House and also removing the buffer zone around the Mt Vincent Waste Depot.

Maitland City Council planning manager Leanne Harris said the buffer zone around Aberglasslyn House was small and rezoning to rural/residential was "not significant".

Cllr Lisa Tierney raised concerns about Aberglasslyn House and said she did not want to see it become built-out like the Caroline Chisholm cottage in East Maitland. Local consultant planner

Richard Bennett argued that prohibiting recreational facilities in rural zones would be an impediment to future land uses on the Hunter River.

As secretary of the Endeavour Rowing Club, Mr Bennett said if the club chose to expand in the future the proposed LEP would not allow it, or if someone wanted to start a dragon boat racing club this would also not be allowed.

"This is the opportunity for the community to have their say," he said.

"There are parcels of agri-

cultural land where people aren't allowed to build a house. This is the opportunity for people to make a submission and try to have their point of view heard."

He said there was a "one-size fits all" approach from the state government and councils needed to push and shove for what they want.

"The LEP should reflect what the people of Maitland want, not what the state government wants."

The draft LEP and DCP are available to view at the Maitland City Council and on its website www.maitland.gov.au.

make my day

A look at the *lighter* side of life



Watering can foxes the fox

A fox in England had to be rescued after spending at least two days with its head stuck inside a watering can.

The animal was spotted in an agitated state running around the back garden of a bungalow.

Its head was so firmly wedged inside the discarded plastic container it took two RSPCA officers to prise out its fur, a bit at a time, so they could force the can off him.

The adult male was fit and healthy despite being deprived of food and water for at least two days.

RSPCA inspector Jonathan Ratcliffe, who was called to the garden in the West Midlands town of Solihull where the animal was seen, said:

"My feeling is that there must have been a mouse or a frog or something at the bottom of the can - some sort of tasty snack which would have attracted him to put his head in."

Violinist flies into record books

A nimble fingered violinist in England has broken the record for the fastest performance of Flight of the Bumblebee.

Oliver Lewis, 39, completed his fast fiddle rendition of the Rimsky-Korsakov piece live on the long-running BBC children's program *Blue Peter*.

His time of one minute 3.356 seconds, witnessed in the studio by a Guinness World Records representative, shaved nearly a second off the previous record.

Learning of his success after the attempt was verified for accuracy, Mr Lewis, from east London said: "I feel so much relief, thank you very much."

Banksy targets UK hotel

World-famous graffiti artist Banksy is believed to have tagged a hotel in England.

The artist, whose identity remains a closely guarded secret, painted an image of a young boy drawing a robot on the side of the Grosvenor Hotel in Torquay, Devon.

The 2.4 metre-high piece was discovered by the hotel owners last week.

Nav Patel, whose family run the hotel, said: "We woke up last Monday morning and it was there."

"At first we thought it was local graffiti but then a couple of people said it could be one of Banksy's."

"Then Banksy fan Irene Hall came to visit and said it was an original."

"We've boarded it up to protect it and then will put Perspex around it so that people can see it."

"I'm amazed how he did it. The wall faces the street and the hotel is on the main road near the police station."

Banksy, who is believed to be from Bristol, does not verbally confirm the mural is one of his, but has placed a photograph of it on his website at www.banksy.co.uk.

Church calls for other victims to come forward

from page

In recognition of the situation, Dr Farran held a service of recognition and reconciliation at the parish of St Luke's, Wallsend, earlier this year, which was well received.

The Diocesan director of professional standards has been investigating the matters and is co-operating with NSW Police.

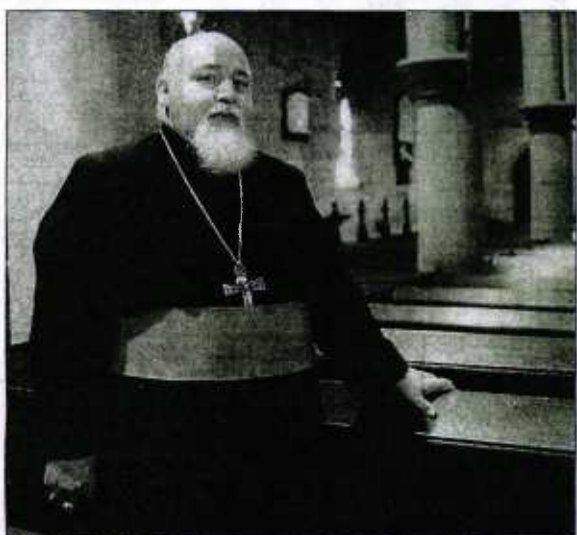
The Diocese has also been supporting those who have come forward in relation to these matters.

Fr Rushton was priested on December 19, 1964, after completing his training at St John's Theological College, Morpeth.

As a new priest he was sent to Cessnock, where he spent four years. He later ministered at Wyong, Weston, Wallsend, Lake Macquarie and Maitland, where he was based at St Mary's Church.

During his time at Weston Fr Rushton adopted a boy from St Alban's Home.

Anyone with any information about the case is urged to come forward and speak with the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle's professional standards director.



ABUSE CLAIMS: Former Maitland Anglican priest, the late Father Peter Rushton, is accused of sexually abusing four boys.

No active police investigation into former city priest

ANNA YEO

Police have confirmed that there is no active investigation into Father Peter Rushton, despite allegations he was involved in the sexual abuse of minors.

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle announced yesterday that significant allegations and information of concern had been

brought to them in relation to Fr Rushton's involvement in child sex abuse.

Strike Force Georgiana was established in the Hunter in recent years to investigate such crimes involving Catholic clergy and minors in the area.

A Police Media spokesperson said yesterday that Fr Rushton was not associated with the Strike

Force Georgiana investigations, and that there was not an active investigation involving him.

"There isn't an active investigation into this man, but there is an active investigation into crimes of this nature," the spokesperson said.

"We encourage anyone who may have any information about crimes such as this to contact their

local police station or Crime Stoppers."

Fr Rushton worked in the Diocese of Newcastle from 1963 until his death in 2007.

After completing his training at St John's Theological College in Morpeth he ministered in Cessnock, Wyong, Weston, Wallsend, Lake Macquarie and Maitland.

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SUDOKU

No. 803 Level of Difficulty: 6

		1			3			
	8		6					4
			6	1	2		7	8
8		7						6
9						3		8
	1	4		6	5	8		
3					4			5
			9			2		

brain tease

How to play: All the numbers from 1 to 9 must be used only once in each 3x3 square, in each row (horizontal) and in each column (vertical). So all you have to do is fill in the missing numbers in the puzzle. A new puzzle and solution for today's Sudoku will be published in the next edition.

SUDOKU No. 801 Level of Difficulty: 5

4	7	8	9	6	5	2	1	3
3	5	1	2	7	4	9	6	8
2	9	6	3	1	8	4	5	7
9	6	2	8	4	1	7	3	5
7	8	3	6	5	9	1	2	4
1	4	5	7	3	2	8	9	6
6	3	4	1	2	7	5	8	9
5	1	9	4	8	3	6	7	2
8	2	7	5	9	6	3	4	1

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