

SUNBURY

Parking pardons

Review of infringement system offers greater leniency on parking fines

Bridie Byrne

DRIVERS from Sunbury and wider Hume will receive greater leniency with parking fines under a new review system.

The changes will allow first-time offenders to request an internal review of a parking infringement and, if withdrawn, a warning issued instead.

It won't apply to those who parked in a disabled bay.

At present, drivers can appeal a fine but it will only be revoked by Hume Council on special and exceptional grounds.

Cr Joseph Haweil said he understood people made mistakes and it was reasonable to be given a second chance.

"People should be given an opportunity to reflect on having broken a local law and be

given that opportunity to make amends by not replicating such mistakes," Cr Haweil said.

"I don't believe that most of our residents willfully break the rules or intend to act in manner that is contrary to local laws."

Cr Haweil said for those living in narrow roads access had been a "significant" problem with cars parking on nature strips.

"I think residents who live in narrow streets shouldn't necessarily be punished if they commit a first offence by parking on the nature strip," he said.

Cr Jodi Jackson said parking fines were about enforcing the road rules and public safety, not revenue raising, and this new measure should be seen as a gesture of goodwill by the council.



WAKKA THE ALPACA NOW A REGULAR

SO, THERE was once an alpaca who walks into a bar ...

Wakka the alpaca has become Trentham East's most unusual pub-goer after saddling up to the bar at the Pig & Whistle Hotel.

Vicky McCurdy, who owns Wakka and Plum Tuckered

Inn bed and breakfast, said the alpaca thought of herself as a dog.

"You yell her name and she'll come running," Ms McCurdy said.

"People are always interested if they see me walking down the road with

her. They'll always stop and have a pat."

Pub owner Barbara Middleton said the Pig & Whistle was popular for pets and had quite a history of unusual patrons.

"The first time Wakka came in I was a bit taken aback. But

she is by far our cutest customer. Last year, we had a horse come for a pint of beer for its 18th birthday," she said.

Vicky McCurdy with Wakka at the Pig and Whistle. Picture: JAKE NOWAKOWSK

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Sunbury charity awarded \$30,000 to help local kids.

After helping local youth and their families, charity Sunbury Community Health Centre is getting some help of its own. Sunbury Community Health Centre has been awarded \$10,000 a year over three years by the Community Grants program to help it continue its work providing care services throughout the community.

Sunbury Community Health Centre has been committed to supporting the Sunbury local community by improving the wellbeing of young people, particularly in regards to mental health.

The tireless and far reaching impact of the work undertaken by Sunbury Community Health Centre was a key factor in it receiving the grant.

"The Commonwealth Bank is thrilled to be able to support organisations like Sunbury Community Health Centre. The grassroots work the organisation is doing is crucial to the wellbeing of our communities," said Sunbury Branch Manager, Kelly Forsyth.

The grant will help Sunbury

Community Health Centre to continue to expand the reach of its community programs and continue to help our local kids and families.

This year marks the 100th year of the Commonwealth Bank's employee giving program. The program is one of Australia's largest and longest running employee fundraising programs.

Since 1917, thousands of staff have donated a portion of their salary to support the community. In the past decade alone, their contributions have delivered \$20 million to some 1,730 organisations as part of our Community Grants program.

Last year, more than \$2 million was donated, \$358,482 of which was raised by employees in Victoria.

This year the fund has announced it will award \$9 million to 220 youth community organisations across Australia over the course of the next three years.

To see how charities in your local area have been supported visit cbstaffgiving100.com.au.



Community Grants is part of the CommBank Foundation.

