

Business revolution in the offing

By JOLENE OGLE

NOOSA needs a business revolution, according to local business owner and investor Ralph Rogers.

Mr Rogers recently opened the Acres home and garden centre on Gibson Road, Noosaville, and said while he wanted to create a unique, out-of-the-box retail centre for Noosa, he also went to great lengths to ensure all businesses opened within the centre were designed to give young people a go.

"I fear if we don't do something that encourages young people to get into business, we will end up with a generation of working poor," he said.

"A lot of young people in Noosa are qualified and have dreams and aspirations but they can't get work in the area they want to live in.

"That's horrible. We'll end up with a town of haves and have-nots. I think that is sad."

Mr Rogers said the best way to combat the issue was to encourage young people to follow their business dream and provide affordable commercial spaces for them to thrive.

Mr Rogers, who also owns Ecom Noosa, said he had offered cheap rent to a number of start-up businesses to help encourage young people to get a head start.

"Between Ecom Noosa and Acres, we now have 19 businesses, the majority of which are new, with 70 employees and business owners," he said.

One such young business owner is Cailla Nasmyth, who aged in her twenties owns the fashion store Queen of Archers within the Acres building.

Cailla, who comes from a background in hospitality, said she saw a gap in the market for a more individual retail shopping experience tailored to Noosa.

"I love Noosa and I wanted to offer my customers a unique service from a local," she said.

"Our clothing is suited to the environment here, with most labels from Byron Bay. It's easy-to-wear fashion made from cotton and rayon, so it breathes and is designed for all ages."

Cailla said it was daunting to start up her business and while she still worked a second job to make ends meet, it was with thanks to Mr Rogers she was able to follow her dream.

"A business is something I've been working towards for my whole working life," she said.

"I've been striving to one day have my own business and have something of my own."

Cailla said the commercial rents in Noosa were the biggest hurdle in the journey to



Giving young people a go: Cailla Nasmyth owns Queen of Archers fashion store at Acres, Noosaville.

own her own business, but a chance meeting with Mr Rogers gave her the opportunity to get started.

"Ralph has made the rent affordable for me," she said.

"So I'm working hard to make this work."

Mr Rogers said offering affordable rent to young business owners had been a dream for him and he was excited to see the store owners forging ahead at the Acres complex.

"I'm excited to see young business owners who share my vision of a better Noosa economy," he said.

Hard line on dog attacks

COUNCIL is warning dog owners to control their pets or face prosecution following a spate of dog attacks in the past week.

Acting Local Laws manager Phil Amson says council took a hard line on dog attacks, recently prosecuting three people over separate incidents.

Dog owners must take steps to reduce the possibility of their pet attacking animals or children, he said.

"It's responsible pet ownership, and it can be as simple as making sure you close your gate to keep the dog from wandering the street, or by keeping it on a leash around other animals or people," he said.

On Wednesday, a local man was fined \$1200 in Noosa Magistrates' Court for a dog attack in which a man was injured at Sunshine Beach late last year.

As well as the fine, he was also ordered to pay professional and court costs.

In April, a woman was fined \$500 after her

dog attacked an animal at Sunshine Beach, while a Noosa Heads man received a \$1000 fine for a dog attack on an elderly woman at Noosaville in December 2014.

"These results reflect council's commitment to enforcing responsible pet ownership and the seriousness with which the court deals with dog attacks," Mr Amson said.

Council is investigating eight further dog attacks reported in the past week.

"It is eight too many," Mr Amson said.

"It seems every year we go through a period where owners become complacent and we have a series of attacks. Complacency or being inattentive to your dog is no defence in legal proceedings. Dangerous dogs have no place in our community, and it is every dog owner's responsibility to ensure their animal does not pose a risk to other people or animals."

Dog owners who let their pets wander also face fines in excess of \$230, plus impoundment charges.

Community jury's verdict in on organic waste

By JOLENE OGLE

AFTER five months of deliberations, Noosa's inaugural Community Jury has delivered their verdict on Noosa's organic waste.

The jury's nine recommendations were presented to Noosa Council at Monday's (24 August) General Committee meeting, outlining proposed changes for how locals deal with their household waste.

The report to the council said the Jury's recommendations were based on a vision of Noosa Shire reducing the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 100 per cent by 2030.

The recommendations include the expansion of Noosa's existing three-bin system to introduce mandatory weekly organic collections for resi-

dential areas, with mandatory green waste collection in 2015/16, at minimal cost to ratepayers.

Organic waste will include food scraps such as fruit and vegetables, meat and fish scraps including bones and egg shells, coffee grinds and tea bags, animal droppings, plus grass clippings and leaves; all of which will be placed in the green-top bins currently used for garden waste only.

The jury also recommended moving to fortnightly collection of general waste bins once the organic collection has taken effect, as well as constructing a composting facility at a suitable site to turn the organic waste into high-grade useable compost, and design and implement a "grassroots, long-term education and awareness" campaign to help residents understand the benefits of

organic waste management.

Rewarding excellent waste management by residents and monitoring compliance with the new waste management system are also part of the recommendation.

The jury also want to "Ban the Bag", urging local businesses to use biodegradable bags by 2017, as well as direct large producers to target 100 per cent diversion of organic waste from landfill by 2030.

The group of 24 Noosa ratepayers said the recommendations were based on Noosa becoming a leader in organic waste management and outlined their vision for the future.

"In 2030, Noosa's organic waste is no longer sent to landfill," the report said.

"It is too valuable to be wasted.

Instead, large quantities of nutrient-rich materials are collected from Noosa's residents and businesses and brought to the award-winning facility at Eumundi Road where it is converted into high-grade compost.

"In our rural areas, residents will continue the good work they were doing back in 2015, targeting 100 per cent of organic waste is reused in home composting facilities and worm farms."

The jury highlighted the need for council to be "upfront" with residents about the costs and benefits of the new waste management plan, should it be implemented.

"Council's should clearly explain the costs and benefits of taking action to minimise organic waste," the Jury report said.

"Research has shown citizens of-

ten overestimate costs because they do not know how much waste management costs. As a result, they are more sensitive to price changes than if they had a more accurate estimation.

"Research has also shown citizens will comply with new systems if the importance is explained to them, they are satisfied the organic waste is being treated appropriately and they will benefit financially in the long run."

The second Community Jury will now discuss the Noosa River and how Noosa Council can manage it, with their first meeting held on Monday 24 August.

To read the Community Jury's first report to council, visit www.noosa.qld.gov.au.

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