

Northern Health ban shifts smokers to outside houses

Smoking anger

Health | Kate Swan

RESIDENTS say a smoking ban at Broadmeadows Health Service is pushing smokers closer to their homes.

Northern Health has prohibited smoking on its sites including car parks and internal courtyards but will not fine offenders.

A month after the policy was introduced, people continue to smoke in carparks and around

the site. Kerry Dodd, who lives behind Broadmeadows Health Service on Robinson St, said some smokers had moved to the roadside in front of her house.

Ms Dodd said there could be up to 20 people smoking outside her house at one time. "It's uncomfortable and horrible, you have no privacy," she said.

Northern Health spokeswoman Maree Cuddihy said support provided included offering staff

patients and visitors help to quit smoking. "We do, however, anticipate that it may take some time to make all patients and visitors aware of the smoke-free policy," she said.

Ms Cuddihy said patients had previously encountered smoke haze at entrances and courtyards of the health facilities.

She said the smoke-free policy would provide a healthier environment.



Steven D'Elia of Roxburgh Park with his 1929 Morris Isis and 1923 Ford T Bucket hot rods.

Picture: KYLIELSE N33H0202

Hot rodder gives children joy rides

A ROXBURGH Park man is using hot-rod cars to help bring smiles to children who face a bumpy road ahead.

Steven D'Elia has volunteered the use of his cars - a 1929 Morris Isis and a 1923 Ford T-Bucket - to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Australia, an organisation that grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.

He recently took Hurstbridge's "car-mad" Blake, 6m for a ride in the vehicles.

"It was very good, it was very successful," Mr D'Elia said. "The little boy was blown away."

He said Blake's wish was for a trip to Queensland but Make-A-



Blake (right) and his brother Liam.

Wish thought that the joy rides in the cars would also be a great surprise for Blake before his family was presented a booklet containing accommodation, airfares and spending money for the trip. A former foster carer, Mr D'Elia

said he purchased the hot rods for his own pleasure but also to take the foster children out for a drive. He said he soon realised the two cars were not being used enough and so contacted Make-A-Wish.

"So I thought, you know what, I'll call these agencies and see if I can offer to take these kids for joy rides," Mr D'Elia said.

A business owner in Campbellfield, Mr D'Elia said he believed it was important that people thought of others and gave back to the community.

To find out more about the Make-A-Wish Foundation or to make a donation, visit makeawish.org.au

In Brief

Beach volleyball

THE Broadmeadows Shopping Centre will be transformed into a beach volleyball arena next week. It will host friendly matches with the Victorian team on Thursday and Friday from noon to 7pm, ahead of the St Kilda leg of the Australian Beach Volleyball Series next weekend. Shoppers will enjoy DJ entertainment, live giveaways and learn tips from professionals. The event is part of the centre's Endless Summer promotion, which have win instant prizes including more than 11,000 vouchers and holiday packages.

Technology grants

SENIORS groups hopping to learn more about technology can apply for a grant to hold education workshops. Telstra Connected Seniors grants of up to \$50,000 help seniors become comfortable with technology such as mobile phones and computers. Not-for-profit community organisations with a primary member base of people age over 60 can apply until March 5 at telstraseniors.com.au

Have your say

CRAIGIEBURN residents have until next week to have their say about sport and recreation in the area. So far, respondents to the Active Craigieburn Survey have called for more cycling and walking groups to encourage regular exercise. The survey will close on February 15. Go to hume.vic.gov.au or call 9205 2200.

Retirement talks

CRAIGIEBURN'S new retirement village at Highlands will hold an open day this weekend. There will be informative retirement seminars discussing the myths and misconceptions of retirement living, guided display suite tours and a free sausage sizzle. It will be 11am-2pm on Saturday, February 13 at Highlands Retirement Village, Jabiru Trail, off Waterview Boulevard.

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