

# Letter of the Week

## CONGRATULATIONS

*Barbara Fitzgibbon*

You have won a double pass\* to the film of your choice, courtesy of

**HOYTS**  
CINEMA  
**TWEED HEADS**

\*Redeemable for 1 month from publication date

### Gold Coast-style development won't come to Kingscliff

Politicians who don't check statements offered by those who could appear to be promising votes for those statements, can look silly. (TVW page 5, 20/07/17)

Kingscliff hasn't been a village for years. It's a vibrant coastal town with a strong tourism sector. Yes, we've lost the intimacy of small community living and the immediate security that accompanies this, but we haven't lost the beauty of creek and beach. Nor should we have lost the friendliness of village life – the smile for visitors, the co-operation between residents, residents and business people and a combined wish by all to work together to enhance daily life.

Yet there are some whose nostalgia has become twisted, who appear to be getting a perverse pleasure from attempting to reproduce via scaremongering that period when all developers were summarily labeled "develop at any cost," when a majority of councillors were enamored of Gold Coast-style development, when Commissions of Inquiry found dodgy deals and business people were considered suspect.

Planning legislation has strengthened over the years. It curtails "slippery-slope" changes and ensures that all proposed quid pro quo DA agreements are "above-board." To suggest otherwise and to point the political finger is to mislead residents.

*Barbara Fitzgibbon, Kingscliff*

### We object to four-storey plans

Please register our absolute rejection and objection to any increase in height for this development, which would enable four storey buildings to be built at the Kingscliff location (TVW July 20 page 5).

This would become a terrible precedent on the Tweed Coast, and would result in further future

developers to push for a four storey allowance, then five storey, then six storey and so on.

This would be completely against the special attraction of the Tweed Coast in comparison to the Gold Coast. This environment here is low impact from developers, being limited to three-storey height levels. That's why people continue to flock to the Tweed Coast.

Do not let developers mask their intentions by talking in so-called environmental terms, or "what's good for the community".

This community is happy with the current three-storey limits.

The TSC needs to maintain its compact with the people who live here, and have built their homes here because of the different lifestyle and the interaction with nature that the Tweed Coast environment provides in comparison with going North of the Tweed River.

We don't want another Gold Coast here, and we call upon the TSC to reject any developer proposals to increase height levels above three storeys.

*Wynne and Marisa Henderson, Cabarita Beach*

### Kings Forest developer must keep promises

Many newcomers to the Tweed might not know the history of the Kings Forest development so far.

When the developer purchased the land at Kings Forest, it was well known to be the territory of the Tweed Shire's major koala colony. The land was purchased for approximately \$20 million, which was considered very cheap as it was doubtful that anything much could ever be built there. The developers spokesman said at the time "it might turn out to be a very expensive koala park". So they took a punt.

When the developer proposed a "mini city" on the land, with 4500 dwellings and little consideration for the resident remaining koalas, more people objected to this development than any other in the history of NSW, since Captain Cook landed.

Koala conservation groups such as Team Koala were formed to consult leading koala experts on the minimum standards needed to have any hope of keeping wild koalas on the Tweed.

The company and the community both submitted their thoughts to the State Government, who essentially operated as the "umpire".

The umpire backed the koala experts and the community, and the developer was given the immense privilege of constructing many thousands of dwellings on the condition that they spent a few

dollars on things like traffic calming devices and a 100-metre wildlife corridor and planting new trees.

The developer accepted that. Now, just before the bulldozers arrive, they have applied to break their commitments to the community and the koalas.

Fair suck of the sav guys. I know our local koala population might apparently mean little to a South African born billionaire, but they mean a lot to the people of this area. Please support Team Koala and their efforts to get developer to keep his promises on koala protection.

### Lisa Townsend, Murwillumbah No care for our Commonwealth Games mascot

The Commonwealth Games are upon us and the endangered koala has been made the official Games mascot. Meanwhile, the Tweed Shire Council 'development at any cost' faction led by the National Party Councillor Warren Polglase is quoted as saying "the region needed to do more before it missed an important opportunity" in relation to Government funding helping the Northern Rivers capitalise on the Games. Cr Polglase has for many years convinced his faction to vote for inappropriate development and ecological vandalism in the Tweed which in turn contributes to the very demise of our Games mascot, the endangered coastal koala.

Economic advance is not the same thing as human or environmental progress. We shouldn't have to continually fight with our Council and Government to protect our koalas and the environment, we should be able to live in a world where the environment doesn't need protecting.

### Andrew Bennett, Murwillumbah Don't rip up our railway

I was amazed to learn that there has been a huge sum of money allocated by the Government for the destruction of the rail line to allow for a rail trail to be built. Yes in order to change the railway line with its ballast and sleepers to a surface conducive for cyclists it will mean the destruction of a valuable piece of infrastructure which will be very difficult to replace in the future.

History shows us that rail trails are a novelty item suited for a small proportion of the population. The cycling fraternity has been very vocal to convince the government to favour their proposal. If other rail trails are anything to go by the rail trail will probably become a white elephant and the need for a commuter train will be on the radar.

The line covers over 100 kilometres. Even the Tour de France cyclists

would find that quite a Social cyclists would r that distance in a day of there be series of toilet for the small number of who will maintain these What about camp sites. A for emergencies such as or falls. Who will serv The Council which is al strapped?

The line passes thro private properties whic compromised by eleme bikers and hikers who w trail. Who will police t stop horse riders using Once the trail is used by the wet season it will be for cycling except for th expensive trail bikes. maintain the track?

A recent event of Her was reported in the area for the rail trail. Cont from animals, in particu could be spread along t bicycles and pedestrian cross contamination of and the spread of diseas a requirement to disclo visited a rural property when entering Australia. avoid spread of disease and animals. We are pl farming industry at risk b such a conduit to allo potential spread of cont

If a similar amount of allocated to the constru light rail commuter servic people of the region ther a positive spin off for the small towns along the Northern Rivers is a spectacular scenery which numerous visitors in th come. A light rail commu linking the Coolangatta our region eventually w boon to tourism and wo much needed infrastruc region for all, not just th fact similar commuter tr I have ridden on in Eur bicycles to be taken on t allow cyclists to explore.

Properly run, such a service would pay for commuter service cou by private investors so a the impact on other Go Services but the rail trac Government owned fore are many such preceder the world.

Should we miss this op to link up our isolated they will die out eventua country people will be farm the area if they fe Older folk will benefi