

Crying fowl at council

Man threatens legal action over neighbour's incessant bird-feeding

Emma-Jayne Schenk

A Bentleigh East father is threatening to sue Glen Eira Council over birds constantly perching in his backyard.

Simon Novytarger says his children, aged 10 and 7, can no longer play outside, and he spends his weekends cleaning up poo because his neighbour is obsessed with feeding pigeons and seagulls.

His water bills have even gone up by \$400 each quarter, after he installed a sensor sprinkler to try and keep the birds away.

Mr Novytarger said he'd been complaining to the council for two years and had spoken to his neighbour several times but under the Public Health Act, times of feeding must be logged and he must prove his health had been directly affected before action can be taken.

"It will get to the stage where I'll take it to court or stop paying council rates," he said. "This totally wrecks the enjoyment of my open space and I've threatened the council to devalue my



Birds are causing a flap.

property because no one is going to buy it if I choose to sell."

The council is considering banning bird-feeding after 37 complaints were made in the 2017-18 financial year.

But Mr Novytarger said he's sick of waiting.

"The neighbours are backing me because they're also ducking when they go outside and can't hang out their washing."

Glen Eira chief executive Rebecca McKenzie said the alleged offender had been asked to stop feeding the birds several times.

"Without sufficient evidence (a nuisance exists), (we) cannot take further action," she said. "Council believes a local law ... (banning) bird feeding is a potential resolution to the concerns."



Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss (right) with cricketers Anna Lanning and Chloe Rafferty.
Picture: James Ross

Bowled over by support for anti-litter campaign

Trashing the beach just isn't cricket and everyone can "play their part" in keeping the city clean and safe over summer.

Port Phillip Council's 2018-19 Summer in the City campaign kicked off last Friday, stumping up \$1.1 million towards litter clean-ups, extra patrols and glass and alcohol ban education.

The cash splash is an increase of more than \$600,000 for the cause and follows the unexpected trashing of South Beach Reserve on Christmas Day last year by 5000 revellers.

The 29 tonnes of rubbish and broken glass left behind resulted in a \$23,000

clean-up bill. Mayor Bernadene Voss said there would be a record number of bins, rubbish collections and beach cleans during peak times this festive season.

"We will also be working closely with police as new alcohol and glass bans are promoted and, where appropriate, enforced," she said.

"But we can't do it alone and we are calling on everyone who comes to enjoy our beautiful city over summer to bin their rubbish, behave responsibly and not trash our public spaces."

Women's Big Bash League cricketers Chloe Rafferty and Anna Lanning

threw their support behind the council and Leader-led LoveOurBay campaign, aimed at reducing the litter scourge.

"The Renegades and the Stars are both thrilled to have made Junction Oval our new home (and) as the newest residents of St Kilda, we want to do our bit in keeping the area clean and safe for everyone to enjoy," Lanning said.

The Big Bash kicks off this weekend at Junction Oval.

For tickets, visit bigbash.com.au/wbbl and to find out how you can help #LoveOurBay and make a pledge to #PlayYourPart in helping to reduce litter, visit haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au



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