

letters to the editor

Sharing the air

We write on behalf of the New England Division of General Practice (a united body of all GPs working and living in New England) to congratulate Steve Snell of the Tattersalls Hotel and the UNE Union for their proactive stance in extending the "Share the Air" policy. We understand that the Tatt's back bar is now a smoke free area. General Practitioners spend an enormous amount of time dealing with the appalling damage done to the health of their patients through cigarette smoke, and we welcome any moves to reduce the misery of premature ill health and death from both active and passive smoking.

*Dr Bruce Menzies;
Dr Nigel Pain*

*New England Division of
General Practice
Armidale NSW 2350*

Dump on us

I was wondering if anyone in Armidale (besides the Council itself) actually realises the size and scale of the waste and rub-

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Letter.....P.O. Box 82, Armidale 2350
Fax.....6772 4457
Email.....newsdesk@armidaleindependent.com.au

bish dump that they want to build next to the Gara River? Shane Burns and the Mayor seem keen to try and talk it down, but they are leaving out some important information. Council intends to operate the dump for at least the next 100 years, and let's face it, even if the dump stops accepting waste and rubbish in 80 years it doesn't mean it is closed, the waste is still there and will be for many more generations to come.

Also, at a Northern Regional Inland Waste meeting in 2001, Armidale Council offered the other 13 Shire Councils present at the meeting the opportunity to send all their 'clinical waste' to the new regional mega-dump they were planning to open. So now suddenly it seems that every Shire in the New England and Northern Tablelands areas will be sending us their rub-

bish. Armidale Council is only doing this so that they can make some money by charging the other Councils to dump their waste and rubbish just outside our town. I can't believe that the good people of Armidale are prepared to accept that.

*Justin Baiocchi
Armidale*

Hurting and Being

In 1967 in Australia Aborigines became recognised as people and were counted in the censuses and were recognised as citizens and were given the right to vote. In 1967 in England Homosexuals were recognised as normal people and homosexuality was decriminalised. It was a good year.

In the end of the 1990s Mr Howard personally overturned the High Court Wick decision