

Concerns about syringe disposals

By LAINI KIRKMAN

A LOCAL woman has raised concerns about the safe removal of syringes from public places.

The woman was walking down Heber Street on Friday when she came across a used syringe lying on the ground. During her efforts to remove the syringe, she found that Moree Plains Shire Council staff were "not much help".

Although the woman does not want to be named, she did want her story to be told because she was concerned about the council's reaction to the matter.

She said as soon as she saw the syringe on the footpath directly in front of two houses she phoned Moree council.

"I thought they would have someone able to come and safely remove the used syringe. However, instead the person (female) told me she'd never received such a call and wasn't sure what could be done. I was placed on hold several times while various extension numbers were tried, all to no avail, so they asked for my contact details so that I could be called back," she said.

The woman told the council worker that she was on-foot and that she did not want to walk off and leave the syringe lying on the footpath where anyone could potentially hurt themselves with it.

"Next I telephoned the Moree hospital who immediately transferred my call to a used syringe hotline; their number is 1800NEEDLE and is based in Sydney. He said that this was the first call he himself had



ever received from Moree and was shocked the council were unable to take control of the situation," the resident said.

Whilst on the phone to the hotline, she noticed that the Moree vets were just down the road and thought they might have a yellow sharps container to safely dispose of the syringe.

"Before I walked up to the vets I knocked on one of the two houses that were in the immediate vicinity of the syringe, but no-one answered. I didn't approach the other house because the gate was closed and on it was a sign warning of dogs," she said.

The woman explained to the staff at the vets why she was there and said the worker at the front desk couldn't have been more understanding and fetched her a sharps container and four gloves – so she could double glove.

"I then disposed of the syringe, thanked them and gave back the sharps container, washed my hands, then rang the hotline to let them know I had safely disposed of the syringe," she said.

According to the woman, the call she experienced with council seemed as though they don't have a system in place for 'needle report-

ing' and if they do, then not many staff are aware of it.

"I recall reading about the incident last year in the *Moree Champion* about the child receiving a needle stick injury," she said.

"The majority of people in Moree would be aware that for the population there is a large problem with drug and alcohol use/abuse in the town."

The woman commented on Moree hospital's free needle dispensary, which she said at times was used so much, it had been seen empty, adding there was also a large yellow bin at the hospital to place used syringes.

"The majority of IV drug users do the 'right' thing and dispose of their used syringes safely. But with those drug users that inject and then share used syringes, comes the high risk of them then contracting blood borne diseases such as Hepatitis C and HIV," she said.

"It just takes one syringe disposed of incorrectly to potentially harm someone, the risk not high, but the 12 weeks of waiting for test results to come back would be a living nightmare."

Moree Plains Shire Council planning and development assessment manager, Daniel Boyce, said NSW

Health estimated around 20 million needles and syringes used for self-injection ended up in local council waste and recycling services in the state each year, so it certainly represents a challenge for council as an organisation.

"Moree council have taken a proactive approach to community sharps management, by endeavouring to reduce the number of sharps present in public spaces by providing appropriate disposal options such as sharps containers and proactive inspections of known hot spots by our open space staff who have the appropriate knowledge, training and equipment to remove sharps," Mr Boyce said.

He said as well as conducting proactive inspections, open space staff will endeavour to respond to any specific incidents where sharps are found on public spaces.

"Only people with the appropriate knowledge and equipment should remove sharps," he said.

"Sharps containers are provided in most public toilets in Moree and are regularly checked and replaced,

"Council staff will not enter private property to remove sharps, but are able to supply containers to people who require them for the safe disposal of sharps."

If you locate a syringe in a public space the council's open space staff will attend to it.

Customers can contact the council's customer service centre on (02) 6757 3222 and the request will be logged with open space staff.

MDBA set to visit

STAFF from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority will be in Moree, Narrabri and Warren next week to give locals an update on work being done under the Basin Plan.

Representatives from the Northern Basin Advisory Committee, set up to provide advice to the MDBA, will also take part.

People interested in attending a meeting are asked to register their interest with the MDBA by emailing Kirsten Henderson at engagement.mdba.gov.au

Key topics of discussion will include northern basin activities such as the science review, environmental watering, social and economic work, water recovery progress and constraints management.

There will also be separate sessions to get local input into social and economic indicators for the region.

Dates for the visit are:
Moree – Aug 5
Narrabri – Aug 6
Warren – Aug 8

It would be appreciated if people could email the engagement email address to register and get all the necessary details.

Spotlight on Industrial Drive

70 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE

BUSINESS NAME: AMPS Moree

Nature of Business: Agricultural Merchandise & Agronomy Consulting

Contact: P. (02) 6752 9001 F. (02) 6752 9002

Business Established: 2001

Owners: AMPS Agribusiness

No. of Staff Employed: 8

Why have you chosen to operate in the Industrial Drive area:

Our site at 70 Industrial Drive offers great access to trucks delivering and picking up both granular fertilizer from our silos and liquid fertilizer from our on site tanks.

What does your business have to offer to the wider community:

AMPS Moree sponsors numerous community events as a way to support our rural communities. We participate in school based work experience programs to encourage school leavers to consider Moree as a long-term career location.

Anything else interesting you have to tell us about the business:

The AMPS Group is the only Agricultural Merchandise business with an independent Research Division funded by profits from its commercial business. AMPS Research performs localised research trials which provide local results for local farmers.

Major Metals

PHONE: (02) 6752 3622 **FAX:** (02) 6752 5283

BUSINESS NAME: MAJOR METALS MOREE PTY LTD
NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Nature of Business: Supplying steel products and metal fabrication

Business Established: 30 years

Why have you chosen to operate in the Industrial Drive area:

The Industrial Drive area suits our type of business. We have a large yard and shed which we can keep our product safe. Easy to store our products.

What does your business have to offer to the wider community:

Our business offers to the community of Moree and surrounding areas a fully equipped sheet metal services, ranging from bending, punching, profile cutting,

Anything else interesting you have to tell us about the business:

Our range of products include:
All steel and fabrication products, All roofing and fencing materials, Acoustic Grade Perorated Metals, Coregas Oxy, Acetylene, Corgon and Argon Industrial Gases
Hours of operation: Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm; Saturday 7:30am to 11:30am; Closed Sunday and Public Holidays

Spotlight on Industrial Drive

AW1193858

BUSINESS NAME:

Tidmarsh Contracting

NATURE OF BUSINESS:

K.I.S.S. your problems good-bye

ESTABLISHED:

Over 30 years in Moree

OWNER/S:

Amber & Keith Tidmarsh

NUMBER OF STAFF EMPLOYED:

Owner/Operator – uses contractors when necessary

WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO BE IN THE INDUSTRIAL DRIVE AREA

No-one knows where to find me

ANY AWARDS:

Not really – but the mines did use (steal) our OH&S and Environmental Policy

WHAT DOES YOUR BUSINESS HAVE TO OFFER TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY:

Give me a problem and I'll solve it for you (I love a challenge).

ANYTHING ELSE INTERESTING ABOUT THE BUSINESS:

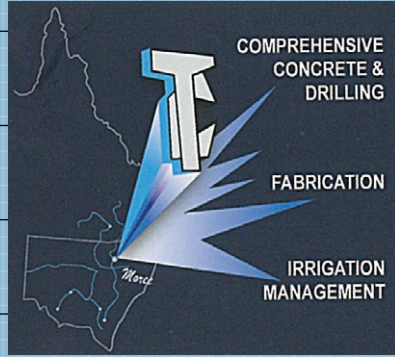
Tidmarsh have set a new benchmark in cotton mulching which will improve your soil and help the growth of your crops.

At Tidmarsh we do it better – Irrigation Construction and Structural Design, Welding & Insitu Fabrication.

Some of work recently has been at A.F.F. Group, S.M.K. Consultants, Livingston Farms, Auscott Gin, Government Office, Moree Gallery and Graincrop just to name a few.

Our Motto: Good, better, best - Never let it rest
Until you're good is better
And your Better Best
Quoted by: "My Dad"

PHONE: 0428 657 150



KEITH HADDAD & SONS

PTY LTD

BUSINESS NAME: K HADDAD AND SONS PTY LTD

Nature of Business: Transport & Logistics

Business Established: 1996

Owners: Keith & Steven Haddad

No. of Staff Employed: 16 to 25 (can be seasonal)



Why have you chosen to operate in the Industrial Drive area:

It's away from the town centre. It doesn't disturb the town people and we believe that all transport business should be in the Industrial Area it's away from the town and it keeps the noise in one area.

What does your business have to offer to the wider community:

Reliability, Service with a smile and is a family friendly attitude. No job is too big or too small. Our rates are competitive.

Anything else interesting you have to tell us about the business:

We are Locals Supporting Locals, Family Run Business – 2nd Generation, 15 trucks Employing locals, so that has a flow on effect to the Moree Business and the town We support the Community, in the Schools, Sporting Events and Charities – e.g. racing events, fetes, work experience and much more

AW1193889

BUSINESS: GJW Field Service

NATURE OF BUSINESS:

Mechanical Repairs

ESTABLISHED: 2001

OWNER/S: Greg & Wendy Woods

NUMBER OF STAFF EMPLOYED: Sole Operator

WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO BE IN THE INDUSTRIAL DRIVE AREA

The Industrial Drive area is a great location for the work we do. There is plenty of room for the various machinery that I work on from time to time. It is away from the main business area of Moree, which is good for the work I do.

WHAT DOES YOUR BUSINESS HAVE TO OFFER TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY:

We Service & Repair to the following type of machinery/ vehicles:

- Trucks
- Tractors
- 4WD Vehicles
- Twin Disc Clutches
- Irrigation Pumps & Motors
- Cotton Handling Equipment
- Heavy Vehicle Inspection Station

Phone: 02 6752 1057 / 0427 527 949



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WHOLESALE FOODS

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Tel: (02) 6752 1744

Fax: (02) 6752 2680

9 IRONBARK STREET
P.O. BOX 476
MOREE N.S.W 2400



Web: www.MaycoFoods.com.au
Email: Dee@MaycoFoods.com.au

BUSINESS NAME: MAYCO DISTRIBUTING CO

Nature of Business: Wholesale & Retail Food Distribution

Business Established: 2004 under current ownership



Why have you chosen to operate in the Industrial Drive area:

We purchased an established business and the Moree and District Community know where it is. There is plenty of parking available which is handy for bulk purchase

What does your business have to offer to the wider community:

Wholesale prices – fantastic prices for both public and business organizations
Excellent Service
Delivery free of charge to businesses
Huge range of products – both bulk buys and retail

Anything else interesting you have to tell us about the business:

Family owned and operated
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8am to 5pm; Saturday – 8am to 12 noon
Monthly and weekly specials offered
Large range of party products and finger foods

AW1194033