

Hefty fine for illegal rubbish dumping

South Gippsland residents received a timely reminder that illegal rubbish dumping isn't only unsightly, harmful to the environment and a nuisance to others, it can also be very costly. Last week a 26 year old Grantville man was fined \$1000 for illegally dumping rubbish and ordered to pay Council's costs of \$596.

On 31 August the man attended a property at Fish Creek to remove a trailer-load of rubbish at the request of the property owner. The property owner paid the man for this service and also gave him money to cover the transfer station fees. However, South Gippsland Shire Council Local Laws Officers later attended a call-out to Buffalo, where they found a substantial amount of rubbish dumped on the side of the road. Enquiries eventually led Local Laws Officers to the Grantville man.

Coordinator of Local Laws, Bruce Gardiner told the presiding Judicial Registrar that the accused and another man had dumped the materials beside the road. The accused denied any knowledge of or participation in the behavior, stating that one of his workers must have been responsible.

Mr. Gardiner also stated that this type of offending was "selfish and unfair on the public. They have to put up with looking at this mess and then their rates are used to clean it up and take it away.

"People don't realise that when they dump this sort of rubbish we have to send in trucks and people in to remove it safely so that road users and the environment are not put at risk. It's also frustrating that much of this waste could have been disposed of at a transfer station at no cost."

Residents are able to deposit many recyclable materials at Council's transfer stations free of charge including; steel and other metals, glass bottles, plastic bottles, containers and drums, car bodies (drained of fluids and tyres removed), white goods, car batteries and used motor oil. A green waste amnesty period also applies during November and December each year to assist property owners with fire season preparation.

Visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au for information about waste disposal.

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