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Creating  
Sustainable Future




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We're on the Web!

See us at:

**clarencevalleywatch.  
com**

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I regret to report we had a slightly disappointing month. Clarence Valley Council has rescinded the James Creek concrete batching plant decision. Councillors and staff met behind closed doors and deemed the site 'operational' despite it not having operated for over twenty years. As the meeting was confidential we have no way of knowing how they came to this conclusion. It sits above a wetland and creek and the land is zoned 1(a) Rural (Agricultural protection).

VW received a response from the CVC General Manager Stuart McPherson regarding our complaint letter of the alleged breach of Code of Conduct and other concerns. We have been informed he will not investigate the matter and he considers us vexatious. In his attempt to summarise he failed to mention our main concerns. His response along with additional complaints will be forwarded to relevant bodies.

The Division of Local Government is the state agency responsible for local government across NSW. Their specific role is to 'provide a clear policy and legislative foundation to local government so councils are able to deliver quality services to their communities in a sustainable manner'. Among other roles their aim is to improve local government performance. They 'work with local councils to help them improve their delivery of

services to their communities. For example, they issue standards and guidelines, review council operations and *investigate* problems in local government performance'. Unless residents bring concerns to their attention, however minor they might be, they will remain unaware.

"The Squeaky Wheel Gets the Oil"! Do you have concerns or issues with your local government? Write to:

Stuart McPherson GM  
c/o CVC  
Locked Bag 23  
Grafton NSW 2460

Ross Woodward  
c/o Division of Local Government  
Locked bag 3015  
Nowra NSW 2541

NSW Ombudsman  
Level 24  
580 George St.  
Sydney NSW 2000

On a positive and proactive note: VW committee has agreed to supply and distribute, to local primary schools, the beautifully illustrated book Stellauna about a baby flying fox who loses her mother. This is sure to inspire appreciation for the fruit bat and the perils that it faces.

The life of Joyce Plater was celebrated on July 24. The Brooms Head Hall was overflowing with friends and family on the bright beautiful winter day. She was well loved, highly respected and will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Her family wish to thank VW for their support and beautiful native flowers.